

Promotion and Tenure Reception

Auburn University
September 22, 2016



AUBURN

UNIVERSITY

Preface

The attainment of tenure or promotion represents years of hard work and achievement. We are honored to add a university-wide ceremony to the many individual and local celebrations of this success. It seems fitting to celebrate such an important personal and profession milestone at Auburn with the chief academic officer of the university, the provost, and to celebrate in the library.

Each year newly promoted or tenured faculty members are invited to identify a book that is meaningful to them. It can be personally meaningful or important to their development as scholars and faculty members. Each selected book receives a commemorative bookplate which includes the faculty member's name and the year of promotion or tenure. The books are 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 crucial to research to distant memories of a book read – or heard – during childhood. Some of the selected books articulate ultimate truths while others inspired or encouraged its reader. I am grateful to the faculty who took the time to provide these book selections and to the libraries staff who acquired and prepared the books and other materials for the exhibit.

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

Bonnie MacEwan
Dean of Libraries

Faculty Promotions and Tenure 2016

Auburn University

Jaena Alabi

Librarian III with Tenure
Auburn University Libraries

The Racial Contract

by Charles Mills

I was introduced to “The Racial Contract” in an undergraduate elective course on African American literature taught by Dr. Tony Bolden at the University of Alabama. At the time, I thought I was going to be a civil engineer, and had only signed up for the class because I had enjoyed reading works such as Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” and Toni Morrison’s “The Bluest Eye” in high school. Little did I know, though, how this course would change my career plans. Somewhere between learning about Hegel’s master-slave dialect and encountering Mills’ twist on the social contract, between listening to Vera Ward Hall’s “Another Man Done Gone” and reading Ishmael Reed’s “Mumbo Jumbo,” I was hooked. So when Dr. Bolden encouraged me to consider a degree in English, it didn’t take long before I was switching majors.

As I was completing my Master’s degree in English and trying to decide on a career, I stumbled upon librarianship. My sister had been working as a graphic designer for a public library system and suggested that I’d make a good librarian. I knew she was right and that I’d made the right decision from the day I first started the graduate program in library studies. At first, I thought I’d made another abrupt switch, but from English to libraries instead of engineering to English. But I’ve realized since then that Dr. Bolden was right, a liberal arts degree does prepare one for a wide variety of careers. Those readings on African-American literature theory (and more) that I was introduced to in my English classes gave me a lens through which to view librarianship and shaped my current research interests.

Rajesh Amin

Associate Professor with Tenure
School of Pharmacy

The Essential Calvin and Hobbs

by Bill Waterson

It was to read to my wife and kids, colleagues in the DDD and my lab mates. Sometimes in life we forget the joy in our childhood, take time out and laugh. Enjoy the moments!!!!

Lourdes Betanzos

Professor

College of Liberal Arts

La Edad de Oro

by Jose Marti

This anthology of poetry, short stories, and historically-based essays was a very large part of my childhood as a first-generation Cuban-American. One of my favorites from it is “Los zapaticos de rosa” (“The Little Rose-colored Shoes”). Jose Marti’s work was accessible to all ages and backgrounds. His messages were simple enough for the young to understand with ease yet profound enough to make elders reflect.

Evelyne Bornier

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

The Snowball, Warren Buffett and the Business of Life

by Alice Schroeder

A self-made man, a man of his word and a true genius, Warren Buffett is one of a kind. Following his work, opinions, struggles, triumphs, follies, and wisdom, this book exemplifies what being human truly is: a mix of strengths and frailties for all of us. This book demonstrates how, with hard work and resolve, anyone can build upon those inner strengths and frailties and reach to the stars, while remaining deeply honest, profoundly modest, and extremely generous.

Mitchell Brown

Professor

College of Liberal Arts

Power and Powerlessness

by John Gaventa

During my sophomore year in college I worked part-time in the library. I was a terrible employee. Every time I was sent to shelve books I was gone for hours. I would hide in my favorite section which housed these fascinating books about power. I was hooked (and the library suffered for it). Of all of the writers about power, John Gaventa is my favorite. He is thoughtful, deeply theoretical, and simultaneously immensely practical. I hope that as a Professor I will be able to use the opportunities provided me to produce similarly important and accessible works.

Brandon L. Brunson

Senior Lecturer

College of Veterinary Medicine

Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White

This was my favorite book as a child. Looking back now, I see what an impact it likely had in me choosing veterinary medicine as my profession. It taught me that all animals have a purpose in this life and that they should be appreciated and treated with kindness until that purpose is met.

Andres Carrano

Tenure

College of Engineering

Veena Chattaraman

Professor

College of Human Sciences

Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead

by Sheryl Sandberg

I found this book to be a very true account of the many challenges that women face in negotiating their life, career, and family. Beyond explaining the problem, the book offers practical suggestions to help women reconcile their goals for professional achievement and personal fulfillment, and achieve their ambitions. As a woman completely committed to the academic career and a mother of a young child, I can totally resonate with the daily struggles of the author. I have recommended this book to my graduating Ph.D. students, many of whom are young women entering careers in academia, who will face the same struggles, choices, and decisions in negotiating their life, career, and family. It certainly helps to know that many successful women have walked the same path and have shared their wisdom to help future generations of women succeed.

Robert H. Cochran

Senior Lecturer

College of Business

How Green Was My Valley

by Richard Llewellyn

I first read this beautiful, lyrical book when I was 14 years old, and have read it several times since then. For a 14-year-old boy the depiction of women in the book was crucial to the respectful, dignified way I have attempted to always treat the women in my life: friends, girlfriends, mother, sister, wife, daughters, and relatives. I became aware of the profoundly positive effect religion can have on an individual as well as the profoundly negative effect organized religion can, and unfortunately often has, on individuals and communities. I learned that being right doesn't always justify the use of force or power to overcome wrong, and things that you strongly feel are right often turn out to be wrong. I also learned that the true cost of things which we covet almost always exceeds the actual out of pocket costs of those things, and the total cost is hardly ever worth paying. All this and more from a book about Wales that doesn't even pretend to teach any life lessons at all, but does so all the same.

Elina Coneva

Professor

College of Agriculture

Brian Connelly

Professor

College of Business

Minangkabau

The walls where I taught my first university-level class were concrete, the furnishings Spartan, we were literally on the equator with no air conditioning. It was 1998. The students were all Muslim, most of the women wore a jilbab, all of the men smoked, attendance was always 100 percent, cheating was rampant but everyone exhibited the utmost respect. These were the Minangkabau. The students I taught were the best-of-the-best in their part of the world. They were studying business in English with a native speaker, a non-trivial feat. I enjoyed the experience so much that I began to ask myself if it might be possible to be a professor for a living. It turns out professors in the U.S. all have PhDs. So, at 43 years of age, I got one of those and embarked on the most enjoyable and rewarding career in the world: professor.

Lorenzo Cremaschi

Tenure

College of Engineering

*The Path Between the Seas - The Creation of the Panama Canal
1870 - 1914*

by David McCullough

This book describes an amazing undertaking of modern engineering. It includes technical information, historic facts, and geographical and natural science remarks all mixed together in a gripping story. It was pleasing and thrilling at the same time to read about the creation of the Panama Canal and to get a glimpse at the enormous variety of people, tasks, and explorations involved in this project. And this book made me realize that struggle is often part of one's greatest achievements, which was helpful to keep in mind for my work in academia.

Selen Cremaschi

Tenure

College of Engineering

Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books

by Azar Nafisi

The book gives a glimpse into the lives of Iranian women and their struggle trying to continue studying forbidden Western classic books under the guidance of their professor in a book club set in her house during and after the Islamic Revolution. As I read this book, I became more thankful for the freedom we have in our education system and in our universities.

Jerry Davis

Professor

College of Engineering

Robert Dean

Professor

College of Engineering

Live Love Lead

by Brian Houston

This book is an excellent resource on developing responsible leadership skills, which are critically important for professors.

Mark DeGoti

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

The Inner Game of Tennis

by Timothy Gallwey

This book is one that I revisit often. As a musician, I am always seeking to improve the mental challenges it takes to perform at a high level. This book offers many insights on ways to calm the mind and stay focused “in the moment.” In addition, I have many of my trumpet students read the book in hopes to apply the content in live performance. While there is a music adaptation to this, “The Inner Game of Tennis” is the original and one can find easy parallels between sports and music performance. I hope having this book promoted will encourage others to think about the mental aspect of performance in a more meaningful way.

Wendy DesChene

Professor

College of Liberal Arts

The Group of Seven (and Tom Thomson)

by David Silcox

Tim Dodge

Librarian IV

Auburn University Libraries

The Call of the Wild

by Jack London

When I first read “The Call of the Wild” at about age nine, I regarded it as a rousing if somewhat disturbing tale of adventure. However, rereading it later and pondering on this title as an adult I realize the book provides some life lessons.

Perhaps the two most obvious lessons for me are the fact that life is a very contingent thing that can change for the better or the worse rather quickly. The other lesson is that life can be unfair. The protagonist, a dog named Buck, has his pleasant life on the estate of a California judge violently upended when he is delivered by an unscrupulous estate employee into the hands of a brutal dog trading enterprise seeking to meet the demand for sled dogs during the Klondike gold rush of the 1890s. Buck is brutally disciplined and ends up living a miserable life as a sled dog before finally ending up with a kind, caring master in the Klondike named John Thornton. Sadly, Buck’s new idyll with Thornton is shattered when Buck returns one day to Thornton’s mining camp to discover that a band of Yeehat (a fictional Native American tribe) warriors has raided the camp and killed everyone present including Buck’s beloved master, John Thornton. The tale ends with Buck making a successful new life for himself as the leader of a wolf pack in the Arctic wilderness.

I remember as a nine-year-old boy feeling in turn alarmed, saddened, and disappointed as Buck’s life experiences swung drastically between happiness and misery. I remained dissatisfied with the somewhat positive ending with Buck making a new and, perhaps more authentic, life for himself with a wolf pack.

As an adult, I now feel more reconciled to the tale. While perhaps not a particularly profound work, I nonetheless find that London’s “The Call of the Wild” reveals some dark truths about the nature of life to me. While I choose to focus on the more positive aspects of life, I also remain grateful for the good things that, fairly or unfairly, have come my way and I don’t take them for granted.

Eva Jean Dubois

Clinical Professor

School of Nursing

Passages in Caregiving: Turning Chaos into Confidence

by Gail Sheehy

I used this book to help me be the best caregiver possible for my husband who had Parkinson's Disease. My husband, Mark, was diagnosed at age 44 with young onset Parkinson's Disease. He lost his battle 15 years later. Mark was a professor in Auburn University School of Forestry and had a brilliant mind. His disease not only took his mobility but also his mind, forcing him to leave his position approximately 10 years after diagnosis. The last five years of his life were a real struggle for him and it reached a point where he was totally dependent on others for his care due to physical and mental deficits. Gail Sheehy's "Passages in Caregiving" helped me work through the joys, challenges, and heartbreak of caregiving. If Mark had survived his disease, this book would have helped us both through many more years together.

Nadine Ellero

Librarian III with Tenure

Auburn University Libraries

Arise: Jungian Insights for the Christian Journey

by Rev. Msgr. Chester P. Michael

Ever since my first reading in 1992, I have consulted “Arise” for its valuable insights on the dynamics and challenges of realizing personal and interpersonal growth and potentials. It is a book about nurturing spirits and abilities. It is also a book about how to handle many of life’s challenges, disappointments, successes, ups, and downs that all of us face on our life’s journey. Each reading and each consulting of a passage brings newer and deeper insights and wisdom. My choice of this book is based upon having known the author and having received much benefit from its contents. Rev. Msgr. Chester P. Michael, Fr. Chet to those of us blessed to have known him, was a Roman Catholic Priest and person who authentically, and with a high degree of integrity, lived what he believed, preached, and taught. “Arise” is a blend of Christian and psychological beliefs centering on developing our fullest capacities as human beings, as it provides guidance in the understanding of self and others within a Christian and Jungian perspective. This book has greatly shaped my outlook on life and serves as a well-worn field manual, especially as I have been called to leadership service both in personal and professional pursuits. I have frequently referred to Fr. Chet’s insights for personal growth, promoting the growth of others, balancing tension, and fulfilling one’s destiny in life. I have gifted this book to many friends and associates. Now it is my pleasure to gift “Arise” to Auburn University Libraries, as it has been an indispensable and life-giving gift to me. May those who read “Arise” discover valuable insights, wisdom and joy as they live out their life’s potential to the fullest.

Holly Ellis

Professor

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Cathleen Erwin

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

Hardwiring Excellence: Purpose, Worthwhile Work,

Making a Difference

by Quint Studer

I had the privilege of attending a two-day seminar led by the author, Quint Studer, when he was a VP at Pensacola Baptist Hospital around the year 2000. It was truly inspiring and transformed my approach to and understanding of health care management. He subsequently founded a leading consulting company that has worked with countless health care organizations, and has invested time and energy to guide health care management academic programs through service to our professional association (AUPHA). This is a must read for aspiring health services administrators as well as anyone leading a service-based company.

Amanda Evans

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Education

The Idiot

by Fyodor Dostoevsky

As a counselor who subscribes to a Humanistic-Existential theoretical foundation, “The Idiot” is both personally and professionally significant. “It’s life that matters, nothing but life – the process of discovering, the everlasting and perpetual process, not the discovery itself, at all,” (Dostoevsky, 1869).

Christopher Ferguson

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

The Cheese and the Worms

by Carlo Ginzburg

First published in Italian in 1976, Ginzburg's study reconstructing the cosmological worldview of the sixteenth-century miller Menocchio was one of the first examples of the historical methodology now known as "microhistory." Central to this methodology is the idea of the "representative exception" - that analyzing the seemingly anomalous person allows us to understand broader patterns at work in a culture that might not otherwise be visible if examined at the macro level. Ginzburg's work is likewise a passionate defense of the idea that the impoverished inhabitants of the past ought to be understood as individuals with their own distinct personalities and idiosyncrasies, and not merely as members of social constructs (the poor, the working-class, etc.). Both of these ideas were deeply instrumental in informing the framework for my own first book, "An Artisan Intellectual" (LSU Press, 2016), which employs the life and ideas of the forgotten tailor James Carter as a means for understanding the revolutionary transformations unfolding in early nineteenth-century Britain.

Margaret Flores

Professor

College of Education

Single-Case Research Designs: Methods for Clinical and Applied Settings

by Alan Kazdin

I selected this book because it was used to guide and inform my research designs within my doctoral program. It is a clear and simple resource that has stood the test of time.

Chad Foradori

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Veterinary Medicine

Apprentice to Genius: The Making of a Scientific Dynasty

by Robert Kanigel

I first read this book in the late 1990s. I was just beginning my career in biomedical research when my mentor lent me his copy. The book follows the lives and careers of a group of scientists during the first establishment of research laboratories at the National Institute of Health and Johns Hopkins University. The author details the creation of a dynasty of American researchers, which resulted in biomedical discoveries, Nobel Prizes, and countless benefits to the human race. This book captures the drama of driven minds and explosive personalities so common in science. Almost 20 years later, I still find myself quoting from this book. Although the discoveries it details are old, the same stories of curiosity, intellect, failure, perseverance, achievement, competition, and jealousy are still being retold in every laboratory around the world today. *Apprentice to Genius* gives vivid portraits of how top-level scientists pass down their “research genes” by mentoring their apprentices. This book gives the reader an inside look at the research lives of these prominent scientists and their disciples. Of course, not all things are glorious, but throughout the book, the author continues to return to the theme that mentoring is essential to producing the next generation of outstanding researchers. Anyone with plans of a scientific career should read this book and every mentor should read it in the hope of appreciating that your legacy lies not just in your individual achievement, but also in passing down your “research genes” to the next generation and thus magnifying your own legacy.

Arianne Gaetano

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

China to Me

by Emily Hahn

While in graduate school, I happened upon a copy of this “partial autobiography” by journalist and writer Emily “Mickey” Hahn in a secondhand bookshop, and lucky that I did. As a student of Chinese language and culture who had spent a few years in China, I was fascinated by this story of her life in Shanghai in the late 1930s, in Chongqing during China’s war against Japan (WWII), and in Hong Kong under Japanese occupation in the 1940s. I was especially amazed by, and greatly admired, her vibrant spirit and her unconventionality.

In her youth, Hahn traveled across the US in a Model-T Ford dressed as a man. In 1930, she moved to the Belgian Congo, learned to love apes (she kept gibbons as pets), and explored the landscape with a tribe of “pygmies.” Hahn visited China on a whim in 1935 and stayed for nine years. In colonial Shanghai, hierarchical boundaries between races and nationalities were intact, yet she was romantically involved with the Chinese poet Sinmay Zau (Shao Xunmei), and became his “legal” second wife as a ruse to avoid POW camp. She smoked opium, became an addict, and found a cure (hypnosis). In Hong Kong she openly conducted an affair with the married British intelligence officer Charles Boxer and chose to have a child with him, which scandalized the expatriate community. Eventually he divorced; they married and settled in England, but she spent most of the year in New York City while her husband and two daughters remained in the UK. She refused to learn to cook.

She was a prolific writer - upwards of 50 books on diverse subjects. Her dispatches from around the world appeared in the *New Yorker*; in 1935 she became their China Correspondent. Well-connected friends there helped her obtain access to the Soong Sisters, the subject of her 1941 book. In a tribute to “Ms. Ulysses” after her death in 1997 at age 92, the *New Yorker*’s Roger Angell described Hahn as “something rare: a woman deeply, almost domestically, at home in the world.”

Although 50 years separated our first experiences of China, a shared identity as white, western, single women immersed in a culture so different from our own produced similar feelings. So I can relate to her words: “I think that, after all, my long stay in the Orient wasn’t a bad thing. I am not at all enamored of the individuality I lost. I was a crass young person, overeducated and underexperienced, like most Americans. It wasn’t a bad thing at all, leaving that young woman at the bottom of the Whangpoo [Huangpu River] or wherever I had dropped her.”

Tom Gallagher

Professor

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Forestry in the U.S. South

by Mason C. Carter, Robert Kellison and Scott Wallinger

It tells the story of how the Southeast USA became the “wood basket of the world.” I also personally know two of the three authors and some of the stories in the book are located in the area I began my forestry career. So while it may not be a forest engineering book per se, I think it has a greater meaning to a forestry education.

Kathleen Hale

Professor

College of Liberal Arts

I Can't, Said the Ant

by Polly Cameron

My mother Dolores read “I Can’t, Said the Ant,” to me, and then to my daughters, on hundreds and hundreds of occasions. We all treasure her hilarious renditions of the voices of the various characters. She has inspired us in so many ways, as has the simple message of the book. You can, said the Pan.

Jitka Hilliard

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Business

Free to Choose: A Personal Statement

by Milton and Rose Friedman

In this book, for the first time in my life, I met a simple, beautiful explanation of the power of free market. Growing up in socialistic Czechoslovakia, these ideas were very powerful. I am thankful to my husband for sharing this book with me because it truly influenced my views, my life and a choice of my profession.

Wendy Hood

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Power, Sex, Suicide: Mitochondria and the Meaning of Life
by Nick Lane

As a new faculty member at Auburn working to establish my research program, I often reflected on the best path forward for my research on reproductive physiology. I needed to find something transformative, a research direction that would have a positive impact on my discipline of study and a topic that would be fundable so I could support my students and pay for our supplies.

I had been interested in the role that energy expenditure and other physiological variables play in individual differences in the pace of life. I was becoming frustrated, however, because the data on metabolic rate really didn't make sense. I occasionally read papers on mitochondrial function, but I didn't understand how focusing on subcellular processes would get us any closer to understanding why individuals vary. It was at this point in my thinking that I fortuitously read "Power, Sex, Suicide" by Nick Lane. It was not only a fascinating read, but it helped me to think about energetics, mitochondria, and life history differently. Quite simply, this book changed the direction of my research. We are now studying the role that mitochondria play in variation in the life history patterns of animals. With this new direction, I'm supporting my lab group, our research has the potential to change the way we think about interactions between reproduction and longevity, and I have never been more excited about what the future may bring.

Melanie Iarussi

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Education

Motivational Interviewing: Helping People Change (3rd ed.)
by William Miller & Steven Rollnick

Motivational interviewing has enabled countless persons to learn to how to help individuals pursue positive changes using humanistic foundations and principles. This approach has had a significant impact on my professional life, and I am grateful to Miller and Rollnick for developing and disseminating this approach.

Ramesh Jeganathan

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Human Sciences

Robert Judd

Professor

College of Veterinary Medicine

The Discovery of Insulin

by Michael Bliss

In 1990, I heard Michael Bliss speak at the Annual Awards Program of the American Diabetes Association (Minnesota Affiliate). His address, entitled “The Miracle Discovery,” was based on this book. Mr. Bliss’ presentation was inspiring, describing the frustration and tension associated with the discovery of insulin. He described how lifeless children suffering with diabetes were reborn upon insulin administration. His presentation inspired me to read this book, which has served as a constant source of encouragement throughout my research career. I use this book in the classroom every year to inspire future generations of scientists to study diabetes and its many complications.

Jada Kohlmeier

Professor

College of Education

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided By Politics and Religion

by Jonathan Haidt

Haidt’s book forced me to re-think decades of research on moral reasoning. By doing so, he opened my thinking to include moral frameworks used by other cultures around the world not shaped by the Enlightenment as well as a wider range of moral matrixes used by citizens in our own democracy. His book has great promise for helping us understand our fellow citizens, respect their logics, and potentially lead to more fruitful conversations about the large social questions facing our local, national and global communities.

Keetje Kuipers

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Liberal Arts

Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West

by Wallace Stegner

As Stegner writes, “[T]here may come a time in a writer’s career when the clutch of the imagination will no longer take hold on the materials that are most one’s own.” These are my materials--the arid land, the sagebrush hills, the dust billowing up from below the wheels.

Joni Lakin

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Education

Man's Search for Meaning

by Viktor Frankl

I first read “Man’s Search for Meaning” in a personality and motivation class in graduate school. It was an optional reading, but it turned out to be a really important work for me personally. Thank goodness for seemingly random reading assignments! Frankl first tells his story as a Holocaust and Concentration Camp Survivor. Through three years of places like Auschwitz and Dachau, Frankl developed a theory of human psychology and motivation. Basically, he observed that the people in the camps who had something to live for and something that gave their life meaning survived, while those who let go of what was important to them died. The second half of this book lays out his theory of logotherapy, which never really caught on as a therapy method, but has incredible insights for those of us striving to live a life of the mind. Read it!

Jeffrey LaMondia

Associate Professor with Tenure

College of Engineering

Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)

by Tom Vanderbilt

Everyone thinks they’re an expert on highways since we drive on them every day. “Traffic” does a fantastic job of both highlighting how surprisingly complex transportation systems really are while plainly explaining how these systems work so everyone really can appreciate them. Highways and pathways are just as much about how we design them as how people use them, and Vanderbilt expertly describes the importance of travel behavior in making transportation systems work. I love to share this book not only so people can understand what transportation engineers do but also so they can see their role in traffic too.

Kasia Leousis

Librarian III with Tenure

Auburn University Libraries

Image on the Edge: The Margins of Medieval Art

by Michael Camille

This is one of the most important and accessible books written on the context of marginalia in illuminated medieval manuscripts. As a subject long overlooked in favor of traditional narrative and iconographic studies, marginal spaces were kept isolated as details meant to be read or translated separately from the page. Camille argues that the visual representations in these glosses or illuminations are critical to understanding the artwork as a whole. Reading his groundbreaking book provided the foundation for developing and exploring my own interest in the meaning of marginalia, ornament, and the “other” in medieval art.

Christopher Lepczyk

Tenure

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

A Sand County Almanac

by Aldo Leopold

“A Sand County Almanac” was one of the most influential books in my choice to become an ecologist and conservation biologist and work to conserve the natural world for future generations. Regardless of where one lives in the world, this book holds deep meaning and many lessons for how to observe, study, manage, and conserve plants, animals, and the land. It is a timeless book that serves as an inspiration for past, present, and future generations.

Mark Liles

Professor

College of Sciences and Mathematics

The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century

by Thomas Friedman

I was inspired to select Tom Friedman’s “The World is Flat” because of the importance of global approaches to dealing with complex problems. Friedman eloquently describes the interconnected world that has changed how people communicate and work together. As scientists there are challenges and opportunities that arise from globalization. In my own career I have seen the importance of collaborations with scientists in diverse countries, and that has been one of the most enriching aspects of my career in establishing enduring friendships and partnerships across the globe.

Wei Liu

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Education

Mahmoud Mansour

Professor
College of Veterinary Medicine

The Four Purposes of Life: Finding Meaning and Direction in a Changing World

by Dan Millman

In this quick-read book, Dan Millman adeptly outlines four purposes in life. The first is learning life's lesson. The second is finding your career and calling. The third purpose is discovering your life path. The fourth purpose is attending to this arising moment.

The essence of life is to choose a satisfying work, understand your hidden potential, learn from your adversities and make each moment count.

The book summary can be found in this quote by Leo Rosten, "I think the purpose of life is, above all, to matter; to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all."

David Martin

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Human Sciences

The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein

The quintessential and timeless work about relationships, there may not be another book that better articulates the nature of the human condition. Brilliant in its simplicity, this book speaks to the core of every reader that leafs through its pages.

Theresa McCormick

Professor
College of Education

Handbook of Research in Social Studies Education

by Linda S. Levstik & Cynthia Tyson

The "Handbook of Research in Social Studies Education" has been an invaluable resource in which to ground my own research in teaching history in elementary schools.

James McDonald

Associate Clinical Professor
College of Education

N-Space

by Larry Niven

A collection of the best from an author who combines science fact, human foibles and comedy to generate thought provoking fun stories.

Alan Meyer

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Liberal Arts

Carrying the Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys

by Collins Michael

“Carrying the Fire” is the first “grown up” book I ever read from cover to cover as a kid. I found it on the living room bookshelf when I was about nine, and even though I had no idea who Michael Collins was, I recognized that it had something to do with space. This superbly written, highly readable autobiography stands the test of time as Collins describes not only his own personal journey of becoming a pilot and then an astronaut, but also the technology, training, personalities, and very essence of what it was like to be involved in the U.S. effort to land the first humans on the moon. I didn’t know it at the time, but I was reading “history.” What’s more, I loved it.

Jill Meyer

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Education

Christmas in Purgatory: A Photographic Essay on Mental Retardation

by Blatt Burton

I selected this book, “Christmas in Purgatory,” as it provided (still provides) a poignant pictorial monologue on the social devaluation of individuals who are marginalized in society. In this case, the book portrays the injustices endured by individuals with disabilities.

As a rehabilitation counselor, this book clarified the history and social devaluation of individuals with disabilities that resulted in mass institutionalization, and then ultimately the practice of eugenics, through wide-spread sterilization. This book provides messages and lessons about marginalization that we cannot afford to ignore, or repeat.

Anthony Moore

Tenure
College of Veterinary Medicine

Kevin Moore

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Architecture, Design and Construction
Prada Aoyama Tokyo
by Germano Celant

While there has been some debate if design is research, this book proves it certainly can be. Herzog & de Meuron interrogated every aspect of the Prada Toyama from overall shape and exterior skin to lighting, furniture and even speakers. This book documents the unending search for novelty--both pragmatic and audacious--that thoughtful architecture entails.

Timothy Moore

Tenure
School of Pharmacy
Respiratory Physiology: The Essentials
by John B. West

Catalyzed my interest in lung vascular biology and disease, for which my career has been founded and my experiences and work in this area have helped advance my position. Plus - John West is an original physiology/physician “cowboy” who came up with hypotheses that bear true today.

Jordi Olivar

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Liberal Arts

Peter Panizzi

Associate Professor with Tenure
School of Pharmacy
Principles of Radiographic Imaging: An Art & a Science, 5th Ed.
by Richard Carlton

Thinking about different imaging methods has, in recent years, become a big part of my academic life. This book is a good starting point if you are interesting in biomedical imaging as I am. I think the book is interesting and provides just enough historical context to hold the reader’s attention. It is also the textbook that I am using in my “Molecular Imaging” class that I developed here at Auburn and, as luck would have it, the library did not already have a copy.

Konrad Patkowski

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Ideas of Quantum Chemistry, Second Edition

by Lucjan Piela

I like this quantum chemistry textbook for its unusually broad coverage of subjects (from electronic structure theory to reaction dynamics, from atoms and molecules to solids) and for its tree-like structure. The “quantum chemistry tree” is depicted on the inside cover, and each chapter starts with a picture showing its location on the tree. Alternative pathways through the content are proposed for those interested in specific topics.

I witnessed the making of this book first-hand as a graduate student at the University of Warsaw and had a lot of lively discussions with the author. The first Polish edition even had my photo of Prof. Piela on the back cover (back in 2002, I happened to be the first one around with a digital camera).

Jayachandra Ramapuram

Professor
School of Pharmacy

Nanocolloids: A Meeting Point for Scientists and Technologists

by Margarita Sanchez-Dominguez

Drugs are being formulated as nano-colloidal delivery systems with an objective of reducing the cost of developing new drugs.

Jennifer Robinson

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Liberal Arts

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking

by Malcolm Gladwell

“Blink” really fueled my love for neuroscience and the brain. The fact that a 2-3 pound organ in our head dictates everything that we are - our personalities, our biases, the way we perceive the world - is fascinating to me. More incredibly, the implicit processes and mechanisms that are in place to allow this to happen are magnificently designed, and largely occur outside of our conscious awareness. I chose this book for its contribution to my academic trajectory, for its thought-provoking nature, and for my hope that it will continue to inspire generations to come.

Elizabeth Schwartz

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Sciences and Mathematics

The Politics of Innovation: Why some Countries are Better than Others at Science and Technology

by Mark Taylor

I think this book presents a novel perspective on how scientific and technological innovation is influenced by a variety of influences including social networks. It also brings up a new theory that innovation is subservient to politics, “Creative Insecurity.”

Alan Seals

Associate Professor with Tenure
College of Liberal Arts

Our Southern Highlanders

by Horace Kephart

Horace Kephart was an amazing, if complicated, character. He was an accomplished librarian who became a well-known sports and outdoors writer around the turn of the twentieth century. However, his greatest book, “Our Southern Highlanders”, is an ethnography of the mountain people of Tennessee, in and around the Great Smoky Mountains. Incidentally, he and a Japanese photographer, George Masa, are largely responsible for the creation of The Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The two are featured in one of Ken Burns’ documentaries “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea”. The University of Tennessee Press edition of the book features a fantastic biography of Kephart by George Ellison as an introduction.

While I am from the Cumberland Plateau area of Tennessee, Kephart’s human subjects are a familiar bunch!

Todd Shipman

Librarian III with Tenure

Auburn University Libraries

The Greek New Testament: a reader's edition

by Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft

When he was 16 years old, John Brown, the eighteenth century theologian, walked 24 miles to St. Andrews to buy his own Greek New Testament. Up to that point he had used a local minister's copy with which he had taught himself the Greek language. But on that particular day he joyfully walked back home with his own treasured copy.

About 25 years ago, with similar anticipation, I bought my Greek New Testament wanting to read the text in the original tongue. The Greek New Testament is truly a treasure like no other and I still read it today. This reader's edition is especially designed for those who are learning Greek and it facilitates reading by providing a running dictionary at the bottom of each page. I hope that it will be a helpful resource for many years to come.

Leane Skinner

Professor

College of Education

In Search of Excellence

by Tom Peters

This was one of the first business research books I read. The book had tremendous impact on my thinking about business and what differentiates the "excellent" companies from other companies. When I started teaching leadership, I included this book as required reading in all of my courses and also showed the video during class. The reading and video lead to many thought-provoking class discussions that encouraged student growth. Although it has been many years since the research was completed and the book published, I believe the book presents many leadership principles that are still applicable today.

Xavier Vendrell

Tenure

College of Architecture, Design and Construction

J.A. Coderch de Sentmenat, 1913-1984

by José Antonio Coderch

José Antonio Coderch is probably the most influential architect for many generations of architects in Barcelona. As student of Architecture I looked, visited and studied his work. I not only admire his work but also his attitude of what it means to be an architect and the way that he practices architecture.

I always give to my students this excerpt of J A Coderch writing:

An old and famous American architect, if I remember correctly, said to another much younger architect who asked for his advice: "Open your eyes properly, look; It's much simpler than you think." He also said: "Behind every building you see there's a man whom you don't." A man; he didn't even say an architect.

No, I don't think that it's geniuses are what we need right now. I think geniuses are events, not goals or aims. Neither do I believe we need pontification about architecture, or grand doctrine, or prophecy, always a dubious affair. We still have something with a living tradition within our reach, as well as plenty of moral tenets concerning ourselves and our craft or profession as architects (and I use these terms in their best traditional sense). It is necessary for us to make good use of the little that still remains of a tradition of construction and, above all, morality in an age in which the most beautiful words have lost virtually all their real, true, significance. It is necessary that the thousands upon thousands of architects around the world think less about Architecture with a capital A, or money, or the cities of the year 2000, and more about the job of being an architect. Let them work with a rope tied to one leg, to stop them from straying too far from the earth in which they have their roots, and the people they know best, and let them stand on a solid base of dedication, goodwill and integrity (honour).

It isn't geniuses we need now by Jose Antonio Coderch

Jin Wang

Professor

College of Engineering

The Now Habit: A Strategic Program for Overcoming Procrastination and Enjoying Guilt-Free Play

by Neil Fiore

The book changed my perspective on what are the ways of becoming more productive - not through scheduling to force myself work, but through “non-scheduling”. I still read the book from time to time.

Debra Worthington

Professor

College of Liberal Arts

Seeker's Bane

by P.C. Hodgell

“God Stalk” was the first book I read that had a strong female character. Jamie’s strength lies not in physical prowess, but in her ability to find and navigate a moral compass in her life. Jamie succeeds and she fails. It was her resilience when failing that made all the difference to me. The library actually holds P.C. Hodgell’s first two books – “God Stalk” and “Dark of the Moon.” “Seeker’s Bane” is a compilation of the two books that followed – “Seeker’s Mask” and “To Ride a Rathorn.” Jamie is an old friend that I enjoy introducing to others.

Ria Yngard

Senior Lecturer

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Wesley Zech

Professor

College of Engineering

The Little Engine That Could

by Watty Piper

I selected this book in honor of my late father, Carlton E. Zech, who dedicated his life to the railroad and his family. He taught me, as did the book, that through hard work and by believing in yourself, you will achieve success. Thanks Dad!

Juming Zhong

Professor

College of Veterinary Medicine



AUBURN

UNIVERSITY

2016 Auburn University Libraries

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.