



Spring 2020



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PRESS

*A deadly explosion at a Las Vegas chemical plant forces an afflicted cast of characters to reevaluate their lives*

## The Brightest Place in the World

A Novel

DAVID PHILIP MULLINS

*"Every few years a writer comes along to tell us a new story about a place we thought we knew. David Philip Mullins is that writer. Las Vegas is his world. Gone are the glitter and the glamour; revealed are the jarring effects of an industrial disaster in a massive, ever-changing city. Carefully written in beautiful prose, *The Brightest Place in the World* is a moving and stunning novel from a natural writer."*

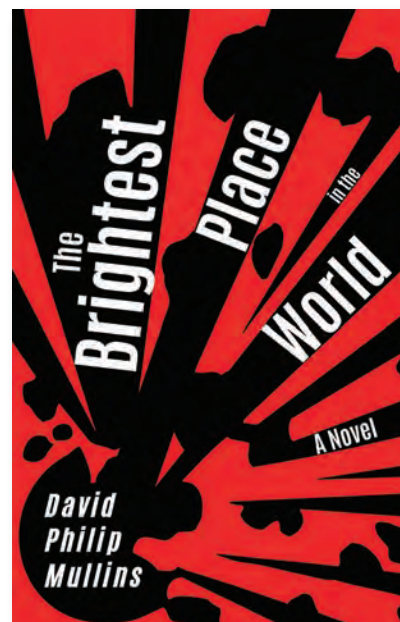
—Chris Offutt, author of *My Father, the Pornographer* and *Country Dark*

Inspired by true events, *The Brightest Place in the World* traces the lives of four characters haunted by an industrial disaster. On an ordinary sunny morning in 2012, a series of explosions level a chemical plant on the outskirts of Las Vegas. The shock waves are felt as far away as Fremont Street. Homes and businesses suffer broken windows and caved-in roofs. Hundreds are injured, and eight employees of the plant are unaccounted for, presumed dead.

One of the missing is maintenance technician Andrew Huntley, a husband and father who is an orbital force as those who loved him grapple with his loss. Andrew's best friend Russell Martin—an anxiety-plagued bartender who calms his nerves with a steady inflow of weed—misses him more than he might a brother. Meanwhile Russell's wife Emma—a blackjack dealer at a downtown casino—tries to keep her years-long affair with Andrew hidden. Simon Addison, a manager at the plant who could have saved Andrew's life, is tortured by daily remorse, combined with a debilitating knowledge of his own cowardice. And then there's Maddie, Andrew's only child, a model high school student whose response to the tragedy is to experiment with shoplifting and other deviant behavior.

Against the sordid backdrop of Las Vegas—and inspired by the PEPCON disaster of May 4, 1988—this engaging novel is a story of grief and regret, disloyalty and atonement, infatuation and love.

**David Philip Mullins** is associate professor of English at Creighton University and a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. His fiction has appeared in many publications, including *The Yale Review*, *Ecotone*, *Cimarron Review*, *Fiction*, and *Folio*.



**JUNE**

240 pages • 5½ x 8½  
cloth 978-1-948908-41-2  
e-book 978-1-948908-55-9  
\$24.95

*Of related interest*

*Cold Deck • Sunland*



*Raw and piercing stories spotlighting the voices of America's twenty-first-century forever wars*

## Acceleration Hours

Stories

JESSE GOOLSBY

**"Acceleration Hours is a live-wire collection full of characters who aren't afraid to bare their souls. With a deft hand, Goolsby carries us through their struggles at home and away, cementing himself as a powerful new talent in the process."**

—Sara Nović, author of the award-winning *Girl at War*

**"Through the tradition of wartime literature, he considers death and faith, pain and anguish, and fear and hope. Through the literature of the West, he explores self-sufficiency, individualism, and survival. In his entirely original and intriguing execution, Goolsby manages to explore these often hard and ugly truths through the lives of his fascinating characters, and he does so in a way that is empathetic without being sentimental."**

—Caleb S. Cage, U.S. Army veteran and author of *Desert Mementos*

From the author of the critically-acclaimed novel *I'd Walk with My Friends If I Could Find Them*, Jesse Goolsby's *Acceleration Hours* is a haunting collection of narratives about family, life, and loss during America's twenty-first-century forever wars. Set across the mountain west of the United States, these fierce, original, and compelling stories illuminate the personal search for human connection and intimacy. From a stepfather's grief to an AWOL soldier and her journey of reconciliation to a meditation on children, violence, and hope, *Acceleration Hours* is an intense and necessary portrayal of the many voices living in a time of perpetual war.

**Jesse Goolsby** is an award-winning author and associate professor of English and Fine Arts at the United States Air Force Academy. His short fiction and essays have appeared widely, including *Epoch*, *Narrative*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Literary Review*, *Pleiades*, *Salon*, and *The Best American* series. He is the recipient of the Richard Bausch Short Story Prize, the John Gardner Memorial Award in Fiction, and fellowships from the Hambridge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. He also serves as the Acquisition Editor for the literary journal *War, Literature & the Arts*.



**MAY**

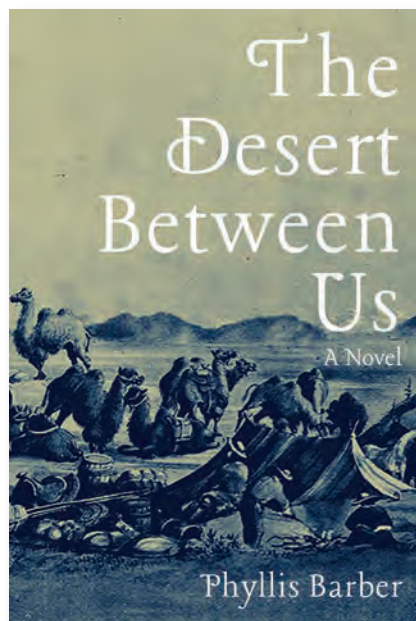
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**Of related interest**

*Desert Mementos* • *Minimal Damage*





**APRIL**

280 pages • 6 x 9  
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 e-book 978-1-948908-57-3  
 \$27.95

**Of related interest**

*How I Got Cultured* • *Going through Ghosts*

**Phyllis Barber** is an award-winning author of nine books, including *Raw Edges* and *How I Got Cultured* (winner of the AWP Prize for Creative Nonfiction). She has received awards for both her fiction and nonfiction and has published essays and short stories in *North American Review*, *Crazyhorse*, and *Kenyon Review*, among others. She has been cited as Notable in *The Best American Essays* and in *The Best American Travel Writing*. In 2005, Barber was inducted into the Nevada Writers' Hall of Fame. She lives in Park City, Utah.

*An engaging love story set against the historic backdrop of the attempt to use camels to build a road in the Southwest—the origin of Route 66*

## The Desert Between Us

A Novel

PHYLLIS BARBER

**“Barber’s exquisite prose captures the beauty and the grandeur of the arid red rock country as well as Sophia’s longing for human connection and her struggle with duty and desire. Geoffrey Scott reminds her of how love can change a person and her world, and the camel takes it all in, placidly watching—as immovable as the desert.”**

—Michele Morris, author of *The Cowboy Life*

*The Desert Between Us* is a sweeping, multi-layered novel based on the U.S. government’s decision to open more routes to California during the Gold Rush. To help navigate this waterless, largely unexplored territory, the War Department imported seventy-five camels from the Middle East to help traverse the brutal terrain that was murderous on other livestock.

Geoffrey Scott, one of the roadbuilders, decides to venture north to discover new opportunities in the opening of the American West when he—and the camels—are no longer needed. Geoffrey arrives in St. Thomas, Nevada, a polygamous settlement caught up in territorial fights over boundaries and new taxation. There, he falls in love with Sophia Hughes, a hatmaker obsessed with beauty and the third wife of a polygamist. Geoffrey believes Sophia wants to be free of polygamy and go away with him to a better life, but Sophia’s motivations are not so easily understood. She had become committed to Mormon beliefs in England and moved to Utah Territory to assuage her spiritual needs.

The death of Sophia’s child and her illicit relationship with Geoffrey generate a complex nexus where her new love for Geoffrey competes with societal expectations and a rugged West seeking domesticity. When faced with the opportunity to move away from her polygamist husband and her tumultuous life in St. Thomas, Sophia becomes tormented by a life-changing decision she must face alone.

*A literary and elegiac exploration of  
ranch and small-town life in  
California's San Joaquin Valley*

## The Toughest Kid We Knew

The Old New West

A Personal History

FRANK BERGON

**"In elegant prose, Frank Bergon has conjured a complex portrait of the San Joaquin Valley of California during the mid-1950s and beyond, where some ninety distinct ethnic communities lived together for a century, his own valley family being Basque as were his beloved grandparents in Nevada. *The Toughest Kid We Knew* is one of the best literary memoirs written, focusing on the particular while evoking universal human experience."**

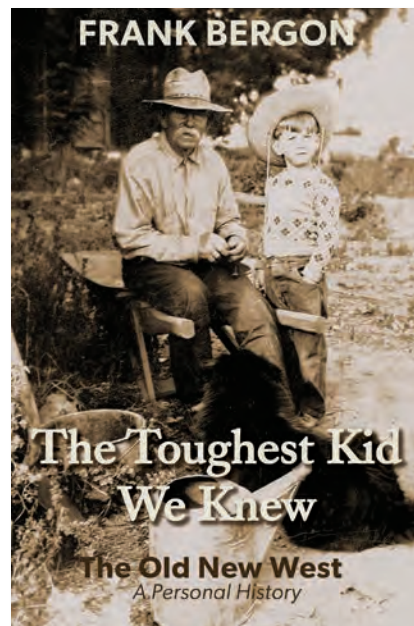
—Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie*

From critically acclaimed author Frank Bergon comes a new personal narrative about the San Joaquin Valley in California. This intimate companion to *Two-Buck Chuck & The Marlboro Man* brings us back to an Old West at odds with New West realities where rapid change is a common trait and memories are of rural beauty. Despite the physical transformations wrought by technology and modernity in the twenty-first century, elements of an older way of thinking still remain, and Bergon traces its presence using experiences from his own family and friends.

Communal camaraderie, love of the land and its food, and joy in hard work done well describe Western lives ignored or misrepresented in most histories of California and the West. Yet nostalgia does not drive Frank Bergon's intellectual return to that world. Also prevalent was a culture of fighting, ignorance about alcoholic addiction, brutalizing labor, and a feudal mentality that created a pain better lost and bid good riddance.

Through it all, what emerges from his portraits and essays is a revelation of small-town and ranch life in the rural West. A place where the American way of extirpating the past and violently altering the land is accelerated. What Bergon has written is a portrayal of a past and people who shaped the country he called home.

**Frank Bergon** is a critically acclaimed novelist, critic, and essayist. His writing mainly focuses on the history and environment of the American West, including his most recent work *Two-Buck Chuck & The Marlboro Man*. Bergon was born in Ely, Nevada, and grew up on a ranch in Madera County in California's San Joaquin Valley.



**MAY**

216 pages • 5½ x 8½ • 10 photographs

cloth 978-1-948908-64-1

e-book 978-1-948908-65-8

\$24.95

*Of related interest*

*Two-Buck Chuck & The Marlboro Man* • *No Place Like Home*



*The first hiking guide to Carson City  
and surrounding areas for both  
families and hard-core trekkers*

## 50 of the Best Strolls, Walks, and Hikes around Carson City

MIKE WHITE with photographs by MARK VOLLMER

**“This is a much-needed addition to the list of available guides to hiking in northern Nevada. With its detailed and useful directions, current information on trail conditions, explanations about the region’s natural history, birds, plants, and animals, and other insights, it is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in exploring the Carson City-Washoe Valley area.”**

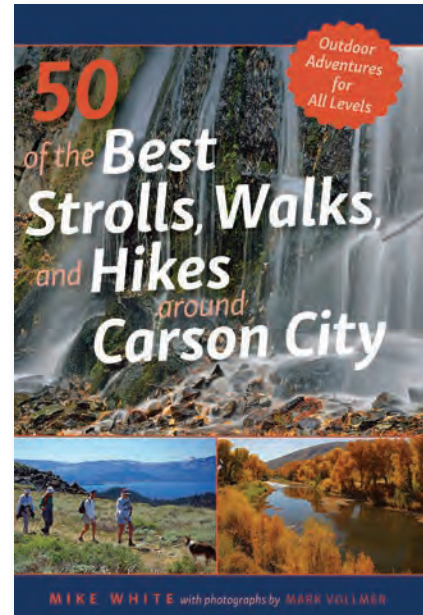
—Richard Moreno, author of *A Short History of Carson City*

One of the area’s foremost experts on the outdoors, Mike White, author of *50 of the Best Strolls, Walks, and Hikes Around Reno*, returns with a new guidebook dedicated to Carson City and its surrounding areas in northern Nevada. With over three hundred days of sunshine a year, this capital city’s parks, trails, lakes, and soaring peaks provide the perfect attractions for residents and visitors alike. This guide provides readers with the most precise information for a wide range of detailed paths and trails throughout the greater Carson City region and includes interesting sidebars about the natural history for each trail.

From the Carson River and Virginia City on the east to the Sierra Nevada mountains on the west, this comprehensive guidebook offers the most complete guide for walkers, joggers, and hikers. Whether you are looking for a short and easy stroll on a city path or an extended hike along the Tahoe Rim Trail, this is your all-inclusive resource for your next outdoor adventure.

**Mike White** is an award-winning author whose books include *50 of the Best Strolls, Walks, and Hikes around Reno*, *50 of the Best Snowshoe Trails around Lake Tahoe*, *50 Classic Hikes in Nevada*, *Best Backpacking Trips in California and Nevada*, and *Best Backpacking Trips in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico*.

**Mark Vollmer** is an award-winning outdoor photographer, instructor, and freelance writer based in Sparks, Nevada. His illustrated feature articles have appeared in *Nevada Magazine*, and his images have been widely published in regional books, calendars, and brochures.



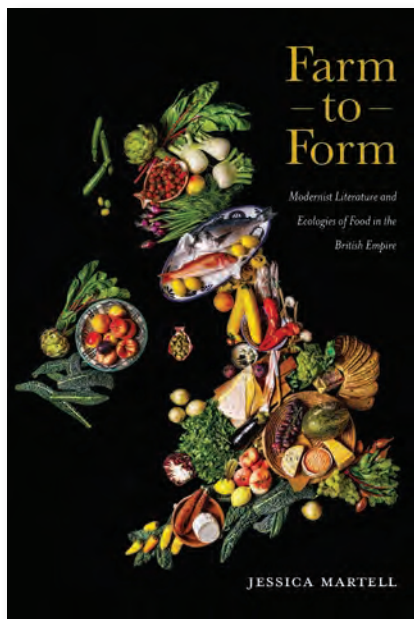
### JUNE

272 pages • 5½ x 8½ • 35 photographs • 52 maps  
paper 978-1-948908-66-5  
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\$21.95

### Of related interest

*50 of the Best Strolls, Walks, and Hikes around Reno* •  
*A Short History of Carson City*



**MARCH**

248 pages • 6 x 9 • 9 photographs  
cloth 978-1-948908-36-8

e-book 978-1-948908-35-1

\$55.00s

Cultural Ecologies of Food Series

**Of related interest**

*Through a Vegan Studies Lens • The End of Eden*

**Jessica Martell** is assistant professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. Her work has appeared in *Modernist Cultures*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and *Gastronomica*; *The Journal of Critical Food Studies* as well as six scholarly collections. Martell is an executive board member of Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, a woman-led non-profit helping to build an equitable and sustainable food system in North Carolina's High Country.

*Establishes the unique connection between the development of industrial food and twentieth-century literature in Britain and Ireland*

## Farm to Form

Modernist Literature and Ecologies of Food in the British Empire

JESSICA MARTELL

**"*Farm to Form* is a well-written, solid piece of scholarship. The selection of writers and texts alone will make this book a must-read, and no one, to my knowledge, has explored to this extent how the rapid transformation of food production, distribution, and marketing touched the choices that writers made in shaping their work."**

— Bill Conlogue, professor of English, Marywood University  
and author of *Working the Garden*

In this groundbreaking book, Jessica Martell investigates the relationship between industrial food and the emergence of literary modernisms in Britain and Ireland. By the early twentieth century, the industrialization of the British Empire's food system had rendered many traditional farming operations—and attendant agrarian ways of life—obsolete. Weaving insights from modernist studies, food studies, and ecocriticism, *Farm to Form* contends that industrial food made nature "modernist," a term used as literary scholars understand it—stylistically disorienting, unfamiliar, and artificial but also exhilarating, excessive, and above all, new. Martell draws in part upon archives in the United Kingdom but also presents imperial foodways as an extended rehearsal for the current era of industrial food supremacy. She analyzes how pastoral mode, anachronism, fragmentation, and polyvocal narration reflect the power of the literary arts to reckon with—and to resist—the new "modernist ecologies" of the twentieth century.

Informed by Martell's extensive knowledge of modern British, Irish, American, and World Literatures, this progressive work positions modernism as central to the study of narratives of resistance against social and environmental degradation. Analyzed works include those of Thomas Hardy, E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Joseph Conrad, George Russell, and James Joyce.

In light of climate change, fossil fuel supremacy, nutritional dearth, and other pressing food issues, modernist texts bring to life an era of crisis and anxiety similar to our own. In doing so, Martell summons the past as a way to employ the modernist technique of "defamiliarizing" the present so that entrenched perceptions can be challenged.



*The rise of premium wine and how it transformed a regional wine industry*

## Wine by Design

Santa Barbara's Quest for Terroir

VICTOR W. GERACI

**"Geraci is THE author to read on the Santa Barbara wine industry. This book is the work of a master craftsman in history."**

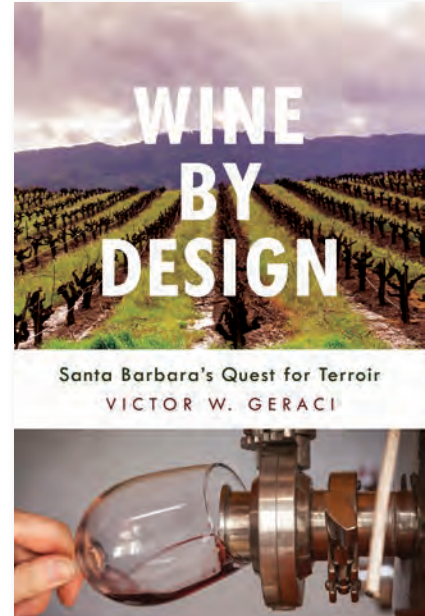
—Kolleen M. Guy, associate professor of history, Duke Kunshan University

From its eighteenth-century beginnings, the Santa Barbara wine industry achieved success by embracing a "wine by design" model. In this process, farmers, winemakers, and entrepreneurs overcome roadblocks like diseases, government policies and regulations, and environmental concerns by utilizing the latest technological advances coupled with agribusiness capitalism.

As the American demand for premium wine grapes intensified in the late twentieth century, the Northern California wine industry rapidly grew its boutique and innovative local designer winemaking to increase profit to meet demand and compete on a global scale. Set in the context of the regional, national, and global wine community, this history illuminates a regional story of how the Santa Barbara wine industry found solutions to current market conditions while utilizing local traditions to develop a new version of local wine terroir. An accomplishment that allowed them to compete in the global marketplace yet develop highly specialized wine that is unique to the region.

By employing leading-edge technology and entrepreneurship, the California Central Coast region of Santa Barbara became a model for the American vision of agricultural innovation and an integral part of the international wine trade, developing a personalized version of local wine terroir.

**Victor W. Geraci** is a former food and wine history specialist at the Oral History Center at the Bancroft Library and author of *Salud!*.

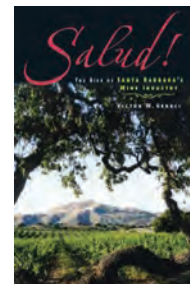


**MARCH**

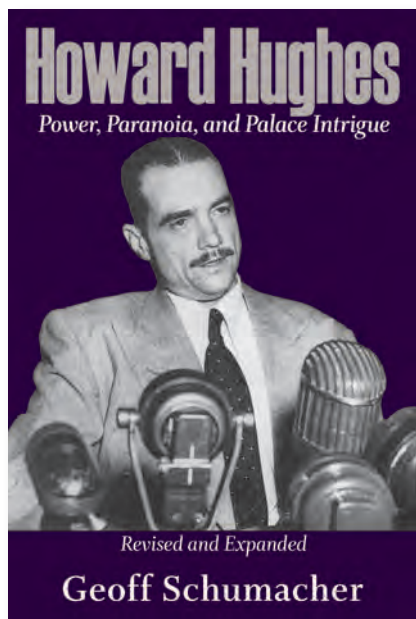
264 pages • 6 x 9 • 25 photographs  
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e-book 978-1-948908-43-6  
\$39.95s

**Of related interest**

*Salud!* • *Crush*





**MARCH**

344 pages • 6 x 9 • 52 photographs

paper 978-1-948908-60-3

e-book 978-1-948908-61-0

\$29.95

**Of related interest***Sun, Sin & Suburbia • The Westside Slugger*

**Geoff Schumacher** is the senior director of content for the Mob Museum in Las Vegas. He lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is the author of *Sun, Sin & Suburbia*.

*An intense behind-the-scenes biography of the complex and intriguing icon who helped reshape aviation, Hollywood, and Las Vegas*

## Howard Hughes

Power, Paranoia, and Palace Intrigue

Revised and Expanded

GEOFF SCHUMACHER

**Praise for the First Edition:**

**"Schumacher draws upon research from other books, interviews, and a lifetime of covering his native city to produce an entertaining volume about a relentlessly fascinating character."**

—*Publishers Weekly*

This newly revised and expanded edition of *Howard Hughes* chronicles the life and legacies of one of the most intriguing and accomplished Americans of the twentieth century. Hughes, born into wealth thanks to his father's innovative drill bit that transformed the oil industry, put his inheritance to work in multiple ways, from producing big-budget Hollywood movies to building the world's fastest and largest airplanes. Hughes set air speed records and traveled around the world in record time, earning ticker-tape parades in three cities in 1938. Later, he moved to Las Vegas and invested heavily in casinos. He bought seven resorts, helping to loosen organized crime's grip on Nevada's lifeblood industry.

Although the public viewed Hughes as a heroic and independent-minded trailblazer, behind closed doors he suffered from germophobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and an addiction to painkillers. He became paranoid and reclusive, surrounding himself with a small cadre of loyal caretakers. As executives battled each other over his empire, Hughes' physical and mental health deteriorated to the point where he lost control of his business affairs.

Expanded to include more insider details, this new edition provides insights into Hughes's involvement with the mob, his ownership and struggles as the majority shareholder of TWA and the wide-ranging activities of Hughes Aircraft Company, Hughes's critical role in the Glomar Explorer CIA project (a deep-sea drillship platform built to recover the Soviet submarine K-129), and more. Based on in-depth interviews with individuals who knew and worked with Hughes, this fascinating biography provides a colorful and comprehensive look at Hughes—from his life and career to his final years and lasting influence. This penetrating depiction of the man behind the curtain demonstrates Hughes's legacy, and enduring impact on popular culture.

*An examination of the economic and cultural influences upon the professional theater industry of the Victorian American West*

## From San Francisco Eastward

Victorian Theater in the American West

CAROLYN GRATTAN EICHIN

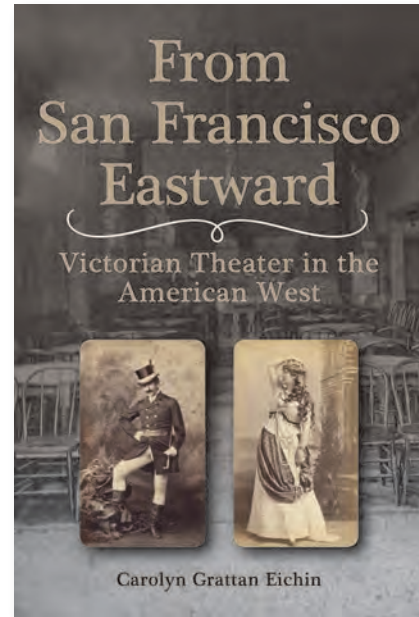
**"To date, most large-scale studies of theatrical performance in the nineteenth-century U.S. West have taken the form of chronicles as opposed to analyses, and have tended to be limited in geographical scope. *From San Francisco Eastward* is a refreshing departure from this tradition on both counts."**

—Andrew Gibb, associate professor of theater and dance,  
Texas A & M University

Carolyn Grattan Eichin's *From San Francisco Eastward* explores the dynamics and influence of theater in the West during the Victorian era. San Francisco, Eichin argues, served as the nucleus of the western theatrical world, having attained prominence behind only New York and Boston as the nation's most important theatrical center by 1870. By focusing on the West's hinterland communities, theater as a capitalist venture driven by the sale of cultural forms is illuminated against the backdrop of urbanization.

Using the vagaries of the West's notorious boom-bust economic cycles, Eichin traces the fiscal, demographic, and geographic influences that shaped western theater. With an emphasis on the 1860s and 70s, this thoroughly researched work uses distinct notions of ethnicity, class, and gender to examine a cultural institution driven by a market economy. *From San Francisco Eastward* is a thorough analysis of the ever-changing theatrical personalities and strategies that shaped Victorian theater in the West, and the ways in which theater as a business transformed the values of a region.

**Carolyn Grattan Eichin** has contributed numerous articles to western journals and has worked as an archaeologist and historian. She lives in California.

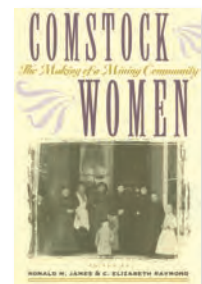


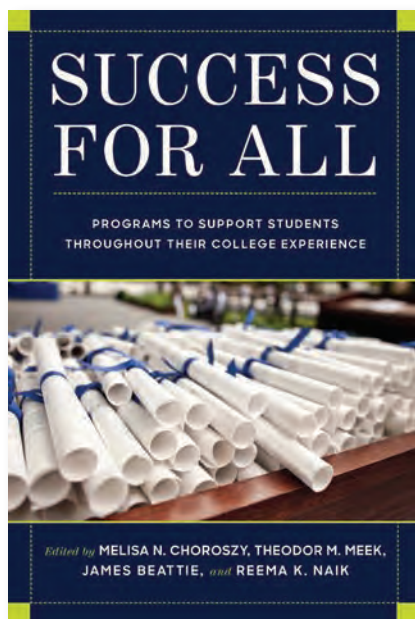
### FEBRUARY

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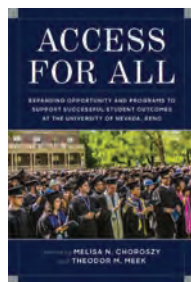
### Of related interest

*The San Francisco Civic Center • Comstock Women*



**APRIL**

360 pages • 6 x 9  
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 \$34.95s

***Of related interest****Access for All*

*A guide to help students achieve success  
 in higher education in Northern Nevada*

**Success for All**

Programs to Support Students throughout  
 Their College Experience

Edited by **MELISA N. CHOROSZY** and **THEODOR M. MEEK**,  
 with contributions by **JAMES BEATTIE** and **REEMA K. NAIK**

While the most important measure of success for many degree-seeking students is the timely attainment of a bachelor's degree, there remains a host of other indicators of student success that vary by student population and students' personal goals. Many of these smaller successes lead to the ultimate goal of graduation and are significant triumphs throughout the journey through higher education.

*Success for All* is a strategic guide for administrators and educators that offers methods for advising students through the myriad of challenges they face. This book provides a specific roadmap to the research, services, and programs at the University of Nevada, Reno and Truckee Meadows Community College that support student success in undergraduate and graduate programs regardless of a student's social, emotional, or prior academic experiences. Contributors discuss how to make students feel welcome in their social and educational environments and how to directly assist them with the timely completion of their degree. Administrators and educators demonstrate how these programs help make a positive contribution to the students and the institutions they serve, while implementing practical solutions to increase graduation rates.

**Melisa N. Choroszy** is the associate vice president for enrollment services at the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Theodor M. Meek** is the Research Scholar for the Nevada System of Higher Education.

**James Beattie** is the coordinator for the First in the Pack program.

**Reema K. Naik** is the program manager for the Nevada Primary Care Association and a former retention specialist for the First in the Pack program at the University of Nevada, Reno.