Common Reading Program [2011-2012]
Session Overview

• Welcome and Overview — Sharon Weiner, W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy and Professor of Library Science, Purdue Libraries and Dan Carpenter, Interim Director of Student Access, Transition and Success Programs

• Assessment of the program — Matt Pistilli, Senior Assistant Director of Student Access, Transition, and Success Programs (SATS)

• Announce the 2011-2012 book — Brandon Krozel, student in the College of Liberal Arts

• What’s Next and Q & A — Dan Carpenter
About the Project

**Mission:** to provide a common, academic-based first-year experience for all new students (freshmen and transfers) — an experience that sets high academic expectations for students from the onset of their undergraduate careers.
About the Project

Selection Process

• Suggestions solicited from campus community

• University-wide committee set criteria, evaluated submissions, and selected the book
Scholarship of Common Reading Program

• Thirteen Learning Outcomes, including:
  – Provide a common first-year experience for Purdue’s newest students
  – Connect students to their faculty, instructors, and peers
  – Promote learning with and from others through intra- and inter-disciplinary dialogue
  – Increase students’ awareness of diverse cultures
  – Enhance student success by emphasizing reading as an intellectual skill central to student achievement
  – Set high academic expectations for incoming students
Scholarship of Common Reading Program

- Survey to first-year and transfer class (Feb. ’11)
- Future Assessment
  - Surveys to faculty
  - Surveys to student leaders
  - Linking outcomes to BCSSE/NSSE results
- Future Scholarship
  - Articles on findings, process, evaluation
  - Presentations on findings at local and national conferences
Selected Assessment Outcomes

- 6,970 students surveyed, 937 responses (13.44%)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count/Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read the book</td>
<td>88.35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attended Convocation</td>
<td>Approx. 4,500</td>
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<td>Used the book in a class</td>
<td>20.99%</td>
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<td>Courses using the book include:</td>
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<td>AGR 101</td>
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<td>ANSC 102</td>
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<td>CGT 111</td>
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<td>COM 114</td>
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<td>ENGL 106</td>
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<td>ENGR 195H</td>
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<td>GS 197</td>
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<td>HIST 151</td>
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<td>HONR 299</td>
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<td>MGMT 100</td>
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<td>VM 140</td>
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<td>Talked with students outside of their major</td>
<td>47.40%</td>
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<td>Attended activities centered on the book</td>
<td>19.47%</td>
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Selected Item Outcomes

• Getting the book and being told that I was expected to read it told me that Purdue had high expectations for me as a student.

  3.46/5.0

• Reading *The Kite Runner* allowed me to gain greater awareness of different cultures.

  3.64/5.0
Book selection

Brandon Krozel
Student in the College of Liberal Arts
Member of the Common Reading Committee
Book selection

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. “

—Random House, Inc.
Timelines

Distribution:

• Books will be distributed free of charge to first year and transfer undergraduate students during Summer Transition, Advising and Registration (STAR) in June-July 2011.

• International students and those excused from attending STAR will receive electronic copies of the book during the same period.
Next steps

• Books will be available in campus libraries
• Convocation and Public Lecture by the author August 21, 3:00 p.m., in Elliott Hall of Music
• Workshops
  – Integrating the Common Reading: a workshop for faculty, graduate students and staff (in partnership with CIE) – watch for details
  – Kick-off event for student leaders – watch for details
Ordering Books

• Purdue departments can order copies of the book at the program’s negotiated bulk rate

• Deadline is March 15, 2011

• Contact the SATS Business Office by telephone at 63890 or by email at lineback@purdue.edu
Q & A

Questions?

Thank you!