

FIRST-YEAR READING EXPERIENCE

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

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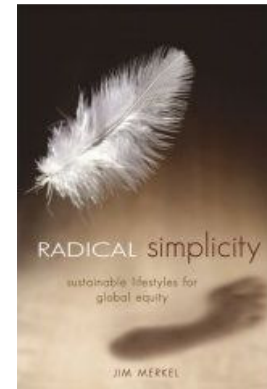
The First-Year Reading Experience at Longwood University is intended to provide an opportunity for first-year students to share a common intellectual experience with their new campus community. This experience will also provide avenues for students to engage in conversation and think critically about 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.

2008-2009 FIRST-YEAR READING SELECTION

In conjunction with Longwood's campus-wide focus on sustainability, the first-year reading selected for 2008-09 is *Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth* by Jim Merkel. Following the Exxon Valdez disaster, Merkel, a former military engineer, founded the Global Living Project and now focuses on developing tools for personal and societal sustainability. First-year students will purchase copies of the text during Summer Orientation & Registration and Merkel will provide a lecture and workshops to the campus during New Lancer Days. Additionally, *Radical Simplicity* will be included in the curriculum for Longwood Seminar. A reading guide will be provided to all students upon purchase.

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. As this program moves forward, an official website for the experience will be developed where the campus community may submit nominations for future readings. The committee will solicit nominations for the 2009-10 text in the coming weeks.

FIRST-YEAR READING COMMITTEE

The First-Year Reading Committee is charged with the research and selection of the text, creation of supplemental materials, and associated programmatic endeavors. Committee members include:

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. Susan Booker, English and Modern Languages

Ms. Jennifer Cox, Residence Education Coordinator

Ms. Shannon Hersman, Undergraduate Admissions

Ms. Ashley Lauer, Peer Mentor – Class of 2010

Ms. Abbey O'Connor, Business and Economics

Dr. Jeannine Perry, Education and Human Services

Ms. Mary Meade Saunders, Career Center

Dr. Maureen Walls-McKay, Counseling Center

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