Wherever you’re heading this summer, consider taking these MLA faculty book recommendations with you:

**Anne Firth Murray**, Consulting Professor, Human Biology

J.L. Carr, *A Month in the Country*

A short, sweet novel about an art restorer who uncovers a fine painting in an old church in England.

**Albert Gelpi**, Coe Professor of American Literature, Emeritus

Marilynn Robinson, a trilogy of novels *Gilead, Home and Lila*

**William Chace**, Professor of English, Emeritus

Guy Davenport, *Geography of the Imagination*

The late Guy Davenport (1927-2005), poet, short-story writer, visual artist and calligrapher, was one of the most talented and original writers of his generation. His imagination was encyclopedic; his range of learning spanned centuries. Rhodes Scholar, MacArthur “genius,” and interpreter of Ezra Pound, James Joyce, Buckminster Fuller, and William Carlos Williams among others, he taught his readers how to read what was difficult and how to see difficulties in the apparently simple.

**Nancy Kollmann**, William H. Bonsall Professor in History

Daniel Mason, *The Winter Soldier*

I’m a historian, so I already read a lot in my day job! For relaxation, I look for contemporary novels that have strong characters and great writing that you can get immersed in. Interesting historical settings, or plots relevant to problems in our society today, also attract me. In anticipation of a trip to South Africa, I’m also reading classics by Nadine Gordimer and have a stack of books by contemporary South African writers that I haven’t yet read but look forward to.

**Charles Junkerman**, Associate Provost and Dean, Continuing Studies (1999-2018)

Penelope Lively, *Moon Tiger*

Winner of the Man Booker Prize in 1988, and voted “Best Man Booker of the 1980’s.” The elderly Claudia Hampton, a best-selling author of popular history; lies alone in a London hospital bed. Memories of her life still glow in her fading consciousness, but she imagines writing a history of the world. Instead, Moon Tiger is her own history, the life of a strong, independent woman, with its often contentious relations with family and friends. At its center — forever frozen in time, the still point of her turning world — is the truncated affair with Tom, a British tank commander whom Claudia knew as a reporter in Egypt during World War II. This book reminds me a lot of The English Patient and Fortunes of War.