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Book Marks

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BOOK MARKS

Featuring summaries of books written by Furman alumni.

FROM ALUMNI

Matthew D. Lassiter '92, *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South* (Princeton University Press, 2005). Thomas J. Sugrue, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, says, "Lassiter offers a major reinterpretation of the transformation of liberalism and the rise of conservatism in the post-1960s South and in America writ large. He shows how white Southerners, like their Northern counterparts, embraced a rhetoric of color-blindness that gave them cover to build a sprawling, suburban world that reinforced racial inequalities. This provocative, path-breaking book offers a whole new conceptual map for the reappraisal of Southern history and national political history." Lassiter is an award-winning history professor at the University of Michigan.

Tara McClary Reeves '92 and Christa McClary McElveen, *Don't Tell That to Beasley* (Waterbrook Press, 2005). The authors, sisters and mothers of young twins, have penned this children's book to encourage the younger set to, in the publisher's words, "follow their heart, not the herd." Beasley is a lovable buffalo who discovers that "uniqueness is something to be celebrated — especially for those who take life by the horns, finding the fun in every moment." And this buffalo is definitely unique; he sings, dances and plays football. Justin Gerard's illustrations add to the fun. Reeves lives in Mooresville, N.C., and her sister lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Jonathan Rogers '91, *The World According to Narnia* (Time Warner Book Group, 2005). The recent release of the film *The Chronicles*

of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe brought a spate of books about the spiritual fantasy world created by C.S. Lewis. Rogers' work may be one of the best. *Booklist* calls it an "eminently readable combination of literary criticism and religious scholarship," and *Publishers Weekly* says that those who "need a guide to the Christian symbols and metaphors in Lewis' *Chronicles* will appreciate the scriptural and theological connections in this earnest and accessible book." Rogers is based in Nashville, Tenn., and is the author of his own fantasy/adventure series called "The Wilderking Trilogy." The final book in the series, *The Way of the Wilderking*, is scheduled for release this spring by Broadman & Holman. Learn more at his Web site, www.jonathan-rogers.com.

Charles R. Batson '87, *Dance, Desire, and Anxiety in Early Twentieth-Century French Theater: Playing Identities* (Ashgate Publishing, 2005). The author, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, is associate professor of French at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. Earlier this academic year he received Union's Stillman Prize for excellence in teaching. His publisher says, "The 1909 arrival of Serge de Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in Paris marked the beginning of two decades of collaboration among littérateurs, painters, musicians and choreographers, many not native to France . . . Batson not only uncovers the multiple meanings set in motion through the interplay of [artists] and spectators, but also reinterprets literary texts that inform these meanings."

Joy Jordan-Lake '85, *Whitewashing Uncle Tom's Cabin: Nineteenth-Century Women Novelists Respond To Stowe* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2005). Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was the first American novel to sell more than a million copies. It also caused considerable backlash, as slavery advocates countered its anti-slavery message with more than three dozen novels of their own. Many of these books were written by women. Jordan-Lake examines their work and, in the publisher's words, offers "compelling insights into both antebellum American culture and a pro-slavery ideology rife with internal tensions." Elizabeth Ammons, an English professor at Tufts University (where Jordan-Lake earned her Ph.D.), calls the book "excellent, clear, jargon-free . . . with important things to say about the past and the future." Jordan-Lake teaches at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

Robert C. Shippey, Jr. '81, *Listening in a Loud World: Toward a Theology of Meaning* (Mercer University Press, 2005). The author explores why holy listening is so difficult by considering the nature of God, the journey of faith, and human limits. His purpose, according to the publisher, is "to help transform individuals by fostering a spirit of holy listening that enriches faith and opens seekers to the fullness of God's presence and of their neighbor's need. The intent is to help the reader develop a faith that seeks understanding and makes real meaning in a world of chatter." The author is assistant vice president for development and assistant to the president at Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

Alexia Jones Helsley '67, *Beaufort, South Carolina: A History* (History Press, 2005). One of the state's leading archivists and historians, Helsley was raised in Beaufort and thus has a strong affinity for the beautiful coastal city. *The Beaufort Gazette* describes the book as "thoroughly researched and reported" and says it offers "snapshot

looks at different time periods in Beaufort's history, chronicling the town's growth and development in the shadows of its two better-known sister cities, Savannah and Charleston." Helsley teaches part time at the University of South Carolina-Aiken and manages a historical and genealogical consulting business.

M.C. "Mickey" Beckham '61, *Colonial Spy* (Trafford Publishing, 2005). This historical novel of the American Revolution is a fast-paced tale about frontier farmer Jack Beckham, who becomes a scout and spy for the Americans in the latter stages of the war. Jack Beckham was an ancestor of the author. Don Gordon of the Furman political science department says the book "brings the Revolution in the South to life and does so with historical realities." The author, who lives in Rock Hill, S.C., has spent his career in higher education administration and was the first director of the Paladin Club at Furman. He has also worked at the Medical University of South Carolina, St. Louis University and University Hospitals of Cleveland, Ohio.

William G. Justice '58, *Training Guide for Visiting the Sick* (Haworth Pastoral Press, 2005). Justice, who was for 31 years a hospital chaplain, draws on his experience to produce this handbook on ministering to the sick. The publisher says, "More than simply an educational tool, this guidebook provides clergy and Christian laypeople with spiritual explanations and straightforward strategies to not only comfort the patient but also foster the sense of joy and accomplishment in oneself." Justice, who lives in Knoxville, Tenn., taught at 11 seminaries and institutions of higher education. He is the author of more than 200 articles and nine books, and for three years was editor of *Chaplaincy Today*.