

## JUST PUBLISHED

### FRANK CANCIAN '56

**Orange County Housecleaners**  
(University of New Mexico Press, 2006)



This compelling book documents the lives of seven women who have made their livings cleaning houses in

Orange County, Calif., and gives voice to a few of the domestic workers in that area whose stories, struggles, and triumphs are often left untold. Of the seven, five are Latina immigrants, and two are Orange County natives. Each chapter is devoted to one woman's story in her own words, along with anthropologist Cancian's photographs of her family, work, and activities. Cancian begins the book with a short essay about the housecleaners' work environment and its effects on their personal lives. The essay also describes the difficult family situations often faced by Latin American immigrant women who have recently become the majority of domestic workers in Southern California.

### DARYL G. NICKENS '71

**Doing It for Money:  
The Agony and Ecstasy of  
Writing and Surviving in Hollywood**  
(Tallfellow Press, 2006)

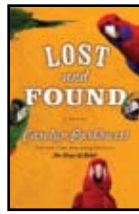


Forty-eight successful film and television writers share their stories—both inspiring and horrifying—about working in the entertainment business in this diverting collection edited by the late

Mr. Nickens, former chair of the graduate screenwriting program at the American Film Institute. Five of the essays were written by writers whose work was named on the Writers Guild of America's list of 101 Greatest Screenplays of All Time. The book also includes sections devoted to "secrets from Hollywood pros." Some of the most interesting essays in the book deal with the difficulties faced by some of Hollywood's most respected screenwriters.

### CAROLYN PARKHURST ROSSER '92

**Lost and Found**  
(Little, Brown, 2006)



In her wonderful new novel, Parkhurst Rosser, author of the *New York Times* best-seller *The Dogs of Babel*, delves into the world of a reality television show in which seven couples travel around the globe to compete for a million-dollar prize. Taking part in the drama and entertainment of the show are a mother and daughter, two former high-school sweethearts, two brothers, a born-again Christian couple, two former child stars, and other unusual pairs. The novel is narrated by several of the contestants, and the author makes us care deeply about each of them, as they reveal their secrets, fears, doubts, and innermost longings. The book succeeds as both a clever reinvention of the reality show phenomenon and as a touching exploration of several characters thrown together who are searching for clues to understand their own lives.

### ROBERT C. WILLIAMS '60

**Horace Greeley: Champion of American Freedom**  
(New York University Press, 2006)



Williams's well-researched biography is the first comprehensive study of Horace Greeley to be published in more than 50 years, and the first to place the man and his ideas in a transatlantic context. Greeley was a major figure in 19th-century American reform movements and politics. The book covers the man's life from his arrival in New York City as a young printer from New Hampshire to his scathing editorial writing in the *New York Tribune* to his candidacy for U.S. President. Williams considers Greeley from various aspects: as editor, reformer, political candidate, eccentric, and public intellectual.

— David Low

## FICTION

DANIEL HANDLER '92, *Adverbs* (Ecco/HarperCollins, 2006)

SCOTT MEBUS '96, *The Big Happy* (Miramax Books, 2006)

KIT REED, adjunct professor of English, *The Baby Merchant* (Tor, 2006)

## NONFICTION

REBECCA BRATSPIES '87 and RUSSELL MILLER, *Transboundary Harm in International Law: Lessons from the Trail Smelter Arbitration* (Cambridge University Press, 2006)

PETER N. DUNN, Hollis Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Emeritus, and MYRIAM YVONNE JEHENSON, *The Utopian Nexus in Don Quixote* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2006)

BENNETT ENOWITCH '55, MALS '88, MD, *Eros and Thanatos: A Psycho-Literary Investigation of Walter Vogt's Life and Works* (Peter Lang Publishing, 2006)

DAVID FRANKFURTER '83, *Evil Incarnate: Rumors of Demonic Conspiracy and Satanic Abuse in History* (Princeton University Press, 2006)

MURIEL R. GILLYCK P'03, P'07, P'09, MD, *The Denial of Aging: Perpetual Youth, Eternal Life, and Other Dangerous Fantasies* (Harvard University Press, 2006)

SEBASTIAN JUNGER '84, *A Death in Belmont* (Norton, 2006)

NATASHA KOGAN '98, *The Daring Female's Guide to Ecstatic Living* (Hyperion, 2006)

WILLIAM PINCH, professor of history, *Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires* (Cambridge University Press, 2006)

JONATHAN RENSHON '04, *Why Leaders Choose War: The Psychology of Prevention* (Praeger Security International, 2006)

RONALD ROSEN '77, D.V.M., and FRANCINE HORNBERGER, *So You Think You Know About Cats?* (Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2006)

TODD SHEPARD '91, *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France* (Cornell University Press, 2006)

SHARON STOHRER MALS '88, *The Singer's Companion* (Routledge, 2006)

## CHILDREN'S

LISA BROWN '93 is the author of several new books: *How to Be* (HarperCollins, 2006) and four board books published by McSweeney's: *Baby Mix Me a Drink and Baby Make Me Breakfast* (2005); *Baby Fix My Car and Baby Do My Banking* (2006).

## OF NOTE

DAN CRANE '93 shares his hilarious and memorable experiences competing internationally as air guitarist Björn Türoque in *To Air Is Human: One Man's Quest to Become the World's Greatest Air Guitarist* (Riverhead Books, 2006).

In his engaging new travelogue, *Lapping America: A Man, A Corvette and the Interstates* (Burford Books, 2006), CLAUDE CLAYTON SMITH '66 writes about the fascinating people and places he encounters while driving 10,000 miles across America in his fire-red Corvette.

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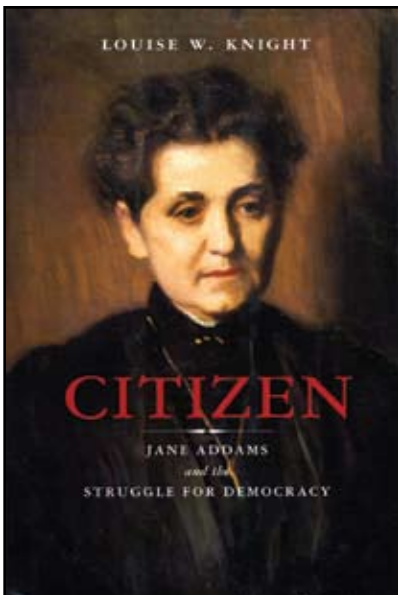
## BACKSTORY

# Patience and Passion

**Louise W. Knight '72** talks about her masterful biography that covers the early development of a renowned political activist and social philosopher who became the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

## *Citizen: Jane Addams and the Struggle for Democracy*

(University of Chicago Press, 2005)



I've noticed that authors' first books—whether fiction or nonfiction—are often inspired by a profoundly personal fascination or perplexity, a sort of hunger. The seasoned writer may choose a subject for strategic reasons or because an editor suggested it, but first books come from a deeper place. In any case, I think that is true for mine.

It was at Wesleyan, as it happens, that I first encountered Jane Addams. In the fall of 1970 I was taking Neil Coughlan's American Intellectual History course when he assigned Addams's classic memoir, *Twenty Years at Hull House*. The book gripped me. I usually underline favorite passages in books I own, but in that book I could not stop underlining. Jane Addams was raised in a prosperous family, given a good education, and expected to marry, but she found herself after college confused about her future and longing to do something that would contribute to the world. I knew I was headed for the same dilemma.

A few years later—I was working in sales for a textbook publisher at the time—a new biography of Jane Addams was published. I pounced on it. Once again I felt drawn to her story: how she had eventually rejected the life of traveling and family visiting that was all that anyone expected of her as a single woman and how she had used a family inheritance to co-found, with her friend Ellen Gates Starr, one of the nation's first settlement houses, Hull House, in Chicago. Again I was struck by her insight, which I had first encountered in *Twenty Years*, that poor people were strangely isolated both from social contact with people of other classes and from the riches of culture—books, art, music, and drama. And I learned more about her remarkable reform career as one of the nation's

most respected and influential advocates for child labor legislation, immigrant rights, social security, freedom of speech, civil rights, women's rights, and peace.

But the new biography also left me feeling frustrated. The historian had done excellent research, but I did not feel he had really understood her. I wondered vaguely what kind of biography I would write about her, if I were to write one.

Some seven years passed before I remembered that thought. In the meantime, while working first as a journalist and then as a university administrator, I bought and read biographies voraciously and wrote in their flyleaves fierce commentary of praise and criticism. Of course, in reading them, I was also studying the anatomy of life choices. When I finally realized that the question I should be asking myself was "What do you most want to do?," the answer popped into my head: to write a biography of Jane Addams. I had not been in the habit before of doing what I most wanted to do—my upbringing, like Jane Addams's, had stressed duty—but I had also extracted from these biographies the excellent wisdom that pursuing one's passion, even if one appeared quite unqualified, was the right thing to do. And, of course, Addams had done that too. So I gave myself permission to indulge my love of research and writing. My plan became to write a half-life in which I would trace her personal, moral, and intellectual development during her formative years, from her birth in 1860 to 1899.

Some 20 plus years after starting the research, I see better what appealed to me about writing the biography. First, it combined in one project all the things I wanted to learn how to do and to learn about. I wanted to understand the forces that shaped a person's life choices and to figure out how to write a compelling narrative that laid out the story as it felt when she lived it—without knowing what the future would hold. I also wanted to do research in archives and libraries, to fit together the pieces of a historical puzzle. Second, more profoundly, I wanted to spend time in the presence of a wise person. I now understand that the intangible appeal of *Twenty Years* that I had felt as an undergraduate was due not just to my identification with Addams's confusion about her future but also to my more profound fascination with her philosophical mind and the way she connected ideas to life, her willingness to continually wrestle with the questions that shape lives and, I had learned, had shaped her own—what is the right thing to do in this or that case? She writes "We are under a moral obligation in choosing our experiences since the result of those experiences must ultimately determine our understanding of life." It has been my privilege to examine the choices Jane Addams made that taught her so much.