Your Summer Reading List, Courtesy of BC Faculty!

Although it might still seem distant, the end of Spring 2017 is just around the corner! A few BC faculty have given us lists of their 3 favorite books of all time. Use these next few pages of the newsletter as your summer reading guide!

David Moton (Chair, English)

*Catch-22 ~ Joseph Heller.*
Any book that can somehow show the true horrors of World War II, model the philosophies of Post-Modernism and theoretical quantum physics, and make you laugh out loud like a crazy person while you read it at night gets my number one spot.

*Virtual Light ~ William Gibson.*
Gibson is the master of showing not how a future might be, but how a future will be, and this book shows a lot. His prose is wondrous, and his cultural skepticism is deep. He predicts the power of social media, reality television, and even fringe religions in this book.

*1984 ~ George Orwell.*
This remains one of the most powerful pieces of fiction I’ve ever read. In spite of a world where the government can see everything, the reluctant and illegal love of Winston and Julia defies the will of the state. It is devastatingly bleak but somehow hopeful with one of the most memorable endings in all of fiction.

Jason Stratton (Chair, Social Science)

*Dune ~ Frank Herbert* 
I first read this book in middle-school, and read it 3 more times before beginning college. There was something so fascinating about the rich and diverse depiction of the future of humanity, on multiple worlds, in multiple climate zones. At the time I lived near the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area: a 50 mile long series of dunes. The end of our back yard was the sand dunes, and I would walk the dunes to the beach like Paul Maud’Dib. The mystical and magical elements were woven into an ecologically relevant description of the world, and all of it spoke to me in ways the movies never could.

*The Name of the Rose ~ Umberto Eco* 
I read this while attending the University of La Verne in LaVerne, CA in the late 1980s. As a History major who loves mysteries and detective shows, it doesn’t get much better than this. Eco is probably my favorite writer of the past 30 years. I love intellectual creativity, the cosmopolitan nature of his writing, and that he makes the reader actually read and think to ‘get’ the points. His characters are rich and even his background ‘throw away’ details are full of areas of scholarly inquiry. This man is a scholar first, and a writer of fiction second.
The Razor’s Edge ~ Somerset Maugham
This book may not be considered his best work, but the essential quest for what is of true meaning that it reflects, as a result of the observations on the lives of those in the story, seem to really capture one of the essentials of the ‘lost generation’. It is a mono-chromatic view of this search, but it demonstrates some of the interplay of tensions within that group in a nuanced way that always provoked thought.

Joyce Kirst (Professor, Academic Development)

To Kill a Mockingbird ~ Harper Lee
This is the earliest book I remember reading (and then rereading at later points in my life). Now I can’t read it without hearing the cadence and homespun accents of the iconic actors in my mind, but the award-winning film only serves to enrich my experience with the printed word. What strikes me is that, sadly, we haven’t come very far as a society since the days portrayed in the novel; the struggle continues.

On Death and Dying ~ Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
For my elementary and special education credentials, I chose to student teach at a large urban children's hospital. There, I had the unique opportunity to learn about many disabilities while exploring non-traditional teaching techniques. During that time, this book informed and inspired me. It helped me understand the stages we all go through on the road to acceptance, not just of death, but of our various setbacks and limitations in life. Later it became the cornerstone in a course I designed for BC students with disabilities, where I focused on helping students accept their disabilities and develop mitigating measures to live life to the fullest.

A Fighting Chance ~ Elizabeth Warren
I easily related to Warren’s fire and passion, especially because she fought for the underdog. I liked how Warren was incensed by injustice and worked to correct it. While my venue is not politics, her book helped me remember to do well whatever I am called to do. I also enjoyed Warren's fluid writing style, translating complex financial and legal matters into understandable language. At her core, she is a skilled teacher.

Rae Ann Kumelos (Professor, English)

Odyssey ~ Homer
I’ve loved this book since I was five and saw the cheesy movie about it; I vividly recall the terror of the Cyclops. Since then, I have read it a million times, teach it in my Mythology class, wrote about it in my dissertation and thesis', named kitties after the main characters, and even have a non-profit named Penelope's Bow. I have visited Ithaca and stood on the site where archaeologists believe the palace of Odysseus and Penelope was located. My father's family is from the island of Zakynthos, which is one island over from Ithaca. And here's the fun part - Odysseus' wife, Penelope, has a sister named Iphthime who was married to Eumelos - our family name, but spelled with an "E" rather than a "K." We're related!

Outlander ~ Diana Gabaldon
There are eight books in the Outlander series and I love them all, but the first, Outlander, is my favorite. It is a time-travel romance that is steeped in historical details. I happened open book four in the series at an antique store and bought it for a quarter because it had a picture of a Scottish man in a kilt and my mom is Scotch-Irish. I was almost all the way through it before I realized that there were three prequels to the story. That is how good Diana Gabaldon's writing is -one can easily believe the characters actually exist-, and she is the best storyteller I have ever read. The Starz television series does a terrific job in capturing the series, but do read the books first.
The Golden Compass ~ Phillip Pullman
This book is the first of three in a series known as His Dark Materials. These are fantasy novels, but my main area of interest in them is how each character has an animal familiar that demonstrates how humans and animals are soul-connected. I based my entire graduate studies on this concept, focusing on the role of animals in life, literature and myth. Pullman's stories helped lead me to my radio show on XM Satellite, Voice of the Animal, as well as a number of published articles, conference presentations, and most recently, publication of my book, Wild Wisdom: Animal Stories of the Southwest. I really must write him and thank him for being such an inspiration!

**Teresa Mcallister (Professor, Academic Development)**

The Bible
This is my go-to manual for life.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society ~ Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
I love that the novel tells the story via letters. Written correspondence, especially hand-written letter writing, is a lost art. I read this novel at a much slower pace than I usually do, and so I enjoyed it for a longer period of time. It is a delightful read.

The Incredible Journey ~ Sharon Burnford
It was hard to choose a third book! I love to read, especially fiction. So, I picked this book as my third choice because this is the book that originally hooked me on reading.

## Anna Agenjo is Retiring!

We are both happy and sad to announce that our beloved Library Chair, Anna Agenjo, will be retiring at the end of Spring 2017. Anna was raised in Bakersfield, is a BC alumna, and has worked as a librarian at BC for 26 years. She was elected Library Chair in 1998 and has held the office unopposed ever since.

Before Anna joined the BC Library, she received a Bachelor’s degree from Pomona College and her Master’s in Library Science from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She worked as a law librarian in D.C. for 12 years before moving back to Bakersfield and changing her focus to academic librarianship.

When Anna retires she will take with her 26 years of library institutional memory, which we have relied on often. During her years here she has shepherded the library into the electronic age, advocated for increased collaboration between librarians and teaching faculty, and made the library a welcoming and integral part of the BC campus. In 2004, Anna was awarded the Margaret Levinson Faculty Leadership Award in recognition of her superb work at the BC Library.
Read all about it!: New titles at BC

A curated list of some of the new and exciting titles in the general collection.
(Arranged in call number order.)


