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The American College Novel: An annotated bibliography

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The American college novel: An annotated bibliography, by John E. Kramer with Ron Hamm and Von Pittman. 2nd ed. Scarecrow, 2004. 405p. Reviewed in 2004Jul CHOICE.

Kramer's revision of his 1981 bibliography (CH, Dec'81) of novels set at American colleges adds 209 citations with annotations for novels published 1981-2002 and condenses annotations for novels carried over from the first edition for a total of 648. Mysteries, horror novels, and science fiction are generally excluded, although works by Neal Stephenson, Jonathan Lethem, and James Hynes are included because the academic environment is a consuming focus in their novels. Books are categorized as either "student-centered" or "staff-centered," and indexes sort titles by the academic discipline of major characters as well as by author and title. A final index identifies the real colleges and universities that are named or that fictionalized versions strongly resemble. Kramer marks guesses with asterisks and disclaims certainty in the identifications. Annotations provide plot summaries, identify characters and settings, highlight satirical or moving episodes, and supply biographical information about the author. Leisure readers will enjoy an appendix recommending a "starter list" of novels in the genre. **Summing Up:** Recommended. General and academic readers.

-- *P. Finley, University of Nevada, Las Vegas*