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President Doti Releases 2006 Summer Reading Recommendations

ORANGE, Calif., May 19, 2006 Chapman University President James L. Doti has released his annual list of book recommendations for students to read over the summer months. In his pre-summer-break message to the students of Chapman, he said, I hope you will find time this summer to read for pleasure rather than because you have to cover a class assignment. What follows are a few of my personal favorite books this past year.

Family memoirs, particularly those relating to highly dysfunctional families, have become de rigueur. One I felt rose above the rest in this genre is ***The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls**. I found it amazing that little children could rise above the harsh realities of living a nomadic life with eccentric and at times abusive parents.

While *The Kite Runner* was a national bestseller, two books with an Afghan theme that I enjoyed far more are ***The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad** and ***The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky* by Farah Ahmedi**.

A truly provocative book that relates what it's like to cross the border and become an undocumented worker in the U.S. is ***Enrique's Journey*. Sonia Nazario** based this book on her Pulitzer Prize-winning series of newspaper articles.

If you're in the mood for an incredible true-life adventure story, I recommend ***We Die Alone* by David Howarth**. A review in the *Chicago Sun Times* heralded it as one of the great escape stories of our time.

Those who have followed my reading recommendations for a few years know that one of my favorite authors is an Indian writer, **Rohinton Mistry**. Just when I thought I'd read all his books, I discovered on my trip to India last year ***Such a Long Journey***, an early novel by Mistry that had somehow gotten by me. It's another great novel by a great writer. Highly recommended!

Finally, you may recall that several years ago I inaugurated the addition of a movie to my list of recommended books. This summer I'd like to recommend two: ***The Story of the Weeping Camel*** and ***Twin Sisters***, both available on DVD. In my view, these movies are better than any of the so-called important films that garnered all the awards.