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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

BRYAN CRIBB '95, *Speaking on the Brink of Sheol: Form and Message of Old Testament Death Stories* (Gorgias Press, 2009). Merriam-Webster defines form criticism as “a method of determining the sources and historicity of biblical writings through analysis of the writings in terms of ancient literary forms and oral traditions (as love poems, parables, and proverbs).” The publisher says this book shows that “form criticism still has much to add to Old Testament studies. Using a synchronic and inductive approach to the text, Cribb engages in a form critical study of nine ‘death stories’ [and] not only provides substantial support for the existence of this genre, which hitherto has not been identified by form critics, but also shows how remarkably fruitful such a study can be in revealing the messages of these accounts.” Cribb was recently named assistant professor of Christian studies at Anderson (S.C.) University.

MARTIN ROONEY '93, *Ultimate Warrior Workouts (Training for Warriors): Fitness Secrets of the Martial Arts* (Harper Paperbacks, 2010). A fitness coach and author of *Training for Warriors*, Rooney told MyCentralJersey.com, “My goal with this book is to preserve the physical training techniques of mixed martial arts’ component martial arts for future fighters, and to demonstrate how to properly physically train for these components.” To do so, Rooney said he spent two years “traveling like the fighters of old to the homeland of each individual martial art that I believe is essential for an MMA fighter’s arsenal.” Rooney, who has extensive martial arts training, traveled to Brazil, Russia and Japan, among

other countries, in compiling the book. He lives in Fair Lawn, N.J. Visit www.trainingforwarriors.com.

MATTHEW LASSITER '92 and Joseph Crespino, editors, *The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism* (Oxford University Press, 2009). The publisher says this collection of essays “challenges the idea of Southern distinctiveness in order to offer a new way of thinking about modern American history. For too long, the belief in an exceptional South has encouraged distortions and generalizations about the nation’s otherwise liberal traditions, especially by compartmentalizing themes of racism, segregation, and political conservatism in one section of the country. This volume dismantles popular binaries — of *de facto* versus *de jure* segregation, red state conservatism versus blue state liberalism, the “South” versus the “North” — to rewrite the history of region and nation alike.” Lassiter is a history professor at the University of Michigan and author of *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South*. Crespino teaches history at Emory University.

FREDRICK TUCKER '81, *Verna Felton* (BearManor Media, 2010). Known for her voice work on six Walt Disney animated features, Verna Felton enjoyed a 65-year show business career that crossed into television and radio. She was nominated for an Emmy Award twice and was a regular on the 1950s situation comedy “December Bride,” and on radio she worked with such stars as Jack Benny and Red Skelton. The publisher says the author chronicles Felton’s rise to fame, “from phenomenal child actress to her final quarter century as one of Hollywood’s most beloved character

actresses. The book also features an abundance of rare photographs.” Tucker is a sixth grade history teacher at Berry Shoals Intermediate School in Duncan, S.C.

GARY E. PARKER '76, *The Constantine Conspiracy* (Revell, 2010). The latest novel from Parker, a Baptist minister and past Christy Award finalist for Christian fiction, centers on playboy Rick Carson, who becomes the main suspect in a murder investigation. Even Rick’s powerful family is implicated. The publisher asks, “In a place where no one is who they say they are and danger lurks around every corner, who can Rick trust? Will he risk his fortune, his love and possibly his life to expose the truth? Readers will be swept up in this thrilling tale of conspiracy, international intrigue and the power of truth.” Parker, who has written more than 15 novels, lives in Suwanee, Ga.

JERRY AUTRY '64 and Raz Autry, *Brothers: A Somewhat True Memoir* (Airborne Press, 2009). Two brothers present a light-hearted and life-affirming family memoir that is a tribute to their parents and their upbringing with four siblings on a North Carolina tobacco farm. Col. Jerry Autry, who lives in San Francisco, is a 29-year military veteran, retired pastor and author of two other books. Raz Autry, a newspaper columnist, writer of children’s books and “gentleman farmer,” lives in tiny Arabia, N.C. Proceeds from the book’s sale go to assorted charities.

JAMES L. CRENSHAW '56, *Dust and Ashes: Poems* (Cascade Books, 2010). Carol Newsom of Candler School of Theology at Emory University says, “Like photographs or glimpses through

a window that capture a moment and reveal an unsuspected truth, these poems are encounters with the pain and joy of nature, biblical characters, and human relationships. Through these poems Crenshaw wrestles with that enigmatic God from whom he seeks a costly blessing.” Crenshaw is an expert on Old Testament wisdom literature, and his text *Old Testament Wisdom*, recently updated, is considered the leading introduction to the topic. He retired in 2008 as Robert L. Flowers Professor of Old Testament at Duke University, where he taught for 21 years. He also spent 18 years at Vanderbilt Divinity School. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was the McCarthy Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome in 2007.

FROM FACULTY

ALLISON HURST, *The Burden of Academic Success: Loyalists, Renegades, and Double Agents* (Lexington Books, 2010). Hurst, who joined the sociology department in 2009, explores working-class college students’ understandings of class and social mobility. The publisher describes the book as “a compelling read for students and a much-needed addition to our understanding of how class operates today, both inside and outside of the classroom.” Linda Fuller of the University of Oregon says the book offers “a sharp, insightful, and moving account of strategies working-class college students devise to maneuver the gulf between their own class cultures, identities, and communities and the decidedly middle-class cultures, orientations, and preoccupations of the institution where they study.” Hurst holds a law degree from Pepperdine University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.