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Featured Bookshelf: 2018 Back to School

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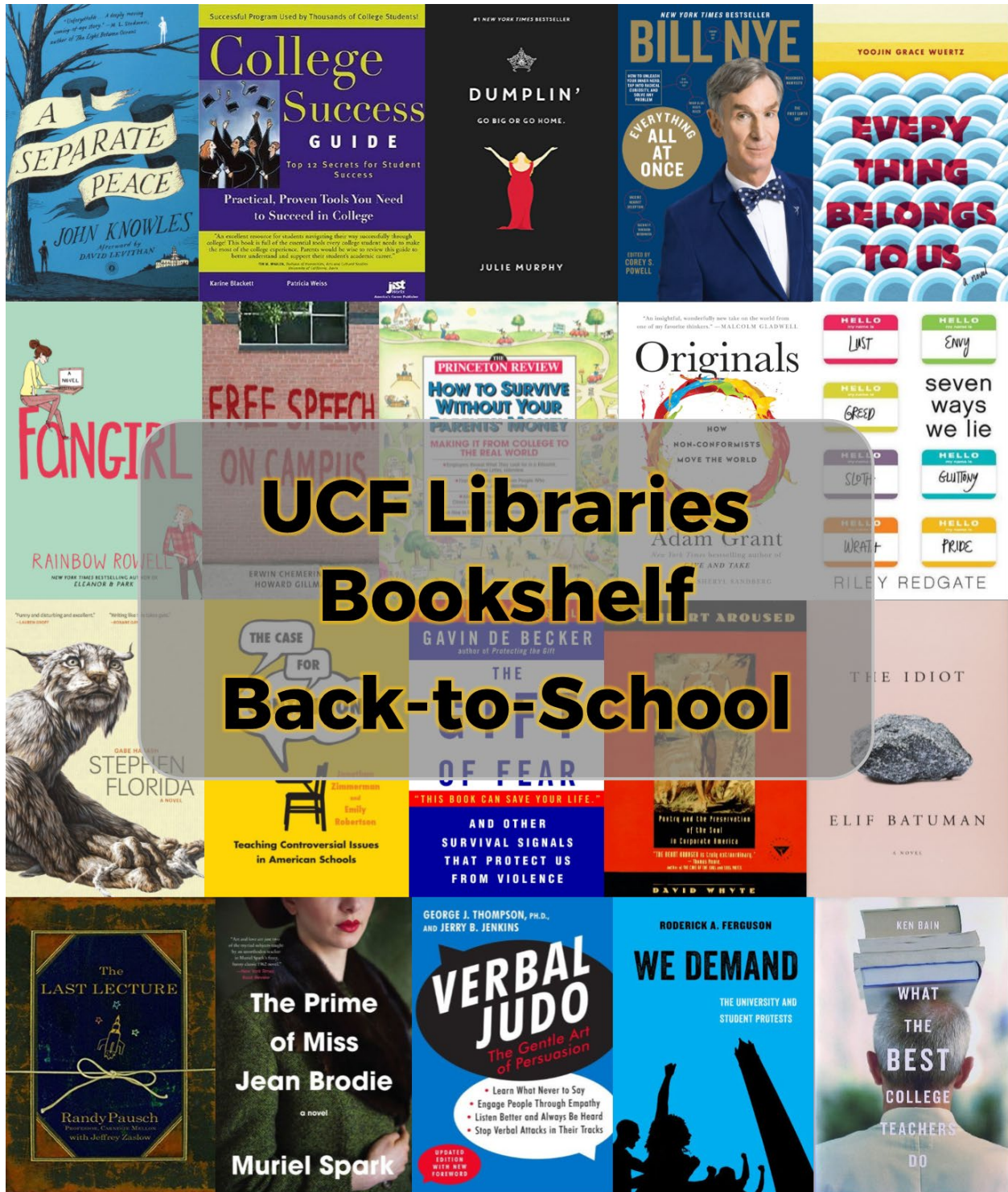
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It's August already and the summer is almost over. Time really does fly by. June and July were tiny blips on the calendar. It feels like just last week that spring classes were ending and summer classes beginning.

School will be starting up again in a few short weeks. We'll have a full cohort of students back on campus. The lines for coffee will be never ending and a free parking space will be nowhere to be found. Life will definitely get more exciting.

UCF Libraries faculty and staff suggested a stack of books to help you get back in the mindset for learning. They range from academic subjects to fun fiction to college success tips. Welcome to the 2018-19 academic year!

Keep reading to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links for the featured Back-so-School titles suggested by UCF Library employees. These 20 books plus many more are also on display on the 2nd (main) floor of the John C. Hitt Library next to the bank of two elevators.

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[A Separate Peace](#) by John Knowles

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

Suggested by Larry Cooperman, Research & Information Services, and Meg Scharf, Administration

[College Success Guide: top 12 secrets to student success](#) by Karine Blackett and Patricia Weiss

College Success Guide is designed to walk college students through steps that are proven to make them successful in college and life. The authors have compiled statistics from both campus and online students, along with student feedback throughout the past three years of college instruction. From that data, they have found "12 keys" make students successful. College is very expensive; these 12 secrets will help college students be better prepared for college and protect their investment. Not only will it help achieve better grades, but it will also teach them valuable skills for life and their career.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[Dumplin'](#) by Julie Murphy

Dubbed "Dumplin'" by her former beauty queen mom, Willowdean has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American-beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked . . . until Will takes a job at Harpy's, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back. Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any twiggy girl does. Along the way, she'll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Everything All at Once: how to unleash your inner nerd, tap into radical curiosity, and solve any problem](#) by Bill Nye

Everyone has an inner nerd just waiting to be awakened by the right passion. In *Everything All at Once*, Bill Nye will help you find yours. With his call to arms, he wants you to examine every detail of the most difficult problems that look unsolvable—that is, until you find the solution. Bill shows you how to develop critical thinking skills and create change, using his “everything all at once” approach that leaves no stone unturned.

Suggested by Cindy Dancel, Research & Information Services

[Everything Belongs to Us](#) by Yoojin Grace Wuertz

This debut novel takes place at the elite Seoul National University in 1970s South Korea during the final years of a repressive regime. The novel follows the fates of two women--Jisun, the daughter of a powerful tycoon, who eschews her privilege to become an underground labor activist in Seoul; and Namin, her best friend from childhood, a brilliant, tireless girl who has grown up with nothing, and whose singular goal is to launch herself and her family out of poverty. Drawn to both of these women is Sunam, a seeming social-climber who is at heart a lost boy struggling to find his place in a cutthroat world. And at the edges of their friendship is Junho, whose ambitions have taken him to new heights in the university's most prestigious social club, called "the circle," and yet who guards a dangerous secret that is tied to his status. Wuertz explores the relationships that bind these students to each other, as well as the private anxieties and desires that drive them to succeed.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[Fangirl](#) by Rainbow Rowell

Being consummate fans of the Simon Snow series helped Cath and her twin sister, Wren, cope as little girls whose mother left them, but now, as they start college but not as roommates, Cath fears she is unready to live without Wren holding her hand--and without her passion for Snow.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections, and Emma Gisclair, Curriculum Materials Center

[Free Speech on Campus](#) by Erwin Chemerinsky and Howard Gillman

Hardly a week goes by without another controversy over free speech on college campuses. On one side, there are increased demands to censor hateful, disrespectful, and bullying expression and to ensure an inclusive and nondiscriminatory learning environment. On the other side are traditional free speech advocates who charge that recent demands for censorship coddle students and threaten free inquiry. In this clear and carefully reasoned book, a university chancellor and a law school dean—both constitutional scholars who teach a course in free speech to undergraduates—argue that campuses must provide supportive learning environments for an increasingly diverse student body but can never restrict the expression of ideas. This book provides the background necessary to understanding the importance of free speech on campus and offers clear prescriptions for what colleges can and can't do when dealing with free speech controversies.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[How to Survive Without Your Parents' Money: making it from college to the real world](#) by Geoff Martz

Offers sound advice to both students and graduates, including tips on resumes, cover letters, and

interviews; using job placement centers; alternative job options; and more.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

[Originals: How Non-conformists Move the World](#) by Adam Grant

How can we originate new ideas, policies, and practices without risking it all? Using surprising studies and stories spanning business, politics, sports, and entertainment, Grant explores how to recognize a good idea, speak up without getting silenced, build a coalition of allies, choose the right time to act, and manage fear and doubt; how parents and teachers can nurture originality in children; and how leaders can fight groupthink to build cultures that welcome dissent.

Suggested by Tina Buck, Acquisitions & Collections

[Seven Ways We Lie](#) by Riley Redgate

In *Seven Ways We Lie*, a chance encounter tangles the lives of seven high school students, each resisting the allure of one of the seven deadly sins, and each telling their story from their seven distinct points of view. Riley Redgate's twisty YA debut effortlessly weaves humor, heartbreak, and redemption into a drama that fans of Jenny Han and Stephanie Perkins will adore.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Stephen Florida](#) by Gabe Habash

Foxcatcher meets *The Art of Fielding*, *Stephen Florida* follows a college wrestler in his senior season, when every practice, every match, is a step closer to greatness and a step further from sanity. Profane, manic, and tipping into the uncanny, it's a story of loneliness, obsession, and the drive to leave a mark.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[The Case for Contention: Teaching Controversial Subjects in American Schools](#) by Jonathan Zimmerman and Emily Robertson

From the fights about the teaching of evolution to the details of sex education, it may seem like American schools are hotbeds of controversy. But as Jonathan Zimmerman and Emily Robertson show in this insightful book, it is precisely because such topics are so inflammatory outside school walls that they are so commonly avoided within them. And this, they argue, is a tremendous disservice to our students. Armed with a detailed history of the development of American educational policy and norms and a clear philosophical analysis of the value of contention in public discourse, they show that one of the best things American schools should do is face controversial topics dead on, right in their classrooms.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[The Gift of Fear: survival signals that protect us from violence](#) by Gavin de Becker

Covering all the dangerous situations people typically face -- street crime, domestic abuse, violence in the workplace -- de Becker provides real-life examples and offers specific advice on restraining orders, self-defense, and more. But the key to self-protection, he demonstrates, is learning how to trust -- and act on -- our own intuitions.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[The Heart Aroused: poetry and the preservation of the soul in corporate America](#) by David Whyte

In *The Heart Aroused*, David Whyte brings his unique perspective as poet and consultant to the workplace, showing readers how fulfilling work can be when they face their fears and follow their dreams. Going beneath the surface concerns about products and profits, organization and order, Whyte addresses the needs of the heart and soul, and the fears and desires that many workers keep hidden.

Suggested by Rebecca Hawk, Circulation

[The Idiot](#) by Elif Batuman

A portrait of the artist as a young woman. A novel about not just discovering but inventing oneself. *The Idiot* is a heroic yet self-effacing reckoning with the terror and joy of becoming a person in a world that is as intoxicating as it is disquieting. Batuman's fiction is unguarded against both life's affronts and its beauty--and has at its command the complete range of thinking and feeling which they entail.

Suggested by Sara Duff, Acquisitions & Collections

[The Last Lecture](#) by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.

Suggested by Renee Montgomery, Teaching & Engagement

[The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie](#) by Muriel Spark

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is Spark's masterpiece, a novel that offers one of twentieth-century English literature's most iconic and complex characters—a woman at once admirable and sinister, benevolent and conniving.

Suggested by Meg Scharf, Administration

[Verbal Judo: words for street survival](#) by George J. Thompson

This book will help police officers and other contact professionals develop verbal strategies that can transform potentially explosive encounters into positive resolutions. It addresses the most difficult problems of the street encounter where quick thinking and spontaneous verbal response often make the difference between life and death. The author explores all kinds of confrontation rhetoric and offers both a theoretical and practical account of how to handle street situations. The principles and techniques described can be used in practically every verbal encounter. Each chapter includes case studies that give readers practice in developing rhetorical strategies for handling street encounters and dealing with the public.

Suggested by Rebecca Hawk, Circulation

[We Demand: the university and student protests](#) by Roderick A. Ferguson

In *We Demand*, Roderick A. Ferguson demonstrates that less than fifty years since this pivotal shift in the

academy, the university is moving away from “the people” in all their diversity. Today the university is refortifying its commitment to the defense of the status quo off campus and the regulation of students, faculty, and staff on campus. The progressive forms of knowledge that the student-led movements demanded and helped to produce are being attacked on every front. Not only is this a reactionary move against the social advances since the '60s and '70s—it is part of the larger threat of anti-intellectualism in the United States.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

What the Best College Teachers Do by Ken Bain

What makes a great teacher great? Who are the professors students remember long after graduation? The short answer is--it's not what teachers do, it's what they understand. Lesson plans and lecture notes matter less than the special way teachers comprehend the subject and value human learning. Whether historians or physicists, in El Paso or St. Paul, the best teachers know their subjects inside and out--but they also know how to engage and challenge students and to provoke impassioned responses. Most of all, they believe two things fervently: that teaching matters and that students can learn.

Suggested by Renee Montgomery, Teaching & Engagement

Tumblr post: <https://ucflibrary.tumblr.com/post/176516496772/its-august-already-and-the-summer-is-almost-over>

Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-back-to-school2018/>