

AMONG FRIENDS

Winter 2011

a newsletter for the members of the Friends of the Duke University Libraries

If Books Aren't Enough

DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

News and Events

Check out the Libraries' current and upcoming events page for the latest information about great concerts, lectures, readings and film screenings. To reach this page, visit the Libraries' homepage: library.duke.edu, and click on the News and Events title in the left hand side in the middle of the page, then click on the Current and Upcoming Events link in the Events section.

Doris Duke Exhibit

We pay tribute to Doris Duke in a new exhibit: *Philanthropist, Environmentalist, Collector: Doris Duke and Her Estates*. This tremendous display will be in the Perkins Library Gallery until April 3. If you do not live close enough to visit in person, you may enjoy the online exhibit, complete with Doris's home movies. This can be accessed through the Libraries homepage: library.duke.edu, just click on the exhibits link in the lower right hand corner of the screen. A public exhibit opening will be held on February 24.

Mad Men & Mad Women: The Party

On February 25, the Duke Marketing Club and the Duke University Libraries Present Mad Men & Mad Women: The Party. We invite you to join us for this free event, open to all members of the Duke Community. The festivities begin at 9:00pm in Perkins and Bostock Libraries, the Link, and the von der Heyden Pavilion.

Andrea Wulf visits Duke

This spring the Friends of the Libraries will be co-sponsoring a lecture by author Andrea Wulf on April 14 at Duke Gardens. Wulf is the author of *The Founding Gardeners*. The book offers a fascinating look at the icons of the American Revolution from the unique and intimate perspective of their lives as gardeners, plantsmen and farmers. Ticket information can be found at tickets.duke.edu or by calling 919-684-4444.

Friends Annual Dinner moves to Library

On May 11, 2011, the von der Heyden Pavilion will be transformed into an elegant dining room and serve as the site of the Friends of the Libraries Annual Dinner. The evening will begin with a reception in the main lobby and gallery of Perkins Library and the Biddle Rare Book Room. Guests will proceed to the von der Heyden Pavilion for dinner, which will be followed by a program about the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Marketing and Advertising History.

Seating is limited, so be sure to save the date and respond to Lizzy Mottern, 919-660-5856 or lizzy.mottern@duke.edu, if you know you would like to attend. We are grateful to SunTrust for generously serving as our presenting sponsor, and to DeHaven's Moving and Storage, the Gothic Bookshop and Whole Foods Market for providing additional support.



Got Books?

In alternate years, Friends of the Libraries and the Gothic Bookshop co-sponsor the Jeremy North Book Collectors Contest, which is open to all Duke students. The contest requires submission of a written application and attendance at a judging event. Interested students apply online and are asked to

bring a representative sample of their collection to be judged. During the 2009 contest, students shared their books about Islam and the Middle East, Africa's literary heritage, the function of the human mind, Russian history and a selection of artists books, created by the applicant, among others. There are no rules about specific subject matter, collection size or condition of books.



Support Duke and Receive Income

Making a gift to Duke and receiving income might sound too good to be true, but it's easier than one might think. For as little as \$10,000 you can establish a gift annuity to benefit the Libraries, or any other area at Duke. In exchange for your gift you will receive a tax deduction in the year you establish the gift annuity, and you will receive fixed payments from Duke. When you pass away, the remainder of your gift annuity will come to Duke for the purpose you indicate. It is a wonderful way to include

Duke in your estate planning. Duke's estate planning experts are a tremendous resource available to you. The Office of Gift Planning can be reached by dialing 919-681-0467, emailing gift.planning@dev.duke.edu, or mailing 614 West Main Street, Durham, NC 27708.

Night of 10,000 Cookies

In December, the Friends of the Libraries teamed up with Duke's Campus Club to bake cookies for students to enjoy as they studied for exams. Saladelia Cafe, the food service provider for von der Heyden Pavilion, generously donated coffee and hot tea. On Wednesday, December 15 at exactly 8pm (not a minute sooner) all students in Perkins, Bostock, von der Heyden Pavilion and the Link were treated to a special surprise. Once students made their way to the lobby of Perkins, they were greeted by thousands of cookies, trays of beautiful fruit and other tasty treats.

Baking cookies might not seem like a big deal, but the gift of homemade treats being offered to an exhausted student as she leaves the library, after days of studying can be a very comforting thing. Thank you to Saladelia Café, Campus Club, members of the Friends Executive Committee, Libraries staff members and to all the bakers who helped the Libraries provide such an unexpected treat for students.

New Drop Box

At the suggestion of several Friends, the Libraries have installed a new book drop box on Telcom Drive from which daily collections will be made. Next time you have books to return, you won't have to worry about parking on campus. Just travel down Research Drive, take a right on Telcom Drive and you will see the collection box on your left and the base of the steps that lead to Perkins and Bostock Libraries.

Connect with us through our new social media site:
<http://library.duke.edu/connect>



Recommended by a Friend...

Book reviews can also be read on [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com) in the [Duke University Libraries Friends group](#)

Fall of Giants: Book One of the Century Trilogy

Ken Follett
2010, Dutton

Unlike the provincial medieval world of his earlier historical fiction, Follett placed his characters in several European nations as well as the United States; the rich and powerful figures are early 20th century cosmopolitan and even those from the lower classes stray away from their home places for work, “escape,” and/or service in the Great War—the focus of the novel. Follett captures both the nuances embedded in the psyche of different nations and the lifestyles of the rich and the poor. The various nationalities and classes interact, allowing the readers to view varying perspectives on the war and its major events. Also, through the characters’ adventures and misadventures, the author highlights the mismanagement of the war and the even worse mismanagement of the peace while weaving in other controversial issues and isms of the era. With his demonstrated historical knowledge and incisive insights, hopefully Follett in the next two volumes will enliven the dialogue and explore more fully the complexity of the characters as he did in his earlier page-turning historical novels.

—Ginger Wilson , WC’62, G’63, G’75, Friends Executive Committee member
and retired Dean of Humanities at the North Carolina School
of Science and Mathematics

The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them

Elif Batuman
2010, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

I picked up this book on Russian literature because I have put down so many others. It can take considerable determination, not to mention considerable time, to make it through the monumental works of Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Pushkin, and the other Russian greats. Each time I’ve tried, I’ve failed miserably, overwhelmed by the sheer weight and weightiness of their books. I was hoping Elif Batuman might help me get re-inspired. In contrast to the great writers she takes as her subjects, Batuman’s treatment of them is light, lively, and frequently funny. The book is comprised of several loosely connected essays on different topics, some of which originally appeared as articles in *The New Yorker* and *Harper’s*. Her topics range from the mysterious circumstances of Isaac Babel’s death, to Checkov’s first encounter with Tolstoy (in a bath), to the problems of reading Uzbek literature, to a bizarre reconstruction of an ice palace commissioned by a niece of Peter the Great. Batuman writes about Russian literature with the kind of irreverent amusement of a hyper-literate thirtysomething. At the same time, the book has a strong academic bent. (The author was still a graduate student at Stanford while she wrote the majority of it.) Nearly every chapter offers a behind-the-veil glimpse of the zany, socially awkward, and often maddeningly insular world of the academic study of literature today.

—Aaron Welborn, Director of Communications, Duke University Libraries

The Ministry of Special Cases: A Novel

Nathan Englander
2007, Vintage

As the *New Yorker* observed in introducing its recent “20 under forty” series, “the fiction being written in this country today is not necessarily fiction set in this country.” A prime example of such fiction is *The Ministry of Special Cases* by Nathan Englander. To my mind it is among the best of American contemporary novels, and I nominated it for the summer reading project for the class of ‘15. The book takes place in Argentina in the 1970s, during that country’s dirty war, and deals with the grim subject of “the disappeared.” I would call the novel “Kafka-esque” (which puts Englander in good company) because it deals with goals frustratingly out of reach and strategies that continually backfire, yet with a leavening of comedy. In a link to our Jewish-American writers of the past, such as Bernard Malamud, a distinctly Yiddish figure is central to *The Ministry of Special Cases*—the kind of protagonist that scholar Ruth Wisse once called “the schlemiel as modern hero,” a person who is in some ways out of step with his society but as such is a more admirable figure than those in power. Both sad and humorous (if darkly so), this novel evidences on every page the deep humanity of the author along with the deftness, even elegance, of his prose. It is totally engrossing as well as moving. Englander tackles a global theme and explores it sensitively and concretely through the experiences of one Buenos Aires Jewish family. But, as is the “special case” with all great works, you don’t have to be Jewish or Argentinian to relate wholeheartedly to *The Ministry of Special Cases*—you just have to be human.

—Judith Ruderman, G’76, Visiting Professor, English Department

How to Live, or A Life of Montaigne

Sarah Bakewell
2010, Other Press

Self-help books are not my favorite literary genre—far from it. But I was drawn to *How to Live, or A Life of Montaigne*, because it defies easy classification. It is part biography, part intellectual history, part a linking of past and present sensibilities, and part (indeed) a guide to living. Bakewell builds her book around Montaigne, the sixteenth-century French nobleman, government official, and winegrower. Each chapter focuses on some aspect of his recorded experiences and what they might signal about how to live—surviving love and loss, for example, or being sure to “read a lot, forget most of what you read, and be slow-witted.” The essays (from the French *essayer*, to try) of this “free and unruly” writer (according to Montaigne’s own description) led him to speculate about whatever he observed and whatever passed through his mind, from the discomforts of travel to the drawbacks of short stature. Montaigne was the progenitor of twenty-first-century “bloggers and networkers,” as Bakewell characterizes him. Or, in the words of the original essayist: “I turn my gaze inward, I fix it there and keep it busy . . . I roll about in myself.”

—Robert J. Bliwise, A.M. ’88, Editor, *Duke Magazine*