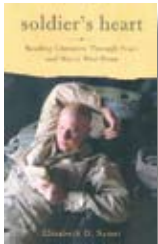


SUMMER SELECTIONS

Summer is in full swing and what better way to enjoy it than relaxing with a good book. *Lawrence Today* invites its readers to kick off their shoes, find a spot of sunshine, and dive into any of these recommended readings.



Tim Spurgin, associate professor of English and Bonnie Glidden Buchanan Professor of English Literature and Director of Freshman Studies

Soldier's Heart, Elizabeth Samet

I loved *Soldier's Heart* by Elizabeth Samet, a member of the English department at West Point. Samet's book unfolds against the backdrop of the war in Iraq, but her real subject is teaching. What can her students, preparing to be commissioned as officers in the U. S. Army, learn from Homer and Tolstoy? What can she, a good liberal with degrees from Harvard and Yale, learn from those West Point cadets? Such questions are of course both timely and timeless, reminding us of the powerful bonds linking students and teachers to books. By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, this is a wonderful read.



Jerry Podair, associate professor of history and Robert S. French Professor of American Studies

Five Days in London: May 1940, John Lukacs

A familiar story — Winston Churchill rallies his nation in the face of the Nazi onslaught — told in a revealing way. I hadn't realized

how close England came during those dark days to cutting a deal with Hitler and ceding Europe to him. Churchill's ability to convince his government and his people to reject this cowardly and ruinous course of action was a miracle of leadership, eloquence, and blind chance. When I tell my students about "contingency" in history — the idea that events were not predestined to unfold as they did — this is what I mean.



Howard Niblock, professor of music

What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat, Louise Richardson

Many academics have studied terrorist tactics, and Louise Richardson is obviously very familiar with the relevant scholarly literature; but she also experienced terrorism (and felt its attraction) first-hand during her childhood growing up in Northern Ireland.

This is a welcome paperback reprint of an excellent single volume introduction to "terrorism studies." What do terrorists want? According to the author they want the "three Rs" — revenge (for real and/or perceived injustices), renown (news coverage and world-wide attention), and reaction (especially if it's either violent or bellicose enough to perpetuate their sense of moral indignation). In this context, the so-called "war on terror" appears to fall squarely within the third category and is thus by its very nature a self-defeating enterprise. After reading this book, I now shudder whenever I hear government officials or political candidates utter the expression, and it also seems clear that this "war on terror" is far more likely to cause than to deter the next great terrorist attack on the United States. We must therefore focus much less attention on being either "tough" or "soft" on terrorism and instead try to understand which policies have a real chance to reduce the actual number of terrorist attacks. In this regard Richardson seems to have some well-informed and plausible suggestions. Whether any United States government will ever be thoughtful and rational enough to consider them seriously is another question entirely.



Brent Peterson, professor of German

The Shoe Tester of Frankfurt, Wilhelm Genazino

The Shoe Tester of Frankfurt concerns an unlikely hero, an unnamed, middle-aged man who walks around Frankfurt testing luxury shoes. Along with the hero's recollections and his gradual decision to take more control over his life, the novel lets English-speaking readers experience Genazino's amazing ability to observe details that might otherwise go missing on our own rambles.

ALUMNI AUTHORS



Beth De Stasio, associate professor of biology and Raymond H. Herzog Professor of Science

Heat: An Amateur's Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line Cook, Pasta-Maker, and Apprentice to a Dante-Quoting Butcher in Tuscany, Bill Buford

Heat is an insider's look at a profession — that of a professional chef. If you are, like me, somewhat addicted to the Food Network, you will love Bill Buford's story of his naïve foray into a professional kitchen. Buford, a journalist, sets out to profile celebrity chef Mario Batali, but ends up spending three years, first as a line chef then later as a pilgrim of sorts, retracing Batali's training in Italy. From the frantic inner workings of the professional kitchen (and the hard work required to obtain needed kitchen skills) to the slower, more loving production of handmade pasta and particular cuts of meat, the descriptions are fabulous, entertaining, and enlightening. Alumni from the past 20 or so years will be reminded of the lessons of Chuang Tzu's *Cook Tin*. A fun read.



Also from Beth De Stasio:

The Making of the Fittest: DNA and the Ultimate Forensic Record of Evolution, Sean Carroll

This book is being used currently as a supplementary, 'fun' text in our Evolutionary Biology course. Sean Carroll is a terrific scientist at the University of

Wisconsin-Madison who, in this his third popular text, takes his readers through the evidence of evolutionary change at a layman's level. Advances in our understanding of genetics and genomics now allow us to compare genes across a wide array of species, such that we can now deduce which genes and which changes in those genes are responsible for apparently drastic changes in an organism's physiology, behavior, or appearance. Carroll does a terrific job of explaining how DNA is an historical record of the path taken in the evolution of life. The examples are fun: ice fish with no hemoglobin, and how the senses of sight and smell have evolved. The writing is lucid and almost conversational, and necessary background is clearly explained for those needing a primer on modern molecular genetics. Highly recommended for anyone. ■

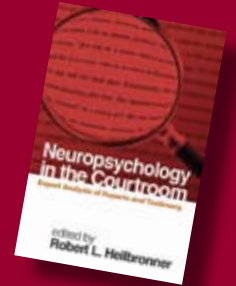


Apple Betty & Sloppy Joe: Stirring Up the Past with Family Recipes and Stories

Julie Sanvidge Florence '81 and her three sisters collaborated on a collection of classic midwestern "comfort food" recipes — seasoned with a generous serving of humorous anecdotes and recollections from their childhood in Oshkosh, Wis.

Neuropsychology in the Courtroom: Expert Analysis of Reports and Testimony

Edited by Dr. Robert Heilbroner '80, a neuropsychologist and forensics expert, this book examines an array of adult and adolescent forensic neuropsychology cases and provides expert insight on each case.

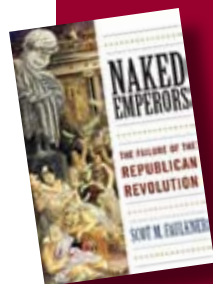
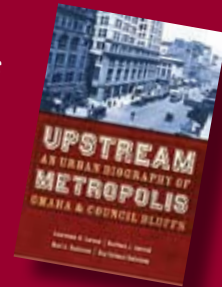


Planet of the Dates

Author Paul McComas '83 takes readers on a fun-filled, freewheeling adventure with Phil Corcoran, a girl-crazed Milwaukee teenager looking for love — and everything in-between — during the summer of 1980.

Upstream Metropolis: An Urban Biography of Omaha and Council Bluffs

Lawrence H. Larsen '53 contributes to the first comprehensive history of Omaha-Council Bluffs — two towns, separated by the Missouri River, that have grown together to create a bustling metropolitan area straddling two states.



Naked Emperors; The Failure of the Republican Revolution

Author Scot M. Faulkner '75 was chief administrative officer of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1997. His book chronicles the culture of corruption in Washington and lays out a blueprint for making government accountable — despite the heavy hand of special interests.