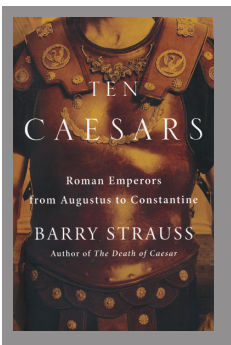


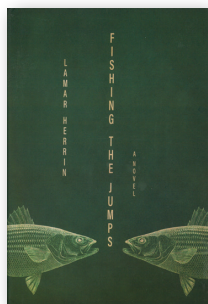
# New Releases



## Ten Caesars

**BARRY STRAUSS '74**

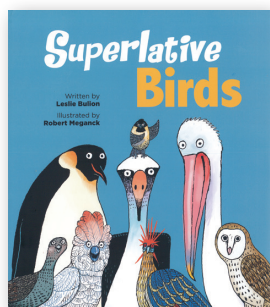
A professor of history and classics on the Hill, Strauss is the author of numerous nonfiction books on such topics as the Trojan War and the assassination of Julius Caesar. Here, he delves into the lives of ten Roman emperors including Augustus, Tiberius, Nero, and Hadrian—chronicling each man's childhood, rise to power, rule, marital and political alliances, and more. "It was both the empire's glory and curse that succession was often contested," Strauss observes in the prologue. "It opened the door to talent and to violence." Says *Publishers Weekly*: "Citing numerous primary and secondary sources and providing modern analogies to convey complex relationships and ruling styles, this captivating narrative breathes new life into a host of transformative figures."



## Fishing the Jumps

**LAMAR HERRIN**

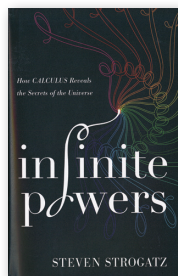
In the emeritus professor of English's seventh novel, two middle-aged friends vacation at an Adirondack lakeside cabin—fishing, canoeing, drinking bourbon, and unspooling stories that stretch back generations. The narrator, a transplanted Southerner named Jim, shares interwoven tales of the joys and heartbreaks of his extended family in the years following World War II. "Walter and I had come up here to step away from our lives for a long weekend—not that our lives were hemming us in," Herrin writes in Jim's voice. "After a period of some ill-advised advances and some tactical retreats, our lives had settled . . . This was the town, these were the people, this was the professional path you found yourself wandering down. Time to stop wandering and make it yours."



## Superlative Birds

**LESLIE BULION '79**

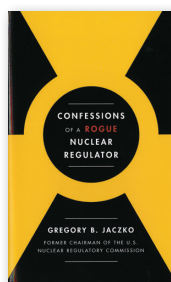
In this hybrid of poetry and science education, Bulion teams up with an illustrator to teach children some of the many weird and wonderful facts about birds. Each page offers a superlative—including fastest, most feathers, longest bill, most humorous, and best mimic—along with a poem and scientific information about the creature that holds the distinction. As she writes in her entry on "most gruesome prey collection": "It darts down from its perch to make a strike, / Then decorates long thorns with rotting prey. / A most surprising songbird is the shriek— / Small scurriers had better stay away!" The book also includes advice for kids on writing poetry and exploring the avian world.



## Infinite Powers

**STEVEN STROGATZ**

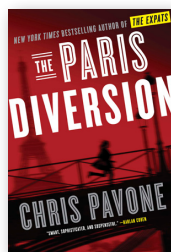
Strogatz, a math professor on the Hill, has frequently written about his field for a popular audience—in columns for the *New Yorker* and *New York Times* and in his books *Sync* and *The Joy of x*. His latest tackles, as the subtitle puts it, "how calculus reveals the secrets of the universe." Starting with the ancient Greeks, he traces the discipline's evolution and impact through the work of Galileo, Descartes, Isaac Newton, and many others, detouring to describe how calculus has enabled technology from microwave ovens to GPS to computer animation. "His discussion is clear and accessible, with plenty of diagrams and mercifully few equations," says *Publishers Weekly*. "Strogatz successfully illuminates a notoriously complex topic and this work should enhance appreciation for the history behind its innovations."



## Confessions of a Rogue Nuclear Regulator

**GREGORY JACZKO '94**

"This is a well-written memoir," says *Booklist*, "from an insider with a powerful message: nuclear power can never be made completely safe, and defining safety is as political as it is scientific." Jaczko—a physicist who calls himself a "Birkenstock-wearing PhD"—served on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from 2005 to 2012, including several years as chairman. In this slim memoir, he describes his journey from unlikely political appointee and nuclear power moderate to fierce critic of both the industry's political might and its potential for catastrophes such as Japan's Fukushima disaster. "Many tried to dismiss Fukushima as a result of Japanese unwillingness to challenge authority. Their engineers simply didn't push back against the norms that stand in the way of safety, people said," he writes. "But that same obedience to the powerful is exactly what I saw at home in the NRC."



## The Paris Diversion

**CHRIS PAVONE '89**

The sequel to Pavone's award-winning *Expats* has deep-cover CIA operative Kate Moore living in the City of Light with her family. Frustrated with domesticity, she jumps at the chance to investigate a dramatic act of apparent terrorism: a man walks into the Louvre courtyard with a bomb strapped to his chest. The ensuing intrigue threatens to enmesh not only a shady tech CEO, but Kate's own husband. "With all those players, mercenaries, and assorted bad guys thrown into the mix, you just know that the storyline is going to be knotty, and it resolves in a messy spatter of violence that's trademark Pavone and decidedly not for the squeamish," says *Kirkus*, which praises the book as "a satisfying puzzler, one to shelve alongside *le Carré*, Forsyth, and other masters of foreign intrigue."

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