

Promotion and Tenure Reception

Auburn University
September 26, 2013



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Preface

It is a long-awaited and significant event when an Auburn University faculty member receives the letter announcing that he or she has been awarded tenure or promotion. Individual and local celebrations of this success are many and varied, but a university-wide ceremony seems fitting to celebrate such an important personal and professional milestone at Auburn. The Promotion and Tenure Reception is such a ceremony, and in the seven years of its existence, it has become a tradition of the Auburn campus.

Newly promoted or tenured faculty members are invited to name a book that is special to them. A copy of each book identified, with a commemorative bookplate including the faculty member's name and the year of promotion or tenure, will be added to the libraries' collections. The selected books and the descriptions provided by the faculty are included in this program. They range from appreciations of a scholarly monograph that was crucial to research to distant memories of a book read - or heard - during childhood; from the book that articulated ultimate truths to the book that inspired or encouraged its reader. I am grateful to the faculty who took the time to provide these book selections and descriptions.

Thanks are also due to the sponsors and planners of this event: Timothy R. Boosinger and Tammy Mayo in the provost's office, and Kim Conner, Lynn Moody and Jayson Hill in the library.

Bonnie MacEwan
Dean of Libraries

Faculty Promotions and Tenure 2013 Auburn University

Sushil Adhikari

Associate Professor with Tenure

Biosystems Engineering Department, College of Agriculture

Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

by Steven Covey

This book talks about the habits that one should have to be successful in a very practical way.

Joseph Aistrup

Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

Southern Politics in State and Nation

by Vladimer Orlando Key, Jr.

Rarely has a book captured so poignantly the struggles of an entire region - the American South - as it battled institutionalized racism, abject poverty, one-party factionalism, and a ruling class set in its ways and determined to remain in power. Even so, Key's classic book also captured a region ready to emerge from its struggles in the post-WWII era. I chose this book because of its topic and its path breaking use of social scientific methods. Key was systematic and rigorous. This is a standard that I aspire to when I conduct my scholarship.

Carey Andrzejewski

Associate Professor with Tenure

Educational Foundations, Leadership & Technology Department, College of Education

Teaching Selves: Identity, Pedagogy, and Teacher Education

by Jane Danielewicz

I read this book during my first quarter as a doctoral student, and it stretched my thinking about teaching and teacher education. It is a book to which I have returned many times since; each time it has shed new light on the complexity of becoming and being a teacher. Danielewicz's ideas have framed my research on teacher identity, shaped my practice as a teacher educator, and served as a lens through which I view my own evolution as an educator. No text has been more influential in my professional life.

Covadonga Arias

Professor

Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, College of Agriculture

Baker Ayoun

Associate Professor with Tenure

Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management, College of Human Sciences

Melissa Baumann

Tenure

Provost Office Honors Program

Introduction to Materials Science Engineering

by Kenneth Ralls, Thomas Courtney, and John Wulff

One of the authors, Dr. Thomas Courtney, was my professor in my first college engineering class. It was because of Dr. Courtney that I went on to receive my B.S. degree in materials science engineering, where I had him for two more classes. Upon graduation, he told me that I couldn't stay to get my graduate degree because it was better to leave and go to another university to pursue my PhD. He taught me to be fearless. He was an outstanding faculty member who was inspirational in the classroom and the laboratory. He challenged students to do their best work, and this text was the bedrock of my engineering education - useful in every course from the bachelor's level through to the PhD. I was allowed to bring three textbooks into my PhD qualifying exam, and I only took this one book. Dr. Courtney challenged me to do my best and he taught that creativity, imagination, and hard work are the best tools that an engineer can bring to the table to solve any problem. This book represents excellence. I will treasure it always.

Cynthia Bowling

Professor

Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts

Inside Bureaucracy

by Anthony Downs

This book epitomizes the reasons why I study state government administration. This research was one of the first books my mentor and friend, Alumni Distinguished Prof. Deil S. Wright (1930-2009), handed me to read during my first semester of graduate school. While many Americans use the word "bureaucracy" to express frustration or anger toward the government, Anthony Downs' book describes bureaucracy in political and psychological terms that help us understand why organizations function as they do. Even though it was written in 1967, no better description of organizational motives has been written. To me, this knowledge provides the basis for public administration researchers and practitioners' continuous quest for the improvement of governance. It also reminds me, just when I need it most, why I choose to teach public administration and mentor future scholars in the field.

Edna Brabham

Professor

Curriculum & Teaching Department, College of Education

*How the Mouse Was Hit on the Head by a Stone
and So Discovered the World.*

by Etienne Delessert

This book by Delessert book describes and illustrates the thinking processes and conclusions of young children using a storybook format. The story is prefaced with a forward written by Jean Piaget, who used his observations of children and their thinking to articulate the constructivist theory of cognitive development. I have used this book many times with students in the Early Childhood Education Program at Auburn University.

Christy Bratcher

Associate Professor with Tenure

Animal Sciences Department, College of Agriculture

The Meat We Eat

by John Romans

This book was the basis for my chosen career in meat science. At the University of Florida, as an animal science student with dreams of veterinary school, I took a course called “The Meat We Eat” based off of this book. It was the course content and mostly the instructor that taught me how fun meat science was. There is a whole industry that most people don’t even think about, but it impacts their lives three or more times a day. There is a science to producing a safe and healthy meat product, and it is all explained in this book. I love it!

Elizabeth Brestan-Knight

Professor

Psychology Department, College of Liberal Arts

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

by Cheryl McNeil

I have conducted clinical research in the area of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) since 1993. This book, authored by a colleague of mine, addresses all of the recent topics related to this wonderful treatment protocol.

My college application materials requested that a parent write something about me. My mother wrote an essay about me and in it she wrote that I had a love of play. Who would have guessed that I could make a career out of it?

Charles Bringardner

Associate Professor with Tenure

Theatre Department, College of Liberal Arts

Elephant's Graveyard

by George Brant

As a theatre scholar and practitioner, I am drawn to work that grapples with the intersection of community building and regional identity formation. Throughout my work as an author, director, actor, and dramaturg, I continually return to works that attempt to deal with the messiness of these interactions and that stage the complicated processes of documenting and telling those histories. "Elephant's Graveyard" by George Brant is a play that challenges its audience to confront the machinations of history and to witness the struggles of a community to formulate and reformulate around shared tragedy. Brant's work, which I directed here at Auburn, haunts me and beckons me to think bigger and take risks. Its the rare play that reads as well on paper as it is seen and heard on stage. I am so thankful that Brant shared his words with myself, the cast, and the audiences that I want to share these words with the larger Auburn community for years to come.

Steven Brown

Professor

Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts

Men of Iron

by Howard Pyle

This has been one of my favorite books since I was in elementary school, and I still read it almost every year. It relates the adventures of Myles Falworth, a young squire who later becomes a knight, and his successful efforts to redeem his father's name and reclaim his ancestral lands and home from the truly villainous Earl of Alban. That it is still such an enjoyable read more than 100 years after its publication is a testament to the writing of Howard Pyle, who was primarily known as an illustrator.

Brigitta Brunner-Johnson

Professor

Communication and Journalism Department, College of Liberal Arts

The Future of Excellence in Public Relations and Communication

Management: Challenges for the Next Generation / Edition 1

by Elizabeth Toth

The research contained in this volume has been conducted by the foremost public relations scholars of our time. Many of these leaders have inspired me as I made the sometimes difficult journey to full professor. I hope that, by adding this book to Auburn University's collection, future public relations scholars will similarly be motivated to achieve their goals.

William Dozier

Professor and Tenure

Poultry Science Department, College of Agriculture

Christopher Easley

Associate Professor with Tenure

Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Good Calories, Bad Calories

by Gary Taubes

In this thorough historical and scientific investigation, Gary Taubes provides an eye-opening view of the dangers of misinterpreting scientific evidence. Taubes notes the now epidemic levels of obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome - disease states at which my research program is aimed - and provides overwhelming evidence that blames current nutritional paradigms. This book and its condensed follow-up, "Why We Get Fat" (2011), has altered my diet, my research, and the lives of many around me.

Lori Eckhardt

Tenure

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

How to Get a PhD

by Estelle Phillips

This book was very helpful to me when I decided I wanted to go back to graduate school. Although it is written based on the European university model, it still has very useful information to students in the United States. The title is a little bit misleading, as the book talks about post-graduate work in general and not just a PhD. I give this book to undergraduates that come to me interested in graduate studies to help them focus their search and interests and to help them understand what graduate school REALLY entails. So many students underestimate the work required for an advanced degree and that much of the planning, direction and work are up to the student to complete.

Lea S. Eiland

Clinical Professor

Department of Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

Pediatric Pharmacotherapy

by Sandra Benavides

This book has special meaning to me as it is the first pediatric therapeutic textbook focused for pharmacists, residents, and students. I was honored to be a section editor of the book and contribute to enhancing pharmacist's education regarding treating pediatric patients.

Xing Fang

Professor

Civil Engineering Department, College of Engineering

Introduction to Hydrology, 5th Edition

by Warren Wiessman, Jr.

This book has given me an opportunity in teaching and conducting research in hydrology, which inspired me in my professional life. My PhD. research was in surface water quality modeling, and hydrology allows me to study and understand the occurrence, distribution, and movement of water in the atmosphere, on the surface, and beneath the surface. A knowledge of hydrology is one of the key ingredients to decision-making processes where water is involved. I have taught the hydrology for undergraduate and graduate students, published number of journal papers in surface hydrology area, and become an associate editor in surface hydrology for the Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA), and the process of teaching and doing research in hydrology has been rewarding.

Deacue Fields

Professor

Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture

Carolyn Fitzgerald

Associate Professor with Tenure

Foreign Languages & Literatures Department, College of Liberal Arts

The Woman Warrior

by Maxine Kingston

Maxine Hong Kingston has always been one of my favorite writers.

Her works blend autobiography and poetry, dream and memory, and

Chinese and American culture in order to produce a new form of lyric self-expression.

Nicholas Giordano

Tenure

College of Science and Mathematics

Cathleen Giustino

Professor

History Department, College of Liberal Arts

Socialist Escapes: Breaking Away from Ideology and Everyday Routine in Eastern Europe, 1945-1989

by Cathleen Giustino

This book helped me to earn my promotion to full professor. Also, the essays inside of it will provide our students with important new information about and insight into state-society relations in communist Eastern Europe.

Christian Goldsmith

Associate Professor with Tenure

Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Surely You're Joking Mr. Feynman!

by Richard Feynman

I remember reading this book as a senior in high school. Back then, I was strongly considering studying one of the physical sciences in college (and perhaps beyond). I found Dr. Feynman's book about his lifetime in physics to be both entertaining and extraordinarily inspiring. Although Dr. Feynman was nearly 70 when he wrote this volume, it was obvious that he was still learning and, more importantly, that he was still enjoying learning. This solidified my choice to pursue the physical sciences as a career. Although I studied chemistry as opposed to physics, I likewise relish the daily opportunities to better understand how the world works.

Howard Goldstein

Professor

Music Department, College of Liberal Arts

Scheherazade, Op. 35

by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

A copy of this musical score, that I happened to see by chance at a local library when I was about 11 years old, piqued my curiosity so much that I began to check out more scores and recordings of orchestral music, eventually learning how to read scores, and later, wanting to learn how to conduct them.

James Groccia

Professor

Educational Foundations, Leadership & Technology Department, College of Education

Teaching as a Subversive Activity

by Neil Postman & Charles Weingartner

When I first read this book as a graduate student it lit a lifelong spark to challenge “normal,” didactic ways of teaching. Postman and Weingartner helped develop my “crap detector” to challenge accepted methods and seek evidence of teaching and learning effectiveness when selecting ways to teach and when assisting others to become excellent teachers.

Valentina Hartarska

Professor

Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture

Thinking, Fast and Slow

by Daniel Kahneman

Economics is continuously evolving, and economists (especially those of us who are promoted to full professors) must keep up! This book illustrates behavior that economics does not explain well and challenges us to do better.

Paul Holley

Professor

Building Science, College of Architecture, Design and Construction

The Sorcerers and Their Apprentices

by Frank Moss

The story of MIT’s media lab is a great reminder and example of how removing barriers of “academic disciplines” can accomplish great things. We should give serious thought to the reshaping of academia that is inevitable and approaching quickly. How will we re-invent our promotion and tenure criteria, appointment structures, and, more importantly, our culture for learning to meet these challenges?

Julie Howe

Associate Professor with Tenure

Agronomy and Soils Department, College of Agriculture

Trace Elements in Soils

by Peter Hooda

I selected this book because it was the topic that interested me enough to go to graduate school and pursue a career in it. This book is a good detailed overview of the field.

Aime Johnson

Associate Professor with Tenure

Clinical Sciences Department, College of Veterinary Medicine

Mission Vets

by Leroy Dorminy

This book details the life of someone I truly admire for doing what I strive to do - using my veterinary skills and knowledge for Christ. God's plan has brought my family to Auburn, and it is through Him that I hope to continue to mentor, teach, and guide students.

Kellye Joiner

Associate Professor with Tenure

Pathobiology Department, College of Veterinary Medicine

The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein

This story exemplifies the unconditional love that my family has given to me and continues to give to me throughout my educational journey and career. I have read this book countless times, and my perspective of this book has changed with each phase of my life (i.e. childhood, young adult, college graduate, wife and mother). Such a wonderfully dynamic treasure for anyone.

Lisa Kensler

Associate Professor with Tenure

Educational Foundations, Leadership & Technology Department, College of Education

Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World
by Margaret Wheatley

Sometimes we are able to look back and link our present circumstances to a particular past event. Today, I can say with certainty that reading Margaret Wheatley's book was the first step along the path that eventually brought me to my present position. I read this book while I was still a high school biology teacher. At the time, I could not put it down. I was working in a challenging organization and just felt frustrated. Wheatley showed me that my training as an ecologist related directly to my work as a teacher leader; a whole new world of possibilities - ideas, strategies, and outcomes - opened up to me! Wheatley's work continues to influence my teaching, research, outreach, and service today.

Dong-Joo Kim

Professor

Mechanical Engineering Department, College of Engineering

Introduction to Ceramics

by W. David Kingery, H. K. Bowen and Donald R. Uhlmann.

This book covers the fundamental science behind inorganic ceramic materials. Even though it is dated, this book is one of the books that I continually refer to. This is an incredibly detailed and well-written text on ceramics that all materials scientists should read.

Hye-Jeong Kim

Associate Professor with Tenure

Consumer and Design Sciences, College of Human Sciences

Heidi Kluess

Associate Professor with Tenure

School of Kinesiology

At the Helm: Leading Your Laboratory

by Kathy Barker

This was a book that was given to me by my postdoctoral mentor, Dr. Philip Clifford, when I received my first tenure track position and represents a culmination of the advice that he gave me and continues to provide me throughout my career. This is a great book with lots of practical advice for people starting a basic science laboratory and navigating a faculty position. I have given this book to each of the doctoral students that I have graduated and hope that it provides them with the benefits that I received.

Allen Landers

Professor

Physics Department, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Allen Landers

The Feynman Lectures on Physics

by Richard Feynman

This is a three volume series of introductory lectures given by Richard Feynman at Cal Tech in the 1960s. Each lecture is a beautifully crafted example of how a physicist looks at the world. I was always moved by how clearly one of the brightest minds of the 20th century was completely comfortable with not knowing something.

As scientists we embrace the things we don't know. We look at these as opportunities to explore and create; opportunities to learn. We don't have to manufacture stories to fill in the gaps of our ignorance. Rather, we let those gaps stand until we can fill them in, bit by bit, as civilization and society move forward.

Kathy Lawrence

Professor

Entomology & Plant Pathology Department, College of Agriculture

Plant Parasitic nematodes a pictorial dey to genera

by William Mai

Wesley T. Lindsey

Associate Clinical Professor

Department of Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

The Hobbit

by J.R.R Tolkien

This is a wonderful adventure that still captivates readers young and old. It's fantastic fun and escapism. I've enjoyed reading the book several times over the years as well as seeing a live theater production during my undergraduate studies. The story of Bilbo's courage and cunning is a great reminder that each person, no matter how small, can contribute to a greater good. The book is also very special to me because it was the first major work that I read together with my young son as a summer project.

Joseph Majdalani

Professor and Head

Aerospace Engineering

Eric Arthur Marcus

Professor

Philosophy Department, College of Liberal Arts

Libba McMillan

Associate Professor with Tenure

School of Nursing

The Hiding Place

by Corrie ten Boom

This book reminds me of the power of caring for people; especially those who are hurting or that are suffering. Having been a nurse for over 30 years, I remember most the patient's and the families that reminded me of the impact of forgiveness and courage in healing. It is a privilege to have a role in my patient's and nursing student's journey.

Justin Miller

Associate Professor with Tenure

Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture, College of
Architecture, Design and Construction

Deborah Morowski

Associate Professor with Tenure

Curriculum & Teaching Department, College of Education

Their Highest Potential

by Vanessa Siddle Walker

This book served as an inspiration for my dissertation. It led my recounting the story of an African-American, academic high school in a small Texas town from its inception in the late 1800s to its closure due to desegregation during the 1960s. I believe that to understand the historical narrative of American education, it is important to consider the education of all Americans.

Susana Morris

Associate Professor with Tenure

English Department, College of Liberal Arts

To Be a Slave

By Julius Lester

I bought this book in the eighth grade at a book fair. It was the first book I ever read about slavery and it deeply affected me. I remember reading it from cover to cover several times. The book ignited my intellectual curiosity and spurred me on in my study of African-American literature and history. I would not be who I am today without this special little book.

Wayde Morse

Associate Professor with Tenure

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Enhancing Communication and Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Research

by Michael O'Rourke

I was fortunate enough to have been a PhD. research fellow in a National Science Foundation-sponsored Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) at the University of Idaho. The project required students and faculty to work in teams from multiple disciplines to address complex environmental and social problems. This book is born from the insights and accomplishments faced by this talented group of specialists as they worked through the many challenges of interdisciplinary collaboration. Numerous experts were consulted and brought in to elaborate the theme that had become the crux of the program: enhancing communication and collaboration in interdisciplinary research. This book is both a guide and a beginning point for future elaboration on this important topic. It is also a tribute to and an acknowledgement of the tremendous work put into interdisciplinary collaboration on this IGERT project by faculty, students, collaborators, and administrators alike.

Denis Nadolnyak

Associate Professor with Tenure

Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture

South Sea Tales

by Jack London

One of my favorite childhood books. Behavior, economics, resources. Behavioral economics, resource economics, resourceful behavior. It's not Shakespeare, so make your own observations.

Andrzej Nowak

Professor

Civil Engineering Department

Jung Chul Park

Associate Professor with Tenure

Finance Department, College of Business

New Ideas from Dead Economists

by Todd Buchholz

I read this book when I was an undergraduate student. I learned many lessons of the great economists that are still applied to the world today. It helped me shape my background on economics and finance.

Minseo Park

Professor

Physics Department, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Introduction to Solid State Physics

by Charles Kittel

This book has been serving as a “bible” in my research field.

Haley M. Phillippe

Associate Clinical Professor

Department of Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

by Dr. Seuss

Although this is a simple children’s book, it has great meaning for all ages. It reminds us that we can accomplish anything we put our mind to.

Daniel Phillips

Associate Professor with Tenure

Communication Disorders Department, College of Liberal Arts

The Courage to Teach

by Parker Palmer

There are several books that are special to me personally and professionally, but the one I have chosen as my teaching compass is this book. Dr. Palmer discusses the challenges of teaching in light of the complexities of the subject, the students, and the teacher. It is necessary that teachers know and respect not only the subject but also the students and themselves as a teacher.

Teaching requires an interwoven interaction of three areas, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. This book helped me understand how effective teaching is both complicated and simple. Palmer offers insights that have been a guide and comfort as I try to impart truths from my discipline to the students such as “good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.” He encourages teachers to teach to the students’ heart and their mind will follow, emphasizing the need to understand and respect the students’ emotional being and how that affects intellectual outlook regarding learning. He writes that when we separate head from heart the result is “minds that do not know how to feel and hearts that do not know how to think.” We must guard against separating teaching and learning which results in “teachers who talk but do not listen and students who listen but do not talk.” The book has had an important impact to shape and form my teaching skills which like learning is a constantly changing process.

Meredith Prince

Associate Professor with Tenure

Foreign Languages & Literatures Department, College of Liberal Arts

Mythology

By Edith Hamilton

I became interested in Greek mythology when working on a mythology project for English class in junior high. Edith Hamilton's book was one of the first books on Greek mythology I read, and I was hooked. Whether writing on 1st century B.C./1st century A.D. Latin poetry or on modern day films, my scholarly focus has always been on the reinterpretation of various mythological figures.

Aaron Rashotte

Associate Professor with Tenure

Biological Sciences, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Lysenko and the Tragedy of Soviet Science

by Valery Soyfer

I was given this book as a graduate student and was amazed by its descriptions of the inner workings of science and shocked at how when politics are involved, science can greatly suffer. It has served as a reminder of how science can be distorted or manipulated and that scientists should always remain critical of findings from any source.

Carolyn Robinson

Associate Professor with Tenure

Horticulture Department, College of Agriculture

NIV Study Bible

The assistant professor chapter of my life has been the greatest time of spiritual growth for me to date. I have supportive colleagues and friends who have guided me on this journey, and I will be forever grateful. I started a one-year plan to read through the entire Bible last September. I have learned so much but it has only deepened my desire to understand and know more. I am only a few books away from completing my goal, but I have already started thinking of which books I will go back to with a study Bible in order to digest them more fully. In a few years, I hope to be able to say that my time as an associate professor has been my greatest time of spiritual growth. God bless my family for taking this journey with me and God bless Auburn. War Eagle!

Soren Rodning

Associate Professor with Tenure

Animal Sciences Department, College of Agriculture

James Ryan

Professor

English Department, College of Liberal Arts

Regeneration Through Violence: The Mythology of the American Frontier, 1600-1860

by Richard Slotkin

Written and published as the Vietnam War was drawing to a close, this remarkable history provides comprehensive analysis of the ill-fated myth of American exceptionalism, with special attention paid to the decimation of Native American peoples. Using a vast array of American literary texts produced by the nation's most famous writers, Slotkin traces American and United States development from the colonial period's conflicts with Native Americans to the pre-Civil War programs of Indian removal. It is a story of great and persistent violence applied to populations not in step with American politics or racial sympathies. Slotkin shows moreover that major American writers of that period used the occasion of these violent episodes to create myth-making books that advanced the cause of national ideology and colonialism. A sobering but altogether necessary analysis of American cultural history.

Robin Sabino

Professor

English Department, College of Liberal Arts

Slave Society in the Danish West Indies: St. Thomas, St John, and St. Croix

by Neville Hall

Hall makes accessible substantial resources from Danish archives. His objection to what he describes as "Hubristic Eurocentricism" challenges fundamental assumptions of Western thought and leads readers to recognize not only the humanity but also the courage, strength, and resourcefulness of the millions of people caught in the African Diaspora's web of displacement.

Bonnie Sanderson

Professor and Tenure

School of Nursing

Global Handbook on Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion

by David V. McQueen (Ed.)

Chronic disease and the associated consequences of personal, societal, and economic burdens are affecting individuals, families, communities, states, and nations at an alarming rate. The majority of these escalating chronic diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer are largely preventable. This global health challenge requires a paradigm shift among multiple disciplines, countries, and cultures to focus on prevention. This handbook identifies current and emerging opportunities to address health-affecting behaviors, such as physical activity, food choice, and tobacco use and other relevant social determinants of health. My career has focused on preventive cardiology and this resource text captures my interest in promoting health and disease prevention at the societal level.

Gregory Schmidt

Associate Professor with Tenure

Auburn University Libraries

The Cyberiad: Fables for the Cybernetic Age

by Stanislaw Lem

Stanislaw Lem was a 20th-Century Polish author who adopted a humorous, science-fiction fairy-tale style in “The Cyberiad” to explore human nature and evade censorship in cold war Poland. Deeply humanistic and satirical, it is a series of short stories chronicling the adventures of two god-like “constructor” robots, Trurl and Klapaucius, who sally forth to share their talents with the Universe. Trurl and Klapaucius, as the book progresses, create poetry machines, wily dragons, ultimate machines of war, the perfect hide-and-seek spot, and even a substance called “altruizine” that allows individuals near each other to completely share feelings and emotions. They neutralize tyrants, puncture each other’s inflated egos, and explore the nature of a perfectly happy society.

Though set in a universe of machines, the stories explore human weaknesses and strengths, celebrating human idealism and the failures of imperfect beings seeking perfection. Lem lampoons bureaucracy, militarism, and authoritarianism, greed and vanity, pride and ignorance. There is a story in this book I have never been able to read aloud without being brought to tears by the final three paragraphs. There is another that, though written in the 1960s, seems astoundingly prophetic about the quest for knowledge in the Internet age. Captured by a “pirate with a Ph.D.,” Trurl and Klapaucius are ordered to provide the pirate with all of the information in the universe. The pirate realizes too late that most information is completely useless (even if strictly factual) and is buried under a mountain of data.

This book is a joy to read and re-read. I am glad that Auburn University Libraries has a copy of this book. I have given away my personal copies too many times to remember.

Aaron Shapiro

Associate Professor with Tenure

History Department, College of Liberal Arts

The Republic of Nature: An Environmental History of the United States

by Mark Fiege

I enjoy books that force both my students and me to question the familiar and Mark Fiege's book certainly does this and more. When I lived in Washington, DC, I regularly visited the Lincoln Memorial, taking in the view of the Reflecting Pool and thinking about the sacredness of this place. Fiege's brief examination of the memorial made me think anew about this place, particularly his comment, "Surprises, not just transcendent truths, inhere in the temples of American history" (8). Fiege explores numerous iconic events in the American past, including the construction of the transcontinental railroad and Linda Brown's walk to school in Topeka, reminding us that one simple and rather obvious principle - everything in the American past occurred within nature - can help us see old stories in new ways.

Kristina Shuler

Associate Professor with Tenure

Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts

Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History

by Sidney W. Mintz

This book, which I first read as a graduate student, played a formative role in my research on the biocultural relations of food, power, and health. Through an anthropological lens, Mintz eloquently shows how one simple food, sugar, has transformed the world.

Karla Simmons

Associate Professor with Tenure

Consumer and Design Sciences, College of Human Sciences

Get Out of That Pit: Straight Talk About God's Deliverance

by Beth Moore

In my first years back at Auburn, my life was a total mess. I wanted to do a good job in order to not only do what I love, which is teach, but to get tenure and promotion so I could continue to stay at Auburn. Those life issues were causing me to not do so well. I was in a pit. This book showed me that I didn't have to feel stuck, that I could stand up to my enemies, and get back my vision for my life. It (and God) got me out of my pit. It allowed me to live in the fresh air and sunshine of life, not taking a single second for granted, to have a new love for my passion of work, and to start giving back what I had been given. I am a better person and a better teacher because of this book. Psalm 40:1-3.

Tiffany Anise Sippial

Associate Professor with Tenure

History Department, College of Liberal Arts

One Hundred Years of Solitude

by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Discovering the magic of this book in college was transformational for me. Garcia Marquez has created a world where comedy and tragedy, optimism and fatalism, and the fantastic and the ordinary dance intertwined. Bursting the boundaries of chronology and rationality, Garcia Marquez weaves a story of human experience that is at once metaphorical and universal. It is with a strange mixture of giddy anticipation and envy that I recommend the book to others today, as my own first trip to Macondo can never be replicated. I have, however, made many return trips over the years and I relish the tales of friends and students who embark upon the magical journey that begins with the words: “Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice.”

Kevin Smith

Associate Professor with Tenure

Communication and Journalism Department, College of Liberal Arts

Hatch Show Print: The History of a Great American Poster Shop

by Jim Sherraden

This was a source of great aesthetic inspiration and the process heavily influenced my own body of work. This is a great visual history of large letterpress show posters that are still relevant today.

Ahjeong Son

Associate Professor with Tenure

Civil Engineering Department, College of Engineering

Puneet Srivastava

Professor

Biosystems Engineering Department, College of Agriculture

The Last Lecture

by Randy Pausch

An excellent book to inspire college students.

Sunny Stalter-Pace

Associate Professor with Tenure

English Department, College of Liberal Arts

The Waste Land

by Thomas Stearns Eliot

The undergraduate semester that set me on the path to academia was the one when I read this poem in two different classes over the course of a month. I had never paid such close attention to a piece of literature before. We looked at the poem's form, its relation to Eliot's life, its references, and its relation to contemporary history. I wanted to do that kind of work. Although I don't write as much on Eliot now, most of my major obsessions - city life, collage, nostalgia - can be found in this poem.

Todd Steury

Associate Professor with Tenure

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Complex Population Dynamics

by Peter Turchin

Mathematical models have always been an important part of my research. I fell in love with this book because even though it's full of mathematical models, it's also remarkably well written and easy to read. With this book, Dr. Turchin demonstrated to me that just because one works with complex math doesn't mean that one's research can't be explained in way that is understandable to people who are more timid about math. Thus, this book pushed me not only to pursue quantitative ecology, but to work to make my research as approachable to lay people as possible.

T. Lynn Stevenson

Associate Clinical Professor

Department of Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy

I'm No Hero

by Charlie Plumb

This book was given to me by my father when I was in my early teens. He had been at a conference where Charlie Plumb spoke and he got the book signed by Mr. Plumb for me. I have always remembered this book for the story it told about someone's perseverance in the face of extremely unbelievable circumstances as a POW for nearly six years in the Vietnam.

James Stoeckel

Associate Professor with Tenure

Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, College of Agriculture

Nam Tran

Associate Research Professor

Civil Engineering Department, College of Engineering

Maobing Tu

Associate Professor with Tenure

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Advice for a Young Investigator

by Santiago Ramón y Cajal

I recommend this book because the author provides invaluable advice to students and young investigators on scientific research. The book highlights the four stages of research including observation, experimentation, working hypotheses and proof. Remarkably, what he summarized in 1900s is still true in 2010s.

Brian Via

Associate Professor with Tenure

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Blue Ocean Strategy: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make the Competition Irrelevant

by W. Kim

This book was helpful to me during my recent years in industry where new product development was important. However, the reach of this book goes beyond product development and can be applied in many disciplines by graduating students. This book developed a different system in which companies should avoid direct competition and instead develop new markets that appear similar to existing markets. It is the next generation of marketing strategy that goes beyond just determining the needs of the customer. Instead, one can develop a multivariate strategy to assist in partitioning their product or service in which “the secret formula” is hard to dissect by the competition. It is thus termed “Blue Ocean” which represents the unchallenged space for customers that has a suite of needs packaged into one product that is currently unavailable on a wide scale.

Xueyi Wang

Associate Research Professor

Physics Department, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Laura Willis

Associate Clinical Professor

Department of Communication Disorders, College of Liberal Arts

Same Kind of Different as Me

by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

This is a beautiful story of an unlikely and life-changing friendship between an ex-con and high-end art dealer. I have read this book several times and it always challenges me to go outside of my comfort zone and remember that each person on this earth is as valuable as the next. The story revolves around the friendship that develops between two people who are completely different in every way, yet teach each other invaluable life lessons. This book is a wonderful reminder that we should treat everyone the way we want to be treated and to never judge each other based on present circumstances or appearance. It is tempting at times to make assumptions about someone based on their circumstances, but this story reminds us that we don't know the background of how they have arrived at this point in time and are in no place to judge one another. The characteristics that society defines as making someone successful are not what define a person's value. I strive to live this each day as I evaluate and treat clients and model this for my students. This story illuminates what is truly important in this life and the potential we have to make a positive difference on each other. It encompasses faith in Christ and service to others, which is the foundation for my life and career.

Alan Wilson

Associate Professor with Tenure

Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, College of Agriculture

Bible - New Living Translation

Faith in God, family, and friends supersedes all else.

Trust in the Lord and do good.

Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. (Psalm 37:3, NLT)

Jerrod Windham

Associate Professor with Tenure

Industrial and Graphic Design, College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Made by Hand

by Mark Frauenfelder

There is something inherently rewarding about building objects yourself. The process often requires research, learning, and overcoming failure in order to be successful. This is a very similar process as is taught to our students in the industrial design program. While many of them will go on to design objects for mass production, understanding the connection between material, process, and object can add value and durability. This book explores that understanding.

Anne Wooldridge

Associate Professor with Tenure

Clinical Sciences Department, College of Veterinary Medicine

A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeleine L'Engle

I have read this book as a child, teenager, young adult, and adult over and over again. Madeleine L'Engle's books can be read as exciting scientific adventures or insightful looks into families and relationships. Strong, scientific women are the heroines of this and many of her books and helped shape my imagination about science and life.

Michelle Worosz

Associate Professor with Tenure

Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture

Amy Wright

Professor

Horticulture Department, College of Agriculture

Kalmia: Mountain Laurel and Related Species

by Richard Jaynes

Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel) has been my favorite plant for a long time, and it was the basis of my Ph.D. research.

Weikuan Yu

Associate Professor with Tenure

Computer Science and Software Engineering Department, College of Engineering

Introduction to Cryptography with Coding Theory

by Wade Trappe

I would like to get others exposed to the field of cryptography for professional enrichment.

Xinyu Zhang

Associate Professor with Tenure

Polymer and Fiber Engineering Department, College of Engineering

The Song of Songs

by Watchman Nee

This book tells a love story between Shulamite and King Solomon, and describes the concept and experience of “Genuine Love,” the Love between God and Man.

Yaoqi Zhang

Professor

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

The Golden Wing, A Sociological Study of Chinese Familism

by Yaohua Lin

This book told a true story of two families in my hometown.

The story changed my way of thinking of economic study on poverty, prosperity, politics, and policies.



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