

Vote for College Book 2010

Faculty, staff, and students can vote for the College Book to be used on campus in spring semester. There will be a student essay contest based on the book, and faculty will be given suggestions for classroom activities, discussion questions, and extra-credit opportunities.

Vote for College Book 2010 by e-mailing dgustafson@swccd.edu.
Last day to vote will be Monday, November 2, 2009.

The finalists are:

Generation Me (nonfiction) by Jean M. Twenge

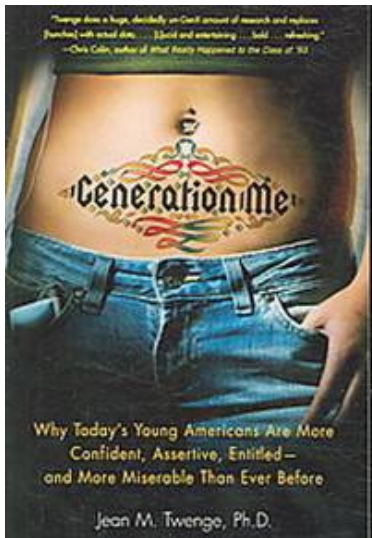
Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (fiction) by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

Four entries will be selected at random, and the winners will each receive a copy of the winning book, no matter how they voted.

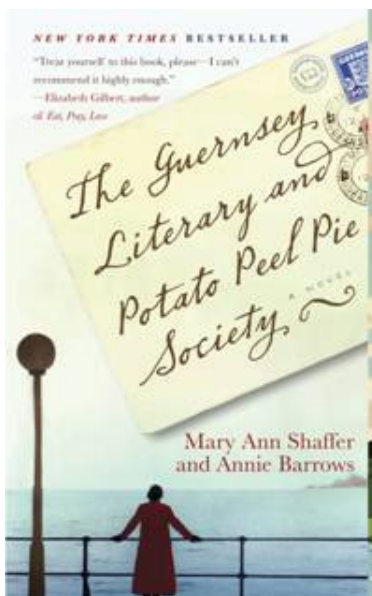
Questions? Call Diane Gustafson 482-6433 or email dgustafson@swccd.edu

Here is information about the three finalists. Copies have been placed on one-hour, in-house use in the Library.



Generation Me: why today's young Americans are more confident, assertive, entitled – and more miserable than ever before by Jean M. Twenge

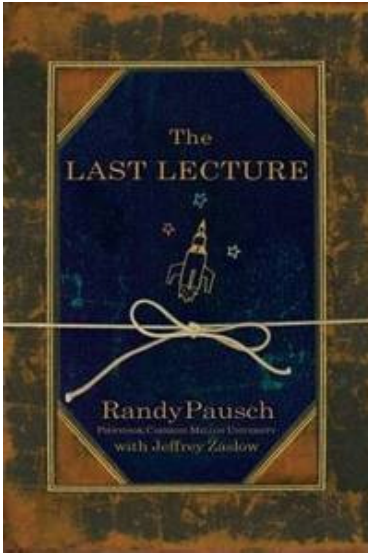
A new book tackles the 18-to-35-year-old generation's problems--those they face and those they create. Twenge's book is comprehensive and scholarly, filled with statistics and thoughtful observations about the group she's dubbed *Generation Me*. These young people were raised with the idea of self-esteem being more important than achievement, which has caused them to place the self above all else. Such beliefs also have created a generation of young people who believe every dream is attainable but who aren't prepared to deal with discovering it isn't so. Twenge notes that today's young parents are especially lenient with their children and reluctant to discipline them, suggesting that perhaps the next generation will be even worse off. Twenge believes *Generation Me* would benefit from a heavy dose of realism. Accessible and a must-read for the generation they address. *(from Amazon.com)*



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

The letters comprising this small charming novel begin in 1946, when single, 30-something author Juliet Ashton (nom de plume Izzy Bickerstaff) writes to her publisher to say she is tired of covering the sunny side of war and its aftermath. When Guernsey farmer Dawsey Adams finds Juliet's name in a used book and invites articulate—and not-so-articulate—neighbors to write Juliet with their stories, the book's epistolary circle widens, putting Juliet back in the path of war stories.

The occasionally contrived letters jump from incident to incident—including the formation of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society while Guernsey was under German occupation—and person to person in a manner that feels disjointed. But Juliet's quips are so clever, the Guernsey inhabitants so enchanting and the small acts of heroism so vivid and moving that one forgives the authors (Shaffer died earlier this year) for not being able to settle on a single person or plot. Juliet finds in the letters not just inspiration for her next work, but also for her life—as will readers. *(from Amazon.com)*



Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

A lot of professors give talks titled "*The Last Lecture*." Professors are asked to consider their demise and to ruminate on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy?

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. (*from Amazon.com*)