

College community reading OneBook for greater good

By Kristle West,
Special to the Citizen

Encouraging students to read is becoming more of a challenge in today's technology-driven society, but Cosumnes River College has found a way to bring students, staff and the community together to pick up a common book and discuss it.

"Through OneBook, we strive to build relationships and make connections between students, staff and faculty who otherwise might not interact," said Emily Bond, CRC librarian. "We hope to build a stronger sense of community on campus through the shared experiences of reading and discussion."

CRC student Irene Rice got involved in OneBook last semester on the recommendation of humanities professor Maureen Moore. That book, *The Latehomecomer*, was about the Hmong people. "It gave me an awareness of the consequences of the Viet Nam war I never considered before," Rice said. "Being involved in the OneBook project expanded my world view, and gave me an admiration for the Hmong, a people I previously knew little about."

Humanities professor Maureen Moore started the project in fall 2010 after reading a report about how young people were reading less and less, to the detriment of society.

"After reading the National Endowment for the Arts report entitled, 'To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence,' I thought a lot about ways in which I could make a change in my small corner of the world," said Moore. "It took me two more years of thinking and researching, but ultimately OneBook CRC

was born."

The idea behind the project was to create an intellectual community around the reading of a common book in order to enhance student success, improve cultural competence, and encourage inclusive teaching and learning.

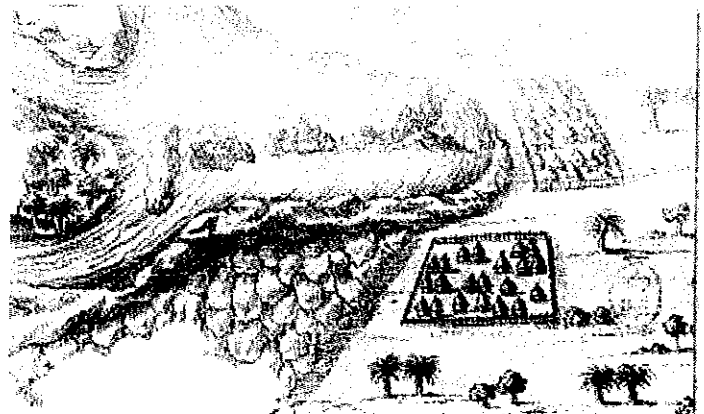
"As a librarian, one of my professional goals is to encourage students to learn about others, challenge their boundaries and question the world through reading," said Bond. "OneBook offers me a unique opportunity to connect with students and to support their learning both in and outside of the classroom."

This year, the college is reading *I Do Not Come to You By Chance*, by Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani. It is the story of young Kingsley Ibo- a Nigerian man who has just completed his education and is looking for work so that he can begin supporting his family members who are struggling through hard times.

"It serves to bind individuals together with a common goal of understanding the world in which we live, and it promotes inquiry about different cultures," said Moore. "In short, it's a program that is a win-win for individuals, the college and the community!"

Projects similar to OneBook are cropping up at campuses around the country as other colleges work to encourage reading and foster a sense of community.

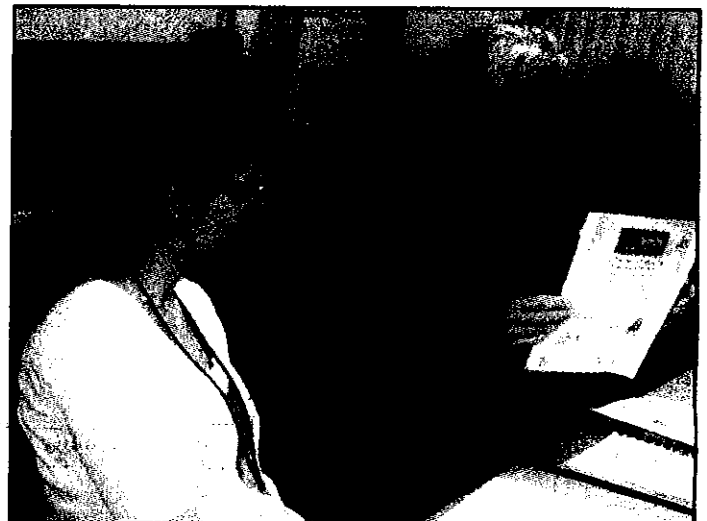
To become involved in the OneBook project or for more information, go to their facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/OneBookCRC>. You can also call (916) 691-7249 or email CRC-OneBook@crc.losrios.edu.



I Do Not Come to You by Chance



Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani



Emily Bond, Cosumnes River College librarian and Maureen Moore, right, Professor of Humanities at the college, briefed the College's Foundation Board recently on community reading.

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