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Dear Gator Faculty Members,

Please help me set the expectations for our incoming class, one of the most accomplished ever at the University of Florida. This year, we will join a number of other colleges and universities across the country in making a common reading a part of orienting new students to our intellectual community.

The Common Reading Program of the Gator First Year Experience is a University-wide program coordinated by the Division of Student Affairs. A committee of faculty, staff and students has selected the text *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a man who would cure the world* by Tracy Kidder as our inaugural book for this program. All new first-year students will receive a copy of this book at orientation (aka. Preview) this summer.

Through this program, our students will:

- Partake in a shared experience with a diverse community of learners.
- Sharpen their intellectual and interpersonal skills through interdisciplinary discussion and exposure to multiple perspectives.
- Engage with fellow students, faculty, and staff within in the larger UF community to develop stronger partnerships in learning.

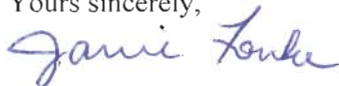
As faculty members, you can participate in this program in a number of ways, including incorporating *Mountains Beyond Mountains* in your course syllabi. The book explores themes such as access to and quality of healthcare, Haitian culture, human rights, creating a meaningful life, active citizenship, and the power of the individual to make a difference. A working group is writing a curriculum guide which will be available in early July on the Common Reading Program website (www.dso.ufl.edu/nsp/firstyearexperience/commonread.php).

I also encourage you to consider offering additional programming planned for the fall semester. Your department may consider offering a panel discussion, film viewing, lecture, etc. as part of our efforts to incorporate this program University-wide. If you are interested in sponsoring an event, please contact Leslie Hahn, the Assistant Director of New Student Programs at leslieah@dso.ufl.edu.

Tracy Kidder will address the Gator Nation on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00pm at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts. We are honored to have him visit and share with our community the journey of Dr. Farmer and the impact he has had and continues to have on the people he serves. I hope you will be able to attend.

Many thanks in advance for your support and contributions, and by the way, I am loving this book!

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Fouke
Provost