Media
Debra Spark (Creative Writing)

When Midnight Comes Around
Stanley/Barker (2020)

Long before he was associate professor of art at Colby, Gary Green was a photographer’s assistant in New York City, where he spent his nights at Max’s Kansas City and CBGB documenting some of the most iconic musicians and figures. In a collection of photographs taken from 1976 to 1986, Green has captured the spirit of a time that challenged cultural and musical norms, stripping rock music to its rawest roots. His work preserves the spirit of the pioneering punk scene centered in Manhattan’s East Village, including evocative photos of Lou Reed, Debbie Harry, Patti Smith, and Joey Ramone, among others.

Bretton White (Spanish)

Staging Discomfort: Performance and Queerness in Contemporary Cuba
University Press of Florida (2020)

Even when governments crack down on citizens, artists find ways to express themselves, leading society to question the official line. The same holds true for Cuba after the 1959 Revolution. Taking readers to the island, White examines how queer bodies are represented in Cuban theater. She analyzes contemporary performances using queer theory and finds that through experimental performances of sexuality, connections occur between those on stage and off, triggering various feelings—discomfort, intimacy, frustration. These performances, she argues, not only challenge the state’s narrative but push the audience to consider Cuban identity in a different light.

Ben Fallaw (Latin American Studies) and David Nugent, editors

State Formation in the Liberal Era
The University of Arizona Press (2020)

Focusing on the Latin American postcolonial period of 1850 to 1950, State Formation in the Liberal Era compares and contrasts the lopsided process of nation-making and economic development in Peru and Mexico. Fallaw and Nugent gathered noted historians and anthropologists to explore themes such as foreign banks, road building, and labor relations in the period between the dawn of the era of global liberal capitalism and the start of the Cold War. The United States’ influence in shaping Latin American history is revealed in this nuanced work that crosses geographic and disciplinary boundaries.

Debra Spark (Creative Writing)

And Then Something Happened: Essays on Fiction Writing
Engine Books (2020)

Award-winning writer Debra Spark follows up her successful first book on fiction writing with And Then Something Happened, a book of essays that digs into topics such as plot, humor, research, and scope. Designed for upperclass and graduate students—and readers in general—Spark imparts her wit and wisdom using examples, anecdotes, and analysis for anyone wishing to perfect the craft of writing or facing the dreaded blank page. Drawing on 25 years teaching at Colby, the book offers solid advice from someone who knows the joys and challenges of writing: Spark has authored five works of fiction and numerous stories.
Osman Haneef '05

Blasphemy: The Trial of Danesh Masih
Readomania (2020)

An Ivy League-trained Pakistani lawyer, Sikander Ghaznavi has been living in Boston and not planning on—or even thinking of—going back to his home country. But after losing Abbey, the woman who helped raise him, he begins questioning his life choices. And he decides to return to Pakistan.

There awaits an unfinished love, and a blasphemy trial. While Sikander begins to find answers about his own past, he also faces a tough question that would shape a young boy’s future.

Danesh Masih, a Pakistani Christian boy, is accused of blasphemy, potentially facing a death sentence. He and Sikander meet as Sikander wakes up from a nap. When he opens his eyes, he sees Danesh staring at him. “I’m here to wake you up,” says Danesh. From that point on, Sikander starts to experience an awakening about his past, his family, and his country.

“Atalthough all the characters and most events are fictional (or have been fictionalized), it is a deeply personal novel,” said Haneef about his debut, Blasphemy: The Trial of Danesh Masih. “At the same time, it does address broader themes around inclusivity, tolerance, individual responsibility, and the role of religion in society.”

Read a Q&A with Haneef about his book at colby.edu/mag.

Gary Green (Art)

The River is Moving/
The Blackbird Must Be Flying
L’Artiere (2020)

Photographs made along a stream near Green’s Waterville home explore the reflections, shadows, and refractions on its surface. These meditations on nature also point to the Wallace Stevens poem “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird,” from which the collection’s title is excerpted. “The poem evokes, among other themes, the idea that as nature we are all connected: the flora and fauna, the air above and the ground below,” Green writes.

Andrew Monroe Rice ’96

Ghosts of Ursino
Burnt Hill Publishing (2020)

Dis family dat come from me. Sure be a wondur. Not how ya imagin it when ya come in da world a slave girl. So says grandmother Rosa in the opening page of Ghosts of Ursino, a novel based on the true story of Rice’s great-great-grandparents’ interracial marriage in 1872 on Davis Island, Miss.

Rice traced his family’s genealogy as far as he could, then let his imagination take over to tell the story of a 20th-century American family searching for identity and contentment amidst a backdrop of a society overwhelmed and obsessed with race and wealth.

Ellie Tomlinson ’62

Molly’s Pal
Archway Publishing (2019)

Tomlinson continues her career as an artist-teacher-turned-children’s-book-author in this sweet chapter book. The storyline follows Molly, an elementary school girl navigating life in the midst of the confusing, ominous World War II era with the help of her loveable pup, Pal. With inviting images to start every chapter, readers follow Molly and her new dog as they take on the challenges of mean older brothers, making new friends, and crotchety neighbors. Pal’s stint working for the U.S. Army brings a patriotic tone reminiscent of the war years. It is an endearing tale that children can learn from, especially today.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


Jen Coane (Psychology), Grace Arnold ’17, Kimberly Bourne ’16, and Sarah Boland ’17, “Reading the news on Twitter: Source and item memory for social media in younger and older adults,” in Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications, April 2020.


Breton White (Spanish), Staging Discomfort: Performance and Queerness in Contemporary Cuba, University Press Florida, June 2020.