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## Shelf Life

Furman University

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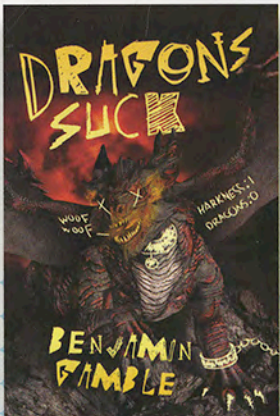
## SHELF LIFE

*Dog lit, a hero's journey, West Point intrigue and racial change in the 20th century*

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COMPILED FROM PROMOTIONAL NOTES



Ben Gamble '19 holds a copy of his book, "Dragons Suck," at the Shi Center.



### DRAGONS SUCK

BY BEN GAMBLE '19

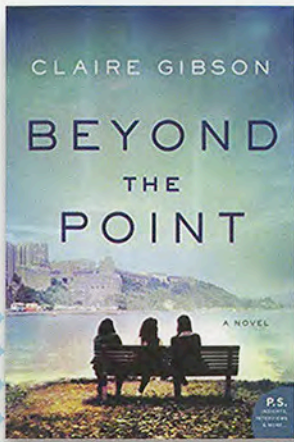
(Permuted Press)

Harkness is not a hero — but unfortunately for him, he's been volunteered by his village to save the world and quickly finds that modern-day sarcasm is no match for ancient dragons.

Harkness, a medieval peasant with a millennial's mindset, is happy to sit back and make quips while everyone does the hard work. His calculated laziness is interrupted when the gods send a terrible scourge-by-dragonfire upon his village, and he is forced to save his fiancée from the dragon who has kidnapped her.

When Harkness is sent by the village elder to find the one weapon that is capable of killing the beast, his real plan is to go off on his own and use his village's money to live the high life. Harkness sees his journey as a paid vacation under the pretense of world-saving, but it quickly turns serious when he realizes what's at stake when he is forced to care about something — or pretend to.

Born and raised near Charleston, South Carolina, Gamble has worked as a camp counselor and waiter, where he encountered monsters far more terrifying than the ones in this novel. Gamble graduated from Furman in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish.



## BEYOND THE POINT

BY CLAIRE GIBSON '09

(Harper Collins Publishers)

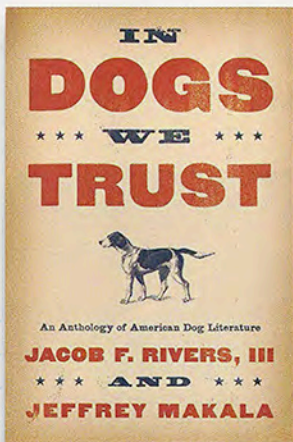
Inspired by true events, three young women cadets at West Point are brought together in an enthralling story of friendship, heartbreak and resilience in a powerful debut novel.

“Duty. Honor. Country.” That’s West Point’s motto, and every cadet who passes through its stone gates vows to live it. But on the eve of 9/11, as Dani, Hannah and Avery face four grueling years ahead, they realize they’ll only survive if they do it together.

These three women know that what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. But soon, that adage no longer rings true — for their future, or their friendship. As they’re pulled in different directions, will their hard-forged bond prevail or shatter?

Gibson grew up at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where her father was a professor.

Drawing on her own experiences and more than 20 interviews, Gibson wrote “Beyond the Point” as an ode to the everyday strength and courage she long admired in the women of West Point. Gibson graduated from Furman in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in Asian studies and political science.



## IN DOGS WE TRUST: AN ANTHOLOGY OF AMERICAN DOG LITERATURE

BY JEFFREY MAKALA AND JACOB F. RIVERS III

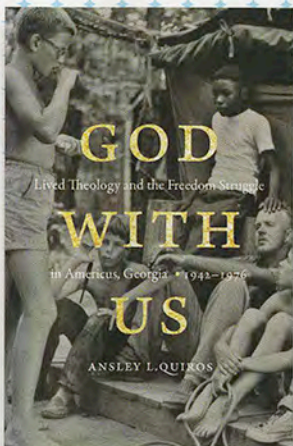
(University of South Carolina Press)

“In Dogs We Trust” is a grand anthology that celebrates the sterling virtues of the canine species. Dogs have lived with humans for thousands of years as working partners. By the 19th century, their role expanded to companions. American dog literature reflects this gradual but dramatic shift that continues today. Our household dogs are literally closer than ever to us: sleeping in our beds, getting dressed in Halloween costumes and serving as emotional-support companions.

The first comprehensive anthology of American dog literature, “In Dogs We Trust” features stories, anecdotes and poetry from the 19th and 20th centuries. By mining the vast American literary archive of this time, Rivers and Makala reveal the mystique and magic of the human-canine relationship and what they believe is one of the best connections humans have to the mysteries of the natural world.

Makala is the special collections librarian and university archivist at the James B. Duke Library at Furman. Makala is owner of Two Terriers Press and has written about 19th century American literature and book history.

Rivers is the director for the Office of Veterans Services at the University of South Carolina and teaches in the Department of English.



## GOD WITH US: LIVED THEOLOGY AND THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN AMERICUS, GEORGIA, 1942-1976

BY ANSLEY L. QUIROS '08

(The University of North Carolina Press)

For many, the struggle over civil rights was also about Christian theology. Since both activists and segregationists ardently claimed that God was on their side, racial issues were imbued with religious meanings from all sides. Whether in the traditional sanctuaries of the major white Protestant denominations, in the mass meetings in black churches or in Christian expressions of interracialism, southerners resisted, pursued and questioned racial change within various theological traditions.

“God with Us” examines the theological struggle over racial justice through the story of one southern town – Americus, Georgia – where ordinary Americans sought and confronted racial change in the 20th century. Documenting the passion and virulence of these contestations, this book offers insight into how mid-century battles over theology and race affected the rise of the religious right and continue to resonate deeply in American life.

Quiros is an assistant professor of history at the University of North Alabama and graduated from Furman in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in history.