MUS seniors recently completed a brief survey from the Hyde Library, asking for the top 3-5 favorite books they had read while at MUS. Any book from any genre, whether required or not, would be acceptable for nomination.

After Bonnie Barnes tallied the responses, Laura Bontrager created bookmarks with the top 20 books listed, out of 99 titles contributed by the seniors.

On April 14 and 15, during the Library’s Senior Starbucks Days, the bookmarks were distributed, along with coffee donated by Starbucks, hot chocolate, and baked goods contributed by this years’ corps of library volunteer moms. Thanks go to everyone who participated—we wish the seniors luck in their college experience and hope a love of reading will inspire them.

Senior Picks Top 10
1. The Great Gatsby
2. The Catcher in the Rye
3. 1984
4. The Watchmen
5. Harry Potter Series
6. Animal Farm
7. Great Expectations
8. The Hobbit
9. On the Road
10. The Sirens of Titan

By the beginning of the next school year, the library will be transformed. We’re starting a phased upgrade of the building, and the first step is to tear out our workroom and circulation desk and to put in a “Welcome Desk” that will allow us to greet people as they come in and be more accessible to library users.

We also plan to move offices around, put the archives downstairs, rearrange a lot of the furniture, and create an overall design plan for new furniture, carpet, and paint to be implemented over the next few years. After that’s all done, who knows what may happen?—we hope an addition will be in order! Please express your opinion about the types of spaces you need in the library and let us know how you like our progress when you come back in August.
In recent years many studies have discovered the importance of books and reading in the lives of boys. At the same time, many have documented a decline in the reading habits of boys. On his GuysRead website, author Jon Scieszka states “because the majority of adults involved in kids’ reading are women, boys might not see reading as a masculine activity. Men have to step up as role models of literacy. What we do is more important than all we might say.”

The library staff would like to express our appreciation to people we have often observed acting as reading role models for our students: Lin Askew, Laurie Clark, Elizabeth Crosby, Shaun Gehres, John Knaff, and Robert Winfrey. We have observed all of these people recommending and discussing books with the boys, sharing their love of books with everyone on campus, or just coming into the library frequently to read. Thanks for being excellent reading role models.

At the MUS library we encourage students to read—anything at all. Whether it’s a graphic novel like The Watchmen or a required reading book for a seventh grader, books are available to students and faculty during the school year and all summer long as well. Due to our library renovations, you might have to step around equipment and workmen, but the library is open on Wednesdays from 10-2 for all of June and July.

Oftentimes you can wander the bookstore looking for just the right summer read and never find it. Fortunately, the library staff has a few ideas on what you should read this summer.

Nancy Arant: The Time Traveler’s Wife by Audrey Niffenegger. “This book is like nothing else I’ve ever read. I felt like I was experiencing Henry’s dizzy confusion as he fell in and out of time as well as Clare’s anguish when he suddenly dropped out of her life.”

Bonnie Barnes: The Soloist by Steve Lopez. A journalist discovers a homeless man with an amazing talent for the violin. “A timely story about how we treat the mentally ill and how we might help the homeless.”


Maxine Molasky: Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy. Tom begins unlocking the secrets of his dysfunctional family. “I’ve read many books before this one and after it, and still it tops my list of favorite books.”

Barbara Presley: Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. Jacob Jankowski works for a traveling circus called The Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. “It really held my attention; I was glad to read a touching, happy ending.”

Also, our new College Guidance director, Brian K. Smith, recommended Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris to Emily Baer at her retirement celebration.