

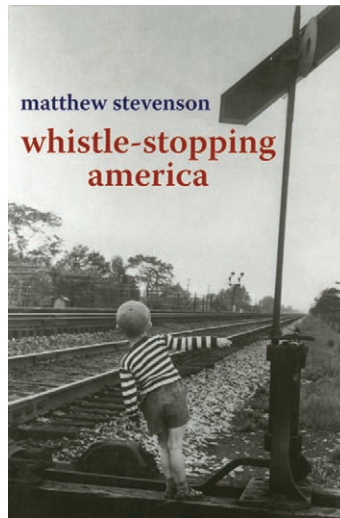
# The Mind and the Muse

## Reviews & Criticism

### BOOKS

Matthew Stevenson '76  
*Whistle-Stopping America*  
(Odysseus Books)

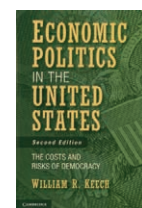
Writer **Matthew Stevenson** graciously takes readers with him when he travels, informing and entertaining through the perspective of an American who has lived in Europe for most of his working life. His latest book, *Whistle-Stopping America*, follows a journey undertaken in the fall of 2006, which took him from Manhattan to Mount Rushmore, the grassy knoll in Dallas, Katrina-devastated New Orleans and up through Revolutionary and Civil War territory. He attends fetes for old friends Molly Ivins and George McGovern, divulging revealing glimpses of since departed icons and their milieu. Stevenson's passion for fresh investigations into American history and culture is contagious. Readers will find themselves scribbling lists of readings and places to visit, many in their own backyards.



he enlisted in the 11th New Jersey Volunteer Regiment in 1862. He served throughout the Civil War, one of only 98 of the original 979 in his company to make it home. During his service, he wrote weekly letters home and reprised them 25 years later for a local newspaper, supplemented with additional memories and journal notes. In the archive of Civil War accounts, Alonzo's stands out for its uncommon detail, articulate narrative and occasional verse through which he communicates the breadth and depth of the soldier's experience. As his latter-day editor, O'Shaunessy shares this testament with unobtrusive notes in *Alonzo's War*.

**William Keech '60**

*Economic Politics in the United States: The Costs and Risks of Democracy, Second Edition* (Cambridge University Press)



Widely acknowledged as a pioneer in applying macroeconomic concepts to political questions, **William Keech** originally published *Economic Politics in the United*

*States* in 1995, with the conclusion that democracy "had basically benign influences on economic policy and performance." Keech, a member of Duke University's political science department, has revised his outlook and scholarship based on recent history, warning that the American political and economic process as practiced can result in a reduction of its standard of living and influence in the world. James Granato of the University of Houston sums up the praise greeting the second

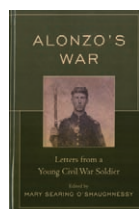


**Teresa Leo '85**  
*Bloom in Reverse*  
(University of Pittsburgh Press)

Though every poem stands as an individual work of art in award-winning poet **Teresa Leo's** new collection, *Bloom in Reverse* is a book best read front to back, at least the first time. Following the jagged emotional trajectory of the aftermath of a friend's suicide and the dissolution of a difficult romantic relationship, the poems confront devastation and push past it. This work is haunted not only by the trigger events but also by muses who stand by wisely, Emily Dickinson, T.S. Eliot and John Donne among them.

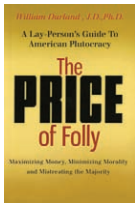
It is, however, recurring images from the plant world that provide Leo a metaphoric path to recovery, from the revelations in "Suicide is a Mind Stripping Petals off Flowers" to the concluding "Advice for a Dying Fern." "There still may be fiddleheads,/rolled up shoots/sturdy as shepherds' crooks,/ primed as stringed instruments/ unplayed, not yet unfurled/ but ready..."

**Mary Searing O'Shaunessy '48**



*Alonzo's War: Letters from a Young Civil War Soldier* (Fairleigh Dickson University Press)  
Alonzo Searing, **Mary Searing O'Shaunessy's** grandfather, was 18 when

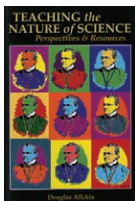
edition, “Very few social scientists have (Keech’s) scholarly breadth to engage the varied literatures from different disciplines — and even fewer could have written a contribution like this.”



**William Durland '53**  
*The Price of Folly*  
(CreateSpace)

Following the freefall of the American economy that began in 2007, Christopher Durland,

who works in finance, turned to his father **William**, expressing concern about the public’s lack of economic literacy. He urged him to write a layperson’s guide, and William has, informed by his varied career as a civil rights attorney, former Virginia state legislator and professor of philosophy, history, economics, ethics and government. His very readable book, *The Price of Folly*, sorts out economic values and philosophies and how their application or violation in recent events led to the nation’s woes.



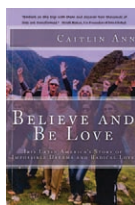
**Douglas Allchin '79**  
*Teaching the Nature of Science: Perspectives and Resources*  
(SHiPS Education Press)

Science pervades contemporary culture, from NASA programs to debates about global warming, from forensics-themed television shows to vaguely referenced studies announcing the latest superfoods. Maintaining its integrity and better understanding how it works is at the heart of the multidisciplinary line of inquiry known as the Nature of Science (NOS). Science philosopher, historian and educator **Douglas Allchin** of the University of Minnesota devotes his latest text to effective teaching practices for incorporating NOS inquiry into curriculum. He shares extensive resources and suggestions for case studies.



**Erin Carpenter '07**  
*Life, Reinvented: A Guide to Healing from Sexual Trauma for Survivors and Loved Ones*  
(Quantum Books)

While society’s response to sexual abuse and assault has improved in recent years, the trauma never changes, subjecting victims to shame, isolation and a range of trauma-related disorders. Therapist **Erin Carpenter** has written the manual *Life, Reinvented* to empower survivors with information, helping them to define what has happened, recognize symptoms and pursue courses of healing. Carpenter stresses that the symptoms and disorders are a normal response to an abnormal experience, and that trauma has a physical impact on the brain. She speaks in a direct, calm voice, presenting facts in a comprehensible manner while moving her audience toward recovery.



**Caitlin Ann (Scudder) '06**  
*Believe and Be Love*  
(CreateSpace)

In September 2011, missionaries trained at Iris Global in

Mozambique gathered at the Mexican border to launch a nomadic 19-month mission of faith through 26 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. One of them, **Caitlin Ann**, chronicles their experiences in her book *Believe and Be Love*. There are constant battles in the missionary life she observes, and they routinely include the grittiest living conditions, illness, bad roads, disabled vehicles, corrupt police and violent drug traffickers. The challenges prod them to work harder to help the disenfranchised populations they meet, and the epiphanies and miracles they witness make it worthwhile. Caitlin Ann works in Uganda and maintains a blog, [furiouslove.blogspot.com](http://furiouslove.blogspot.com).



**Roy Schmidt '54**  
*Living the Harbour Island Dream*  
(4 Square Books)

At age 35, **Roy Schmidt** was recently divorced and toiling unhappily in the family business. A trip to the Bahamas was initially unimpressive, but then he boarded the ferry to Harbour Island, off the north coast of Eleuthera. In short order, he found paradise, a small resort to purchase and his future wife, with whom he operated the Romora Bay Club. His clear-eyed memoir, *Living the Harbour Island Dream*, is a rollicking account of making the dream a reality, which he did for 18 years until a train wreck of union woes, repairs, inflation and other factors signaled the end. Returning in 2010 for his daughter’s wedding, he realized that however it ended, he had been, and is still, a lucky guy.

**Allison Crotzer Kimmel '02**  
*Prepped and Punked: Bringing 1980s and 1990s Flair to Your Wardrobe*  
(Capstone Press)



For middle-school fashionistas, Capstone Press offers fashion forward guides for creating retro looks. **Allison Crotzer Kimmel**, an English teacher turned writer, is the author of *Prepped and Punked*, a guide to nailing late 20th-century trends through thrift shopping and raids on the family attic. Remember shoulder pads, aerobics gear and underwear as outerwear? Power suits, grunge and Doc Martens? They and more are included, as are the icons who launched them and the contemporary celebrities who popularize vintage styles.

*Claudia Ebeling reviews books, film and music for Bucknell Magazine. She can be reached at [bucknellreviews@gmail.com](mailto:bucknellreviews@gmail.com).*