

Which five books have most swayed your life?

Sixteen Distinguished Professors and recipients of our Alumni Association Faculty Award list their top tomes.

books to live by faculty choose 5 faves

BY NATALIE ARMIJO



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Cindy Bellinger, '82 MA, has received two New Mexico Book Awards for 2007: Best Self-Help Book for *Journaling for Women: Write, Doodle, Scribble!* and *Meet Yourself Up Close* (Sunstone Press), and Best Gardening Book for *Waterwise Garden Care* (High Country Gardens Publications). Cindy is a Santa Fe journalist and Pecos resident.

Rosane Hayes, '82 BBA, is a partner in the Accounting and Consulting Group, in Albuquerque.

David Sedillo, '82 BBA, has been promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the Director of the US Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General, NNSA Audit Division. He resides in Albuquerque.

Emily Abbink, '84 MA, is the author of *New Mexico's Palace of the Governors: History of an American Treasure* (Museum of New Mexico Press). Emily is a lecturer in American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she lives.

Lois Beardslee, '84 MA, has published *Not Far Away, The Real-life Adventures of Ima Pippiig*, a semi-fictional memoir (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007). The Ojibwe artist is an instructor of communications at Northwestern Michigan College and lives in Maple City, Michigan.

Stuart Campbell, '84 BBA, is now general manager at Amangani-Amanresorts, located in Jackson, Wyoming.

John A. Garcia, '84 BBA, has been appointed by President George W. Bush to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, promoting the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources. John is UNM's chief economic development officer, and serves on the executive committee of the UNM Alumni Association board.

David Iglesias, '84 JD, has signed on to perform law enforcement consulting work for Booz Allen Hamilton's Albuquerque office, following the purge of federal prosecutors. He lives in Santa Fe.

Patricia L. Farrell, '85 BA, '95 MA, is the executive director of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, an international scholarly society dedicated to higher education as a field of study. Patricia lives in Mason, Michigan.

Steven Block

Professor, Music

UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

The Bible

From just about any perspective, this is the most formative and influential book in the world, containing all that is necessary for anyone to know.

The Complete Shakespeare

What can top a really fine Shakespeare play with its prose-poetry, rhythm, and psychological and moral insights into the human character? I can't choose among *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Either *Middlemarch* or *Daniel Deronda*, George Eliot

What Shakespeare has done for the poetry of English language, Eliot, has done for literary prose. Her insights into human character have richness and depth, and her language, preciseness and keenness.

Any Nero Wolfe novel, Rex Stout

I'd choose the three based on the battle between Wolfe and Archie Goodwin on one side and mobster Arnold Zeck on the other (*And Be a Villain*, *The Second Confession*, and *In the Best Families*). These joyful and comedic narratives focus ostensibly on the unlikely, obese, gourmand, and demanding genius detective but really on the work of Archie Goodwin who sizes up humanity with wit and flair.

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

True confession time: I adore good love stories and this is the best. There's rich social commentary in this novel that can be read over and over again at deepening levels of understanding.

Mary Bess "Maggie" Whidden

Professor Emerita, English

UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

What a fine question! I feel not at all like Paris Hilton when David Letterman asked her to quote her favorite *Bible* verse. Having studied and taught Shakespeare most of my life, I'm jiffy out of the chute with the works we should count as the 50,000 favorite books I live with. Shakespeare's plays and poems have, to be precise and original, well, everything, everything except maybe a coherent and consistent philosophy, not what I look for in fiction. Everything else is there as if to give an excuse for language, thought, character, astonishment. But I understate.

Monica Cyrino

Professor, Classics
UNM Alumni Association
Faculty Award recipient

Profiles in Courage, John F. Kennedy

A classical-style collection of profiles of great men written by one of our greatest Americans, this book is an important daily reminder that honor and distinction come not from mere popularity but from doing the right thing.



A Walk in Ancient Rome: A Vivid Journey Back in Time, John T. Cullen

This dazzling narrative puts you right on the streets of ancient Rome, and brings the ancient

world vibrantly to life, in all its sights and sounds and smells. This is what I endeavor to do for my students!

Suzy Gershman's Born to Shop Italy: the Ultimate Guide for Travelers Who Love to Shop, Suzy Gershman

What can I say? This is an absolutely indispensable guide to the best shopping secrets in my favorite city, for pros (like me) and novices alike. I wouldn't leave home without it!

Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking, Marcella Hazan

The vital daily supplement to what my mother and grandmother taught me about cooking. *Mille grazie*, Marcella!

The Best of Mutts, Patrick McDonnell

For a shot of cool humor, Zen-like truth, and just plain fun, I read *Mutts* every day. Mooch is the Snoopy of our times.

Fred Harris

Professor Emeritus, Political Science
UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

The Return of the Native, Thomas Hardy

As a university freshman, I was fascinated by Hardy's indelible drawings of the lives and doings of the fictional characters that inhabited the mysterious heath.

Wah-to-Yah and the Taos Trail, Lewis H. Garrard

This compelling true-life adventure account of an eastern boy who signed on with a bunch of early-day fur trappers to follow the Santa Fe Trail first captured my imagination long before I'd ever been to Taos.

North Toward Home, Willie Morris

I was so impressed by this poignant early-age memoir by a young Mississippian, the late Willie Morris—who, after a stopover in Texas, made his home for a time in Manhattan as editor of *Harper's Magazine*—that I had my friend, publisher and author Bennett Cerf, host a dinner party in his home so I could meet him.

Team of Rivals, Doris Kearns Goodwin

This terrific book by my longtime friend, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, shows what a skillful and effective politician and president Abraham Lincoln was and how smart and self-confident he was to bring his great rivals right into his cabinet.

Profiles in Courage, John F. Kennedy

I was greatly inspired, before I myself went to the US Senate, by then Senator Kennedy's award-winning book about the most notable examples of political courage exhibited by a number of former members of the Senate—taking an unpopular position because they thought it was right.

Shiame Okunor

Executive Director, The Charlie Morrissey Education Center
UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

The Holy Bible

The Heart and The Mind, Guy Endore

A Black Theology of Liberation, James Cone

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

Speeches of Kwame Nkrumah, Samuel Obeng

In short, each of these books recounts or depicts in varied ways the eternal tug-of-war between intellectualization and activism and between spiritualization of the gospel and social gospel or liberation theology. I have read *The Heart and The Mind* and *A Black Theology of Liberation* about three times each. *The Bible* is also a constant companion.

Robert Treat Paine Jr.

Distinguished Professor,
Chemistry

(several very worthwhile books read in 2007)

Weight of Glory and *Mere Christianity*, CS Lewis

Both have their origins in WWII radio talks by the author and both offer food for thought regarding modern day struggles in our society.

Ghost Stories, Hampton Sides *Flags of Our Fathers*, James Bradley

I enjoy historical accounts from WWII events, I suppose in part because my father, his brothers, and my wife's family were participants in the European and Pacific theaters.

These two were of the can't-put-down variety. The war stories are moving, but the real stories are about the fabulous generation of people that went off to do the ugly fighting.

Bo's Lasting Lessons, Bo Schembechler and John U. Bacon

I also enjoy reading about leaders, some real, some imitators, and their insights on leadership. I am a Michigan grad so this had special impact for me, but the lessons are well worth reading even for those who have never heard of the man.

Rumpole mysteries, John Mortimer

Lastly, I enjoy light reading at bedtime and Rumpole mystery stories provide a good laugh before lights out and a solid night's sleep.

James Brown

Distinguished Professor, Biology

The Origin of Species, Charles Darwin

This is still a source of inspiration for me and many other biologists. Filled with amazing observations, critical insights, and creative thoughts.

The Ecological Implications of Body Size, Robert Henry Peters

I use this reference book more than any other in my own research. Peters was a distinguished Canadian ecologist/biologist who died at an early age.

The Best of Sunset: Recipes from the Magazine of Western Living, Editors of Sunset Books

A collection of excellent recipes that I use all the time in my hobby of cooking.

Tapas: The Little Dishes of Spain, Penelope Casas

Another source of inspiration for my cooking.

History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark, To the Sources of the Missouri, thence across the Rocky Mountains and ... Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

We have a copy of the original 1814 edition that has been passed down in my family. The superb first-hand account of perhaps the greatest expedition of exploration in the history of humankind.

I love to read early western Americana.



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Sharlene Begay-Platero, '86 BBA, was named Developer of the Year by the State of New Mexico last fall. She works for the Navajo Nation's Division of Economic Development and helps manage the tribe's industrial sites and other economic development projects. Sharlene lives in Gallup.

Marty Esquivel, '86 BA, '89 JD, was recently included in the 25th anniversary edition of *The Best Lawyers in America-2008* in the specialty of First Amendment Law. He is a shareholder in the Narvaez Law Firm in Albuquerque, and serves on the APS Board of Education.

Matthew W. Parkes, '86 BA, says that since becoming a licensed general securities representative, he has consistently recommended municipal bonds issued by UNM. In 2004, he became a licensee branch office of JP Turner & Co. in Albuquerque where he is senior investment executive. He entered the 2007 Stock Trading Challenge sponsored by CNBC, and of the million-plus participants, his final ranking was within the top 16 percent.

Keri Sutter, '86 BFA, presented a workshop on movement for public speakers at the Toastmasters International convention in Phoenix last August. Keri is with Surgite, a sacred dance company in Albuquerque.

Ruth Ann Castellano-Piatt, '87 BA, has been appointed tax manager at Pulakos & Alongi, in Albuquerque.

Dean Duane, '87 BA, is a 19-year veteran of the Tinton Falls, New Jersey, Police Department. His wife, **Sheila McBride Duane**, '83 BA is an English instructor at Brookdale Community College, in Lincroft, New Jersey.

Willard Sakiestewa Gilbert, '87 DEd, is serving as president of the National Indian Education Association for 2007-2008. He is from the village of Moenkopi, and is professor of education at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Lawrence H. Holmes, '87 MAPA, has joined RCI in Albuquerque as finance director.

Debra Winkeljohn, '87 BSJU, '96 MS, has obtained a license to practice as a clinical nurse specialist. Debra is with Hematology Oncology Associates in Albuquerque.

Margaret "Maggie" Werner-Washburne

Professor, Biology
UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

The Heights of Machu Picchu (Las Alturas de Machu Picchu) and *We are Many*, Pablo Neruda

Pablo Neruda opened my eyes to the amazing world of poetry and literature of Latin America. He loves history, women, and the sea, and uses Spanish of the common person in a way that opens the reader's eyes to new ways of seeing things.

One Hundred Years of Solitude, Gabriel Garcia Márquez

This was the first book I ever read that described my family. For 21 years I felt that I was the only one whose Grandmother spoke to angels and whose aunts wrote to invisible doctors. This book allowed me to stop fearing what I had experienced growing up and start embracing it.

Paula, Isabel Allende.

This is about the last year of Allende's daughter's life. It was perfection in its balance of pain, joy, and laughter—and the ending was celestial. It is the kind of book that, after you read it, gets put on an altar.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian and *Flight*, Sherman Alexie

Sherman Alexie has an amazing talent to bring you into the lives of his characters. You find yourself laughing and crying and, in the *Diary*, when people die, even gasping in shock.

I Ching

"Time is fleeting, learning is vast, no one knows the duration of one's life. Therefore, choose the swan's art of making milk from

water, and devote thyself to the most precious path." The Taoist philosophy of the *I Ching* has helped me get a different perspective through many challenging times and understand how to see difficulties as blessings.

A Feeling for the Organism, Evelyn Fox Keller

This is a biography of Barbara McClintock, a Nobel Laureate in Genetics who was so driven by her passion for science that having to be brought into the back door of places where she was to give a talk—places that women couldn't belong—didn't seem to faze her. She understood that DNA contained mobile elements from her studies of corn before the structure of DNA was known and decades before one gene was sequenced.

Miguel Gandert

Professor, Communication
and Journalism
UNM Alumni Association
Faculty Award recipient

The Miracle of Mindfulness,
Thich Nhat Hanh

For a photographer, the lessons on meditation are invaluable for learning to see and concentrate. The three words "be here now" help us separate our mental baggage and focus on the world in front of the camera.

México Profundo,
Guillermo Bonfil Batalla

The late Mexican anthropologist Bonfil Batalla examines the conflicts of the *mestizo* Mexican people in their relationship to the two Mexicos, the one the West's linear time and the other of Amerindian circular time.

The Reenchantment of Art,
Suzi Gablik

Suzi Gablik writes about art's failures and how we need to look at art based on its power to change the world and educate, not just on its market value.

A Sense of Place,
A Sense of Time, JB Jackson

My time working with JB Jackson in the 1980s and the clarity and simple elegance of his writings gave me a clear way of looking at how people and culture shape the world and our place in it.

The Hidden Dimension,
Edward T. Hall

This book helped me see the importance of space in the frame and its relation to culture. It also helped show me the significance of where I place myself in relationship to what I photograph.



Leslie Donovan

Associate Professor, University Honors Program
UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

The Lord of the Rings, JRR Tolkien

Tolkien's epic never fails to bring tears to my eyes. What it says about connecting with others across boundaries of race, class, and culture and about our relationships to the natural and supernatural world are extremely important. Yet, the reason this book is at the top of my list is because of what it says about the power of the individual will, the value of love and friendship, and, most especially, how even the smallest of us can make a difference.

The Duino Elegies and *Sonnets to Orpheus*, Rainer Maria Rilke

Rilke's attention to the layers of meaning in words, sounds, and our interactions with others and with nature resonates strongly for me. I think a great deal about Rilke's insistence that we appreciate and honor beauty wherever we find it. Reading Rilke makes me feel like I matter and that everything has a purpose.

Tao Te Ching, Lao Tsu

For someone who considers herself spiritual rather than religious, the Tao is a text that always rests in my heart. It spans all ages and cultures to provide important lessons and ways of thinking. If I were sent off into space, never to see Earth again, I would want to have the Tao with me as a comfort and as a guide.

Beowulf

I live with this anonymous Old English epic as closely as if it were a member of my family. Its hero represents the very best in humanity. The poem's powerful themes and language carry messages about fate, faith in one's self, and duty to others that make me feel strong and able to tackle whatever comes my way.

Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf

This quiet little text demonstrates unmatched clarity of style and purpose. Its turns of phrases and sentences are often brilliant and sometimes heart-stopping in their simple eloquence. This text speaks to me, about the meaning of each individual life and the ways those lives are connected to others.

Rodney Ewing

Regents Professor Emeritus,
Earth and Planetary Sciences

The Origin of Species, Charles Darwin

Wonderfully written science.

Skeptical Essays, Bertrand Russell

I have read almost all that Russell has written. He liberated me from my upbringing and my environment.

Crossing to Safety, Wallace Stegner

A story that could be one's own life.

Disgrace, JM Coetzee

A complicated story with beautiful imagery.

Day of the Bees, Thomas Sanchez

A great love story

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Lorin Abbey, '88 BUS, has been elected to a three-year term on the Santa Fe Association of Realtors Board of Directors. Lorin has been an associate broker with Southeby's International Realty since 2005 and was named the Association's "2006 Rookie of the Year."

John April, '88 BSCE, has more than 15 years' experience in environmental engineering with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Bechtel, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. For the past two years he has worked on Department of Homeland Security projects. He recently completed a pilot project in Karachi, Pakistan, involving freight security. John lives in Richland, Washington.

Sandra Matthews, '88 MA, '98 PhD, published her first book last fall, *Between Breaths: A Teacher in the Alaskan Bush* (UNM Press), the story of Donna McGladrey who was lost in a plane crash in Alaska. Sandra says she never met Donna, who was her mother's twin sister, until she wrote the book. Sandra is associate professor of history at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln.

Randall D. Roybal, '88 BA, has been elected to the board of directors of the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel, the national association of judicial misconduct prosecutors and investigators. The Albuquerque resident is deputy director and chief of staff attorney for the New Mexico Judicial Standards Commission.

Jennifer Stone, '88 BA, '91 JD, has joined the Rodey Law Firm in Albuquerque where she will practice in the business department, representing hospitals, insurers, medical groups, healthcare professionals, etc. Previously, she was general counsel and deputy cabinet secretary for the New Mexico Department of Health.

David Craven

Distinguished Professor, Art and Art History

Meditations, Marcus Aurelius

This is a legendary set of “stoic” reflections on the nature of human existence and a guidebook on how to confront life with poise and equanimity.



Das Kapital, Karl Marx

This world famous book first introduced such terms as “commodity fetishism” and “commodity production,” while demonstrating the inherent structural paradoxes and social inequities of modern capitalism... It remains a *sine qua non* text for understanding contemporary phenomena.

Das Kunstwerk im Zeitalter seiner technischen Reproduzierbarkeit (The Work of Art in the Age

of Mechanical Reproduction), Walter Benjamin

Long before key writers from the 1960s did so, Benjamin introduced such ideas as the “death of the artist,” the ascendancy of the viewer in relation to the polyvalence of visual images, and the unavoidable link between fascist militarism and a corporate capitalism in crisis.

Phénoménologie de la Perception, Maurice Merleau-Ponty

This is one of the most stringent philosophical examinations ever written of how we see what we see and why vision is not only receptive but also projective. A striking insight here concerns how, in artistic creation, conception can never entirely precede execution, just as in perception there is no vision without cognition.

Pedagogia do oprimido (Pedagogy of the Oppressed), Paulo Freire

This landmark book on “dialogical education” contains some of the most significant thoughts of the 20th century on how to radically democratize teaching in favor of popular self-empowerment.

Howard Waitzkin

Distinguished Professor, Sociology and Medicine

The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844, Friedrich Engels

The first major work on the social determinants of illness—a classic in social epidemiology.

Capital, Karl Marx

Still (in my opinion) the best source for understanding the fundamental characteristics of capitalism.

The Prison Notebooks, Antonio Gramsci

Essential to understand why people consent to oppressive social conditions, through the impact of ideologic “hegemony.”

The Open Veins of Latin America, Eduardo Galeano

Still the best and most gripping social history concerning the exploitation of Latin America over the centuries and the sources of resistance.

Lawrence Straus

Distinguished Professor, Anthropology

King Lear, William Shakespeare

The greatest and most human of the tragedies, with profound lessons for us all.

Don Quixote, Miguel de Cervantes

Despite all the odds and in the face of the absurd, a life worth living keeps tilting at the windmills that the world throws up at us.

The Spanish Civil War, Hugh Thomas

To deal with the present, we must understand the past, its passions, paradoxes, and on-going reality.

Fossil Man in Spain (*El Hombre Fossil*), Hugo Obermaier

Still the Bible for Paleolithic prehistorians of Spain, written by a man who gave his life for science and conscience.

Billy Budd, Herman Melville

Impending doom.

Candide, Voltaire

Despite everything, one must muddle through.

The Night Visitor and Other Stories, B. Traven

Key to understanding Mexican society, through wonderful fiction

The Miracle of Mindfulness, Thich Nhat Hanh

A very helpful guide to meditational practice and its relevance to sociopolitical practice.

Tey Diana Rebolledo

Distinguished and Regents' Professor, Spanish
UNM Alumni Association Faculty Award recipient

La respuesta a Sor Filotea, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

Sor Juana was a nun living in Mexico; this is her intellectual biography in which she confronts high-church authority... This is a passionate treatise about the right of women to education, infused with irony and sharp social comment.

Against the Grain (A Rebours), JK Huysmans

A decadent French experimental novel about the life of the mind and aesthetics in which the hero, Duc Jean des Esseintes, searches out the essences of things, combining them with all possible senses and sensations. Shocking in its time, it has become a classic novel of the search for enlarged imagined experiences and new sensations.

Trilce, César Vallejo

Vallejo is a major Peruvian poet of the 20th century. The poems combine language experimentation, including the invention of new words, such as *trilce*, with social commentary and the loss of love.

Agua Santa/Holy Water, Pat Mora

I particularly like the section titled “Cuarteto Mexicano” where Mora, a Chicana poet, portrays four icons of Chicano/Mexicano culture in talk show interviews. They seize their own voices, and give advice to today’s generation.

Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer, Peter Turchi

This is my current reading. It has changed my perceptions on how we see and symbolize space and how we imagine our surroundings. Never again will I take maps for granted or think that what they are mapping is real.

Gary Scharnhorst

Distinguished Professor, English

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

The quintessentially American tale of individualism and non-conformity.

The Higher Learning in America, Thorstein Veblen

A reality check for every academic, past or present.

Without Feathers, Woody Allen

The last book I laughed while reading.

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck.

The last book I wept while reading.

The Quest for Corvo, A. J. A. Symons

Half-life story, half detective story, it inspired me to try my hand at literary biography.



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Leslie Venezuela, '88 BA, has returned to UNM as the new marketing officer at the Anderson School of Management. Previously, she worked as a news producer at KOAT-TV and then as the public relations & marketing director at the Albuquerque Museum.

Lillian Montoya-Rael, '89 BA, '98 MBA, UNM Alumni Association president, has joined Smith Barney in Santa Fe as a financial advisor and Guided Portfolio Manager.

Jorge Burbano, '90 MARC, serves as project designer for Ratcliff, an architectural firm in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has been awarded the American Institute of Architects' Alpha Rho Chi Medal. He is currently guiding the design of several projects, including Junipero Sierra High School in San Mateo and Golden Gate University's Law Library.

Kermit Lopez, '90 BSEE, '94 JD, is a patent attorney and partner with the intellectual property law firm of Ortiz & Lopez, in Albuquerque. He recently published an historical novel set in 1800's New Mexico, entitled *Cibolero*.

Timothy Kochery, '91 MA, is now director of Hamline University's new Center for Academic Technology in St. Paul, Minnesota. Its mission is to support faculty members in enhancing teaching, learning, and research through the uses of technology.

Cristina Ortega, '91 MA, is the author of another story from her New Mexico Hispanic heritage, entitled *The Key to Grandpa's House* (UNM Press). She lives in Albuquerque.

Lisa Hepner, '92 BS, is the creator of the Meditation Challenge whose goal is to help 100,000 people develop the habit of meditation. She does this by converting waiting rooms across the country into meditating rooms as part of the national Don't Wait-Meditate T campaign. Lisa lives in Portland.

Cameron Weber, '92 MBA, has published his first book, *Economics for Everyone*, a summary for the layman. His website is cameroneconomics.com. Cameron lives in Brooklyn and is in graduate school at the New School for Social Research.

LeManuel Lee Bitsóí, '93 AALA, '95 BS, has received his EdD in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. He continues as director of minority training in genomics/bioinformatics