

Eagle

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Alumni Bookshelf

Among Niagara's talented alumni are authors of books ranging from children's picture books to instructional texts on informatics. Some of our most recently published authors offered information and shared the inspiration behind their work.

Pam Spremulli, '93

Book: *Letter Birds* (winner of the Mom's Choice 2010 Gold Distinguished Illustration Award). **Précis:** A fun ABC book about birds using simple and colorful graphic illustrations. Each letter has a corresponding bird (even X and U!). **Inspiration:** Her children (ages 4 and 2 at the time) and her love of nature. She initially drew the images because she loves birds and finds them fascinating. **What's next?** A uniquely illustrated book called *Woof!* that offers insight into the different personalities of various breeds of dogs.

Richard Herdlein, M.A.'70, M.S.'76, Ph.D.

Book: *A History of Innovation at the University of Pittsburgh: The role of the student personnel dean, 1919-1980*. **Précis:** An examination of the development of student affairs in higher education specifically focusing on historical events at the University of Pittsburgh and highlighting the evolution and accomplishments of three remarkable women. **Inspiration:** His 31-year career as a student affairs administrator prompted his research interest in the evolution of student personnel deans. He also teaches a course on the history of student affairs, which dovetails with his research agenda. **What's next?** Writing a book on his personal experiences of serving in the academy.

Frank D. McCann, '60

Book: *Soldiers of the Pátria: A History of the Brazilian Army, 1889-1937*. **Précis:** A history of the Brazilian army through civil war, rebellions, and conspiracies, moving back and forth from ministerial offices to the firing lines. **Inspiration:** As a specialist in Brazilian history, he wrote a book about Brazilian-American relations during World War II, which got him involved in studying the Brazilian army. **What's next?** Finishing three projects: a book on relations between Brazil and America from the 18th century to the present, another on the "home-front" in Brazil during World War II, and a biography of a leading political-military figure.

Peter C. Scumaci, M.S.Ed.'94

Book: *Western New York and the Gilded Age*. **Précis:** A discussion of a variety of topics relating to Western New York during the late 1800s and early 1900s, including politics, business, natural wonders, and communities. **Inspiration:** The chance to work with both his wife and a local author on a project that gave him an opportunity to explore the WNY area and its history. **What's next?** A project that may involve the experience of war and its effect on the people of Western New York.

Tinashe Munyaradzi, '00

Book: *Not for the Fainthearted: The Ultimate Challenge for Men*. **Précis:** A motivational book that discusses men's roles and responsibility in their relationships, marriages, families, and communities. **Inspiration:** His wife, who observed how he changed during the course of their relationship and the positive impact it had on them, and his desire to share this experience to help other couples. **What's next?** Making his book into an audio book and translating it into other languages.

Patrick H. Dockery, '66

Book: *Vietnam Was More Than Just the Killing*. **Précis:** His memoirs as an infantryman of the day-to-day life of soldiers at the front. **Inspiration:** His belief in his soldiers and how he felt about them. **What's next?** Marketing his book at battalion reunions.

