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Featured Bookshelf: 2019 Back to School

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Back to School Featured Bookshelf



The summer semester is ending and the prep for fall has started. It's only a few short weeks until the 2019-2020 academic year begins. 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.

Libraries staff has pulled together a full list of books that cover a whole range of areas. Some books are for our graduating students wondering what comes next. Some books are to help new incoming students start the year successfully. We even have books that

staff read when they were your age (yep, books existed that long ago) that changed how they thought about the world.

Welcome to the 2019-20 academic year!

Keep reading below to see the full list, descriptions, and catalog links for the featured Back-so-School titles suggested by UCF Library employees. These 24 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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[Bei qi baba shang xue: Going to school with dad on my back](#) directed by Zhou Youchao

Shiwa, the son of a poor Chinese farmer, is doing well at school. But when his mother dies and his sister leaves the house, he's the only one left to take care of his disabled father.

Suggested by Tim Walker, Information Technology & Digital Initiatives

[Braving the Wilderness: The quest for true belonging and the courage to stand alone](#) by Brené Brown

Social scientist Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW, has sparked a global conversation about the experiences that bring meaning to our lives—experiences of courage, vulnerability, love, belonging, shame, and empathy. In *Braving the Wilderness*, Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization.

Suggested by Kryslynn Collazo, Scholarly Communication

[Close Encounters of the Third-Grade Kind: thoughts on teacherhood](#) by Phillip Done

A twenty-year veteran of the classroom, elementary school teacher Phillip Done takes readers through a lively and hilarious year in the classroom. Starting with the relative calm before the storm of buying school supplies and posting class lists, he shares the distinct personalities of grades K-4, what he learned from two professional trick or treating 8-year-old boys, the art of learning cursive and letter-writing, how kindergartners try to trap leprechauns, and what every child should experience before he or she grows up.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

[Educated: a memoir](#) by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got

himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Suggested by Cindy Dancel, Research & Information Services

Franny and Zooey by J.D. Salinger

The short story, *Franny*, takes place in an unnamed college town and tells the tale of an undergraduate who is becoming disenchanted with the selfishness and inauthenticity she perceives all around her. The novella, *Zooey*, is named for Zooey Glass, the second-youngest member of the Glass family. As his younger sister, Franny, suffers a spiritual and existential breakdown in her parents' Manhattan living room – leaving Bessie, her mother, deeply concerned – Zooey comes to her aid, offering what he thinks is brotherly love, understanding, and words of sage advice.

Suggested by Christina Wray, Teaching & Engagement

Girl, Stop Apologizing: A shame-free plan for embracing and achieving your goals by Rachel Hollis

In *Girl, Stop Apologizing*, Rachel Hollis sounds a wake-up call. She knows that many women have been taught to define themselves in light of other people—whether as wife, mother, daughter, or employee—instead of learning how to own who they are and what they want. With a challenge to women everywhere to stop talking themselves out of their dreams, Hollis identifies the excuses to let go of, the behaviors to adopt, and the skills to acquire on the path to growth, confidence, and believing in yourself.

Suggested by Kryslynn Collazo, Scholarly Communication

Glimmer of Hope: how tragedy sparked a movement by March for Our Lives (Organization)

Glimmer of Hope tells the story of how a group of teenagers raced to channel their rage and sorrow into action, and went on to create one of the largest youth-led movements in global history.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

Hillbilly Elegy: A memoir of a family in culture in crisis by J. D. Vance

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

Suggested by Katy Miller, Research, Education & Engagement

[How to Become a Straight-A Student: the unconventional strategies real college students use to score high while studying less](#) by Cal Newport

Most college students believe that straight A's can be achieved only through cramming and painful all-nighters at the library. But Cal Newport knows that real straight-A students don't study harder—they study smarter. A breakthrough approach to acing academic assignments, from quizzes and exams to essays and papers, *How to Become a Straight-A Student* reveals for the first time the proven study secrets of real straight-A students across the country and weaves them into a simple, practical system that anyone can master.

Suggested by Joanie Reynolds, Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery Services

[How to Win at College: simple rules for success from star students](#) by Cal Newport

What does it take to be a standout student? How can you make the most of your college years—graduate with honors, choose exciting activities, build a head-turning resume, and gain access to the best post-college opportunities? Based on interviews with star students at universities nationwide, from Harvard to the University of Arizona, *How to Win at College* presents seventy-five simple rules that will rocket you to the top of the class.

Suggested by Joanie Reynolds, Interlibrary Loan & Document Delivery Services

[I am Charlotte Simmons](#) by Tom Wolfe

As Charlotte encounters the paragons of Dupont's privileged elite, she is seduced by the heady glamour of acceptance, betraying her values and upbringing before she grasps the power of being different and the exotic allure of her innocence.

Suggested by Jada Reyes, UCF Libraries Student Ambassador

[I Just Graduated... Now What?: honest answers from those who have been there](#) by Katherine Schwarzenegger

Graduation is a time of tough questions whose answers we don't—and sometimes can't—know the day we receive our diploma. Determined to power through the uncertainty of post-graduation, bestselling author Katherine Schwarzenegger embarked on a yearlong quest to gather the best guidance possible from more than thirty highly successful people working in fields like business, media, fashion, technology, sports, and philanthropy.

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

[In Defense of Food: an eater's manifesto](#) by Michael Pollan

Because in the so-called Western diet, food has been replaced by nutrients, and common sense by confusion—most of what we're consuming today is longer the product of nature but of food science. The result is what Michael Pollan calls the American

Paradox: The more we worry about nutrition, the less healthy we see to become. Pollan's bracing and eloquent manifesto shows us how we can start making thoughtful food choices that will enrich our lives, enlarge our sense of what it means to be healthy, and bring pleasure back to eating.

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

Mis(h)adra by Iasmin Omar Ata

An Arab-American college student struggles to live with epilepsy in this starkly colored and deeply-cutting graphic novel. Isaac wants nothing more than to be a functional college student—but managing his epilepsy is an exhausting battle to survive. He attempts to maintain a balancing act between his seizure triggers and his day-to-day schedule, but he finds that nothing—not even his medication—seems to work. The doctors won't listen, the schoolwork keeps piling up, his family is in denial about his condition, and his social life falls apart as he feels more and more isolated by his illness. Even with an unexpected new friend by his side, so much is up against him that Isaac is starting to think his epilepsy might be unbeatable.

Suggested by Emma Gisclair, Curriculum Materials Center

Never Eat Alone and Other Secrets to Success by Keith Ferrazzi with Tahl Raz

In *Never Eat Alone*, Ferrazzi lays out the specific steps—and inner mindset—he uses to reach out to connect with the thousands of colleagues, friends, and associates on his contacts list, people he has helped and who have helped him. And in the time since *Never Eat Alone* was published in 2005, the rise of social media and new, collaborative management styles have only made Ferrazzi's advice more essential for anyone hoping to get ahead in business.

Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

On Beauty by Zadie Smith

Howard Belsey is an Englishman abroad, an academic teaching in Wellington, a college town in New England. Married young, thirty years later he is struggling to revive his love for his African American wife Kiki. Meanwhile, his three teenage children - Jerome, Zora and Levi - are each seeking the passions, ideals and commitments that will guide them through their own lives. After Howard has a disastrous affair with a colleague, his sensitive older son, Jerome, escapes to England for the holidays. In London he defies everything the Belseys represent when he goes to work for Trinidadian right-wing academic and pundit, Monty Kipps. Taken in by the Kipps family for the summer, Jerome falls for Monty's beautiful, capricious daughter, Victoria. But this short-lived romance has long-lasting consequences, drawing these very different families into each other's lives.

Suggested by Jada Reyes, UCF Libraries Student Ambassador

[Parkland: inside building 12](#) produced and directed by Charlie Minn

Acclaimed director Charlie Minn brings attention to the victims of the infamous massacre that occurred on February 14th, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. A normal day at school became a true nightmare for Parkland, Florida citizens as they experienced something they had never thought would happen in their small suburb. In just six minutes, seventeen students and staff were fatally shot and seventeen more were wounded, while innumerable lives were changed forever. The true heroes of that day have come together to tell their stories and to bring words to those who are no longer here to offer them. This documentary reveals testimony and the raw emotions of those involved, highlighting the actions taken by individuals to save the lives of others through selfless and brave acts.

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

[So What Are You Going to Do With That?: a guide to career-changing](#) by Susan Basalla and Maggie Debelius

A witty, accessible guide full of concrete advice for anyone contemplating the jump from scholarship to the outside world, *So What Are You Going to Do with That?* covers topics ranging from career counseling to interview etiquette to translating skills learned in the academy into terms an employer can understand and appreciate. Packed with examples and stories from real people who have successfully made this daunting—but potentially rewarding—transition, and written with a deep understanding of both the joys and difficulties of the academic life, this fully revised and up-to-date edition will be indispensable for any graduate student or professor who has ever glanced at her CV, flipped through the want ads, and wondered, “What if?”

Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement

[Sourdough: or, Lois and her adventures in the underground market](#) by Robin Sloan

Lois Clary is a software engineer at General Dexterity, a San Francisco robotics company with world-changing ambitions. She codes all day and collapses at night, her human contact limited to the two brothers who run the neighborhood hole-in-the-wall from which she orders dinner every evening. Then, disaster! Visa issues. The brothers quickly close up shop. But they have one last delivery for Lois: their culture, the sourdough starter used to bake their bread. She must keep it alive, they tell her—feed it daily, play it music, and learn to bake with it. Lois is no baker, but she could use a roommate, even if it is a needy colony of microorganisms. Soon, not only is she eating her own homemade bread, she’s providing loaves to the General Dexterity cafeteria every day. Then the company chef urges her to take her product to the farmer’s market—and a whole new world opens up..

Suggested by Katy Miller, Research, Education & Engagement

Teacher Man: A memoir by Frank McCourt

In bold and spirited prose featuring his irreverent wit and compelling honesty, McCourt records the trials, triumphs and surprises he faced in the classroom. *Teacher Man* shows McCourt developing his unparalleled ability to tell a great story as, five days a week, five periods per day, he worked to gain the attention and respect of unruly, hormonally charged or indifferent adolescents.

Suggested by Rachel Edford, Teaching & Engagement

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us, as only a few stories can, about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, above all, following our dreams.

Suggested by Christina Wray, Teaching & Engagement

The Secret Lives of Teachers by Anonymous

Welcome to "East Hudson," an elite private school in New York where the students are attentive, the colleagues are supportive, and the tuition would make the average person choke on its string of zeroes. You might think a teacher here would have little in common with most other teachers in America, but as this veteran educator—writing anonymously—shows in this refreshingly honest account, all teachers are bound by a common thread. Stripped of most economic obstacles and freed up by anonymity, he is able to tell a deeper story about the universal conditions, anxieties, foibles, generosity, hopes, and complaints that comprise every teacher's life.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Research & Information Services

We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all....

Suggested by Emma Gisclair, Curriculum Materials Center

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: an inquiry into values by Robert M. Pirsig

Acclaimed as one of the most exciting books in the history of American letters, this modern epic became an instant bestseller upon publication in 1974, transforming a generation and continuing to inspire millions. A narration of a summer motorcycle trip undertaken by a father and his son, the book becomes a personal and philosophical odyssey into fundamental questions of how to live. The narrator's relationship with his son leads to a powerful self-reckoning; the craft of motorcycle maintenance leads to an

austerely beautiful process for reconciling science, religion, and humanism.
Suggested by Sandy Avila, Research & Information Services

Tumblr post: <https://ucflibrary.tumblr.com/post/186698886855/the-summer-semester-is-ending-and-the-prep-for>

Blog post: <https://library.ucf.edu/news/featured-bookshelf-back-to-school-2019/>