

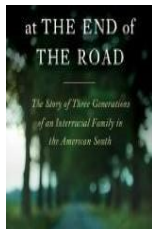
ADELANTE BOOK GROUP DIALOGUES, 2009-2010
Montevallo Branch of AAUW

"Making a World of Difference: Transcending Barriers Through Reading and Discussion"



This year's series includes books from diverse cultures and time frames which address issues of special concern to women and their families. These works explore AAUW's principles of equity for all women and girls, lifelong learning, and positive societal change, and they support our strong belief that inclusiveness and diversity enrich individuals and the community as a whole.

"Love of Art--be it poetry, storytelling, painting, sculpture, or music—enables people to transcend any barrier man has yet devised." – Mary Ann Shaffer, "Acknowledgments," The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Dec. 2007.



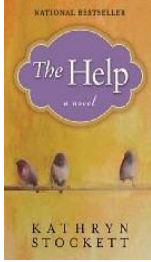
Dialogue I. Wednesday, October 14, 12:00 noon, Sarah Palmer Commons (Comer 202)

Topic: Interracial Connections in Segregated America

***The House at the End of the Road* by Ralph Eubanks. A memoir about an interracial marriage in segregated South Alabama. The book "tells a double story, one about the past and one about the author's attempts to uncover it—the search for family roots that turns into a search for self."(From Washington Post Review.) This book is recommended for Freshmen students and others at the University of Montevallo.**

Author Ralph Eubanks will speak at UM in September 28, at 6:30 p.m. in Anna Irvin Dining Hall. Light Refreshments. Sponsored by the University of Montevallo Multicultural Affairs in Association with Carmichael Library. The public is invited to attend.

Presenter: Rosemary Arneson



***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.**

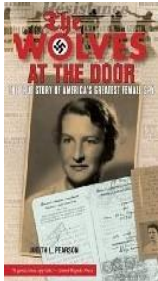
Set during early days of Civil Rights era in Jackson, Mississippi, the book uses alternating white/black perspectives, to explore the lives of Jackson's domestic workers and to trace the social awakening of a privileged young college graduate as she learns the stories of the African American women in her community.

Presenter: Mary Jo Buff

Dialogue II. Wednesday, November 11, Noon, Sarah Palmer Commons (Comer 202)

Topic: Revisiting Wartime Experiences through Biography and Letters

***Wolves at the Door, the Story of America's Greatest Female Spy* by Janet Pearson**

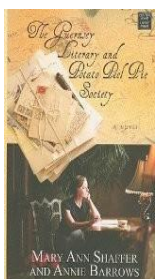


A biography of Virginia Hall, World War II heroine, who, despite the loss of a leg early in life, became a successful spy for Great Britain in Nazi occupied France.

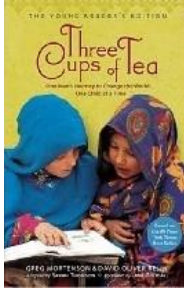
Presenter: Becky Cox Rodgers

***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows**

An epistolary novel about a literary society formed by a group of unlikely, eccentric characters on the island of Guernsey, and about the young female author who champions them, this book is set during and immediately after the WWII Nazi occupation of Guernsey, the book uses a deceptively humorous tone to depict the courage and ingenuity with which the characters face hardship, deprivation, and tragedy. The book serves as a tribute to all book groups, since the literary society enables the characters to prevail and to renew their lives.



Presenter: Marcia Sears



Dialogue III: Wednesday, December 2, 4:00 p.m., Sarah Palmer Commons (Comer 202)

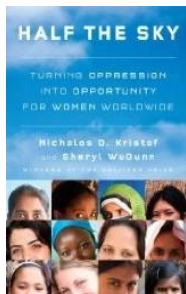
Topic: Empowering Women Around the World

***Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortensen and David Relin.**

Set in Afghanistan, the book describes Greg Mortensen's mission to educate Afghan girls in a remote mountain area. The book is "an inspirational account of one man's efforts to address poverty, educate girls and overcome a cultural divide. The book, which won the 2007 Kiriyami prize for non fiction reveals the enormous obstacles inherent in becoming. . . family in these difficult circumstances." (Amazon.com Review).

Presenter: Ann Scott

***Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn.**



This book deals with oppression of women in poor countries and explores micro-loans and other means of changing their lives. "This stirring book is at once a savage indictment of gender inequality in the developing world and an inspiring testament to these women's courage, resilience, and their struggle for hope and recovery. An unexpectedly uplifting read." Khaled Hosseini, author, *The Kite Runner*

Presenter: Dee Woodham

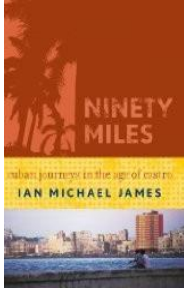
Dialogue IV. Wednesday, January 13, 12:00, Sarah Palmer Commons (Comer 202)

**Topic: Multicultural/Multiethnic Experience in America
Shanghai Girls by Lisa See.**

"A novel about two sisters, two cultures, and the struggle to find a new life in America while bound to the old. . . . May and Pearl, two sisters living in Shanghai in the mid-1930s, are beautiful, sophisticated, and well-educated, but their family is on the verge of bankruptcy. Hoping to improve their social standing, May and Pearl's parents arrange for their daughters to marry 'Gold Mountain men' who have come from Los Angeles to find brides." (Amazon.com review)



Presenter: Cindy Gravlee



***Ninety Miles: Cuban Journeys in the Age of Castro* by Ian Michael James**

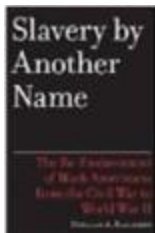
"Ninety miles away but light years away in ideology, Cuba and Cubans remain fascinating reading. In beautiful prose, James... tells the stories of three Cuban expatriates.... [He] intertwines their stories, full of joy and sorrow, into an exquisite narrative." (Library Journal.)

Presenter: Leonor Vazquez Gonzalez

Dialogue V: Wednesday, February 10, 4:00 p.m., Sarah Palmer Commons (Comer 202)

Topic: African American Experience

***Slavery by Another Name: The Reenslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas A. Blackmon**

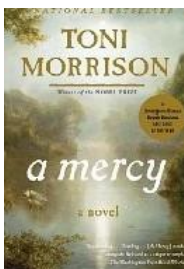


"Wall Street Bureau Chief Blackmon gives a groundbreaking and disturbing account of a sordid chapter in American history—the lease (essentially the sale) of convicts to commercial interests between the end of the 19th century and well into the 20th" (Amazon Review). Based on historical and personal accounts, the book shows the complicity of the U. S. legal system in the reenslavement of African Americans and sheds light on the troubled relationship between some black Americans and the law.

Presenter: Barbara Belisle

A *Mercy* by Toni Morrison.

"Nobel laureate Morrison returns more explicitly to the net of pain cast by slavery, a theme she detailed so memorably in *Beloved*. Set at the close of the 17th century, the book details America's untoward foundation: dominion over Native Americans, indentured workers, women and slaves." (From Amazon.com review)

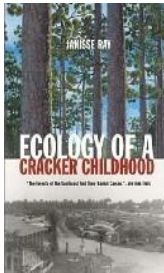


Presenter: Elaine Hughes

**Dialogue VI: Wednesday, March 10, 4:00 p.m., Sarah Palmer Commons
(Comer 202)**

Topic: The Environment : Caring for Creation

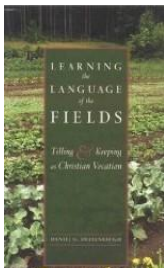
***Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* by Janisse Ray**



"Ray, a poet and an environmental activist, takes a tough-minded look at life in rural southern Georgia in this blend of memoir and nature study." (From Amazon.com Review)

Presenter: Amanda Melcher

***Learning the Language of the Fields: Tilling and Keeping as Christian Vocation* by Daniel Deffenbaugh**



A book about Christian ecology by UM's next Vacca Professor, who will be in Montevallo in the Fall of 2009. "Deffenbaugh combines ecology, theology, and community. . . . [He] draws on historic theology, but he mixes it in with his own experiences of hard-scrabble sustainability and quiet worship in the fields" (Amazon.com Review)

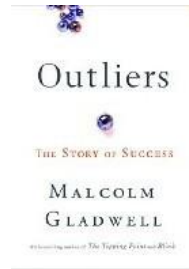
Presenter: Leanne Pearce Reed

**Dialogue VII: Wednesday, April 7, 12:00 noon, Sarah Palmer Commons
(Comer 202)**

Topic: Discovering the Secrets of Success

***The Outliers, the Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell**

Selected as Amazon Book of the Month for November 2008. "Why do some people (such as Mozart to Bill Gates) succeed, having productive lives while others fail to reach their potential? Gladwell examines the traits and habits of mind that make for success. "Challenging our cherished belief of the 'self-made man,' he makes the democratic assertion that superstars don't arise out of nowhere, propelled by genius and talent: 'they are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot' [. . . and] builds a convincing case for how successful people rise on a tide of advantages" (Amazon Review)



Presenter: Evelyn Blake

***Julie and Julia* by Julie Powell.**

Julie Powell's account of her own personal success through mastery of the art of cooking is interwoven with that of French Chef Julia Child. "*Julie & Julia* is the story of Julie Powell's attempt to revitalize her marriage, restore her ambition, and save her soul by cooking all 524 recipes in Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Volume I*, in a period of 365 days. . . . The result is a . . . medley of original wit, warmth, and inspiration that sets this memoir apart from most tales of personal redemption." (From Amazon Review)



Presenter: Mary Lou Williams