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Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books by alumni and faculty

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FROM ALUMNI

Fletcher Allen ’54, Plowing Wind and Time (Fields Publishing, 2008). The author, who served for a time as director of public relations and alumni magazine editor at Furman, spent most of his career working for three Southern Baptist state newspapers. He retired in 1998 as editor of the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector. This book, his third, looks at his life and includes poems he began writing at Furman, where he edited The Echo and The Hornet (student newspaper). He says, “The English faculty had a deep influence on my love for words. R.N. Daniel introduced me to Robert Browning and others, and William Hatchett whetted my appetite for Browning and similar champions of free verse. Those were years of honing and shaping a young man with a lust for writing.”

Alexia Jones Helsley ’67 and George A. Jones, Guide to Historic Henderson County, North Carolina (The History Press, 2007). This book provides a general overview of a county located less than an hour from Furman, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It includes information on the area’s historic towns, provides images and illustrations of important sites, and features a timeline of the county’s history. Alexia Jones Helsley, an archivist and genealogical consultant, teaches part time at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, where she was awarded a teaching prize in 2007. Her co-author (and father) founded the Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society and directs the county’s history center.

Joy Jordan-Lake ’85, Blue Hole Back Home (David C. Cook, 2008). A 15-year-old Sri Lankan girl moves to a small Appalachian town in the summer of 1979 — and winds up affecting the lives of everyone in the provincial mountain burg. The Tennessean in Nashville praises the book as “a moving story of racial intolerance and youthful disillusionment,” and novelist Bret Lott describes it as “a fast-paced mystery . . . a fine tale of racial conflict and healing, [written] with a fresh and engaging voice.” This is the fifth book and first novel from Jordan-Lake, who teaches at Belmont University in Nashville and frequently speaks at retreats, workshops, and conferences. Visit her Web site, www.joyjordanlake.com.

R. Kevin Johnson ’93, Lenten Lessons: Preparing for Worship in Lent — Year A (Micah Publishing, 2007). The publisher says the book “provides a fresh approach to studying the lectionary scriptures for each Sunday during the Lenten season. On the journey toward the remembrance of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, readers are inspired to study the scriptures in preparation for the corporate worship experience at their churches on Sunday.” This preparation facilitates a Lenten discipline of daily prayer and allows for a more thorough understanding of the scriptures when worshipping in community. The author is associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Boone, N.C.

Martin Rooney ’93, Training for Warriors: The Ultimate Mixed Martial Arts Workout (HarperCollins, 2008). This book builds on the popularity of mixed martial arts and, in the publisher’s words, “is essential for all fighters but can also help any athlete or coach looking for an athletic-training advantage. Rooney shows how to perform hundreds of exercises designed to specifically target each area of your body” and provides “a proven, comprehensive system to get you fit for whatever battle life throws at you.” Rooney is performance coach for the New York Pitbulls of the International Fight League, COO and director of training of the Paris Speed School, and an international fitness and martial arts consultant. Visit www.trainingforwarriors.com.

FROM FACULTY

A.V. Huff, Jr., and Ernest McPherson Lander, South Carolina: An Illustrated History of the Palmetto State (American Historical Press, 2007). Huff is professor emeritus of history and a former vice president for academic affairs and dean at Furman. In this book he joins with Lander, alumni professor emeritus of history at Clemson University, to update Lander’s original text. They examine the politics, culture and economic forces in the state, as well as the contributions of people and events that helped shape the South Carolina of today.

Akan Malici, When Leaders Learn and When They Don’t: Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Il Sung at the End of the Cold War (State University of New York Press, 2008) and The Search for a Common European Foreign And Security Policy: Leaders, Cognitions, and Questions of Institutional Viability (Palgrave MacMillan, 2008). The author, who holds a Ph.D. from Arizona State University, joined the Furman political science faculty in 2005. In When Leaders Learn, the publisher says that Malici develops a dynamic new theory of foreign policy by investigating how Gorbachev and Kim “rede fined the theory and practice of international relations and left a heritage that we face today — a unipolar world in which security threats no longer emanate from the rivalry of two superpowers but rather from the existence of rogue states such as North Korea.”

Of The Search, Malici says, “One of the goals [of the European Union] is to create a continuous and stable common foreign and security policy of the member states. Yet, the foreign policies of the three major states within [the EU] — Germany, France and Great Britain — often continue to diverge. Scholars have argued that the European Union is a complex political and legal phenomenon and spent much time analyzing these aspects. Contrary to this scholarship, I argue that the manifestation of unity on the European continent is also, and perhaps even first and foremost, a psychological phenomenon, and it is here where much more attention is warranted.”

Nicholas Radel, editor, The Taming of the Shrew (Barnes & Noble, 2007). The Barnes & Noble Series features newly edited Shakespearean texts prepared by leading scholars. The texts are done in collaboration with one of the world’s foremost Shakespeare authorities, David Scott Kastan of Columbia University. Radel, who has taught English at Furman since 1986, is co-author of The Puritan Origins of American Sex: Religion, Sexuality, and National Identity in American Literature. He is also editing As You Like It for the Shakespeare series.