MIND GAMES
Fact, fiction, mystery and life stories

BY STAFF
“ACTIVATING THE MODERN CLASSROOM” by Julian A. Reed (Information Age Publishers)

“Activating the Modern Classroom” presents research and provides engaging, easy-to-implement classroom activities to help elementary-grade teachers address some of today’s most pressing challenges. The book provides teachers with strategies to activate language arts, literacy, math, social studies and science curriculum in ways that can improve student behavior, increase focus, and enhance academic engagement and performance.

The book also includes research-based strategies for helping kinesthetic learners and describes how moving while learning can help students with ADD and ADHD.

In addition to serving as a professor of health sciences at Furman University, Reed is an affiliate of the Prevention Research Center in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

“DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL” by Monte Dutton ’80 (Amazon Digital Services LLC)

A veteran sports columnist unexpectedly loses his job. A rebellious young writer takes a drugged-out joy ride trip to Southern California with a roguish hustler. An English teacher at a prep school toils in vain on a breakthrough novel, watching his teenaged pupils go dangerously astray.

All are related. All are drawn together as they gradually learn they are pawns in a vast, illegal conspiracy involving politics, law enforcement, big business and Russian operatives. They’re in over their heads with no apparent way to get out. Everything will be fine as long as they are obedient.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is Furman alumnus Monte Dutton’s eighth novel. He has written about a stoned musician, a disgraced coach, a corrupt politician, a pair of Texans home from World War II, and, most recently, a brash young stock car racer. Dutton lives in Clinton, South Carolina.

“JAWS OF LIFE: STORIES” by Laura Morris (Vandalia Press)

In the hills of north central West Virginia, there lives a cast of characters who face all manner of problems. From the people who are incarcerated in West Virginia’s prisons, to a woman who is learning how to lose her sight with grace, to another who sorely regrets selling her land to a fracking company, “Jaws of Life” portrays the diverse concerns of the people of this region face every day — poverty, mental illness, drug abuse, the loss of the coal mines, and the rise of new extractive industries that exert their own toll.

Morris, who joined the Furman faculty in 2015, teaches creative writing and literature. Before that, she spent three years as the National Endowment for the Arts/Bureau of Prisons Artist-in-Residence at Bryan Federal Prison Camp in Bryan, Texas. She has previously published short fiction in Appalachian Heritage, The Louisville Review, Notre Dame Review and other journals. She is originally from north central West Virginia.

“LADY BE GOOD” by Amber Brock ’02 (Crown Publishing Group)

Kitty Tessler is the winsome socialite daughter of a self-made hotel and nightclub tycoon. She spends her days perfecting her “look” and nights charming the boys who frequent her father’s clubs. It seems like the fun will never end until Kitty’s father issues an ultimatum: she may no longer date the idle rich. Instead, Kitty must marry Andre, her father’s second-in-command, and take her place as the First Lady of his hotel empire. Kitty is forced to come up with an elaborate plan to protect her future. Then Kitty meets Max, a member of a band visiting her father’s club, and her plans take a turn. When her efforts backfire, Kitty is forced to reconsider her future before she loses everyone she loves.

Amber Brock teaches British literature at an all-girls’ school in Atlanta. She holds an M.A. from the University of Georgia and lives in Smyrna with her husband, also an English teacher, and their three rescue dogs.