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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of recent publications by alumni and faculty

ASHLEY KELLEY THABA '00, *Conquering the Giants* (2010). The author, a missionary in Botswana, self-published this book about her son, who because of medical negligence during his birth in Africa suffered massive brain damage. Her family's quick decision to arrange for an emergency air evacuation to South Africa saved his life, but his prognosis was grim. She tells how Caleb has so far beaten the odds and lived a normal life, and what she has learned during the journey. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4kmQXuaonE to see a video about Caleb. To purchase the book, e-mail ashleythaba@gmail.com. Also visit <http://web.mac.com/pthaba>.

MELINDA BROWN LONG '82, *The Twelve Days of Christmas in South Carolina* (Sterling, 2010) and *Pirates Activity Book* (HMH Books, 2010). Long lives in Greenville and is an award-winning children's book author. *Christmas in South Carolina* presents a child's wonder at the joys of the holiday season, with everything from rainbow-painted houses to a wren in a Palmetto tree. Tatiana Mai-Wyss provides the illustrations. The activity book, inspired by Long's *How I Became a Pirate* and *Pirates Don't Change Diapers*, provides such things as coloring pages, activities, tattoos and a card game, with illustrations by her collaborator on the pirate books, David Shannon.

JIM MATHIS '78, *Reinvent Yourself: The Simple Steps To Dominate Your Market* (Morgan James Publishing, 2011). The publisher says, "*Reinvent Yourself* is about how to adjust successfully to a world of higher expectations and constant change. It is about how companies and individuals

are rediscovering their roots and reinventing themselves for this new world of business." The author, who lives in Canton, Ga., is a consultant, speaker and founder of The Mathis Group. He is the author of *Reaching Beyond Excellence* and the forthcoming *Losers vs. Leaders: The Indisputable Truths to Market Leadership*.

SAM HODGES '77, editor, *For the Love of Alabama: Journalism by Ron Casey and Bailey Thomson* (University of Alabama Press, 2011). Hodges says, "Casey led the *Birmingham News* to a Pulitzer Prize for editorials on the Alabama tax system. Thomson was a Pulitzer finalist for the *Mobile Press-Register*. Both were Alabama natives and graduates of the University of Alabama, and both cared deeply and wrote superbly about the state. And both died in middle age of heart attacks. The book collects many of their best pieces about Alabama, touching on the state constitution, education, child welfare generally, race and religion." Hodges, author of the novel *B-Four*, is a veteran journalist with stints in both Mobile and Birmingham and, most recently, as religion editor of the *Dallas Morning News*. This spring he became managing editor of the *United Methodist Reporter*.

LINDA HEATWOLE JACOBS '74, *Jackson Hole Journey* (Books in Motion, 2010). The fourth novel in Jacobs' Yellowstone Series, *Jackson Hole Journey* is an audio original. It is a coming-of-age story about two brothers on a dude ranch whose longstanding rivalry comes to a head when a beautiful Italian immigrant arrives. The book spans the time between the earthquake-activated Gros Ventre Landslide on June 23, 1925, and May 17, 1927, when the dammed-up waters behind the slide

break free. Jacobs, who worked for many years as a geologist, lives in Las Cruces, N.M. Visit her website, www.readlindajacobs.com.

VIRGINIA TAYLOR STEPHENSON '73 and Buck A. Rhodes, *Can Christians Be Saved?: A Mystical Path to Oneness* (CreateSpace, 2011). The authors present a process for an experienced-based, mystical Christianity, an evolution of belief from faith-based literalism to an internally realized non-duality. Using gestalt processes and initiations derived from sacred texts as well as the teachings of the Oneness University, the authors describe their evolution from dualism to oneness. Stephenson is a Christian minister, a student and practitioner of Zen and Mahayana Buddhism, and a longtime social justice advocate. Rhodes is a retired college professor, founder of a biotechnology company, and minister of the Living Essence Foundation. Visit www.canchristiansbesaved.com.

DOROTHY STONE HARMON '59, *Prayer Is . . . A Study of Spiritual Communication* (XLibris, 2009). The publisher says the book is "a valuable tool for anyone who seriously seeks to develop a stronger and richer prayer life." It identifies and explores various characteristics of spiritual communication and offers opportunities for personal application and practice, and contains many accounts of the effectiveness of a consistent prayer life. Harmon is also editor of *Archibald Rutledge, The Man and His Books*. The wife of a pastor, she lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., and is a Bible study writer/teacher and conference leader.

FROM FACULTY

DAVID SHANER, *The Seven Arts of Change: Leading Business Transformation That Lasts* (Union Square Press, 2010). Shaner, who has taught at Furman since 1982 and is the Herring Professor of Philosophy and Asian Studies, explains how combining Eastern philosophy with Western business savvy can foster lasting organizational change. The book draws from his four decades of Aikido training and 30-year consulting career and examines the arts of preparation, relaxation and compassion to demonstrate how individual adjustments from the CEO down can transform a company and change corporate culture in new and unconventional ways. Richard W. Riley '54, chair of Furman's board of trustees, calls the book "clear, convincing and appealing . . . [with] thoughtful and interesting techniques for real change."

ROGER A. SNEED, *Representations of Homosexuality: Black Liberation Theology and Cultural Criticism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). Sneed, who joined the faculty in 2007, challenges black religious and cultural critics to rethink theological and ethical approaches to homosexuality. He shows how black liberation theology has often characterized homosexuality as a problem to be solved and offers a different way for black religious scholars to approach black homosexuality and religious experiences. Drawing on a range of black gay writers from Essex Hemphill to J.L. King, Sneed identifies black gay men's literature as a rich source for theological and ethical reflection and points black religious scholarship toward an ethic of openness. Stephen G. Ray, Jr., of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary says, "This book will add significantly to conversations about the future of Black and Womanist theologies."