

## One Book Announcement

The One Book, One Campus Committee (OBOC) has selected the novel, “All American Boys,” written by Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely, as our book choice for the academic years of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. Discussion of “All American Boys” will begin in the fall of 2017.

Here is a summary and commentary on the novel from a [Booklist](#) review:

*Two teenage boys, one black (Rashad) and one white (Quinn), are inextricably linked when Quinn witnesses Rashad being savagely beaten with little or no provocation by a policeman who has served as Quinn's de facto big brother since his father was killed in Afghanistan and whose younger brother is one of Quinn's best friends. Can Quinn simply walk away from this apparent atrocity and pretend he hasn't seen what he has seen? And what of Rashad? Hospitalized with internal bleeding, all he wants is to be left alone so he can focus on his art. The challenge for both boys becomes more intense when the case becomes a cause célèbre dividing first their school and then the entire community. The basketball team becomes a microcosm of split loyalties and angry disputes that come to a head when a protest march powerfully demonstrates the importance of action in the face of injustice. With Reynolds writing Rashad's first-person narrative and Kiely writing Quinn's, this hard-edged, ripped-from-the-headlines book is more than a problem novel; it's a carefully plotted, psychologically acute, character-driven work of fiction that dramatizes an all-too-frequent occurrence. Police brutality and race relations in America are issues that demand debate and discussion, which this superb book powerfully enables.--Cart, Michael Copyright 2015 Booklist, American Library Association.*

The context of debate and discussion cited by the preceding review was generative of the novel itself. “All American Boys” is the product of a dialogue that started between strangers on a book tour. These strangers happened to be authors for the same publishing house, Simon & Schuster. The events which led to their becoming co-authors of this novel are explored in the following NPR interview: <http://www.npr.org/2016/01/02/461754097/authors-of-all-american-boys-talk-about-how-book-has-sparked-race-discussion>

It is the One Book, One Campus committee's hope that this selection will also encourage meaningful and sustained dialogue on our campus. The following members of the Millersville community serve on the One Book committee: Jeff Adams, Jan Bechtel, Tony Elliot, Zainab Gilani, Kelly Kuhns, Laura Molina, Daniel O'Neill, Nicole Pfannenstiel, Joel Piperberg, Danielle Rapp, Michele Santamaría, Deborah Tamakloe, and Jasmine Whitlow.

If you have any questions or feedback about potential curricular and co-curricular opportunities, please contact One Book, One Campus Co-chairs, Michele Santamaría or Daniel O'Neill ([msantamaria@millersville.edu](mailto:msantamaria@millersville.edu); [doneill@millersville.edu](mailto:doneill@millersville.edu))