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Subject Freshmen reading: The Tipping Point

Colleagues,

For the second year in a row, all incoming Stony Brook first-year full-time undergraduate students will be participating in a freshman reading program. In July, each of these new students will receive a copy of *The Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Gladwell, along with a welcoming letter from the Provost and a reader's guide to the book designed by Anne Beaufort of the Writing Program. The freshman reading will be a focus of Experience Stony Brook, the program that spans the opening weekend of school. On Sunday, September 1, after students participate in the New Student Convocation, they are required to attend a First-Year Reading Colloquium as their inaugural academic experience. At this colloquium, Mr. Gladwell will respond to questions about the book. Last year's program, with James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, was a tremendous success, and we have every expectation that the same will be true this year.

The *Tipping Point* will also be integrated into the curriculum for WRT 101, which most incoming students take. We hope that instructors in other courses will take the opportunity to use the book in their classes as well. Accordingly, the university will make copies of the book available to all faculty teaching in the coming Fall semester. If you would like a copy, please contact Dr. Peter M. Baigent, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs by email (Peter.Baigent/OSA) or by telephone (2-6700).

Thank you,
Robert L. McGrath, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs