

Promotion and Tenure Reception

Auburn University
September 28, 2017



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Preface

We are pleased to congratulate faculty members recognized in these pages who have earned promotions or tenure. Each year, the tenure and promotion process acknowledges selected faculty who advance our institution's mission through their scholarly endeavors, commitment to fostering a vibrant academic community, and steadfast commitment to discovery.

We commend these faculty members for their years of hard work to become scholars of distinction and exceptional educators. These individuals join a cohort of faculty who continuously strive to make Auburn an exceptional place of higher learning through their commitment to inspiring and empowering others. Working together, our faculty ensure that Auburn remains both a destination for ambitious and creative students from across the globe and also a competitive force in research and outreach.

We look forward to their continued success and are honored to share in their accomplishments.

*Steven Leath
President*

*Timothy R. Boosinger
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Auburn University Libraries

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 Lavelle Bledsoe from the provost's office, and Kim Conner, Nadine Ellero, Lynn Moody, Melinda Nunn, and Jayson Hill in the library.

*Bonnie MacEwan
Dean of Libraries*

Faculty Promotions and Tenure 2017

Auburn University

Sushil Adhikari

College of Agriculture

Professor

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance

by Barack Obama

As a person of color and immigrant, there are so many things that I could relate in this book. President Obama has been an inspiration for so many people in the country.

Alicia Almada

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

Teaching Language in Context

by Alice Omaggio Hadley

This methods textbook was one of the most influential and inspirational books I read during my early years into my profession. Even today, I quite often find myself going through its pages, refreshing my memory, searching for a detail or two, to keep my teaching interesting and challenging.

Maria Auad

College of Engineering

Professor

One Hundred Years of Solitude

by Gabriel García Márquez

The novels and short stories of this fantastic writer exposed me to Latin America's passion, superstition, violence, love, fantasy, inequality. He is probably the most popular Spanish-language writer since Miguel de Cervantes. "One Hundred Years of Solitude" is his most popular book. In accepting his Nobel in 1982, Mr. García Márquez said, "Poets and beggars, musicians and prophets, warriors and scoundrels, all creatures of that unbridled reality, we have had to ask but little of imagination. For our crucial problem has been a lack of conventional means to render our lives believable."

He also said, "It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old, they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams."

Salman Azhar

College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Professor

Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

by Malala Yousafzai

Being born and raised in Pakistan this book touches my heart. It depicts how a little girl Malala and her friends struggled to continue their education despite the horrors of war, earthquake and ongoing power struggle between the military and the tribal militants in Pakistan. Her story indicates that the young girls in the conservative societies are now standing up for their rights. It is important to note that Islam gives equal rights to women to study and practice any profession but it is the cultural norms that typically overrides the religious values.

Sanjeev Baskiyar

College of Engineering

Professor

The Bhagavad-Gita

by Ramananda Prasad

This is a simple and direct translation of a classic inspirational book. It answers fundamental questions of life.

Kimberly Braxton-Lloyd

School of Pharmacy

Professor

Guanqun Cao

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Associate Professor with Tenure

A Dream of Red Mansions

by Hsueh-Chin Tsao

The 18th century novel “A Dream of Red Mansions” remains the greatest Chinese novel ever written, unsurpassed in its depiction of individuals and families, human striving, and stellar literary values. It may be read on many levels, as a love story or social history, as a philosophical musing on the futility of human existence, and a repository of Chinese artistic and literary values.

John Carvalho

College of Liberal Arts

Professor

Luckiest Man

by Jonathan Eig

Through this book, Eig inspired me toward the task of writing sports biography that combines rigorous research, insightful analysis, and accessible writing. I'm not sure I will ever reach Eig's level, but his work sets an inspiring standard.

Charles Chen

College of Agriculture

Professor

A Full Life: Reflections at 90

by Jimmy Carter

Unlike 'An Hour Before Daylight' written by Jimmy Carter, in which he tells of his childhood, "A Full Life: Reflections at 90" Carter puts the long arc of his story together the way he sees it. A Full Life is a good read about a great man as a negotiator and peacemaker in the humblest way. The Blogs of Bill Gates concluded that "It made me think of David Brooks's book The Road to Character and its insights about the values that give life purpose. As Brooks explains, the Book of Genesis contains two very different versions of Adam. "Adam I is the career-oriented, ambitious side of our nature," Brooks writes. "He wants to have high status and win victories." Adam II, in contrast, "wants to have a serene inner character, a quiet but solid sense of right and wrong—not only to do good, but to be good." Jimmy Carter brought Adam II to the fore."

David R. Crumbley

School of Nursing

Associate Clinical Professor

Fearless: The Undaunted Courage and Ultimate Sacrifice of Navy SEAL Team SIX Operator Adam Brown

by Eric Blehm

Adam, a real life hero, overcame insurmountable odds, trials, and demons to become a SEAL and a member of DEVGRU. He was a humble, compassionate, loving husband and father, and sacrificed his life (literally) for his fellow man. His life story had a deep impact on me.

Sarit Dhar

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Tenure

Response in the Living and Non-Living

by Jagadis Bose

The author of this book is Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose who was a pioneer of scientific thinking and political consciousness of Indians under the British Raj. This book details his experiments in biophysics. Although not widely published in the west during that time, JC Bose's contributions go a long way in the development of modern Indian science and technology.

Jeri Dickey

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

Eduardus Duin

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Professor

We Have No Idea

by Jorge Cham

In the ‘80s, the Dutch government was promoting what we now call STEM education with slogans like “Choose Beta.” This resulted in more students in these studies. Unfortunately, a majority of these students did not find jobs in their disciplines because by the time they entered the job market most universities were cutting positions and industry was closing R&D departments or moving to India and China. The backlash was that students would avoid these studies for the next decade or two resulting in departments with hardly any undergraduate students to teach and a huge shortage of Dutch graduate students. This was later corrected by the government by creating more university positions for young faculty to grow in.

Currently The US appears to be in the same situation. A big wave of pharmacy students will hit the market but there is only a limited amount of jobs left. With the current budget cuts and more to come, the current wave of STEM students will probably not do much better. This makes it hard for me to advice any student to study chemistry or biochemistry unless they really want to go into these fields.

Happily, this book comes along, which presents in a very light-hearted and clear way the huge questions that are still out there and how much we actually do not know and how we could approach finding the answers. The book is mainly focused on the ‘unknown’ universe but there are tremendous challenges in all STEM fields. This is of course why we are working in these fields and I hope that, if we keep promoting this the right way, we can turn the tide around again and fulfill the promise of STEM research.

Stephen Erath

College of Human Sciences

Professor

Peer Rejection: Developmental Processes and Intervention Strategies

by Karen Bierman

This book was written by my graduate advisor, Karen Bierman, who has been an inspiration and expert mentor. Her book addresses the significance and developmental processes of peer rejection as well as evidence-based intervention approaches to promote positive peer relationships.

Zhaofei Fan

School of Forestry

Tenure

Love Your God With All Your Mind

by J.P. Moreland

It can help one find the true peace while walking in this world.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

Robert Finkel

College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Associate Professor with Tenure

Man's Search for Meaning

by Viktor Frankl

How do you find purpose to your life? This question is addressed with great insight by Viktor Frankl in his book “Man’s Search for Meaning”.

Frankl, a psychologist and Holocaust survivor, recounts his experience as a prisoner who suffers the worst of humankind yet remains filled with hope and purpose. He observes that it is not simply happiness that gives one the will to live but rather it is the search for meaning. One of the ways which meaning can be found is through the sharing of one’s creativity and work with others. Graphic design is a visual communication discipline that is dependent on an audience. Through empathy and understanding of those who we design for designers have the potential to make enormous contributions to society as well as develop great purpose in their own lives and careers.

Margaret Fletcher

College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Associate Professor with Tenure

Constructing the Persuasive Portfolio: the only primer you'll ever need
by Margaret Fletcher

This book represents a dissemination of 20 years of my professional practice in both architectural design and graphic design. My professional experience as a designer has, in fact, been one of the most influential experiences to my academic career. As such, I am sole author, designer and illustrator for this publication. Constructing the Persuasive Portfolio helps you learn the art of designing a compelling and effective architectural portfolio. The full-color book includes 400 portfolio examples from 55 designers, along with more than 50 diagrams, and a set of 48 design actions that are marked throughout. You will learn how to: -Identify your readership -Collect, document, and catalog your work -Organize your portfolio -Visually structure your portfolio -Design your layout -Manage both printed and digital portfolio formats As your ultimate persuasive tool, the portfolio is the single most important design exercise of an academic and professional career. Constructing the Persuasive Portfolio shows you everything you need to know to create your portfolio and is the only portfolio design book you will ever need!

Ana Franco-Watkins

College of Liberal Arts

Professor

Thinking Fast and Slow

by Daniel Kahneman

This book encapsulates the work that lead me to become a decision scientist. It provides an overview of past and current work over the last 40 years in the science of decision making.

Adelia Grabowsky

Auburn University Libraries
Librarian III with Tenure

Quilt National '17 Catalog

by The Dairy Barn Arts Center

I struggled with choosing one specific book or even which area of my life the book should represent; should I chose a professional book, a book with personal significance, a book from those I read to my children? After some consideration, I decided to choose a book that inspires my creativity. I learned to quilt 34 years ago. Since that time, quilting has been a constant in my life through all the personal and professional changes that have occurred. For me, quilting is a way to decompress as well as a creative outlet. I've made quilts to celebrate momentous occasions like the marriages of my children or the birth of my grandchildren but I've also made quilts to help process the grief of losing my father and to work through the emotions of other challenging experiences. Over the past 34 years, I've collected a large library of quilt books. I have books that explain how to make quilts, and others that demonstrate how to design fabric before you start the quilt. I have books about quilt history, often including diaries and/or letters of 19th century women who used quilts as an avenue of creativity in a life filled with "chores." Finally, I have books that serve simply as inspiration; either documenting masterpieces from the past or presenting new, innovative quilts that blur the intersection of craft and art and even push the boundaries of what a quilt is. I've chosen to add Quilt National 2017, the catalog for a biennial exhibition which serves as a venue for quilt innovators. I hope it will inspire others as it does me.

Ari Gutman

College of Liberal Arts
Senior Lecturer

Xiaoying Han

College of Sciences and Mathematics
Professor

Numerical Solutions of Stochastic Differential Equations

by Peter Kloeden

It is this book which makes theory and computation of stochastic differential equations interesting to me. After reading this book, I started a new branch of my research in stochastic differential equations, and a majority of my publications upon my promotion were in this area.

Alex Holland

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

Vivian Holland

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

Caralise Hunt

School of Nursing

Associate Professor with Tenure

Making a Difference: Stories from the Point of Care

by Sharon Hudacek

This book is a collection of stories from nurses that illustrate the professionalism, knowledge, and compassion of nurses. It reminds me why I chose to become a nurse and how nurses positively impact patients and families every day.

Rafay Ishfaq

College of Business

Associate Professor with Tenure

The Black Swan

by Nassim Taleb

The book highlights the impact of seemingly random and improbably events on society. It uses the metaphor of “black swan” that made people first realize that not all swans are white. It is a great read which integrates analytics and statistics principles (in a easy to read manner) that can help business and government evaluate and understand everything from the stock market fluctuations to the challenge of predicting election results. It also talks about tools to help navigate the Black Swan world.

Christopher Keirstead

College of Liberal Arts

Professor

David Copperfield

by Charles Dickens

I first read this book when I was 15 going into the 10th grade as part of a summer reading series my school was doing. Seeing how long it was--about 900 pages--I remember kind of dreading it at first. I was not much of a reader at the time, but for some reason that summer, David Copperfield and I immediately hit it off, and I couldn't put the book down. I've been a Dickens fan ever since, and I believe I can trace where I am now as a professor back to that summer some 30 years ago. A big shout out to my teachers at Waltham High School for not being afraid to challenge us with a demanding reading list that summer!

The version of the book here is a facsimile of the way Dickens originally published it, in 20 serial parts, complete with the original illustrations and advertising. When teaching Dickens and other Victorian novels now, I often try to simulate the experience of reading in serial by spreading the novel out over the course of the semester.

Kelly Kennington

College of Liberal Arts

Associate Professor with Tenure

Slavery, the Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana

by Judith Schafer

I chose this book to honor its author, the late Dr. Judith Kelleher Schafer, and her contributions to my career. The book is one of the earliest I read in my research field, and its sections on slavery and law are reflected in my own recent book. It was while reading this book for Judy Schafer's class that I realized I could combine my love of law with my passion for history, and it was through taking Judy's class that my research interests crystallized around slavery, freedom, and the law. Judy was not only my teacher, she was a mentor and a friend. At a time when others had discouraged me from pursuing graduate studies in history, she believed I could be successful in academia. She never told me it would be easy (and it wasn't), but she firmly insisted that I had "what it takes" to succeed. I often think about her advice on balancing family and career, and the challenges facing women in higher education. Judy Schafer was a model of the type of professor I hope to be: kind, generous, and diligent, with a sparkling wit and a warm smile. I wish she had lived to see me publish my first book and achieve tenure. I miss her dearly and offer this dedication as a small gesture of my appreciation for her continued inspiration.

Hyeongwoo Kim
College of Liberal Arts
Professor

Capital in the Twenty-First Century
by Thomas Piketty

Thomas Piketty is one of the world's leading experts on income and wealth inequality. In this book, he analyzes a noble collection of long-horizon data from twenty countries to investigate long-term evolution of inequality and the concentration of wealth, creating an intense debate on inequality.

Michael S. Kincaid
College of Business
Senior Lecturer

Science and Human Behavior
by B.F. Skinner

Of his many books, papers and presentations, this was my first experience with his work as a sophomore in college. I found it compelling to the point that I earned a BA, Ma, and PhD in Experimental Psychology.

Annette Kluck
College of Education
Professor

Written/Unwritten: Diversity and the Hidden Truths of Tenure
by Patricia Mathew

Mathew's new book wonderfully gives voice to the lived experience of women and faculty of color within the academy – they ways in which they face challenges we do not and will not know if we have not experienced those very challenges ourselves. As we think about future directions for higher education, this book is a powerful source – if we listen, we will hear the unique ways that those who are underrepresented and marginalized are taxed to do “more” in order to achieve. The individual stories within this edited book facilitate understanding of the “service tax” many face within the academy as a result of their intersecting identities. These stories illustrate the experiences that are behind the national statistics that we see related to differences in professional recognition for underrepresented individuals. It is my hope that the field of higher education will listen to the voices in this text, and others like them, in order to better understand the work we must do to ensure academe is inclusive.

Roy Knight
College of Engineering
Associate Professor

Uwe Konopka

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Tenure

Viviane Koua

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

Climbié

by Bernard Binlin Dadié

In the book “Climbié” by Bernard Blin Dadié, he encourages the youth to seek education and work hard to liberate themselves from parental, societal and colonial dependence. The author suggests that education strengthens the mind and inspires independent and universal thought. He perceives education as the pillar of growth that serves as ones first partner in intellectual development. He appeals to the youth through the statement, “Work, and after work is independence, my child; not to be the burden of anyone, must be the motto of your generation.

You must always run away from a man who does not like to work.”

These ideas were meaningful to me when I was a child and stimulated me to pursue higher education and to work hard so that I can be self-dependent. The author’s encouragement is still appealing to me as I continually search for information to free myself from all forms of dependence and earn the respect of my peers. The book has been a guide to me in my quest for knowledge and my willingness to engage in scholarly activities that instigate self-determination and freedom.

I encourage all young people to read this book as they endeavor to pursue their own liberation.

Christopher Lepczyk

School of Forestry

Professor

The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions

by David Quammen

Modern day conservation is fundamentally rooted in ecology and evolutionary biology. However, few, if any, books have done as excellent a job as “The Song of the Dodo” in describing the history of species, how we are studying to save them, and how basic ecology and evolution can be applied to real-world conservation issues. As a conservation biologist and applied ecologist this is perhaps one of the single best books in natural science I have read. I hope it can help others to see that while we have experienced great biodiversity loss, we have learned many ways to save it.

Kaijun Liu

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Associate Professor with Tenure

Theory of Space Plasma Microinstabilities

by S. Peter Gary

This book presents a very nice summary of kinetic plasma instabilities and inspired me into the research area which I am currently in.

Stuart Loch

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Professor

The Silmarillion

by J.R.R. Tolkien

When I moved from Scotland to the United States, I chose a book to start reading in the UK and finish reading here, to give me something constant during the move. So I chose 'The Lord of the Rings' and got immersed in the world Tolkien had created. I then moved on to the Silmarillion and it is now one of my favorite books. I love the mythology, the grand scope, and the depth of the world that Tolkien created. It is still the book that I come back to if I want to relax. The feeling of wonder that I have when reading the book, it the same emotion that I want my students to have when they learn about physics and our real Universe. The care that Tolkien takes in describing such a detailed world reminds me a lot of research and the meticulous requirements to advance knowledge in a given field. So for me the book conveys both the wonder and the care that is required for academia.

David Maurer

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Professor

Introduction to Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion

by Francis Chen

The 2nd edition of this book served as my first introduction to the field of plasma physics. It was accessible and engagingly written and still serves to this day as the text to use for an introductory plasma physics class.

Jesse Michel

College of Liberal Arts

Associate Professor with Tenure

Matthew Miller

College of Education

Associate Professor with Tenure

The First Four Minutes

by Roger Bannister

I study and teach the psychology of sport performance, which was initially inspired by this book. Specifically, I wrote my high school senior English paper about how Roger Bannister becoming the first human to run a mile under 4 minutes had a tremendous psychological impact on the other elite middle-distance runners of the time. This impact caused them to believe they could break 4 minutes, which many of them went on to do. Notably, my parents, Robert and Ellen Miller, bought me a signed edition of this book for my college graduation. Importantly, both Robert and Ellen cultivated my love of reading at a young age and have continued to do so.

Chandana Mitra

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Associate Professor with Tenure

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

by Richard Bach

I have been admiring Jonathan Livingstone, the seagull for decades now. For me Jonathan was an inspiration to rise above the masses, think outside the box and continue trying till you succeed. This book always inspired me to do my best and try to connect to things and emotions beyond material happiness. Everyone should read this book.

Jay Mittal

College of Liberal Arts

Associate Professor with Tenure

Real Estate Principles: A Value Approach

by David Ling, Wayne R. Archer

This book changed my total academic perspective of the planning profession. It provoked me to think how one could integrate real estate knowledge (mortgage, valuation, finance, and marketing) in the planning process and strengthen graduate curriculum in planning. I gained a lot and my students continue to gain from the book.

Kerri Muñoz

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

El tiempo principia en Xibalbá

by Luís de Lión

At a young age, this book taught me that true change of any type at any moment can happen only when there is an authentic, unbreakable union between word and action. This book also taught me the absolute necessity of contextualization; that nothing is as it is just because.

David Odom

College of Liberal Arts

Professor

Joshua Pifer

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

*Lauridsen - Lux Aeterna & Choral Works: Los Angeles Master Chorale**- Paul Salamunovich*

by Morten Lauridsen

This CD features the piece “Lux Aeterna” composed by Morten Lauridsen and performed by the Los Angeles Master Chorale under the direction of Paul Salamunovich. Lauridsen is a Composition and Theory Professor at University of Southern California where I did my doctorate. I had the opportunity to sing and perform this work under the direction of Paul Salamunovich in the presence of the composer. This performance in 2007 was a truly important event in my musical career. Through this performance, many of my colleagues and myself experienced a rare but truly transcendent moment. This experience fortified by conviction as a performer to always take on the responsibility and role to communicate the spirit of the music and composer to the audience. The 30 minutes performing this masterpiece followed by the 20-minute standing ovation we received from the audience was an experience I will continue to cherish and use as an inspirational tool in all my performing, teaching, and learning as a musician and a pedagogue. My sincere hopes are for all music students to be able to experience a moment of transcendence where music comes to life from the composer to the page through the performers into the audience’s ears and hearts. We do music because we love it. Music has the power to bring humanity together in peace, passion, and love.

Laura Plexico
College of Liberal Arts
Professor

Satyanarayana Pondugula
College of Veterinary Medicine
Associate Professor with Tenure

Michael Roberts
College of Education
Associate Professor with Tenure

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

by Dr. Seuss

I chose this book because it gives a really simple and innocent perspective on the challenges one faces in life.

Fereshteh Rostampour
College of Liberal Arts
Professor

Joe E. Rowe
College of Veterinary Medicine
Senior Lecturer

The Merck Veterinary Manual (Eleventh Edition)
by Merck and Co., INC.

I first purchased a much earlier edition of The Merck Veterinary Manual as a young teenager interested in becoming a Veterinarian. Although the vast majority of the information was beyond my understanding at that time I was in awe that there was a career that knew so much about so many species of animals. I have purchased every edition since. I still find myself referring to it on almost a daily basis.

Jared Russell
College of Education
Professor

Sun Tzu for Success: How to use the Art of War to master challenges and accomplish the important goals in your life
by Gerald Michaelson

“Sun Tzu for Success” provides valuable insights, life lessons, and strategies for successfully planning and navigating through life’s challenges. The book provides realistic and easy to implement strategies for professional success.

Jeremy Samolesky
College of Liberal Arts
Professor

W. Scott Simkins
College of Liberal Arts
Senior Lecturer

Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word
by Walter Ong

Walter Ong's study of the cultural differences between predominantly oral and predominantly literate societies revealed to me a new set of assumptions we make about people's intellectual capacities and the ways we process the information we receive through our senses. His book was relevant to my dissertation research years ago and continues to apply to the literature classes that I teach now.

Carrie Spell
College of Liberal Arts
Senior Lecturer

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
by Harriet Jacobs (Editor: Jean Fagin Yellin)

Harriet Jacobs crafted the story of her life – despite whatever shame American culture told her she should have over it. Through that story, she played a part in exposing and ending slavery. For generations afterward, she continues to warn against the scourge of inhumanity, of a failure to recognize yourself in the other. For my creative writing students, it shows the power of the individual voice and the power in the act of crafting a story. Yet this particular edition and its introductory material remind us that it still took another woman – the scholar Jean Fagin Yellin – and her passion for this book to help Harriet Jacobs attain her rightful place in literary history. Through her diligence and research, we know what we should have all along: that Harriet Jacobs was real, that her story of seemingly superhuman emotional strength is also real, and that Jacobs wrote her own story. We needed Yellin to help spread its word. And so, for my literature students, the edition reminds us of literary scholarship's power and purpose. Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* shows the power of literacy, the key to everything I do at Auburn. Frederick Douglass showed all of us this in his own life story, in which he said, "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Jacobs needed literacy. We all do.

Timothy Sundell

College of Liberal Arts

Associate Professor with Tenure

Aspects of the Theory of Syntax

by Noam Chomsky

Reading Chapter 1 of “Aspects...” late at night in the Reed College library, I was introduced to a way of thinking about language that has influenced everything I’ve done since. Theories of syntax have changed a lot since the 1960’s. But many of the concepts and distinctions Chomsky introduces in that era remain as important and as controversial as ever. The highly idealized and mentalistic conception of the object of study. The distinctions between competence and performance, and between descriptive and explanatory adequacy. The insistent defense of introspective evidence, even in the face of the startling fallibility of our own linguistic intuitions. These ideas continue to serve me as inspiration and guiding insights. Other books — including others by Chomsky — are more up to date, more accessible, or more directly relevant to my current research. But it’s “Aspects...” that got me started, and that takes me back.

Lindsay Tan

College of Human Sciences

Associate Professor with Tenure

The Fellowship of the Ring

by J.R.R. Tolkien

“I don’t know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.”

Brian Thurow

College of Engineering

Professor

Computational Fluid Dynamics: the Basics with Applications

by John Anderson

Although my expertise is experimental fluid dynamics, I chose this book on computational fluid dynamics because I had a distinct light bulb over the head moment occur while reading this book for a graduate course that I took on the subject. Specifically, Chapter 2 takes the time to derive the governing equations of fluid dynamics in four different forms and to show how each form can be rewritten into one of the other forms using simple concepts. Prior to this, I had seen all four forms of the equations used in different places, but I didn’t comprehend how they were all stating the same thing. Reading this book helped me truly grasp and appreciate the connection between mathematics and physics.

Rod Turochy
College of Engineering
Professor

Brian Vasant
College of Business
Associate Professor with Tenure
Deliver Us From Evil
by Ravi Zacharias

Brian Via
School of Forestry
Professor
Blue Ocean Strategy
by W. Chan Kim

I selected this book because it provided me with a new vision for differentiating a product or service. I was not a marketer, but worked for a former Fortune 500 company in their R&D department. Despite being a research engineer, I learned a lot from this book on strategies to differentiate a product during development so that it does not compete with other products. My responsibility was to develop new products in the lab and so this book was quite helpful. The “Blue Ocean” title represents the endless opportunities to differentiate a product through proper marketing strategy as opposed to a red ocean (everyone fighting for the same market space).

Luxin Wang
College of Agriculture
Associate Professor with Tenure

Salisa Westrick
School of Pharmacy
Professor
The Art of Racing in the Rain
by Garth Stein

This book is about something larger than a dog’s life. It serves as a good reminder of how short a life can be, how we affect other people’s lives and how we should celebrate every moment in life.

Kathryn Wickman

College of Liberal Arts

Senior Lecturer

The Real Life of Sebastian Knight

by Vladimir Nabokov

Vladimir Nabokov's novel "The Real Life of Sebastian Knight" purports to be both a biography and a mystery, but its essential subject is that of a writer and his text, both in a state of becoming. The narrator, known only as V, is writing the biography of his half-brother Sebastian Knight, a novelist. In preparation for the composition of this book, V enlists in a "'be-an-author' course" where he learns "to be coy and graceful, forcible and crisp." Much of the narrator's driving desire (and much of his anxiety) stems from his belief that he will never be a successful writer. While the text puts on the appearance of a biography, insisting on the cover of the book that what we are entering into, as readers, is the "Real Life" of its subject, it tells us very little about that or about the narrator's bumbling investigation into Sebastian's past. When V reaches the end of the string of clues, he finds a dubious truth with not one solution but at least two, each of those as unstable as the other -- not static but dynamic, changing and bifurcating into a multiplicity of meanings. It is a biography that never tells the story of its subject, a mystery that is impossible to solve. Rather, the story this novel winds up telling is one of a writer coming forth, coming into his own, and a text coming into being.

Courtney Windham

College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Associate Professor with Tenure

Typography: My Way to Typography

by Wolfgang Weingart

This book is a beautiful collection of Wolfgang Weingart's life's work. He is an incredibly well known designer and teacher. His work has influenced my own way of designing and teaching.

Haibo Zou

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Professor

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

by Stephen Covey



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