



Lisa Russ Spaar (Col '78, Grad '82) is a poet and U.Va. professor of creative writing. Her upcoming books are *Satin Cash: Poems* and *All That Mighty Heart: London Poems*.

What book have you read the most times?

Goodnight Moon, the iconic mid-20th-century childhood picture book/poem by Margaret Wise Brown and hauntingly illustrated by Clement Hurd. Though I encountered the book first as a child myself, I became re-

acquainted with it when my firstborn, at age 3, became obsessed with the book and wanted me to read it aloud to her every night for over a year. As a chronic insomniac and poet, and as a middle-aged mother of an emptying domestic nest, I find that I'm still affected by the book's dreamy, talismanic, vesper-like litany of all the things we name, honor and protect by wishing them a good night before we sleep.

What neglected or lost classic would you recommend to readers?

The Master Letters of Emily Dickinson (edited by R.W. Franklin) are not familiar to many lay readers of poetry. These three extraordinary documents, discovered after Dickinson's death and thought to be perhaps part of a larger correspondence, are written in her hand to someone she calls "Master." Though there is much speculation about the identity of the recipient of these missives, and whether the letters were ever actually posted, there can be no doubt about the startlingly beautiful and tormented poetic mastery of their maker.

What are you reading now?

I always jump-start each summer by reading or rereading a Shakespeare play, so I've just finished *Romeo and Juliet*, which I haven't read since 1985. I was struck this time by Juliet's magnificence—by the ardent, intrepid power of her voice, sexuality and volition. I'm reading work by some of my colleagues—Sydney Blair's novel *Buffalo*; Stephen Cushman's new book of poems, *Heart Island*; Charles Wright's *Littlefoot*; and Chris Tilghman's *The Way People Run*, as well as new books of poems by U.Va. graduates Don Platt, Kyle Dargan, Larissa Szporluk and Mary Szybist. For fun, I'm rereading Franz Kafka's *Blue Octavo Notebooks*, Anne Carson's *Decreation*, and Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. I recently finished reading Iain Sinclair's *London: City of Disappearances*, an edited anthology that excavates the "fugitive scraps" of London's shifting, unvoiced histories and landscapes. Because I am a reading poet who finds inspiration in other texts for my own work, I am savoring, in relation to a printmaking/poetry writing project, *Strange Blooms: The Curious Lives and Adventures of the John Tradescants*, as well as the genre-defying *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder: Pronged Ants, Horned Humans, Mice on Toast, and Other Marvels of Jurassic Technology* by Lawrence Weschler.

Is there a particular book that you can say changed your life?

In one way or another, every book I read changes me. Whether I'm reading Virginia Woolf, the Brontës, or the most recent issue of *Savour*, I'm grateful for the ways in which reading allows what Sven Birkerts calls "the delicious excavation of the self through another's sentences." Every book I read, like everything I attempt to write, alters my perception, and deepens or challenges my understanding.

Where is your favorite place to read?

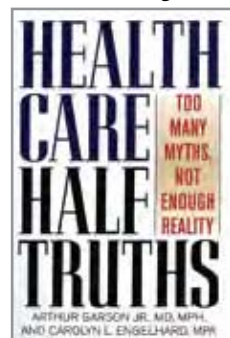
As a mother of three with a full-time job, I've learned to read just about anywhere. I try not to read while driving, but do read at stoplights and in parking lots. I like to read near a window and with at least two, preferably three, writing surfaces nearby—one for the computer, dictionary and thesaurus; one for any scholarly note-taking; and one for my own creative responses.

New & Notable

Health Care Half Truths: Too Many Myths, Not Enough Reality

Arthur Garson Jr. (faculty) and Carolyn L. Englehard (Grad '88, faculty)
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

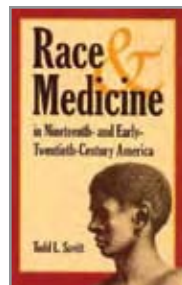
Our health care system is terminal, according to the authors, but the system shouldn't be fixed in smoky backrooms or in the boardrooms of insurance conglomerates. Each of us must be inspired to work on it, but first we need a common set of information. To that end, the book enumerates 20 major myths about our current health-care system, such as the false notion that America's healthcare is the most expensive in the world or that preventive care saves money.



Race and Medicine in Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century America

Todd L. Savitt (Grad '70, '75)
Kent State University Press

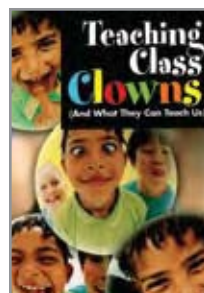
During the era of slavery, racism and often faulty medical theories contributed to an atmosphere in which African Americans were seen as chattel, and those attitudes continued into the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras. These essays examine different aspects of African-American medical history, including medical experimentation, early medical schools and slave life insurance.



Teaching Class Clowns (And What They Can Teach Us)

William Watson Purkey (Educ '57, '64)
Corwin Press

A veteran educator explains how to teach these unique but at-risk students, and how to leverage their blend of humor and



intelligence to inject joy and enthusiasm into the classroom. The author's concise guide gives teachers classroom strategies to keep instruction moving and keep the class clowns from acting out.



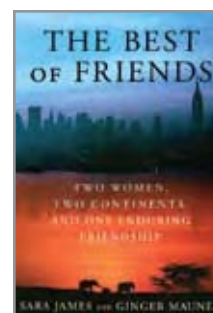
The Way Life Should Be
Christina Baker Kline
(Grad '90)
William Morrow

A novel about love, food, risk and self-discovery, it centers on Angela Russo, 33 and single, stuck in a life that seems to have just happened. When she impulsively decides to risk it all and move to Maine to pursue a budding romance, things don't turn out quite as she expected.

The Best of Friends: Two Women, Two Continents, and One Enduring Friendship

Sara James (Col '83) and Ginger Mauney
William Morrow

In this dual memoir, *Dateline* news correspondent and veteran anchor Sara James and National Geographic filmmaker Ginger Mauney explore their learning curves in life, as seen through the lens of their 33-year friendship. In alternating chapters, they record their unfolding lives from their mid-20s through their 40s, with James building a career in broadcasting in New York City and Mauney working in rural Africa. With each other's support, they find ways to balance marriage, motherhood and creative careers.



The Japanese Money Tree: How Investors Can Prosper from Japan's Economic Rebirth

Andrew H. Shipley (Com '87)
FT Press

An economist who has worked extensively in Japan, the author provides insights into the current state of Japanese financial markets, which are emerging from a decade of deflation, banking failures and other prob-



lems. He gives readers the tools to assess where and how to make money in Japan's often opaque economy.

The Good Life of Helen K. Nearing

Margaret O. Killinger (Col '88)
University of Vermont Press

In this biography of the famous homesteader, author and icon of back-to-the-country living, Killinger looks at her spiritual formation as a member of the early-20th-century Theosophical Society and examines her complex relationship with the socialist Scott Nearing, with whom she left New York City in 1932 to begin a new life as pioneer homesteaders in rural New England.



The Manuscript
Michael Stephen Fuchs
(Col '92)
MacMillan Publishers

In this debut novel, a group of unlikely characters searches for a mysterious manuscript concealed on a hidden Web site on the Internet. The document is rumored to reveal the meaning of life, and vying for its contents are gun-toting urban professionals, hackers, hit men, mercenaries, federal agents and a gang of angry young Taoists.

On Dream Street: Poems

Melanie Almeder (Col '87)
Tupelo Press

Almeder's first collection of poetry is also the winner of the Tupelo Press Editor's Prize. The poet Gregory Orr says: "In these magnificent poems, it's as if Emily Dickinson's compression and intelligence were stretched out over a longer, sinuous line that wraps around itself and searches out significance in observations rendered so so intense they transform into vision." She currently teaches creative writing and contemporary literature at Roanoke College.



Bestsellers at the UVA Bookstore

APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2007

FICTION/POETRY

1. **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris
2. **Labyrinth** by Kate Mosse
3. **Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim** by David Sedaris
4. **The Road** by Cormac McCarthy
5. **Naked** by David Sedaris
6. **Wizard of the Crow** by Ngugi Wa'Thiong'O
7. **The Zombie Survival Guide** by Max Brooks
8. **A Man Without a Country** by Kurt Vonnegut
9. **Barrel Fever** by David Sedaris
10. **The Yiddish Policemen's Union** by Michael Chabon

NONFICTION

1. **Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage** by Alfred Lansing
2. **Blink** by Malcolm Gladwell
3. **The Good Fight** by Ralph Nader
4. **Civic Arousal** by Ralph Nader
5. **The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast** by Douglas Brinkley
6. **The Sixth Year Itch: The Rise and Fall of the George W. Bush Presidency** by Larry Sabato (Col '74, faculty)
7. **The Seventeen Traditions** by Ralph Nader
8. **The Happiness Hypothesis** by Jonathan Haidt (faculty)
9. **Eat, Pray, Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert
10. **Stumbling on Happiness** by Daniel Gilbert