



Faculty and Staff **Best Books of 2014**

The “rules” of the game were to answer the following question: **What was the best book you read in 2014?** It could be a new book, an old book, a re-read, or anything that fits the bill. Not all contributors explained their selections, but for those who did, their reasons for choosing the book are included here. Some contributed several of their favorites since choosing just one is too difficult.

Books chosen by multiple faculty or staff members have been bolded. Many books are available through the Durham Tech Library, either on our shelves or through interlibrary loan. Just ask a library staff member for help requesting a book that we don’t currently have on the shelves.

Book Title/Author	How can I find this book through the Durham Tech library?	Describe your book or what made it your best read...
Siege 13 / Tamas Dobozy	Request this title through OCLC interlibrary loan	
1984 / George Orwell	PR 6029 .R8 N5 1961	A re-read. Mind control, surveillance, oligarchy, and diminishing freedoms....need I say more?
A Beautiful Mind / Sylvia Nasar	QA 29 .N25 N37 1998	I listened to the book CD on my way back and forth to work, then watched the movie. (The movie wasn’t as good as the book)
A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty / Joshilyn Jackson	PS 3610 .A3525 G76 2012	
A Stolen Life / Jaycee Dugard	HV 6574 .U6 D84 2011	A super heavy read...
Americanah / Chimamanda Adichie	PR 9387.9 .A34354 A44 2013	This is an important novel about the immigrant experience in the U.S. The Nigerian narrator shares her insightful views of race in America, Nigeria, and Britain. This is a powerful, smart, and touching book. I would highly recommend it for a book club because there are many issues and characters to explore and discuss.
Americanah / Chimamanda Adichie	PR 9387.9 .A34354 A44 2013	

An Untamed State / Roxanne Gay	Request this title through OCLC interlibrary loan	A book about a Haitian-American woman whose family achieves success in the United States but is forced to wrestle with the poverty and unrest in their beloved homeland. Gay provides a wonderfully strong and deep character in Mirelle and succeeds in showing the good and the bad in each character and in each country, leaving the reader with an unsettling awareness of the fine lines between strength and frailty, wealth and poverty.
Bad Monkey: A Novel / Carl Hiaasen	Request this title through interlibrary loan	Hiaasen is a very crafty and humorous writer, and this book follows his reputation.
Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness / Susannah Cahalan	RC 390 .C24 2012	Susannah documents her search to find her missing month by interviewing family, nurses and doctors who supported and treated her through what they thought was a descent into madness due to mental health issues. It is an interesting look at finding out who you are when it seems that you've lost yourself and have to begin a new normal.
Conjoined For Life: Four's a Crowd / Cary Briel and Christine Briel (ed.)	Available through Amazon	
Darth Bane: Path of Destruction (Star Wars) / Drew Karpyslyn	Request this title through interlibrary loan	It was a very fast read and I am looking forward to reading the other two of this trilogy.
Divergent Series / Veronica Roth	PZ 7 .R7375 Di 2012	
Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital / Sheri Fink	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
Gone Girl / Gillian Flynn	PS 3606 .L935 G66 2012	I was pleasantly surprised by the feminist elements in the book, and I found myself underlining all these relevant passages related to marriage and relationships between men and women -- even though they came from dysfunctional characters.
Gut and Psychology Syndrome : Natural Treatment for Autism, Dyspraxia, A.D.D., Dyslexia, A.D.H.D., Depression, Schizophrenia / Natasha Campbell-McBride	Request this title through OCLC interlibrary loan	
Hot Lights, Cold Steel: Life, Death and Sleepless Nights in a Surgeon's First Years / Michael J. Collins	Request this title through interlibrary loan	The medical focus is linked to my having a son about to graduate from medical school.
Lila / Marilynne Robinson	Coming soon!	

Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany / Donald L. Miller	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
Me Before You / Jojo Moyes	Request this title through interlibrary loan	This was a unique love story that taught me a lot about paraplegics and the difficulties that they face in life and love.
Me Before You / Jojo Moyes	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
Miss Peregrines's Home for Peculiar Children / Ransom Riggs	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore / Robin Sloan	PS 3619 .L6278 M77 2012	It was a fun read about people displaced by the "great recession," the clash of tradition versus tech savvy, and the enduring value of friendship and a good book. An added bonus: the cover glows in the dark, so it's easy to find even after the lights are out.
New International Version of Bible-- Psalms	BS 195 .N37 2002	Reading a new translation added new meaning to a familiar text, especially with other translations side-by-side [actual copy was http://www.amazon.com/Classic-Comparative-Side-Side-Bible/dp/0310436761]
No Country For Old Men / Cormac McCarthy	PS 3563 .C337 N6 2007	There were so many reasons why I liked this book, but the main reason was its attempt to bridge philosophy with literature. I don't know if that was McCarthy's intention, but there are strong existential premises within the narrative which are presented in a very gripping manner. This is one of the few books I have read recently which I simply could not stop thinking about.
One Doctor: Close Calls, Cold Cases, and the Mysteries of Medicine / Brendan Reilly	Request this title through interlibrary loan	The medical focus is linked to my having a son about to graduate from medical school.
Patron Saint of Liars / Ann Patchett	Request this title through interlibrary loan	Patchett is a terrific writer who has never written the same book twice. Each story twists and turns taking the reader to places they didn't expect to find themselves. This story about the decisions we make for love and valor leave you wondering how we ever find love at all in this world when we're all so different and complicated.
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking / Susan Cain	BF 698.35 .I59 C35 2012	
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking / Susan Cain	BF 698.35 .I59 C35 2012	
Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good / Jan Karon	Request this title through interlibrary loan	The latest installment of the Mitford series—a new book in a favorite series.

Southern Vampire Mysteries (Sookie Stackhouse series) / Charlaine Harris	PZ 4 .H3129 2002	
Steal Like an Artist / Austin Kleon	Request this title through interlibrary loan	Steal Like an Artist by Austin Kleon was a great read for me as an artistic person. It also had some great insights about validation (or lack thereof) for folks recently graduating from college. A short, but invaluable read, written in a personable style—with lots of pictures!
The Aviators: Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle, Charles Lindbergh, and the Epic Age of Flight / Winston Groom	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
The Barter / Siobhan Adcock	Request this title through OCLC interlibrary loan	
The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics / Daniel James Brown	Request this title through interlibrary loan	Just wonderful.
The Consumer Action Handbook / U.S. General Services Administration, Federal Citizen Information Center	Coming soon!	This is the best guide to adulthood in the US that I've ever read. Best of all, it's free from the government.
The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer / Siddhartha Mukherjee	RC 275 .M85 2010	The medical focus is linked to my having a son about to graduate from medical school.
The Goldfinch / Donna Tartt	PS 3570 .A657 G65 2013	The narrative was compelling, a story of two boys, lost in a world with no fathers to guide them, using drugs and alcohol to get themselves through their difficult teen years and into adulthood. The painting of The Goldfinch tells a difficult story as well. The book is way too long by 1/3, but overall, a joy to read.
The Goldfinch / Donna Tartt	PS 3570 .A657 G65 2013	
The Known World / Edward P. Jones	PS 3560 .O4813 K58 2003	In The Known World the complex nature of slavery is displayed through the fictional lived experiences of the main character, Henry Townsend, who is a freed slave and slave owner. I enjoyed reading this book because Jones makes the characters come alive. The objective voice of the book allowed me to explore my own questions about the era of slavery and consider it from the perspective of blacks owning other blacks.

The Life of Pi / Yann Martel	PR 9199.3 .M3855 L54 2001 (special collections)	I enjoyed the philosophy and inner dialogue the main character has. The book has insight to how other cultures think, but also has a plot that gives the reader a bit of suspense to look forward to. The film is also a nice enhancement to the book, but see it AFTER you read the book.
The Life of Pi / Yann Martel	PR 9199.3 .M3855 L54 2001 (special collections)	
The Luminaries/ Eleanor Catton	PR 9639.4 .C39 L86 2013	Elegantly written and densely plotted, it is one of those rare books that is simultaneously an intellectual delight on multiple levels and a gripping page-turner besides.
The Moon and More / Sarah Dessen	PZ 7 .D455 Moo 2013	
The Night Circus / Erin Morgenstern	PS 3613 .O74875 N54 2011	
The Other Wes Moore / Wes Moore	F 189 .B153 M66 2011	
The Other Wes Moore / Wes Moore	F 189 .B153 M66 2011	It was enlightening and inspiring to see a young man with drive live a life that no one thought was possible. However, a few changes in life events pushed one Wes Moore to greatness and the other to prison.
The Queen of the Tearling / Erika Johansen	Coming soon!	If Snow White was actually about the elements of good leadership and took place in a technology free dystopia.
The Signature of All Things / Elizabeth Gilbert	PS 3557 .I3415 S54 2014	
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry / Rachel Joyce	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
The Zookeeper's Wife / Diane Ackerman	DS 134.64 .A25 2007	It's a non-fiction story about a wife/husband team who managed a zoo in Warsaw where they saved hundreds of people and animals from the Nazi invasion. Ackerman is an amazing writer. I found myself reading and rereading lines as many were so richly crafted.
Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power / Jon Meacham	Request this title through interlibrary loan	

Unbroken / Laura Hillenbrand	Request this title through interlibrary loan	The book is so well written I found myself underlining and marking quotes that spoke images and concepts with grace and style. I created notes to use in ... class about Hillenbrand's descriptions of dignity. One quote I share: "The crash of the Green Hornet had left Louie and Phil in the most desperate physical extremity, without food, water, or shelter. But on Kwajalein, the guards sought to deprive them of something that had sustained them even as all else had been lost: dignity. The self-respect and sense of self-worth, the innermost armament of the soul, lies at the heart of humanness; to be deprived of it is to be dehumanized, to be cleaved from, and cast below, mankind. Men subjected to dehumanization treatment experience profound wretchedness and loneliness and find that hope is almost impossible to retain. Without dignity, identity is erased. In its absence, men are defined not by themselves, but by their captors and the circumstances in which they are forced to live." Page 188.
Unbroken / Laura Hillenbrand	Request this title through interlibrary loan	Tremendous account of a WWII survivor and the overall effect on his life.
Washington, A Life / Ron Chernow	E 312 .C495 2010	
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves / Karen Joy Fowler	PS 3556 .O844 W4 2013	It's best if readers don't know a lot about this novel before reading because there are some surprises. I adored the main character, Rosemary, and the fascinating and heartbreaking story of her family. Science, psychology, and the early animal rights movement are explored beautifully in this book.
What the Best College Teachers Do / Ken Bain	Request this title through interlibrary loan	
Where'd You Go, Bernadette? / Maria Semple	PS 3619 .E495 W54 2012	
Where'd You Go, Bernadette? / Maria Semple	PS 3619 .E495 W54 2012	
Where'd You Go, Bernadette? / Maria Semple	PS 3619 .E495 W54 2012	
Wonder / R.J. Palacio	Request this title through interlibrary loan	awesome read with my daughter
Yes Please / Amy Poehler	Request this title through interlibrary loan	