Faculty Promotion and Tenure Reception

2015

Faculty Promotion and Tenure Recipients, 2015

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Honoring 2015 Faculty Promotion and Tenure Recipients
I am delighted to co-host with Ashok Saxena, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, this reception honoring those who have reached a significant milestone in their academic careers, now in its sixth year. The practice of welcoming the families, friends, and colleagues of honorees to share in their achievement is fast becoming a tradition here at the University of Arkansas.

Each year we produce the commemorative booklet and corresponding exhibit honoring the University of Arkansas faculty members who achieved promotion and/or tenure. As in years past, honored faculty were asked to choose a book that was influential in their lives or careers. Copies of the books they selected, each with a commemorative bookplate that includes the faculty member’s name and the year of promotion and/or tenure, were also added to the University Libraries’ permanent collections. In addition, the chosen books were featured in an exhibit in the Walton Reading Room and in this booklet, which both celebrates each faculty member’s achievement and highlights the book chosen for the exhibit and its explanation.

Reading the choices of faculty and their comments is always enjoyable, and this year I am struck by how many of our faculty mention reading to children, either being read to as a child or reading to their own children. Numerous studies show that reading to children enhances vocabulary and other important communication skills. In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics announced a new policy that doctors tell parents to read aloud to their infants from birth. Scholastic reports that “reading aloud to children all the way up to age 11 is a powerful predictor that children will become frequent readers,” which is defined as “children who read books for fun 5–7 days a week” (“Kids & Families Reading Report,” Scholastic and YouGov, 2015). Our faculty comments about reading to children offers a tantalizing possibility that we librarians love—that reading frequently correlates with academic success.

Carolyn Henderson Allen
Dean of Libraries
Antigone is a classic story of the tension between the individual and society, between the duty to the state and the duty to the moral law. These are the types of issues that have motivated much of my research on education policy. To what extent is education supposed to promote the needs and interests of the state/society and to what extent should we give priority to the individual/family? Anouilh’s update of Sophocles’ tragedy is even more compelling in raising these issues because of the greater balance he achieves between the arguments advanced by Antigone and Creon. And the fact that Anouilh’s version was written and staged in Nazi-held Paris adds even more to the modern relevance of the play.
This book provides an interesting perspective on the empirical research of the determinants and consequences of financial reporting choice. It is written in a way that makes it accessible to accounting practitioners, financial analysts, management, and investors, and it should be read by every Ph.D. student in accounting who is interested in doing research involving financial reporting choice.
Growing up in a small village in what was then British Guiana, now Guyana, my experiences were greatly shaped by a society where people lived lovingly and in harmony. Here my recollections of growing up were under the British influence but one in which teachings from different religions were tolerated, and everyone was able to observe and practice as they chose. My village was mostly populated by east Indians that travelled as indentured laborers from India to settle in British Guyana and other Caribbean islands in the eighteenth century. The Bhagavad Gita was at the center of great conversations and dialogues that influenced my cultural upbringing in this small village. The objectivity in this book lies in its philosophical teaching, not necessarily an academic or a religious one. The Bhagavad Gita and the moral issues it espouses are still alive and relevant today. For instance, Chapter 6, Verse 6 states (translated by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada): “For him who has conquered the mind, the mind is the best of friends; but for one who has failed to do so, his mind will remain the greatest enemy.” Gandhi thought the Gita reflected the eternal battle between light and dark in every human heart.
A Voice in the Wind
by Francine Rivers (1988)

A Voice in the Wind by Francine Rivers influenced me tremendously. The book describes the plight of Christians in the early days of the Church. Despite brutal and despicable atrocities, Christianity survived and even grew; solidifying my belief that a greater power is really in control and that Jesus’ life here means so much to us. The actions and servant-approach of Hadassah, one of the main characters depicted, provide a valuable model of how I should continually strive, though admittedly often fail, to live my earthly life; not just at Masses or at home, but at work here at the University as well.
Published in 1949 after Aldo Leopold’s tragic death, this book still remains one of the seminal works on the ethics of conservation. His piece “Thinking Like a Mountain” stands out as one of the most important and moving essays on his remorse over killing a wolf in his early years and watching the “green fire” go out of her eyes. This book is required reading for anyone interested in the environment. Indeed, I read the whole book in one night when I was a junior in college, and it made me want to become an ecologist and conservation biologist.
Dr. Amy Farmer
Sam M. Walton College of Business
Department of Economics
Appointment to University Professor

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants
by Malcolm Gladwell (2011)

Malcolm Gladwell’s is a recent book, so I cannot claim that it had a strong influence on either my personal or professional development. However, Gladwell’s message clarifies for me an important lesson I have learned from my career, but yet still strive and struggle to embrace. As someone who always challenged myself to work hard and “do the right thing,” I have always known in my heart that following one’s passion is not only the route to personal fulfillment but also to true professional success. But when your passion suggests that you stray from the traditional route, that belief can be difficult to trust. Gladwell provides strong evidence that the road less traveled is often much more than another route to the same end. If we have the courage to trust our instincts and our passions, even if they appear to make us a David in the face of Goliath, it might actually produce an advantage or opportunity we otherwise could never have imagined. Despite having experienced this first hand, it is still difficult to trust, but Gladwell’s book has had a profound effect on helping me to truly own that belief.
This book represented the culmination of many years of work with my colleague, Mark LaGory, addressing the primary social assumption that place matters for everyone in America, but for some it can be the difference between life and death. Living in Birmingham, Alabama for the first 20 years of my academic career was an eye-opening experience for someone who had never spent much time in the deep South. The overt physical segregation of people along color, class, and age lines in that city was unsettling, and while the implications for the residents seemed clear, little was known about the health implications of where people lived and how profoundly impacted they could be as a result of their zip code. Over those 20 years, I spent a lot of time trying to understand that relationship between place and health, whether it was for homeless people, at-risk African-American youth, the elderly or some other group. Regardless, our focus was always about trying to create an awareness of our work with service providers, government officials, and local businesses that could somehow be leveraged in a way to lessen the risks for some and increase opportunities for the disenfranchised and under-represented.
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
by Rebecca Skloot (2010)

I read this book when I was first starting college. It had just come out. This book really opened my eyes to scientific research and what was possible with cell biology and molecular biology. We were just starting to try to defeat cancer and the development of HeLa cells was part of that push. It may seem like cancer won, but there was real progress made in understanding the regulation of the cell cycle, and how cancer is a cellular control problem. Henrietta lost her life, and was never compensated for what was developed from what turned out to be a really special cancer derived cell line. But if HeLa cells had not been developed, one can only wonder how things might have turned out differently.
In 1962, while a sophomore in high school, my younger sister gave me this paperback book (which I still have on my bookshelf) knowing of my interest in physics. This volume led me to read many books by Gamow and others that encouraged a dream to become a university researcher with Gamow as my inspiration. This book and Gamow’s life inspired me not only to aspire to apply for and attend a university, but specifically the University of Colorado, Boulder where Gamow taught. Through good fortune I was given a scholarship to UC, and upon arrival my physics advisor informed me that my chances of passing a social science were so low that he was going to sign me up for anthropology. At this time the Anthropology Department at CU was one of the most dynamic in the country and also actively encouraged its undergraduates to become involved in all of its activities. By November of my freshman year, I had switched my major to anthropology with the goal of becoming a university faculty member who studied ancient human skeletons to reconstruct life in the past. Although the origins of agriculture might not be the origins of the universe, it was certainly monumental in the development of human society and economics.
Pete Daniel’s book, *Shadow of Slavery*, which I read as a graduate student at the University of California, San Diego, in 1980, explained many things that I had become curious about while growing up in the Arkansas Delta. We lived outside of Marked Tree, Arkansas, down a gravel road on the other side of the levee. The home we lived in was owned by a planter whose wife preferred to live in town. All around the house, right up to the fence line and the green lawn with pink-blooming mimosa trees, were rows of cotton and soybeans. A number of old tenant houses, some of them no longer occupied, were in the vicinity, spaced about a half mile or so apart. I played with many of the children who lived in some of the occupied houses and became curious and concerned about the pervasive poverty that they suffered under. Their homes had no running water, no electricity, and were poorly insulated. They were unscreened, stifling hot in the summer, and cold as ice in the winter. It troubled and puzzled me. What Pete Daniel’s book helped me understand, many years later, was that these folk were the remnants of the tenancy and sharecropping system, a system that depended on an impoverished work force. The southern plantation, however, was in transition in the post-World War II period with the rise of “scientific agriculture,” meaning mechanization and the use of a variety of chemicals. It resulted in the virtual depopulation of the southern countryside, the empty tenant shacks in my rural neighborhood giving mute testimony to that fact. The concern I had for my friends’ situations in the late 1950s and early 1960s, together with the understanding I gleaned from *Shadow of Slavery*, influenced me to focus my career on understanding the implications of the transformation of southern plantation agriculture after the Civil War, particularly, its impact on the people who become cogs in the machine. It is a subject that continues to fire my imagination and shape my work as a historian.
While it is a children’s book, I first read the book while studying French in high school. Later on as an executive working in a multinational company, I re-read it and was profoundly impacted by the simple truths that were showcased in the book – and highlighted by the innocent questions asked by a child. The book had a profound impact on me – especially in helping me think through what is important in life, the value of simple acts, and just on having a perspective in life. This book was instrumental in my decision to give up my executive career, pursue a PhD and become an academic. I have since given out many copies of this book to students who have excelled in my classes. While we emphasize technical skills in many of our degrees, I’ve always believed that there should be a place for readings that help students think about life by focusing on the assumptions that they take for granted, are profound and help them discover their values, and can help them make choices about who they are. This book does a great job of doing that.
More than five decades after its initial publication, the work of Campbell, Converse, Miller and Stokes in *The American Voter* is of vital importance for two reasons. First, it is the seminal text in the area of American political behavior; it establishes the concept of partisan identification as a paradigm by which we can understand how citizens process political information and then how they translate that knowledge into action. Second, the book demonstrates how social scientists can simply but elegantly measure the effects of competing variables and hypotheses and then determine their impact.
Dr. Matthew Feldner
J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Psychological Science
Promotion to Professor

Sleep and Affect: Assessment, Theory, and Clinical Implications

This book is a synthesis of state-of-the-art research aimed at understanding the myriad links between sleep and affective experience. I am particularly proud of this book because I was able to collaborate with Dr. Kimberly Babson, an alumni of the University of Arkansas and former doctoral student whom I mentored. In addition to being able to contribute meaningfully to our field’s ongoing efforts to understand how these two complex and universal features of life interact, this book was particularly rewarding because I was able to see a former student, now an independent colleague, engaged in remarkable scholarship.
I chose this particular book because it is of long time significance in one of my fields of studies, namely family resource management. In addition, the first author, Dr. Ruth E. Deacon, was the Dean at Iowa State University at the time I earned my graduate degrees there. At that time, it was the first time in my life that I had personal interactions with the author of a major textbook with many associated Aha! moments. Many years later, and now that I am a faculty member at the University of Arkansas, this book is even more meaningful to me because the second author, Dr. Francille M. Firebaugh, is a prominent University of Arkansas alumna and accomplished scholar and administrator in higher education. I would like to think that throughout the course of my 25-year career, my students and I have “learned our lessons well” in the family resource management area.
This book is the standard introductory textbook in the field. Although algebraic geometry has classical origins, the rigorous foundations were only developed in the early part of the twentieth century. In the 1950s, a second wave of revolutionary development occurred, and Hartshorne’s text represented the new modern approach. As a graduate student it inspired me, and strongly influenced my mathematical interests. For me, this book, with its wonderful synthesis of algebra and geometry, is a model of the elegance and beauty of mathematics.
When I started to think about a book that shaped my career, many came to mind. Then it occurred to me that a book that inspired me to study plants was one I had read in high school. That book made me think about the trees and plants around me in a much different way and opened me up to the idea of studying and working with plants, particularly trees in the beginning. The curiosity that was opened up in my mind carried through to the career that I have had in horticulture to this day. I still have that book on my reading shelf and occasionally look at it, marveling at the diverse botany of trees that it represented.
I came to my work in architecture and education through studies in literature and history, particularly European modernism. I first read Joyce’s *Ulysses* in high school and then encountered it repeatedly over the progress of my undergraduate education (The only book I have read more is Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*, but that is another story!). *Ulysses* exists as a work of cultural expression on so many levels, and was written and constructed by its author to have those multiple dimensions and possibilities. This is also the hallmark of the work of the architect and designer, and certainly the most significant works of architecture and design possess equivalent ambition, condensation and depth. As importantly, the last word of *Ulysses* expresses the optimism of the modern moment, the same optimism that the architect and designer must begin with each day: Yes.
A most influential book. Where to start? So many books come to mind, especially fiction, but this is one that encompasses perhaps better than any other my teaching style and philosophy. Arnold Jacobs, longtime tuba player of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was a master teacher. As his approach to brass instrument playing and teaching, he coined the phrase “Song and Wind,” which focuses the musician on melody and proper breathing and blowing rather than a complex list of physical instructions. My graduate school teacher was a student of Jacobs and the author, Bruce Nelson, was the graduate school teacher of my (retired) U of A colleague and friend, Gerald Sloan.
Dr. Chris Rosen
Sam M. Walton College of Business
Department of Management
Promotion to Professor

Slaughterhouse Five
by Kurt Vonnegut (1969)

My dad was always a big Vonnegut fan. He passed this on to me. I read *Slaughterhouse Five* at much too young of an age to fully grasp its themes, and this is the first “grown-up” book that I remember reading. It instilled in me a passion for reading that I have to this day. Thanks, Dad!

Dr. Susanne Striegler
J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Promotion to Professor
The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA
by James Watson (1968)

*The Double Helix*, by James Watson, is one of the most inspiring books that I have read. The book provides an amazingly honest personal account of a brilliant scientist who determined the structure of the DNA. The book gives a vivid picture on the triumphs and frustrations of people who practice real science. I first read this book when I was in high school, and it definitely was most influential in me choosing scientific research as a career path.
I first read this book as an undergraduate, a time when the mists of youthful certainty were lifting, and I was waking up to a realization of the complexities of the human condition. While *The Plague* speaks to the harsher realities of life and its absurdities, I find the message hopeful. I agree with Dr. Rieux, the protagonist, that on balance people are more good than bad. The book is about love, loss, perseverance, comprehension and sympathy. In short, it is about the things that make us human and enable us to retain our humanity in the face of adversity.
This book prompted my earliest curiosity about history. I pored over my uncle’s copy even before I could read, wondering who these stern-visaged men (and, very occasionally, women) could possibly be and what these crabbed cartoons could possibly mean. I marveled over its wildly out of proportion and weirdly underpopulated birds-eye renderings of battles. Now that I’m literate (finally!), the book’s shortcomings become more apparent, particularly its treatment of emancipation and African Americans’ role in the war as almost peripheral things. But even that teaches a historical lesson: that our understanding of the past is inevitably shaped by our present. After Selma, Stonewall, and St. Wenceslas Square, no historian is likely to be so tin-eared when it comes to a people’s determination to be free.
This book is a comprehensive survey of matrix perturbation theory, a topic of interest to analysts, statisticians, scientists, and engineers who deal with data analysis. The central question is how does a matrix function (e.g., the solution of a linear system or the singular values of a matrix) change when its argument is subject to a perturbation? The book introduces the reader to the art of deriving perturbation bounds, which includes simple and informative bounds, complicated though technically sharper bounds, and even nearly optimal bounds. Its notes and references emphasize original sources and historical development. Its technical content ranges from the trivial to the very difficult and well serves the various purposes of beginners, intermediates and experts. I first read this book when I worked on the randomization based privacy preserving data mining project in 2005. I have then kept this book on my bookshelf and have recommended this book to all students in my research group whose research varies from spectral graph analysis, privacy preservation, and fraud detection. Four doctoral dissertations and over a dozen research articles from my research group have been influenced by this excellent book.
601 Maple Street
by Jeff Gray (2008)

601 Maple Street is the story of a young teacher faced with the enormous task of getting to know and love the most difficult student in her classroom. This young teacher refers to her most challenging student as “King Charles.” King Charles has spent his entire 9 years of life as the unwanted one. Through great effort, this young teacher begins to learn about the boy inside the facade. By doing so, both the student and the teacher grow and become their own best. I share this book with my MAT students at the beginning of each year. It’s a true story in almost every classroom. It continues to guide me each year.
Oh, the Places You’ll Go!
by Dr. Seuss (1990)

Refreshingly, my three-year-old daughter has no idea what “tenure” is. What she does know is that it is fun to cuddle up with her dad and read a favorite book—especially this book. Through the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, I’ve tried to never lose sight of who I am, where I’m from, who I love, and what I value. No matter how many books I read, things I write, or places I go, I hope I never lose sight of the underlying message of this book: adventures are worth having; risks are worth taking; and occasional failure is inevitable, even for the most successful among us.
The following quote is attributed to Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman’s review of the book, “The Black Swan” changed my view of how the world works.” Mine too. Taleb argues that our world can be largely explained by large improbable (and unpredictable) events - black swans. Although we acknowledge the impact of these events after their occurrence, we tend to ignore them in developing risk assessments and forecasts of future events. This mental blind spot has obvious implications in a variety of settings, but it is particularly relevant to my own interests in accounting and finance.
I first read an essay by Abbey during my freshman year of college. His passion for nature, his irritation by those who wanted to exploit and destroy it, and his sometimes juvenile and contradictory actions enticed me to read more of his works. I have read and enjoyed most of his works, both fiction and nonfiction. *Desert Solitaire* is far and away his greatest writing and an essential piece of American environmentalism. Its description of the desolation, the flora, the fauna, and the geological wonders of the Southwest desert lured me to Utah to experience the marvels first hand. I was not disappointed.
Robert Ellickson, the author of *Order Without Law*, changed my life. His class on the legal history of cities convinced me to pursue a career writing about the role of law in local communities. *Order Without Law* is Ellickson's masterpiece. Ellickson presents a case study of how ranchers in California solve their problems through a privately established system of social norms. The formal legal system (courts, judges, lawyers) plays almost no role in settling their intra-group conflicts. The central argument of the book is that the informal rules of close-knit groups outperform state-backed law; private control mechanisms not only produce secure land rights, they also generate rules that are cheaper to administer, more efficient, more predictable, and more just. The book is well-written, careful, insightful, and extremely fun to read. Ellickson’s arguments force us to grapple with all of the major themes of human existence: the role of government, the proper use of violence, and the cardinal importance of community.
Although my career focuses within the often described “difficult” fields of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, I was diagnosed with a learning disability and placed within remedial classes at an early age. However, after moving from Denver, Colorado, to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in third grade, I was removed from remedial classes. Being “mainstreamed” provided me with a new found confidence, and I began to thrive in my coursework. While my learning disability made easy academic achievement impossible, it shaped a strong work ethic that led me to study and seek help to stay successful in school. The mental disability and work ethic exhibited by Lenny and George in Of Mice and Men has always resonated with me, and Steinbeck’s understanding of human nature has made this enduring classic meaningful to many.
On Being a Therapist
by Jeffrey Kottler (1986)

On Being a Therapist provides authentic perspective on the full context of the therapeutic relationship, honoring the complexity of therapy and its participants, both client and therapist. This book encourages the therapist to honestly explore motivations, internal dialogue, challenges, and larger social justice issues. The author elucidates the client/therapist relationship as a systemic agent of change, an ideal central to effective social work practice. It reminds me what a privilege it is to witness the courage of my clients as they proceed on their journey.
To me this book means family. I have more vivid memories of hearing these stories as a child than any other. Shortly after I met my future wife, I learned that she too had a family tradition of reading this book out loud, accompanied by popcorn and hot chocolate. She gave me a hard copy edition while we were dating, and I made a tooled leather cover for it featuring the various animals in the stories. We have carried on the tradition of reading from it periodically on Sunday evenings with our six children (complete with treats), and I have no doubt this cycle will continue. “Off ran Dingo—Yellow-Dog Dingo...”
Mr. William E. Foster  
School of Law  
Promotion to Associate Professor

_The book has significance for me because Steinbeck infuses the stories with brief character portraits that give deep insight into their values. The values of Steinbeck’s favored characters resonate with me, and I hope to pass them along to my students. For example, “It has always seemed strange to me...The things we admire in men, kindness and generosity, openness, honesty, understanding and feeling, are the concomitants of failure in our system. And those traits we detest, sharpness, greed, acquisitiveness, meanness, egotism and self-interest, are the traits of success. And while men admire the quality of the first, they love the produce of the second.”_
Time is a precious commodity. As each of us try to maintain a healthy balance of personal and professional obligations, it is tempting to turn inward and do what is only best for ourselves. This book shows us that in fact, the more we GIVE in our lives, the happier we’ll be. The more successful we’ll be. This seems counterintuitive, but the author shows the data. It is clear that giving is the only choice. This book has meant so much to me professionally and personally. It keeps me grounded, and most importantly, it forces me to give second thought on how I can help others.
This was one of the first books I read in my first semester in graduate school, and one I wholeheartedly disagreed with. It, however, fundamentally challenged the way I thought as a historian and opened my mind to multiple new approaches that I had never considered, even though it is not even in my field. Over time, I’ve read this book in several seminars and taught it in one of my own classes, not only embracing its argument but its methodology as well. Hoganson challenges much of what we knew about diplomatic history as well as the intersection between politics and gender dynamics and thereby was not afraid to uproot many of the historical conventions that I, as a naïve graduate student, had staked my disagreement on. Her argument, which by now has been adopted as central in the causation of the Spanish-American War, showed me the power and importance of originality in historical research, something I have tried to follow in my own work.
This book is the result of a seven-year collaborative effort of the best kind with Lewis Lockwood. The first volume of the book includes our transcription of 182 pages of Beethoven’s sketches, including those for the “Eroica” Symphony, the Fifth Symphony, the “Waldstein” Sonata, and Beethoven’s opera “Leonore” (later titled “Fidelio”). Beethoven’s handwriting is notoriously difficult to decipher, and with around 70,000 notes to determine, often with one or two versions written directly on top of the first, our challenge was a big one. I like to show these pages of Beethoven’s handwriting to my students, because they make it so visible that being stymied need not permanently impede the creative process. Even Beethoven, whose frustration could pour through his pen, often took dozens of pages to determine a deceptively simple theme. Just as students at times tackle seemingly insurmountable lessons, so do their professors take on seemingly impossible projects. But the end result is exciting. As one Beethoven expert wrote about our transcription and commentary, “It is a bit like those first successful probes of Venus or Mars, which supplied for the first time ever not just excerpts, but a view of the whole surface of the object!”
Dr. Jingping Gu
Sam M. Walton College of Business
Department of Economics
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform
by Justin Yifu Lin, Fang Cai, Zhou Li (1996)

The China Miracle uses a mainstream economics approach to analyze the internal logic of the traditional Chinese planning system and the transition to market-oriented reform. It also explains different economic growth before and after the reform. The book inspired me to understand economics and policy in the real world. I read this book when I was studying in the China Center for Economics Research (CCER) in Peking University. It influenced me to choose academia as a career and economics as a major later.
Although I trained as a historian of modern Europe, the first book I read in graduate school was Johan Huizinga’s *Autumn of the Middle Ages*. It was written almost a century ago, but its argument about how and why medieval culture gave way to a more recognizable modern society still has tremendous resonance. More importantly, Huizinga’s work has much to teach us about the potential scope of historical scholarship. In its time, it was a history of mentalités in keeping with the early days of the Annales School, but it was also ahead of its time: a cultural history before the “cultural turn,” and an expansive embrace of art, rituals, and symbols as historical “texts” long before most historians recognized their potential as historical “texts.” Above all, it was and remains a beautiful piece of writing, conveying not only the importance of specific events and trends of the past but also something of the experience of those who lived through them. Huizinga begins his work with a stirring evocation of the gap between modern culture and the late Middle Ages. He writes, “When the world was half a thousand years younger all events had sharper outlines than now. The distance between sadness and joy, between good and bad fortune, seemed to be much greater than for us; every experience had that degree of directness and absoluteness that joy and sadness still have in the mind of a child.” As a historian-in-training, I learned to be critical of such sweeping generalities, but I was nonetheless inspired by the confidence and erudition evident in the book, and have long since aspired to approach my research with the same passion that I observed in the work of Huizinga.
Possessing the Past: Trauma, Imagination, and Memory in Post-Plantation Southern Literature
by Lisa Hinrichsen (2015)

The journey from dissertation to book is difficult but deeply rewarding, and a first monograph is a powerful material testament to that long, winding intellectual voyage. As I read through this book, I remember the graduate seminars that stimulated my thinking, the discovery of scholarship that I found—and still find!—invigorating, and the conferences where I presented early versions of my ideas. I recall the immersive cycles of writing, editing, and revising that expanded, reconfigured, and grew this project into something very far from the dissertation, and I hold dear the invaluable encouragement of colleagues, friends, and my husband and, most beautifully, the births of my two children along the way.

Dr. Frank Jacobus
Fay Jones School of Architecture
Department of Architecture
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor
Dr. Daniel John Kennefick  
J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of Physics  
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

*Traveling at the Speed of Thought: Einstein and the Quest for Gravitational Waves*  
by Daniel Kennefick (2007)

I look back very fondly on the time I spent writing this book and am still proud of the accomplishment.

Dr. Angie Maxwell  
J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of Political Science  
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

*Killers of the Dream*  
by Lillian Smith (1949)

Lillian Smith’s *Killers of the Dream* reveals the way in which Jim Crow, authoritarian religion, and patriarchal gender dynamics worked in tandem to maintain the oppressive culture of the American South. Part memoir and part polemic, the book focuses on “the cult of southern womanhood,” the protection of which became the faux moral justification for segregation. This tangled web of sexuality, racism, and faith ensnared southern women. In many ways, it still does. When you finish the final page, you cannot be the same person you were before you read it. That Lillian Smith was astute enough to critique so clearly the culture in which she was reared is a testament to her exceptional mind. That as a privileged, white lesbian she wrote and published it nearly 70 years ago is brave beyond my understanding. In my career spent studying the politics and culture of the south, if I write a single sentence of substance, it will be because I read this book.
Dr. Martin Nedbal
J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Music
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Die Zauberflöte: K. 620: facsimile of the autograph score, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin--Preussischer Kulturbesitz
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; introductory essay by Hans Joachim Kreutzer; musicological introduction by Christoph Wolff (2006)

The convoluted plot, overwhelming spectacle, and musical richness and beauty of Mozart’s final opera have fascinated me ever since I saw The Magic Flute for the first time during my undergraduate studies. At numerous points throughout the opera, the onstage characters turn to the audience in order to say something wise and educational. By exploring the history of similar moments in German opera, I uncovered new insights into Mozart’s music and personality as well as into the culture and politics of Vienna and Central Europe in general during the late eighteenth century. My fascination with The Magic Flute gradually gave rise to my dissertation, several articles, and my book Morality and Viennese Opera in the Age of Mozart and Beethoven (forthcoming). I also enjoy sharing my appreciation of Mozart’s operas with students at the University of Arkansas and with music lovers in Northwest Arkansas. Learning how to read the writing and notation of Mozart himself in this autograph makes that appreciation even stronger.
I had no political motivation for choosing this book. In fact, in some ways, I chose this book in spite of certain political disagreements I have with President George H. W. Bush. That said, growing up I dreamt of becoming President (an aspiration I’ve wisely outgrown). Despite the change in career path, this book offered meaningful insights regarding decision-making, negotiation, continued learning and nurturing relationships. All of these lessons, along with the honesty and humility I took from the President’s written word, have influenced the choices I’ve made throughout my brief time as a faculty member.
This classic work continues to amaze me every time I read it. It captures in the simplest and most delightful language the nature of law and a legal system. Its central insight shows how laws that prohibit individual conduct, such as criminal laws, interact with the meta-laws, what he calls secondary rules, that authorize and enable legislatures and courts to create those laws. He also shows how laws such as those relating to contract or wills are more like secondary rules in that they do not prohibit individual conduct but enable individuals to become their own legislators in a sense. This same framework allows us to see how law and morality relate but differ in important ways. My reading it in law school led in large part to my interest in a career in academia (after a brief, ten-year detour as a practicing lawyer).
When I was a college student, Howard Zinn’s revolutionary and subversive *A People’s History of the United States* helped cement my determination to be a journalist. His emphasis on the poor, the marginalized, the contrarian, and the suppressed correlates with the goal of any journalist hoping not just to record the day’s events but to find the stories that will prompt a better tomorrow.

Zinn didn’t just recognize a good story, he knew how to tell a good story, wielding prose most journalists can only envy. The opening line of *A People’s History* has stayed with me for 20 years: “Arawak men and women, naked, tawny, and full of wonder, emerged from their villages onto the island’s beaches and swam out to get a closer look at the strange big boat.”

As a young reporter, I hoped to interview Zinn in advance of a lecture he was scheduled to give in Arkansas. His public relations person said Zinn was unavailable. I looked at the dust jacket of his book and read that Zinn lived in Auburndale, Mass. I did an online search and found him listed in the phone book. Of course he was. In an impromptu phone call, the *People’s* historian spoke to me for an hour. He was generous and kind and happy to talk to a young journalist. I like to believe he thought we were after the same thing.
**The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**  
*by C. S. Lewis (1950)*

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is a classic children’s book. I chose this book because it holds a special place in our family’s heart. I remember reading it to my oldest daughter when she was five years old. It was the first book to simultaneously capture both of our imaginations. We speak of the memory often and subsequently read together regularly. I look forward to reading it once again to my youngest daughter soon.

**The Handmaid’s Tale**  
*by Margaret Atwater (1985)*

This book was instrumental in encouraging me to think critically about gender and race at a fairly young age. The concepts presented made me step outside of my current world view and see how the legal structure both influences, and is influenced by, societal norms. It was also one of the first books that truly made me think about cross-cultural concepts and how we might see ourselves in others.
I have fond memories of sitting on my wife's favorite maroon recliner with our daughter Stella, then 2, and reading this book over and over. As she grew, we had great fun acting out the parts – I as Gerald and Stella as Piggie. Then a plot twist, our son Desmond came along and stole my role! But alas, Desmond and Stella have grown and retired from acting. Now, our youngest, Sasha, lets me be the Gerald to her Piggie. So like every good Mo Willems book, there is a happy ending. The constant “pigeon” throughout this story is my loving wife, Smitha. The point of my musings is to say that there is no greater influence on my life and career than my family. And like every good Mo Willems book, there is a valuable lesson - individual achievements, like promotion and tenure, are not accomplished individually.
Narrated by British journalist John Hooper, this book presents a fantastic portrayal of my home country’s society. This book was given to me by my Ph.D. advisor, and it was eye opening for me to read Hopper’s explanation of all my country’s paradoxes and recent social changes. I got several ideas for research papers from reading this book. I also gained a deep understanding on how useful a fair look from outside can be to get a better insight of things.