Bookmarks: Featuring summaries of books by faculty and alumni

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Her Path to Recovery

surprising coming from Whitlow, who has for crimes he did not commit. Mike Andrews, a lawyer-turned-minister, represents Miller and must uncover the truth. Andrews, who lives in California, holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and heads a private business management and leadership development consulting practice. Visit his Web site, www.tedanders.com.

Monte Dutton ’80, True to the Roots: Americana Music Revealed (Bison Books/University of Nebraska Press, 2006). “Americana music” is defined as “American roots music based on the traditions of country.” The publisher describes it as “a state of mind” and says, “Dutton charts the coordinates of this state of mind with a series of interviews and intimate portraits from the heart of alternative country, often known to its adherents simply as OKOM: Our Kind of Music.” The book profiles a range of performers, from Brad Paisley to Robert Earl Keen to bar bands. All of them, says the publisher, represent how Americana music can “thrive outside a mainstream increasingly controlled by corporate culture and commercial constraints.” Dutton is motor sports writer for the Gaston (N.C.) Gazette and NASCAR columnist for AOL Sports. He has written five NASCAR-themed books.

Paxson H. Jeancake ’94, The Art of Worship: Opening Our Eyes to the Beauty of the Gospel (Wipf and Stock, 2006). According to the publisher, the book examines the “various facets of worship to help worship leaders, worship planners, pastors and laypeople experience and plan gospel-centered worship that is contextual and creative, for the glory of God and the edification of his people.” The author adds that the book is “a resource for exploring the intersection of gospel, art and worship.” Jeancake is director of worship and arts at East Cobb Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and founder of Rhythm of Worship, a ministry that provides musical resources, formative teaching and practical training. He and his wife, Allison, are frequent consultants and presenters at conferences and churches and have produced a CD, “Rhythm of Worship.” Visit the Web site, www.rhythmofworship.com.

J. Mark Souther ’94, New Orleans on Parade: Tourism and the Transformation of the Crescent City (Louisiana State University Press, 2006). The publisher says that this urban biography “explores the city’s architecture, music, food and alcohol, folklore and spiritualism, Mardi Gras festivities, and illicit sex commerce in revealing how New Orleans became a city that parades itself to visitors and residents alike.” Souther, a history professor at Cleveland State University in Ohio with a Ph.D. from Tulane University, examines “the ascendancy of tourism in New Orleans through the final decades of the 20th century and beyond, the 1984 World’s Fair, the collapse of Louisiana’s oil industry in the eighties, and the devastating blow dealt by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.” He also analyzes how reliance on tourism affected the social and racial climate in the city. The book is part of the “Making the Modern South” series.

FROM FACULTY

Mary Jane Gorman, Tending Body, Heart, Mind, and Soul: Following Jesus in Caring for Ourselves (Abingdon Press, 2006). The publisher says, “We hear a lot about what Jesus said. But what did he do? How did he live? During the days of his ministry, how did he care for his own body, heart, mind, and soul?” The author, who taught economics at Furman from 1982 to 1998, “looks behind and between the words of Jesus to discover his humanity, painting a vivid portrait of the life he called us all to live.” Edgar McKnight, William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Religion, calls this work “a book on caring for ourselves that uses the New Testament portrait of the historical figure of Jesus as a guide.”

Paul L. Thomas, Reading, Learning, Teaching Kurt Vonnegut (Peter Lang, 2006). The publisher points out that “English classrooms are often only as vibrant as the literature that we teach. This book explores the writing of Vonnegut, who offers readers and students engaging fiction and non-fiction works that confront the reader and the world. Here, teachers will find an introduction to the life and works of Vonnegut and an opportunity to explore how to bring his works into the classroom as a part of the reading and writing curriculum. This volume attempts to confront what we teach and how we teach as English teachers through the vivid texts Vonnegut offers his readers.” Thomas has taught education at Furman since 2002.

FROM ALUMNI

Kirk H. Neely ’66, Comfort and Joy: Nine Stories for Christmas (Hub City Writers Project, 2006). The author, pastor of Morning­side Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., writes and presents an original tale of faith and hope to his congregation each year as a special Christmas gift. Now he has compiled these “odes to the redemptive power of Christmas” into a book, illustrated by June Pitts Neely Kern ’97, a teacher and artist in Nashville, Tenn. You may recall their collaboration for Neely’s story “The Devil Made Them Do It” in the Winter 2006 Furman magazine. The publisher describes this “cozy collection of contemporary holiday stories” as being filled with “unforgettable characters and images.”

Robert Whitlow ’76, Mountain Top (West­ bow Press/Thomas Nelson, 2006). In this book, the author’s seventh novel, mysterious visions appear to be more curse than blessing when they land Sam Miller in jail for crimes he did not commit. Mike Andrews, a lawyer-turned-minister, represents Miller and must uncover the truth about the visions’ origin and meaning.


Ted Anders ’78, Raping Miss Liberty and Her Path to Recovery (Signature Book Printing, 2006). The publisher says that the author “brings together 25 years of observation and insight into the erosion of American society — and how [to] reverse this trend. [Americans] hold a unique, blended belief and attitude system which values joy and happiness, optimism, domestic and world peace, and universal fair play. Yet, these attributes have been diminished or abandoned. What has happened to cause this state of affairs? Who has contributed most to the demise of our positive enthusiasm and our ability to create and sustain family, community and economic stability? What can we do about these conditions?” Anders, who lives in California, holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and heads a private business management and leadership development consulting practice. Visit his Web site, www.tedanders.com.