STUDENT CONFERENCE

on

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

May 2, 2013 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. | MAC Conference Center

KCC READS is part of the Coordinated Undergraduate Education Initiative (CUE) at Kingsborough, overseen by Associate Provost, Dr. Reza Fakhari.

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KINGSBOROUGH’S COMMON READING program was inaugurated at a meeting of the Faculty Assembly in Spring 2001. Like universities across the country, we wanted to adopt a program that would cultivate a reading culture and foster campus community through a single book. Since its inception, the program has been highly collaborative, with participation from every corner of our campus—in events, meetings, debates, art projects, book nominations, reading groups and more. KCC Reads cultivates community chiefly through the work of our campus-wide cohort—including staff, faculty and students—which organizes events, selects the annual book and supports the broader work of teaching, reading and research through course adoptions across several disciplines.

The utility of a university common reading program is in the way it not only fosters a spirit of community at our school but also functions to enrich students in important ways: research and public speaking skills, critical thinking and writing skills, management and leadership experience, as well as preparing them for senior college or for the career they may enter upon graduation. The program also engages a social justice agenda, through student research elaborating social and political themes of the books and by means of civic engagement work in Brooklyn, in wider New York City, and in the world beyond our campus borders.

We organize an events series in which students, staff and faculty collaborate. Our culminating event for the year is today’s program: the KCC Reads Student Conference, where students present their work on the book—this year, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot—in panel and roundtable discussions, debates, posters and power point presentations, and as part of art and science exhibitions. The conference features a Keynote Lecture, this year given by the esteemed Dr. Christoph Lengauer, CSO, Blueprint Medicines, who is featured in Chapter 32 of the book.

In September 2013, at our Inaugural Lecture given (we are pleased to announce) by Professor Thom Smyth, Director of Culinary Arts, look for Volume I of our student journal—*Paideia: The Journal of KCC Reads*—publishing outstanding work in multiple genres presented at today’s conference.
THE KCC READS STUDENT CONFERENCE

on

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

By Rebecca Skloot

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013

10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

MAC CONFERENCE CENTER

~Conference Agenda:

9:45:   Registration | Bagels & Refreshments

10:00 – 10:15:  Welcome Remarks:  Dr. Reza Fakhari & Dr. Maureen Fadem

10:20 – 11:20:  1st Sessions:  1A in Central, 1B in South, 1C in East, 1D in M-239

11:30 – 12:30:  2nd Sessions:  2A in Central, 2B in South, 2C in East, 2D in M-239

12:00:   Lunch & Refreshments

12:40 – 1:40:  3rd Sessions:  3A in Central, 3B in South, 3C in East, 3D in M-239

1:50 – 2:50:  4th Sessions:  4A in Central, 4B in South, 4C in East, 4D in M-239

2:50   Cookies: Prepared by Students of the Food Club (Culinary Arts)

3:00 – 4:50:  5th Session:  Keynote Lecture in Central: Dr. Christoph Lengauer

Introduction: Dr. Stuart Suss, Provost

5:00 – 6:00:  6th Session:  Dramatic Performance in Central: Brought to you by Students of KCC and the Harlem Village Charter School

~Exhibitions:  10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Art Exhibit in the MAC LOBBY (WEST)

Curated by Professor Madeline Sorel, Faculty, Dept. of Art & Professor Maureen Fadem, Dept. of English / Coordinator of KCC Reads

Science Exhibition in NORTH

Curated by Professor Meriem Bendaoud, Professor Ivan Ho & Professor Sarwar Jahangir
Department of Biological Sciences
A diagram of the MAC Conference Center, Session Locations marked:
~SESSION ONE~

10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Session 1A in CENTRAL:
Panel Discussion: KCC Graduates Improvise on Themes in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*: Silencing, Invisibility, the Question of the “Immortal” and the Sordid Underbelly of American History
Presenters: Joel Alexander, Kieshorne Dennie, Farin Kautz and Esther Hassell
Moderator: Laura Glazier-Smith, Director of Alumni Relations

Session 1B in SOUTH:
Roundtable Session: Prof Radtke’s Students on Healing the Spirit: Lessons from the Lacks Family
Discussants: Hazelanne Blackette, Marie Jacques, Anna Kazakova, Volha Mikhailava, Khrystyna Nazarova, Maygan Richemond, Tariq Rimsha, Hawa Sy and Sadia Zahid / Researchers: Diossamer Polanco, Nicole Johnson, Sadia Zahid and Rimsha Tariq
Facilitator: Professor Jennifer Radtke, Dept. of English

Session 1D in EAST:
Panel Discussion: Prof Fadem’s ASAP Students Take Henrietta Lacks to Heart
Presenters: Khadijah Betances, Ashley Juarbe, Kristina Lekomtseva, Jessica Silva and Tony Williams
Moderator: Professor Wendy Chu, Library & Media Services

~SESSION TWO~

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session 2A in CENTRAL:
Art Slide Show: Prof Sorel’s Students Explain Their Process: Illustrating *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
The Artists: Rosemary Acevedo, Zanib Ahmad, Natisha Corona, Leylya Gonzalez, Jonathan King, Joyce LaFontant, Matthew Reyes, Adam Rosenblum and Christina Maria Scaglione
Facilitator: Professor Madeline Sorel, Art Department

Session 2B in SOUTH:
Roundtable Session: Prof Ho’s Students Consider Science and Ethics in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
Discussants: Ivwede Akpobo, Michael Ashurov, James Bonilla, Heerawattie Chowrie, Catherine Colella, Jened Duncan, Akil Fletcher, Kyle Gay, Marquis Henry, Anika Housain, Julie Itshakov, Kehon Johnson, Illya Leontieva, Makeba Lewis, Irene Li, Jay Moss, Nicole Polokowski, Hajar Sanih, Airel Scharff, Gall Sillace, Gina Sokolovs, Maritza Soria, Oksana Sumtsova, Marissa Tarnowsky, Aarif Toppa, Christopher Uhler, Ekaterina Voynova, and Leanna Williams
Facilitator: Professor Ivan Ho, Dept. of Biological Sciences

Session 2C in EAST:
Panel Discussion: Prof Bendaoud’s Students: Why Scientists Should Thank Henrietta Lacks for the “HeLa” Cells
Presenters: Dmitry Boykov, Humza Butt, Amy Lau and Vasiliki Vardouniotis
Moderator: Professor Meriem Bendaoud, Dept. of Biological Sciences

Session 2D in M-239:
Panel Discussion: Prof Fadem’s Honors Students Take Henrietta Lacks Seriously
Presenters: Tenzin Lama, Maryna Martinez, Iqra Shafiq, Rafael de Marco Teixera and Chris Zumtobel
Moderator: Dr. Rachelle Goldsmith, Director of Kingsborough’s Honors Program
~SESSION THREE~

12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Session 3A in CENTRAL:
Panel Discussion: Students in the KCC Reads Cohort: Issues of History & Injustice in the Henrietta Lacks Story
Presenters: Brittany Harrington, Dali Mendez, Michael Rainford and Diana Sanchez
Moderator: Professor Martin Matthew, Dept. of History, Philosophy and Political Science

Session 3B in SOUTH:
Panel Discussion: Prof Zipper’s Students Discuss the Henrietta Lacks Story from Multiple Viewpoints
Presenters: Samera Afzal, Edward Figueroa, Jamani Purell and Jerome Robinson
Moderator: Crystal Rodwell, Director, Office of Academic Scheduling

Session 3C in EAST:
Panel Discussion: Prof Echols’ Students on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks: “Health is Wealth”
Presenters: Daniel Aleksandrov, Shalini Bholasing, Nicola Dyce, Alyssa Joseph and Kendrick Theobalds
Moderator: Professor Kevicha Echols, Dept. of Health, Physical Education & Recreation

Session 3D in M-239:
Panel Discussion: Students of The Men’s Resource Center: An Ethical Exploration of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Presenters: Rashidi Ashman, Matthew Garzala, Daniel Melendez and Marlon Gordon
Moderator: Michael P. Rodriguez, Program Manager, BMI & The Men’s Resource Center
Facilitator: Professor Joseph Terry, Dept. of History, Philosophy and Political Science

~SESSION FOUR~

1:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Session 4A in CENTRAL:
Poetry Reading: Student Poems Inspired by Henrietta Lacks and Her Legacy
MC: Professor Brian Katz, Dept. of English

Session 4B in SOUTH:
Panel Discussion: KCC Students Speak In Defense of Henrietta Lacks
Presenters: Wichztide Carmelle Henriquez, Victor Hernandez, Crespo Ricardo and Annette Sumpter
Moderator: Professor Helaine Schwartz, Dept. of Communications & Performing Arts

Session 4C in EAST:
Panel Discussion: Prof Leggett’s Students: Issues of Social Justice & the Rule of Law in the Henrietta Lacks Story
Presenters: Kira Brannigan, Daisean Brewster and Eden Moldvani
Moderator: Professor Jason Leggett, Dept. of History, Philosophy & Political Science

Session 4D in M-239:
Debate: Should Henrietta Lacks’ Cells Have Been Taken? A Debate on the Pros and Cons
Debate Team: Hannan Javaid, Richard Rivera, Jerome Robinson, Daniel Sandoval and Kiyanna Swindell
Convener: Professor Toby Zipper, Dept. of English
~SESSION FIVE: Keynote Lecture~

3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Session 5 in CENTRAL:

Dr. Christoph Lengauer, CSO Blueprint Medicines

will speak on

“The Impact of Doing Better: An Interplay of Science and Empathy”

Introduction: KCC Provost, Dr. Stuart Suss 3:15
The Lecture: Dr. Christoph Lengauer 3:30 – 4:15
Q & A: Dr. Lengauer 4:15 – 4:50

~SESSION SIX: Dramatic Performance~

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Session 6 in CENTRAL:

Dramatic Performance in Honor of Henrietta Lacks:

“Mythology”

The Cast & Crew:

Prof D.L. Anderson’s KCC Students:

Compton Alford (Writer), Kira Brannigan (Rebecca Skloot, Writer, Asst. Director, Stage Mgr.), Anthony Chatman (Dr. Patillo, Emmett, Asst. Director, Videographer), Alexandra Cuffie (Deborah Lacks, Henrietta, Writer), Alina Efremova (Dancer), Kali Frazzle (Rapper), Demetrius Garrett (Writer), Larissa Giddens (Spirit of Henrietta, HeLa Goddess), Benjamin Hanon (Writer), Bryan Hutchinson (David Lacks, Dancer, Choreographer, Tech. Asst., Co-editor), Sveti-Kurcanci (Mary Kubicek, Writer), Tatinia Lomisvili (Dancer, Henrietta Lacks), Sayra Maugeri (Writer), Wilbert Morales (Gary, Writer), Jonathin Petit (Writer, Performer), Jennifer Pierre (Writer), Adil Qualim (Writer), Shamal Ramazanov (Christoph Lengauer, Writer), Khaled Saifullah (Writer), Amnah Saleh (Writer), and Hector Santana (Dr. Gey, Writer)

With further support provided by KCC students: Amadou Diallo, Daniel Gomez Rodriguez, Loron Johnson, Dalmar A. Nation, Jonathan Puello, John Senat and Wynn Ibraheem

Cynthia Anderson-Cook’s Students from The Harlem Village Charter School:

Kiana Doumbia (Babette, Dancer), Manni Dunn (Galen, Dancer), Stephanie Fernandez (Dancer), Emily Gutierrez (Dancer), Oni Johnson (Singer), Zeldeya Knowles (Elise Lacks, Deborah Lacks), Deane Ramgeet (Dancer), Lashea Shipp (Dancer), Reggie Smith (Zakariyya Lacks), and Kentaja Vaughn (Ethel)

Directed by Professor D.L. Anderson, Dept. of English, and Cynthia Anderson-Cook, The Harlem Village Charter School
The Conference could not have taken place without the following individuals and KCC Offices:

Aba Agolli
Jaime Berco
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Peter Cohen
Cynthia Anderson-Cook, Harlem Village Charter School
Maureen Daly
Dennis Daniel
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Reza Fakhari
Susan Farrell
Eileen Ferretti
Robin Frankel
Rhachelle Goldsmith
George Greasley
Brittany Harrington
Linda Holman
Asif Hussain
Amberin Khan, Blueprint Medicines
Miriam Kittrell
Jason Leggett
Christoph Lengauer, Blueprint Medicines
Cindy Lui
Martin Mathew
Dalila Mendez
Hassan Khawaja Muneeb
Helen Nasser
Ray Neinstein
Joy Owens
Janine Palludan
Kwatei Jones-Quartey
Francis Qiu
Jennifer Radtke
Rick Repetti
Frances Robinson
Michael P. Rodriguez
Crystal Rodwell
Christina Maria Scags
Helaine Schwartz
Laura Glazier-Smith
Thom Smyth
Stuart Suss
Joe Tammany
Loretta Brancaccio-Taras
Paul Winnick
Toby Zipper

The Office of the Associate Provost
Buildings & Grounds
Event Technical Services & Events Management
The Food Club (Culinary Arts)
The Honors Program Office
The Men’s Resource Center
Office Services
Panda House
The Philosophy Club (History, Philosophy & Political Science)
The President’s Office
Public Safety
The Office of Student Affairs
The Office of Student Life

A Very special thanks to the following individuals who made substantial contributions to today’s event:

Ms. Xiaoting Lau, for creating the program cover and her excellent work on all of the conference materials
KCC Honors Student Mr. Dimitri Foster (Engineering Science), for his excellent work as Conference Photographer
KCC Graduates Joel Alexander (2011), Kiesborne Dennie (2010), Farin Kautz (2012) and Esther Hassell (2012), for returning to KCC to be with us today,
Faculty members Brian Katz and D.L. Anderson (English), for inaugurating new KCC Reads programs involving student poetry and dramatic performance,
Faculty Members Madeline Sorel (Art), Meriem Bendaoud, Ivan Ho and Sarwar Jahangir (Biological Sciences), for putting together today’s Art and Science Exhibitions,
KCC Reads Program Assistants, Honors Students Michelle Zeltsman and Michael Rainford, for their tireless efforts all semester in supporting our many events, especially today’s conference,

And...

The Steering Committee for the KCC Reads Student Conference, the KCC Reads Cohort: www.kbcc.cuny.edu/kccreads/Pages/cohort
The KCC Reads Annual Student Conference

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