Both campus libraries will be open 24 hours a day throughout finals!

Congratulations to all graduating students and a special thanks to our library student assistants.
Best of luck to you all!

Ask us about alumni library services or see the info on our website under Services -- Alumni Services.

A Secret Gift: How One Man’s Kindness—and a Trove of Letters—Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression by Ted Gup is an inspiring account of America at its worst and Americans at their best woven from the stories of Depression-era families who were helped by gifts from the author’s generous and secretive grandfather. On Dec. 18, 1933, an ad appeared in an Ohio paper offering financial aid for 50 to 75 families to help them have “a merry and joyous Christmas.” The benefactor asked simply that the applicants write of their “true circumstances.” Before Christmas arrived, $5 checks from B. Virdot reached 150 people. Virdot’s identity, Canton businessman Sam Stone, remained secret for 75 years until his grandson, Ted Gup, opened a suitcase and discovered a bankbook and cache of letters. The stories are more than a fascinating and personalized way to learn history. As we slowly climb out of the biggest recession since the 1930s, the stories resonate with modern-day struggles and tales of generosity, like Portland’s own Secret Santa, who anonymously distributes hundred-dollar bills at Christmas time. Available in the library and as a downloadable e-book.