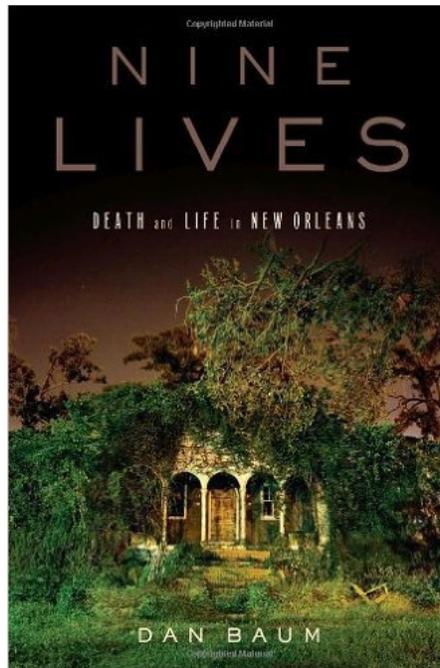


Regions III/VII 2016 Bi-Regional Conference Book Club



Please join the Book Club at the NAFSA Region III/VII Bi-Regional Conference and prepare yourself to see New Orleans through different eyes – the eyes of nine New Orleans characters (and we mean *characters!*) author Dan Baum portrays in his book *Nine Lives: Mystery, Magic, Death, and Life in New Orleans* (2009).

Below is a testimonial from Irene Ziegler, Program Director at the Division of International Education at the University of New Orleans.

When I first heard that our “book club” selection was *Nine Lives: Death and Life in New Orleans*, my first reaction was: “Not another Katrina book!” After more than 10 years of Katrina coverage, Katrina tours, and Katrina discussions elicited immediately when you say you are from New Orleans, I, along with most New Orleanians, was ready to put the “post-Katrina era” behind me and move on. So I started reading *Nine Lives* somewhat reluctantly, but was pulled in quickly by the book’s diverse characters and fast-paced story line. *Nine Lives* is so much more than a Katrina book! Dan Baum bookends his story between Hurricane Betsy (1965) and Hurricane Katrina (2005) and follows a cast of characters as diverse as “a millionaire king of carnival from the Garden District and a retired streetcar track repairman from the Lower Ninth Ward, a transsexual bar owner from St. Claude Avenue and the jazz-playing parish coroner, a white cop from Lakeview and a black jailbird from the Goose.” Portraying these and other colorful protagonists, and letting them speak in their own voices (gathered from many interviews), Baum successfully pays tribute to the multi-faceted population, culture, and history of New Orleans, something that is hard to accomplish in just one narrative voice. At the beginning, this cacophony of voices seems confusing, but have patience and just let the characters take you along. They will soon become very familiar (and you can stop leafing through the pages trying to figure out who is who). By the end of the book, you feel like you know them all and you may even miss them when you close the book. I did.

The good news is we have invited some of the characters to come to our panel discussion on *Nine Lives: Mystery, Magic, Death and Life in New Orleans* on Monday, November 7, 10:30-12:00. So, read the book and come join us at the panel to share it, as well as your thoughts and questions about New Orleans, Mardi Gras Indians, and, yes, even Katrina and other hurricanes! I think you will go through New Orleans with a different set of eyes and be able to see the many layers that so often remain hidden to the typical tourist – or conference attendee.

You can purchase this book online at Amazon.com by clicking on [this link](#).