ALUMNI AUTHORS

Ralph Souders '73 wrote Ursula's Shadow, a suspense thriller that takes place in Munich.

Suzan Zan '91 wrote Overcoming the Underhanded: The True Story of a Life Reclaimed, which chronicles a woman's 15-year marriage and the three-year journey to break free from her mentally abusive husband.

Bruce Lea '96 '01MA wrote It's Just that Simple...: Weight Loss, Workouts & Wellness for the Overweight & Obese.

Steve Cushman '99 wrote Hopscotch, a novel about the healing power of hope and how the simplest things can affect and change lives for the better.



Matthew Laurence '06 wrote Freya, a young adult fantasy novel about a girl who was an ancient Norse goddess.

Wendy Whitman Cobb '06 '07MA wrote The Politics of Cancer: Malignant Indifference, a nonfiction book that examines the role of government and politicians in cancer research efforts and policy decisions.

Gino Perrotte '08MA wrote From Student to Professional: An Essential Communication Soft Skills Guide for Aspiring STEM Professionals.

Jen Glantz '10 wrote Always a Bridesmaid (for Hire), a collection of stories about walking down the aisle for strangers as a hired bridesmaid.



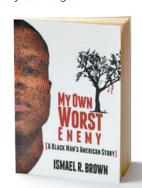
Esther (Michaud) Clervaud '10MAT

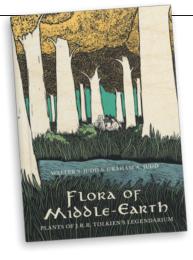
wrote Cultural Awareness: An Implementation Guide, which provides organizations with a solution on how to increase cultural awareness around the world.

Jaroslav Kalfar '11 wrote Spaceman of Bohemia, an intergalactic odyssey of love, ambition and self-discovery.

Isabel Cavaliere-Enriquez '13 wrote My Tennis Coach: My Bully, a young adult novel about a tennis player who is bullied by her coach.

Ismael Brown '14 wrote My Own Worst Enemy (A Black Man's American Story), which chronicles the experiences of a young man looking to discover himself despite many challenges.





DRAWING MIDDLE-EARTH

UCF art alum Graham Judd '09 co-wrote and illustrated Flora of Middle-Earth: Plants of J.R.R. Tolkien's Legendarium with his father Walter S. Judd, a botanist and distinguished professor emeritus of biology at the University of Florida. The book is a detailed account of the more than 160 plants found in Tolkien's fictional universe and includes original hand-drawn, woodcutstyle illustrations by Graham.

How did this project come about?

This project was the brainchild of my father and me for quite a long time. As we are both massive fans of Tolkien's world, it only felt natural to use our skills to create something we were both passionate about.

What's it like to bring Tolkien's universe to life visually?

Challenging. Tolkien's world has been depicted in movies and cartoons as well as board and video games. Trying to illustrate something that is so cherished and well-defined is intimidating at best. In the illustrations, I worked to define concepts and events more than details, leaving room for the viewer's imagination to create definition.

What's your favorite plant from Middle-earth and why?

My favorite plant to illustrate for the book was the Linden because picturing the silhouettes of the hobbits entwined in Aragorn's story as they await the attack of the Black Riders is both fun and visually enchanting.

What has been the most interesting part of illustrating Middle-earth?

I remember watching an episode of the X-Files as a kid that takes place in Ecuador, and my dad told me as a brief aside that those plants were native to the L.A. area - not the jungles of South America. It completely sucked me out of the parrative. After working on this book, I finally understand our cultural blindness to plants. People don't really pay attention to how a pine tree's branches are different from a fir tree's, and before this project I didn't either. Things that used to feel needlessly descriptive now enrich my imagination.



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