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Debra Spark (English)

Unknown Caller
LSU Press, Yellow Shoe Fiction (2016)

The phone calls come at all hours of the night—Liesel, Joel's first wife, who left the marriage suddenly and mysteriously years before, making her presence known in an unsettling and even chilling way. Spark's new novel begins with one of the 2 a.m. calls and the pages start turning. The subsequent disappearance of Liesel and of Joel and Liesel's teenage daughter, Idzia, adds to the mystery that serves as a vehicle for Spark's perceptive and revealing exploration of these very real and flawed characters. In the end it is the complexity of relationships that drives Spark's compelling story, which is filled with the unexpected twists and turns that mark our lives.

G. Calvin Mackenzie (Government)

The Imperiled Presidency: Leadership Challenges in the Twenty-First Century
Rowman & Littlefield (2016)

Mackenzie, the Goldfarb Family Distinguished Professor of Government and an expert on the American presidency, concludes that presidents are becoming smaller and smaller players in terms of their ability to effect change. “It is no longer that power is shared,” Mackenzie writes, “but that it is shared among an ever-widening group of institutions and interests, ever more sophisticated in the tactics they employ, and with intentions to prevent presidents from accomplishing even their limited objectives.” He urges major constitutional restructuring so that the federal government can attempt to meet the daunting challenges the country faces.

Catherine Bevier (Biology), Denis Vieira de Andrade, Jose Eduardo de Carvalho, editors

Amphibian and Reptile Adaptations to the Environment
CRC Press (2016)

Associate Professor of Biology Bevier, an expert on animal behavior and behavioral ecology, is both coeditor and contributor, writing the chapter, “Physiological and Biochemical Correlates of Calling Behavior in Anurans with Different Calling Strategies.” The article is one of many collected here on the physiology, behavior, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. Studies that had appeared in specialized journals are accessible in this single volume, providing understanding of these related but highly diverse creatures.

Martha Arterberry (Psychology) and Philip Kellman

Development of Perception in Infancy: The Cradle of Knowledge Revisited
Oxford University Press (2016)

This new edition of the original 1998 book includes the considerable research the authors have done in the interim. Experts in the field have hailed the book as “the definitive summary of perceptual development,” and an important addition to the findings reported in the original work. Arterberry and Kellman consider the methods of research on infant perception, exploring the perceptual abilities with which infants appear to be born, those that emerge with experience, and how the two types of abilities interact. “The story of infant perception research is one in which experimental findings are replacing centuries of conjecture about the origins of the mind,” the authors write.

Douglas Morrione ’93

Everything in the Song Is True
(2016)

Filmmaker Morrione spent two years with four iconic characters who define the American West. The resulting documentary had its premiere at the Maine International Film Festival in Waterville in July.
Jennifer Barber ’78

Works on Paper
The Word Works (2016)

Barber’s third collection of poems is a book of uncannily captured moments, usually fleeting but starkly visible here. Memories of raising a family, recounted briefly, room by room: “I washed my daughter’s hair,/both of us in the bath,/I watched her hair rise, a fan around the full moon of her head.” Founder and editor of the literary journal Salamander, and contributor to journals including Poetry and the New Yorker, Barber knows that our lives and world are strung with moment, sounds, sights that seem like veneer but ultimately are the core of our time here.

Prindle’s multi-year study of Japanese films and their associated literature reveals the covert stories of Japanese women vs. orthodox history. Fifteen films are selected from different periods, from the premodern to the late 20th century. The public coded women in such films as mother, wife, prostitute, girl, and woman, Prindle writes. She examines each film within the perspective of ecological feminism, sexuality, alienation, illusion, and power-over/power-to, providing perspective on the background of the films and women they portray.

Philip Nyhus (Environmental Studies)

Snow Leopards
(first in series Biodiversity of the World: Conservation from Genes to Landscapes)
Elsevier (2016)

Nyhus is editor of this new series, which focuses on a variety of species. Snow Leopards is a comprehensive work on the biology, behavior, and conservation status of one of the least studied of the world’s large cats. Nyhus is an expert on endangered species conservation and policy, with a particular focus on conflict between humans and wildlife, including tiger and large mammal conservation. The series is expected to provide important reference works that will be used for years to come.

Douglas Rooks ’76

Statesman: George Mitchell and the Art of the Possible
Down East Books (2016)

Most Americans know former Senator George Mitchell by reputation. The former Senate majority leader was overseer of the landmark Clean Air Act, star of the Iran-Contra hearings, the face of a time when senators collaborated more than they berated, architect of peace in Northern Ireland, and envoy for the Middle East for President Barack Obama. But what exactly did the Waterville native do in his long and successful political career? Rooks, a longtime Maine journalist, fills in the rest of the story, carefully tracing Mitchell’s early political races, his adroit mastery of the Senate, and his ability to lead people with different points of view to solve complex problems.

Ronald Moran ’58

Eye of the World
Clemson University Press (2016)

Moran’s latest collection draws on observations of the outwardly mundane (Mugshots are “like pictures of your family in the living room or in a hallway spaces,/if not smiling, not so unsavory...”) to the timeless (first-love couples “holding/and holding on until the unearthly bell began/tolling.”) Indeed, some of the poems here focus on stuff that occupies our last years—haunted dreams, medical appointments, inexplicable aches, and explicable longings.

Erika Mailman ’91
(as Lynn Carthage)

Betrayed
Kensington (2016)

The second young adult novel in the Arnaud Legacy trilogy again accompanies Phoebe, who moved from her home in San Francisco to her family’s ancestral manor in the English countryside. Arnaud Manor proved to be a dangerous and mysterious place in Haunted, but the sequel shows that the otherworldly forces stalking the family remain. This time the legacy follows Phoebe and Miles to Versailles, where romance is kindled and betrayal looms.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


Janice Liang ’16, Travis Reynolds (Environmental Studies), Cathy Collins (Biology), Alemayehu Wassie, and Atalel Wubalem, “Effects of exotic Eucalyptus spp. plantations on soil properties in and around sacred natural sites in the northern Ethiopian Highlands,” AIMS Agriculture and Food, April 2016.


Travis Reynolds (Environmental Studies), Denise Brueseowitz (Environmental Studies), Sara LoTemplio ’16, Marie Abrahams ’14, Jacob Wall ’16, and Alemayehu Wassie, “Ethiopian Orthodox church forests provide regulating and habitat services: evidence from stream sediment and aquatic insect analyses,” African Journal of Ecology, June 2016.

