At the heart of *Arts Talk* is the belief that audience pleasure is tied to the opportunity to interpret the meaning and value of art, and that this pleasure is enhanced when interpretation is made social.

Reaching back as far as ancient Greek theater and into the digital present and near-future, Professor of Theater and Dance Lynne Conner has created a guide that is both theoretical and practical. *Arts Talk* is designed to be read and used by a wide range of arts workers: arts administrators who want to increase their audience’s capacity to explore the art work they produce and present; artists who want to be in dialogue with their communities; arts educators looking for additional tools for launching authentic conversations; and arts funders who want to expand their understanding of the meaning and value of the work they support.

Moran’s latest volume of poetry is replete with observations that could and should be made late in life but too often go unsaid. The poems are like a graceful denouement, where the story of our lives is wrapped up—or more likely not. The questions are about aging, loneliness, Paris Hilton, a hearing-aid salesman on the phone, a proposition in a bar that may have been imagined. Moran’s voice is strong, his wit sharp, his sidelong glances telling.

In his second poetry collection, Roderick moves from public transit to plastic ceiling stars, tornados to Target to explore the complex idea of American-ness. “What does it mean to be an American?” he asks through each lyrical poem, whether a poignantly realistic love story or a letter to suburbia. At the same time, he examines the nation’s social and political barriers—between nations and between people. U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey describes *The Americans* as a “compelling meditation on the ways we go about our lives at this cultural moment.”

Nobel Laureate Gao Xingjian has been lauded for his inventive use of Chinese culture, though he denies that his current work participates in any notion of Chinese. Coulter approaches Gao’s work from a cultural studies point of view, offering a new perspective on the work of this significant artist and his insistence that identity is a personal, apolitical conception born in movement and flight.
Lucky bums, the kids who have Brunelle—Emmy Award winner for her writing for the television series *Bill Nye the Science Guy*—for a mom. Brunelle’s recounting of the unpredictable moments of parenthood is punctuated by her geeky excitement about the science behind, well, just about everything. Yes, she’s written extensively for her own books and television, but Brunelle hasn’t lost her zest for body odor (really), unexpected questions from her children (is there any other kind?), and head lice (the whole class got them). Each chapter ends with a project that you don’t have to be a science writer to enjoy.

Kathleen Drowne ‘92
*Understanding Richard Russo*
*The University of South Carolina Press (2014)*

In *Understanding Richard Russo*, Drowne examines key concepts in Russo’s seven novels, one memoir, and two short-story collections. Drowne’s focus is on the central recurring theme in Russo’s novels: the way in which the decline of once-booming centers of commerce puts strain on the families who depend on their success.

Nick Jans ’77
*A Wolf Called Romeo*
*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2014)*

Even in Alaska, most people go a lifetime without a glimpse of a wolf—so when writer, photographer, and wolf aficionado Nick Jans ’77 encounters a black wolf near his home on the outskirts of the state capital, he knows it’s big news. But he has no way of foreseeing the journey to come—the six-year relationship of a wild wolf with a city and its people.

Jason Spooner ’95
*Chemical* (CD)

For his fourth album Spooner wanted to do things a little differently. So he expanded his trio to a quartet, engaged his friend Jason Hearst ’94 as a co-producer, and retreated to Hearst’s Heartstudios in Camden, Maine. The result is *Chemical*, a collection of 13 songs in the “groovy-songwriter” vein that calls to mind Dave Matthews Band, Paul Simon, and Jack Johnson.

Some 700 heads of colleges and universities, including Colby’s, have signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. That leaves several thousand still out there, and this guide could be their blueprint. Martin and Samuels offer sustainability solutions and advice for administrators, trustees, and other policymakers. If, as the book says, colleges and universities must be at the forefront of efforts to preserve the planet’s resources, this volume should be on the syllabus.

Elena Monastireva-Ansdell (Russian):

James L.A. Webb Jr. (History):

Stephanie R. Taylor (Computer Science):

Paul Machlin (Music, emeritus):

Robert Nelson (Geology):

Liam O’Brien (Statistics):
“Sustainability of Key Maine Youth Overweight Collaborative Improvements: A Follow-up Study,” *Childhood Obesity*. Coauthor with Michele Polascek, Joan Orr, Victoria Rogers, Jonathan Fanburg, Steven L. Gortmaker, 2014.
MORE FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


