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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

MARK ADAMS '93 and Tommy Bassett, *Just Coffee: Caffeine with a Conscience* (Just Trade Center, 2009). The book was a finalist for the Independent Book Publishers Association's Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Book in the Political/Current Events Category. *The Tucson Weekly* calls it "a moving, colorful and refreshingly optimistic primer on how to solve the poverty that drives illegal immigration, one village at a time." According to the Café Justo website (www.justcoffee.org), the Just Coffee cooperative was formed in Mexico to address the causes of labor migration from Mexico to the United States. By working to guarantee that coffee growers receive a fair trade price for their product, the cooperative fights rural poverty and helps ensure a steady income for those involved, thus reducing the need to immigrate to the United States to find work. Adams, an ordained minister, lives in Douglas, Ariz. He and his co-author work with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry, and helped found the Just Coffee movement.

BOB DAVID '85, *The Undaunted Life* (On Demand Publishing, 2010). The author, who lives in Rockville, Va., is a former Furman football player who went on to a career in the financial services industry before launching his own business, in which he provides coaching, guidance, and advice for personal and professional development. He says, "The cover and book theme represent many of the lessons and values forged from my Furman experience." Reviewer Ruth Douillette of Clarion Press says, "David's energetic and enthusiastic presentation, coupled with memorable examples and analogies, will resonate and encourage." Visit

www.bobdavidlive.com to learn more — and see snippets from his "other career" as a Bill Clinton impersonator, including his appearances on "The Tonight Show."

AMY BUTTELL '83, Bonnie Biafore and Carol Fabbri, *Personal Investing: The Missing Manual* (O'Reilly Media, 2010). This book is designed to provide advice and insight into the investment game in light of the recent economic downturn. Buttell is a freelance journalist, editor and speaker based in Erie, Pa. Her website, www.amybuttell.com, says the book covers "topics such as how to get started in investing and how to save for college, retirement and health care needs. It aims to demystify the often opaque subject of investing by explaining concepts clearly and simply and offering a step-by-step process to investing in all areas of your financial life." Co-author Biafore has written a number of books on finance, and Fabbri is a financial planner.

ROBERT PENDERGRAST '79, *Breast Cancer: Reduce Your Risk with Foods You Love* (Penstokes Press, 2010). In 2004 the author was voted Educator of the Year by students at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, where he still teaches. The publisher says this book offers "the unique perspective of a pediatrician specializing in adolescent health." Tieraona Low Dog, editor of *Integrative Women's Health*, says Pendergrast "has written a book that is practical, highly informative and easy to understand. Any woman who is looking to give herself an edge against cancer should read this book." Pendergrast also has a private consulting practice in which he combines his love of nutritional medicine,

clinical hypnotherapy and herbal medicine. He and his wife, Gail, teach workshops to help people take charge of their health. Visit www.holistic-medicine-md.com.

MERRIE KOESTER SOUTHGATE '78, *Agnes Pflumm and the Secret of the Seven* (Read for Science Publishing, 2010). This is the fourth and final novel in the Agnes Pflumm science education series, which the author also illustrated. This time, young Agnes must save the world's oceans. The publisher says the book is designed to "inspire a quest for ocean knowledge and an understanding of the need to protect the sea." While entertaining and informative for students, the series is designed to help teachers understand the value of incorporating such skills as reflective writing, critical thinking and art into their science curricula. A resident of Charleston, S.C., Southgate is a veteran of 25 years in the classroom and now works as a science educator and consultant. Visit www.agnespflumm.com

STEVE PRESLEY '71, *The Magic Ant* (PublishAmerica, 2010). The publisher describes this fairy tale as giving children "a feeling of hope. Perils exist among the ants both from the inside and outside world, [but] a hero appears to save the day." The author lives in Peru, Ind., and has published books of poetry and fiction.

MICKEY BECKHAM '61, *Messengers Among Us: A Medical Mystery and Love Story* (BookSurge Publishing, 2010). The plot: A nurse at a major medical center is the last to see three patients who are terminally ill. All miraculously recover, but the nurse is falsely accused of being

part of a hospital cover-up. A cult accuses her of being a Satanist and tries to kill her. The story focuses on how she and her fiancé weather the storm. Beckham, who has spent much of his career in college development work, is the author of several books. He lives in Rock Hill, S.C.

FROM FACULTY

PAUL THOMAS, *Parental Choice? A Critical Reconsideration of Choice and the Debate about Choice* (Information Age Publishing, 2010). The publisher says, "Since A Nation at Risk in the early 1980s and the [later] implementation of No Child Left Behind, a subtle shift has occurred in the traditional support of public education — fueled by the misconception that private schools out-perform public schools along with a naive faith in competition and the promise of the free market. . . . Political and ideological claims that all parents deserve school choice have proven to be compelling. This book unmasks calls for parental and school choice [by examining] both the traditional bureaucratic public school system and the current patterns found in the body of research on all aspects of school choice and private schooling." Thomas, author of several books, has taught education at Furman since 2002 after a lengthy teaching career in the South Carolina public schools. Visit <http://wrestlingwithwriting.blogspot.com> and <http://livinglearninginpoverty.blogspot.com>.