

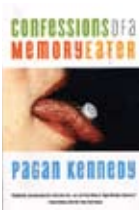
JUST PUBLISHED

DANIEL M. GROSS '89
The Secret History of Emotion: From Aristotle's Rhetoric to Modern Brain Science
(University of Chicago Press, 2006)



Through a rereading of Aristotle, Seneca, Thomas Hobbes, Sarah Fielding, and others, Gross, an associate professor of rhetoric at the University of Iowa, uncovers a persistent intellectual current that considers emotions as psychosocial phenomena. In the author's historical analysis of emotion, Aristotle and Hobbes's rhetoric reveal that our passions do not stem from some inherent, universal nature of men and women, but rather are conditioned by power relations and social hierarchies. Gross supplements his argument by providing a history and critique of the dominant modern view of emotions, expressed in Darwinism and neurobiology, in which they are considered organic, personal feelings independent of social circumstances.

PAGAN KENNEDY '84
Confessions of a Memory Eater
(Leapfrog Press, 2006)



In Kennedy's enticing novel with science fiction overtones, a history professor at a small New Hampshire college becomes addicted to an experimental drug named Mem, which allows him to rewind his life and sift through his memories, playing back only those that suit his fancy. But his obsession with reliving the past proves detrimental in dealing with his present reality. Kennedy drew upon extensive research in the area of memory enhancing drugs to write her haunting literary work.

LEE MCINTYRE '84
Dark Ages: The Case for a Science of Human Behavior
(MIT Press, 2006)



McIntyre argues in his forthright new book that today's academics—economists, psychologists, philosophers, and others in the social sciences—stand in the way of a science of human behavior just as clerics attempted to block the Copernican revolution in the 1600s. He believes that we have made little more progress in our understanding of what causes war, crime, and poverty—and how to end them—than our ancestors did. Drawing upon lessons from Galileo's conflict with the Catholic church and current debates over the teaching of "creation science," McIntyre suggests that what we need most to establish a science of human behavior is the scientific attitude—the willingness to hear what the evidence tells us even if it clashes with religious or political pieties—and the resolve to apply our findings to the creation of a better society.

WENDY SPERO '97
Microthrills: True Stories from a Life of Small Highs
(Hudson Street Press, 2006)



Spero's often touching comedic memoir grew out of her work in stand-up comedy and solo theater. She writes vividly about growing up on the Upper East Side with her sex-therapist mother and eccentric grandparents and moves on to her life as a Wesleyan student, as a door-to-door knife seller, and as an award-winning comedian and actress. A master storyteller, she transforms her everyday experiences, such as learning how to drive and collecting finger puppets, into memorable gem-like moments.

— David Low

FICTION & POETRY	KATE COLBY '96, <i>Fruitlands</i> (Litmus Press, 2006)
	TONY CONNOR, <i>Things Unsaid: New and Selected Poems, 1960–2005</i> (Anvil Press Poetry, 2006)
	JULES FEIFFER P'07 AND JENNIFER ALLEN P'07, <i>The Long Chalkboard</i> (Pantheon, 2006)
	SUE GUINEY '77, <i>Dreams of May</i> (Bluechrome, 2006)
	ANNA QUINDLEN P'06, <i>Rise and Shine</i> (Random House, 2006)
	DAHLIA SCHWEITZER '98, <i>Seduce Me</i> (Avon Red, 2006)
NONFICTION	DAN BROWN '94, <i>Communicating Design: Developing Web Site Documentation for Design and Planning</i> (New Riders, 2006)
	BETHANY E. CASARJIAN '91 AND DIANE H. DILLON, <i>Mommy Mantras: Affirmations and Insights to Keep You from Losing Your Mind</i> (Broadway Books, 2006)
	NICHOLAS B. DIRKS '72, <i>The Scandal of Empire: India and the Creation of Imperial Britain</i> (Belknap Press, 2006)
	DEBORAH EHRENTAL '80, MD, MATTHEW K. HOFFMAN, MD, AND PAULA J. ADAMS HILLARD, MD, COEDITORS, <i>Menstrual Disorders: A Practical Guide</i> (American College of Physicians, 2006)
	ROBERT FIGUEIRA '73, <i>Plenitude of Power: The Doctrines and Exercise of Authority in the Middle Ages, Essays in Memory of Robert Louis Benson</i> (Ashgate, 2006)
	DENNIS GROSS '80, MD, WITH CARA KAGAN, <i>Your Future Face</i> (Plume, 2006)
	WILLIAM G. HOPKINS '59, <i>Photosynthesis and Respiration</i> (Chelsea House, 2006)
OF NOTE	BRAD KARSH '87, <i>Confessions of a Recruiting Director: The Insider's Guide to Landing Your First Job</i> (Prentice Hall Press, 2006)
	DANIEL KENIGSBERG '74, <i>The Baby Solution: Your Essential Resource for Overcoming Infertility</i> (Avery/Penguin, 2006)
	MARIANNE ROSNER KLIMCHUK '83 AND SANDRA A. KRASOVEC, <i>Packaging Design: Successful Product Branding from Concept to Shelf</i> (Wiley, 2006)
	FORMER WESLEYAN PRESIDENT WILLIAM M. CHACE'S new book, <i>100 Semesters</i> (Princeton University Press, 2006) recounts his experiences in higher education and includes several chapters about his time at Wesleyan.
	PAULINE FROMMER '88 has created a new series of guidebooks for budget-conscious travelers, called the <i>Pauline Frommer's Travel Guides</i> , an imprint of Wiley Publishing.
	DANIEL HANDLER '92, writing under the pseudonym Lemony Snicket, has published <i>The End</i> (HarperCollins, 2006), the last volume of his best-selling children's book series <i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> , as well as a companion book to the series, <i>The Beatrice Letters</i> .

For additional book reviews, listings, and news, please see:
www.wesleyan.edu/magazine/ or www.wesleyan.edu/magazine/extra/.

If you are a Wesleyan graduate, faculty member, or parent with a new publication, please let us know by contacting David Low '76 at dlow@wesleyan.edu or at Wesleyan magazine, Office of Public Affairs, Wesleyan University/South College, Middletown, CT 06459.

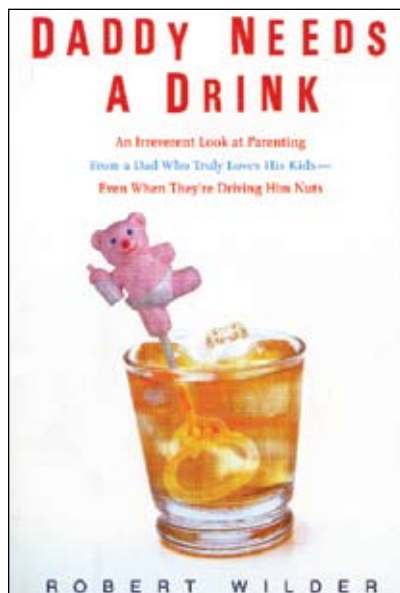
BACKSTORY

Life with Father

In his irreverent new book, **Robert Wilder '88** explores the joys and absurdities of being a contemporary parent.

Daddy Needs A Drink

(Delacorte Press, 2006)



If someone had told me when I moved to New Mexico to be a writer that my first published book would be shelved in the parenting section of Barnes and Noble, I would have told them to go have another cocktail. It's now 16 years since I left the East and, in effect, that's what I have done: written a collection of essays about having kids called *Daddy Needs a Drink* that attempts to show how I try (and often fail) to be the best father I can without losing what's left of my sense of humor.

When my wife, Lala, became pregnant with our daughter Poppy (who is now 9), I noticed how much pressure there was in America to be the perfect parent. Before Poppy was born, Lala and I tore through most of the canon of Parent Lit and although there was abundant information (and color illustrations) on the different bodily fluids associated with pregnancy, childbirth, and infancy, there wasn't a whole lot of humor or irony in those pages. Even prior to Poppy's birth, crazy things started happening to us that I'd never read about in parenting books and magazines. There was no chapter on how to deal with testing out a new baby monitor and overhearing other people's cordless phone conversations or the amplified sex life of two young hipsters who lived right behind us. I just didn't know how I should deal with these types of moments since everything I read reeked of saintly innocence and talcum powder. I wanted to believe (and still do) that once I became a parent, I didn't have to give up my sense of humor the way I'd soon surrender other parts of my life like sleep, clothes without stains, and

restaurants whose menus don't offer a "Kiddie Corner."

Six weeks after Poppy's birth, Lala and I took our first "family of three" trip to Albuquerque to celebrate Lala's birthday. I have to admit we were a tad cocky since Poppy had been what many would call an "easy" baby. After checking into our hotel, we drove over to the Macaroni Grill for dinner. Feeling the need to be a hands-on dad, I took Poppy to the men's room to change her diaper. What transpired in that restroom was a transforming experience in the way most car accidents are. When we both emerged dripping wet and crying over 30 minutes later, I realized my life would never fit into any neat, simple, or dry category. In that slick room, absent of anything remotely resembling a changing table, I learned more about gender, anatomy, and the power of human digestion than I ever had in any of my 20 years in school.

As I was writing the book, I tried to capture the lengths parents go to so their children will lead full and happy lives. I saw myself among the corps of adults who have dragged their crying kids strapped in strollers and car seats across the country. I explored how we dads and moms sing *Ring Around the Rosie* in freezing water every Saturday in toddlers' swim class and then deal with our son's lengthy discussion on male anatomy in the locker room afterward.

Even though I was writing a comedic book, I also wanted to reflect on some of the other myriad emotions you experience being responsible for another human life. When my son was born, his shoulders got stuck in what is called "shoulder dystocia," which can lead to very serious injuries or even death. During the delivery, although I know nothing about modern medicine, I realized something was terribly wrong when the nurses standing next to me started weeping. Then, when London was finally delivered, I desperately wanted to hear him cry because that type of wailing would signal that at least one thing was wonderfully right. As I was writing about London's dramatic entry into the world, I started paying attention to the different places where adults were finding reasons to sob. I recalled overhearing a group of mothers waiting outside a dance class explaining to each other how they attend tearjerkers just so they can fully emote in a darkened movie theater. I juxtaposed that scene with my own weepy moment seeing my daughter playing on her elementary school playground and realizing how quickly she was growing up.

Working on *Daddy Needs a Drink* allowed me to slow my life down a little by reflecting upon it during my early morning writing hours. The book gave me a good reason to pay close attention to my family and then set aside time to examine all that was happening to us—the joyful, somber, and utterly ridiculous.