

# Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

October 2008

What we are reading in  
2008:

May 1: *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

June 5: *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

July 3: *Daughter of Destiny: An Autobiography* by Benazir Bhutto

Aug 7: *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follet

Sept 4: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Oct 2: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt

Nov 6: *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Dec 4: *The Next Thing on My List* by Jill Smolinski

## The MBC Fight Song!!

*Cheer on the Mighty Baldwin;  
Cheer on the Fighting Squirrels.  
Let's work together for victory —  
Let's get a win for M ... B ... C ... !  
Sisters across the ages,  
Ignite us with your awesome strength and power;  
Let's show Gladys what we can do  
And make this Baldwin's finest hour!*

The "Mary Baldwin College Fight Song," which debuted in 2008, is sung to the traditional "Blue and Gold" tune also used by the Staunton Military Academy.

You can also hear it at <http://www.mbc.edu/athletics/fightsong.asp>  
Check it out!!

## It's Book-Picking Time!!!

Our current list of books to read runs out in March 2009. I welcome all book suggestions!! Please send me the names of the books or just genres that you would like to see us read in 2009.

Here are the books that we've chosen to read from Jan - March 2009:

Jan: *How My Magic Refrigerator Sent Me To Paris Free. 7 Rules To Make Dreams Come True*

by Lolly Anderson - MBC Class of 1971

Lolly Anderson's 7 Rules universal principles that she created out of her crucibles and triumphs, will transform your life as it transformed hers. Read about how she battled the Big B-Bankruptcy the Big C-Cancer the Big D-Divorce, plus how her Magic Refrigerator sent her to Paris free. Lolly Anderson's book is not based on a true story. It is a true story. Expect to be amazed and inspired.

We are on the MBC website!!  
[www.mbc.edu/alumnae](http://www.mbc.edu/alumnae)

Join us online!!  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MBCAlumBookClub>

If you are in the Richmond, VA area we would love for you to join us! All meeting times are 7pm and last approximately 1 hour.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Theresa Cash Lewis '99 at [pinkferrets@gmail.com](mailto:pinkferrets@gmail.com) or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.

Feb: *Water for Elephants*  
By Sara Gruen

Jacob Jankowski says: "I am ninety. Or ninety-three. One or the other." At the beginning of *Water for Elephants*, he is living out his days in a nursing home, hating every second of it. His life wasn't always like this, however, because Jacob ran away and joined the circus when he was twenty-one. It wasn't a romantic, carefree decision, to be sure. His parents were killed in an auto accident one week before he was to sit for his veterinary medicine exams at Cornell. He buried his parents, learned that they left him nothing because they had mortgaged everything to pay his tuition, returned to school, went to the exams, and didn't write a single word. He walked out without completing the test and wound up on a circus train. The circus he joins, in Depression-era America, is second-rate at best. With Ringling Brothers as the standard, Benzini Brothers is far down the scale and pale by comparison.

*Water for Elephants* is the story of Jacob's life with this circus. Sara Gruen spares no detail in chronicling the squalid, filthy, brutish circumstances in which he finds himself. The animals are mangy, underfed or fed rotten food, and abused. Jacob, once it becomes known that he has veterinary skills, is put in charge of the "menagerie" and all its ills. Uncle Al, the circus impresario, is a self-serving, venal creep who slaps people around because he can. August, the animal trainer, is a certified paranoid schizophrenic whose occasional flights into madness and brutality often have Jacob as their object. Jacob is the only person in the book who has a handle on a moral compass and as his reward he spends most of the novel beaten, broken, concussed, bleeding, swollen and hungover. He is the self-appointed Protector of the Downtrodden, and... he falls in love with Marlana, crazy August's wife. Not his best idea.

Mar: *The Thirteenth Tale*  
By Diane Setterfield

Sometimes, when you open the door to the past, what you confront is your destiny.

Reclusive author Vida Winter, famous for her collection of twelve enchanting stories, has spent the past six decades penning a series of alternate lives for herself. Now old and ailing, she is ready to reveal the truth about her extraordinary existence and the violent and tragic past she has kept secret for so long. Calling on Margaret Lea, a young biographer troubled by her own painful history, Vida disinters the life she meant to bury for good. Margaret is mesmerized by the author's tale of gothic strangeness -- featuring the beautiful and willful Isabelle, the feral twins Adeline and Emmeline, a ghost, a governess, a topiary garden and a devastating fire. Together, Margaret and Vida confront the ghosts that have haunted them while becoming, finally, transformed by the truth themselves.