

Dear colleagues,

As you have heard earlier from the President and Provost, UK has now instituted a [Common Reading Experience](#) for its incoming class of fall 09. The chosen book is a double memoir:

[*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother*](#)

by James McBride

Penguin, 1996, 2nd edition 2006

ISBN: 1-57322-022-1

You can sign up to become a discussion leader, recommend a book for next year, and learn more about *The Color of Water* on this website: www.uky.edu/CommonReading.

We hope that you will include this book in your summer reading plans. You can get a free copy by volunteering to be a [discussion leader](#) for a one-hour discussion during [K Week](#). We already have more than 110 faculty and staff volunteers, **but need about 250 more**. That means we need you! This discussion hour will be held Tuesday, August 25 from 10-11 a.m. We hope this fits into your plans.

James McBride will visit campus and give a lecture on October 1. Please encourage your students to attend, and consider using this book in your syllabi if appropriate. Even if you do not teach undergraduates, we want you to be involved in this all-campus activity, and welcome your participation as a discussion leader. It will give you a chance to touch incoming undergraduates and, crucially, to help them understand from their very first week at UK that they've embarked on a mind-bending learning experience that is not simply confined to the classroom.

A great read, a chance to welcome our new undergraduates and talk ideas with them – what's not to love? So please join us!

Dr. Phil Harling
Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Incoming Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Dr. Jeannine Blackwell
Dean of the Graduate School
Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Michelle Ashcraft
Assistant Director of New Student and Parent Programs
Coordinator, Common Reading Experience Program