With graduation over and professors either on vacation or hard at work teaching summer courses, we asked library staff to suggest favorite books from the Bishop Payne Library. Thanks to Sarah Glenn, Karen Madigan, Joan Peacock and Susanna Purnell for the following:

Hanne Bank. *Straight: The Surprisingly Short History of Heterosexuality*. “Like the typewriter and the light bulb the heterosexual was invented in the 1860’s and swiftly and permanently transformed western culture”. Drawing on history, culture, law, psychiatry and religion, this book provocatively explores the history of sexual categorization and its complex implications.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Women and Redemption: A Theological History*. Since history is often written by the “winners”, women tend to be reduced to minor roles in church history. This eye-opening work highlights the role of women from the time of the apostles through today’s multicultural and multireligious contexts.

James L. Kugel, *In the Valley of the Shadow: On the Foundations of Religious Beliefs*. Recent seminarians are probably familiar with Kugel’s *How to Read the Bible*. A pessimistic medical diagnosis triggered Kugel’s search for how the self fits into the world. This engrossing book shares his discoveries and his ultimate survival, both physically and as a believer.

Jeffrey Bennett. *Beyond UFOs: the search for extraterrestrial life and its astonishing implications for our future*. Written in an engaging style for the general public, Bennett explains the conditions necessary for life as we know it, speculates on what non-carbon-based life might be and shows how these understandings help target the search for life beyond our world.

Joanna Brooks. *The Book of Mormon Girl: Stories from an American Faith*. This analysis of the modern LDS church and its doctrines is presented from the viewpoint of a liberal Mormon, a feminist, a gay rights activist and professor of American religion and literature. Brooks returned her BYU diploma in protest over lack of academic freedom in their religion department.