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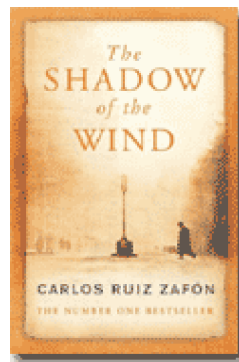
Alumni Book Club
Book Discussion

Sunday, September 13, 2009 - 10:00 a.m.
Libby and Joseph G. Shapiro Alumni House

This month's selection is

The Shadow of the Wind

By Carlos Ruiz Zafón



The Shadow of the Wind is a dream date for those who love books. It starts in 1945, with the introduction of the young narrator, Daniel, to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Daniel's father, a dealer of used and rare books in Barcelona, tells the young boy, "When a library disappears, or a bookshop closes down, when a book is consigned to oblivion, those of us who know this place, its guardians, make sure that it gets here." In the Cemetery, "books that are lost in time live forever.... Every book you see here has been somebody's best friend." Mourning the loss of his mother, Daniel befriends a book he finds there, *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by a certain Julián Carax.

Entranced by the novel, young Daniel sets out to discover who this Carax was, and what else he wrote. Daniel's father, the book dealer, has never heard of Carax. Together they consult other dealers. One offers Daniel a considerable sum of money for his copy of *The Shadow of the Wind*—but won't say why he prizes it so highly. Daniel, though, refuses to sell the book.

Years go by. Daniel hears a story about Carax and his books. Someone is going from town to town, shop to shop, seeking out the works of Julián Carax—and burning them. But who would do such a thing—and why? As Daniel matures, so does the mystery.

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**To join the Alumni Book Club or for more information,
please contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (516) 463-6636 or
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