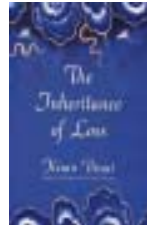


The Inheritance of Loss

Kiran Desai

July 22

This stunning novel is set in mid-1980s India, on the cusp of the Nepalese movement for an independent state. In a crumbling house in the remote northeastern Himalayas, an embittered, elderly judge finds his peaceful retirement turned upside down by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai, but their world—and Sai's romance with her handsome Nepali tutor—is threatened by a Nepalese insurgency. [2006 Man Booker Prize; 2006 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction]



Karen Alea Ford teaches composition at MTSU as an adjunct. She received her MFA in Fiction Writing from Bennington College in Vermont. She has published a book, *For Which He Stands*, a biography of a medical officer in the Bay of Pigs operation in Cuba. She lives in the 'Boro with her family writing short stories, essays and articles. For more information about Karen, see her website at www.karenalea.com

Tree of Smoke

Denis Johnson

July 29

This is the story of Skip Sands—spy in training, engaged in psychological operations against the Vietcong—and the disasters that befall him thanks to his famous uncle, a war hero known in intelligence circles simply as the Colonel. This is also the story of the Houston brothers, Bill and James, young men who drift out of the Arizona desert into a war in which the line between disinformation and delusion has blurred. [2007 National Book Award for Fiction]

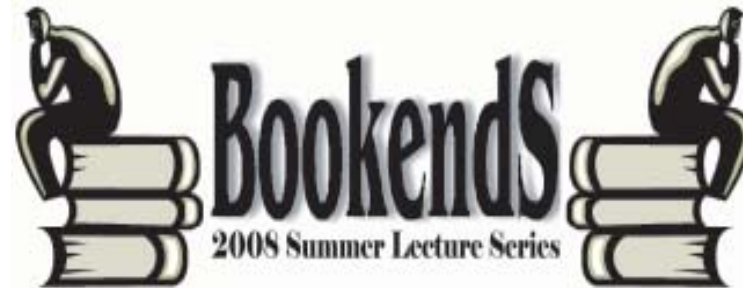


A native of Louisiana, **Jimmie E. Cain, Jr.**, has been a member of the MTSU English faculty since 1996. His recent publications include essays on Thomas Pynchon, Charles Bukowski, Bram Stoker, and Terrence Malick. His most recent book is *Bram Stoker and Russophobia*. Dr. Cain teaches courses in war and literature, the short story, and grammar.

Sponsored by The Friends of Linebaugh Library in cooperation with Middle Tennessee State University



presents



Linebaugh Public Library proudly announces the third year of its Summer Lecture Series, which aims to provide an in-depth exploration of contemporary literature for book discussion groups. This year's series will feature award winning books which explore different cultures.

Beginning on June 17, 2008 through July 29, 2008, this season's lectures will feature seven Middle Tennessee State University English professors. Each lecture will run from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Reading Room of Linebaugh Public Library (second floor, 105 W. Vine Street, Murfreesboro, TN). There will be time at the end of each session for questions and open discussion.

The lecture series is made possible by funding from The Friends of Linebaugh Library

Linebaugh Public Library

105 W. Vine Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

www.linebaugh.org

Waiting

Ha Jin

Waiting is a story of the long-suffering love between a dutiful married doctor, Lin Kong, and an unmarried nurse, Manna Wu whom he meets while working in a Chinese army hospital. Lin wants to divorce his wife, Shuyu, and marry Manna. He approaches his wife about a divorce several times, but each time she refuses. A loophole in Chinese law will allow Lin to divorce her, without her consent, if they are separated for 18 years. The “waiting” for Lin’s divorce is the focus of the story. [1999 National Book Award for Fiction]



June 17

A professor of English at MTSU, where he has taught since 1984, **Bob Petersen** is currently working on essays dealing with the contemporary American writer David Leavitt, British Victorian historian Elizabeth Strickland, and the development of the Victorian aquarium.

The Echo Maker

Richard Powers

This novel addresses the question of how we know who we really are. Mark, who repairs machinery at a meat-processing plant, suffers a head injury that prevents him from recognizing his sister Karin; he believes that she is a look-alike sent to spy on him. Karin, who has spent her life trying to escape their small Nebraska town, returns to old lovers and habits she thought she’d renounced. Stung by Mark’s rejection, she sends a desperate plea to a neurologist whose popular books have suddenly come under critical attack, causing fissures in his public persona and his seemingly perfect marriage. [2006 National Book Award for Fiction]



June 24

Lee Casson has taught English at MTSU since 1996. He holds an M.A. in English with a focus in 20th-century American literature and an Ed.S. in higher education administration.

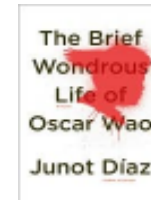
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Junot Diaz

Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, a grotesquely overweight Dominican-American teenager named Oscar dreams of becoming the next J.R.R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness. Lonely, loveless, and living almost completely inside his own head, Oscar is a “ghetto nerd” whose multiple obsessions include comic

books, fantasy fiction, and supremely unobtainable women. [2008 National Book Critics Circle Award; 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction]

Clifton Kaiser has been teaching English composition and literature at MTSU since 1998. He also teaches high school English at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee. Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Clifton has lived in Colorado, Texas, and Indiana. Currently he lives with his wife, two children, and two cats in Nashville.



Brother, I'm Dying

Edwidge Danticat

In a deeply personal memoir, Danticat describes her relationships with the two men closest to her—her father and his brother, Joseph, a charismatic pastor with whom she lived after her parents emigrated from Haiti to the U.S.—in a poignant story of family, love, grief, tragedy, hope, and triumph. [2008 National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography]



Newtona (Tina) Johnson is an associate professor of English at MTSU where she teaches courses in Postcolonial and British Commonwealth literature, the African Diaspora and Women’s Studies, among others. She holds a Ph.D. from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Johnson has both published and presented scholarly papers on Edwidge Danticat’s works.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Sherman Alexie

Exploring Indian identity, both self and tribal, Alexie tells the semiautobiographical story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Meeting his old classmates on the basketball court, Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one’s community, identity, and tribe. [2007 National national book Award for Young People’s Literature]



Ellen Donovan has lived in Murfreesboro since 1989 and has been teaching in the English Department at MTSU since 1990. She specializes in Children’s and Adolescent Literature. She thinks Sherman Alexie is hilarious.

July 8

July 15

July 1