Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books recently published by alumni

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Joy Jordan-Lake ’85, Working Families: Navigating the Demands and Delights of Marriage, Parenting, and Career (Random House/WaterBrook, 2007). Publishers Weekly says, “After penning three books and having three children, Jordan-Lake writes of juggling the demands of two holy callings — hers as a writer, her husband’s as a pastor — with raising kids. What distinguishes this book from the other Christian family-balancing guides that crowd the shelves is its emphasis on the fundamental equality of husband and wife, even while it recognizes that women often bear a greater psychological burden than men when they try to follow their bliss careerwise.” Half the royalties from the book’s sales go toward micro-enterprise loans for women beginning their own businesses in impoverished countries. Jordan-Lake holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt and lives with her family in Nashville, Tenn.

Todd Sentell ’83, Toonamint of Champions: How LaJuanita Mumps Got to Join Augusta National Golf Club Real Easy (Kunati Inc., 2007). Booklist describes this send-up of private golf clubs as “over the top slapstick,” and Films and Books magazine calls it “Hilarity for adults . . . perhaps the funniest novel of the year.” The story follows the desire of Waymon Poodle, “the best damn bank teller in Mullett Luv, Georgia,” and his fiancée to play at Augusta National, the legendary home of the Masters golf tournament. The publisher says that the book “will appeal to anyone who loves to see the underdog win big and the powerful get their comeuppance.” Sentell, who lives in Alpharetta, Ga., is an award-winning golf writer.


Robert Harris ’76, 101 Things NOT to Do Before You Die (Thomas Dunne, 2007). The author describes his book as “a witty, subversive guide that turns conventional ‘wisdom’ upside down” — which should come as no surprise, given that his other books include such titles as Fun With Phone Solicitors and Nerds Among Us. His latest helps us understand that “it’s what we DON’T do that determines our happiness quotient. Using the exciting principle of ‘selective inaction,’ I help people adjust their thinking so they can make more satisfying decisions in everyday situations.” He adds, “Let this book be your guide to getting more out of life — simply by doing less.” Harris lives in Durham, N.C. Visit his Web site, www.rwhstudio.com.

Suzanne Rhodes Draeyer ’73, Canciones de Espana: Songs of Nineteenth-Century Spain, Volume 3 (Scarecrow Press, 2007). Previous volumes in this series were published in 2003 and 2005. With this book, 83 songs by 50 Spanish composers are now available for performance and study, in both high and low voice editions. The publisher says the anthology “allows singers and voice teachers to explore the poetry, culture and history of Spain through its songs, demonstrating that the songs deserve their rightful place in the classical song repertoire of Europe and the Americas.” The author is professor of voice and related studies at Winona State University in Minnesota and vice president for workshops for the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Susan Usha Dermond ’70, Calm and Compassionate Children (Celestial Arts, 2007). The publisher describes this handbook as “a ‘parents’ and teachers’ guide to developing children’s concentration, self-discipline and compassion, as well as heartfelt qualities like openness and enthusiasm.” It features techniques and exercises drawn from the author’s experiences as a teacher and director of the Living Wisdom School, a non-profit elementary school that emphasizes non-sectarian spiritual principles and practical skills for living. Dermond has spent the last 18 years working in alternative schools, including 12 years at the original Living Wisdom School in Nevada City, Calif. She now directs the Living Wisdom School in Beaverton, Ore.

Jack Sullivan ’69, Hitchcock’s Music (Yale University Press, 2006). This is the first book to explore fully the key role music played in the movies of Alfred Hitchcock. The publisher says that Hitchcock “used music to influence the atmosphere, characterization and storylines of his films . . . Sullivan examines the director’s important relationships with various composers, especially Bernard Herrmann, and tells the stories behind the musical decisions.” Cultural critic Camille Paglia describes the book as “a richly evocative study that combines important new scholarship with sparkling sensibility. Sullivan vividly documents Hitchcock’s restless eclecticism and bold interweaving of musical styles — popular, classical, avant-garde and electronic.” Sullivan, who has written five books, lives in New York City and is director of American Studies and professor of English at Rider University. Visit the Web site, www.hitchcocksmusic.com.

Jerry Autry ’63, Gun-Totin’ Chaplain (Airborne Press, 2007). This book is a memoir of the author’s time in Vietnam in the late 1960s. As chaplain to an airborne infantry battalion, Autry went from a small-town North Carolina church to, in the publisher’s words, “a jungle pastorate in the midst of war. He ministered to soldiers of all faiths — and to those who had no faith — and is reputed to be the most highly decorated chaplain for valor of that era.” Now retired and living in San Francisco, Autry served in the Army for 29 years, including a stint as chief chaplain of the 82nd Airborne. He is the author of General William C. Lee, Father of the American Airborne, also published by Airborne Press.