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Book Marks

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BOOK MARKS

Each issue of *Furman* magazine includes brief reviews of books written by Furman faculty and alumni, or reviews of books recommended by faculty as "good reads."

RECOMMENDED

Jean Edward Smith, *Grant* (Simon & Schuster, 2001). Ulysses S. Grant is typically viewed as a study in contrasts: a failure in farming and business, yet a remarkably successful general in the Civil War; an ineffective president, yet a writer who produced one of the successful memoirs in American history. Smith, a professor of political science at Marshall University, has provided a fascinating biography that successfully resolves these contradictions and presents a rich portrait of one of America's most famous political and military figures. Smith argues convincingly that Grant's personal character defined his actions in both wartime and peacetime. Perseverance led to successes on the battlefield and completion of his memoirs shortly before his death, but loyalty blinded Grant to failures in business and scandals during his presidency. Smith's thorough narrative is both a thought-provoking study and a terrific read.

— Donald Raber, *Political Science*

Bill Buford, *Among the Thugs* (W.W. Norton & Company, 1992). This provocative study of English soccer fans ("hooligans") is written by a man who spent years getting to know these characters on a personal level and witnessed firsthand a number of violent soccer riots. The book offers an insider's view of an active, emotional crowd and provides explanations for this form of collective behavior. A great read for soccer fans or those interested in riots or other forms of collective behavior. It received rave reviews from both *Newsweek* and David Byrne of the Talking Heads! It is highly readable, but portions contain graphic descriptions of violence.

— Paul Kooistra, *Sociology*

John Feinstein, *The Last Amateurs: Playing for Glory and Honor in Division I College Basketball* (Little Brown & Co., 2000). The author spent a year observing college basketball in

the Patriot League, a Division I conference comprised of Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh, Bucknell, Army and Navy. The league is noteworthy because the players do not expect to have careers in professional basketball; the teams ride buses and players carry full course loads. Feinstein is clearly enamored with the notion that Patriot League players, in contrast to those from big-time powers, represent what college basketball is "supposed to be about." He takes the reader through a season in the league, profiling players, coaches and teams. Some sections drag a bit — he doesn't need to report so many game details to make his point — but this is a refreshing portrait of the good side of college sports.

— Bill Pierce,
Health and Exercise Science

FROM FACULTY

Shelly A. Matthews, *First Converts: Rich Pagan Women and the Rhetoric of Mission in Early Judaism and Christianity* (Stanford University Press, 2001). Matthews, an assistant professor of religion who has taught at Furman since 1998, discusses the important role women played in early Jewish and Christian mission, and the way stories of women were used to promote these religions. She analyzes the portrayal of wealthy women in two texts — Josephus' "Antiquities" and the Book of Acts — to show that Josephus and Luke promoted their respective communities by linking them to such women. The book also shows how the sources can be used in reconstructing women's history.

Matthews holds a Th.D. degree from Harvard Divinity School and has received the New Scholars Award from the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

Ronald J. Friis, *José Emilio Pacheco and the Poets of the Shadows* (Bucknell University Press, 2001). In the first book-length study in English of Mexico's foremost living poet, Friis looks

at the dynamic of literary influence and the question of literary origins in Pacheco's first six books of poetry. He also examines Pacheco's relationship with earlier writers of Mexican and Latin American literature, particularly Jorge Luis Borges, Rosario Castellanos and Octavio Paz.

Friis, an assistant professor of Spanish, joined the Furman faculty in 1999. He holds a Ph.D. degree from Penn State.

Richard Letteri, *A Handbook of Public Speaking* (Allyn and Bacon, 2001); David E. Shi, *The Simple Life: Plain Living and High Thinking in American Culture* (University of Georgia Press, 2001). These are reissues of previously published works, Letteri's in 1996 by Cummings & Hathaway and Shi's in 1985 by Oxford University Press.

In his textbook, Letteri, chair of communication studies, integrates the principles of classical rhetoric with those of contemporary public speaking and provides examples of how to apply these principles to various speaking situations. The book also contains examples of speeches made by Furman students in recent years.

The Simple Life is Furman president Shi's critically acclaimed examination of Americans' struggle to find "the middle way between excess and deprivation." Spanning more than three centuries, the book examines the different ways Americans have defined and pursued simple living. It stresses that individual and group efforts to follow a lifestyle that emphasizes control and moderation over social striving and compulsive materialism have been essential to the nation's spiritual health.

FROM ALUMNI

Reese Hawkins '43 and Meredith Wallin, *Remembering Louis L'Amour* (McCleery and Sons, 2001). Hawkins and Wallin, his daughter, use interviews he conducted with L'Amour to provide new insights into one of the nation's most prolific and best-read writers. The friendship between the two men spanned many years, during which Hawkins was a pharmacist and owner of the drug store in L'Amour's hometown in North Dakota. The book features discussions of L'Amour's philosophy of life and his take on the writing process, and it examines how he created the characters and stories featured in the more than 100 books he wrote about the Old West.

Melinda Brown Long '82, *Hiccup Snickup* (School & Library Binding, 2001). *Publishers Weekly* describes this fast-paced children's book about a hiccupping girl in search of a cure as a "giddy" romp, while Thor Wickström's illustrations give "the gangly, noodle-armed characters lots of goofy personality." *Booklist* says the book is "a good choice for a high-energy story hour or as a giggly lap read."

Hiccup Snickup is Long's second children's book, following *When Papa Snores*.

Margie Willis Clary '53, *Make It Three: The Story of the CSS H.L. Hunley Civil War Submarine* (Sandlapper Publishing, 2001). This is the fourth children's book and first chapter book from Clary, a former elementary school teacher who lives in Charleston, S.C. It tells the story of Josh, a young student who visits Charleston and is fascinated by the story of the Hunley, the submarine that sank outside Charleston harbor after destroying a Union warship in 1864 and remained submerged until it was raised from the depths in 2000. Becky Rickenbaker's illustrations provide a strong complement to the narrative.

175TH HIGHLIGHTS

Don't forget these other books, which have been or will be published this academic year as part of the university's celebration of its 175th anniversary:

Judith G. Bainbridge, *Academy and College: The History of Furman University's Woman's College* (Mercer University Press). A social and institutional history of the institution that merged with Furman in the 1930s, written by a professor of English and director of educational services at Furman.

Thomas O. Buford, editor, *What Really Matters: A Collection of Lectures in the L.D. Johnson Series* (Smyth & Helwys). This collection features essays delivered by members of the Furman family as part of a lecture series that honors Johnson, chaplain at Furman from 1965 until his death in 1981. Buford is the Louis G. Forgione Professor of Philosophy at Furman.

David E. Shi, *Beyond the Bell Tower: Reflections on Learning and Living* (University of South Carolina Press). This collection of some of the Furman president's best-received speeches, essays and newspaper columns is scheduled for release in April.