

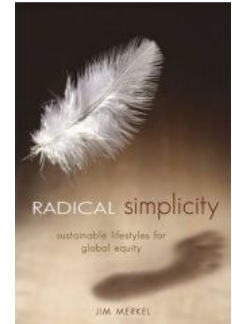
# FIRST-YEAR READING EXPERIENCE LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

## 2009-2010 FIRST-YEAR READING SELECTION

Due to the success of this text and the author's involvement during New Lancer Days and Longwood Seminar and in an effort to create a cohesive experience for incoming classes along with providing support for the campus wide sustainability initiative, the first-year reading selected for 2009-10 is *Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth* by Jim Merkel. During his previous visit, Merkel made a tremendous impact on faculty, staff and students by introducing new ideas, sparking debate and challenging the way we live on a daily basis in his efforts toward creating a more sustainable Earth. First-year students will purchase copies of the text during Summer Orientation & Registration and Merkel will return to campus to provide a lecture, workshops and activities to the campus during New Lancer Days. Additionally, *Radical Simplicity* will again be included in the curriculum for Longwood Seminar. A reading guide will be provided to all students upon purchase and will also be available on the First Year Experience website.

## FIRST-YEAR READING EXPERIENCE AT LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

The First-Year Reading Experience at Longwood University is intended to provide an opportunity for first-year students to share a common intellectual experience with their new campus community. This experience will also provide avenues for students to engage in conversation and think critically about topics and issues related to the reading and first year of college. Additionally, the reading provides a common thread between Summer Orientation & Registration, New Lancer Days, Longwood Seminar and, potentially, other courses and programs.



## GOALS OF THE FIRST-YEAR READING EXPERIENCE

- ◆ To provide a common connection between students, faculty, and staff, beginning when students arrive and lasting into the classroom;
- ◆ To provide an opportunity for first-year students to understand their responsibility as engaged learners in an academic community; and
- ◆ To emphasize the importance of critical thinking, reading, and writing in the university setting while challenging students to explore something new and different.

## FIRST-YEAR READING SELECTION PROCESS

The First-Year Reading Experience text is selected annually by the First-Year Experience Committee. Texts were gathered based on solicitation from the campus community and committee research. All nominations were reviewed and evaluated based on relevance to first-year students, applicable theme, genre, length, readability, and, in some cases, author availability. More information regarding the First-Year Reading Experience can be found on the First Year Experience website ([www.longwood.edu/newstudent](http://www.longwood.edu/newstudent)). The selection committee will begin the selection process for a new text in early Spring 2009 and a formal call for nominations will be extended to the campus community at this time.

## FIRST-YEAR READING COMMITTEE

**Ms. Sarah E. Whitley**, Co-Chair, Director of First Year Experience

**Dr. Pamela Tracy**, Co-Chair, Communication Studies and Theater and Director of Longwood Seminar

**Dr. Bill Abrams**, Mathematics and Computer Science

**Dr. Chris McGee**, English and Modern Languages

**Ms. Jennifer Cox**, Residence Education Coordinator

**Ms. Mary Meade Saunders**, Academic and Career Advising Center

**Dr. Maureen Walls-McKay**, Counseling Center

**Ms. Abbey O'Connor**, Business and Economics

**Dr. Jeannine Perry**, Education and Human Services

**Mr. Wade Lough**, Art Department

**Ms. Shannon Hersman**, Undergraduate Admissions

**Ms. Ashley Lauer**, Peer Mentor – Class of 2010

## **OFFICE OF FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE**

**226 LANKFORD STUDENT UNION**

**434.395.2414**

**FIRSTYEAR@LONGWOOD.EDU**

**WWW.LONGWOOD.EDU/NEWSTUDENT**