

Reading and discussion questions

1. After reading this book what challenges/obstacles do you believe you may face as a college student? What strategies will you use to get past these obstacles?
2. How does low income impact the quality of life (health, housing, education, etc.)?
3. How did family relationships influence these students' lives? What stands out about each of their childhood experiences at home?
4. Each of the narrators describes a turning point at which specific decisions or choices to turn away from certain friends, to never return to jail, and to study harder changed the course of their lives. Are such moments recognizable only in hindsight? Do you think that shaping the events of your life into a story would influence the importance you placed on specific events?
5. Peer pressure plays an enormous role in the lives of young people in every circumstance. How did it play into the lives of Sam, George, and Rameck? What drew them together and what kept their "pact" alive?
6. Education is at the center of this success story, though teachers like Miss Johnson, who nurtured and inspired George, were less prevalent. Other teachers, as George explains, expected and accepted mediocrity or less, and unfortunately, we usually gave no more. "Why do you think George felt this way? To what degree are teachers and students to blame for this situation? Does the book suggest any ways to improve the system?
7. After reading this book, what do you conclude is required to enable other young people in harsh environments to achieve? Who is ultimately responsible for providing those opportunities? The individual? The family? The state?

For more information:

www.uwp.edu keyword: Ranger Read



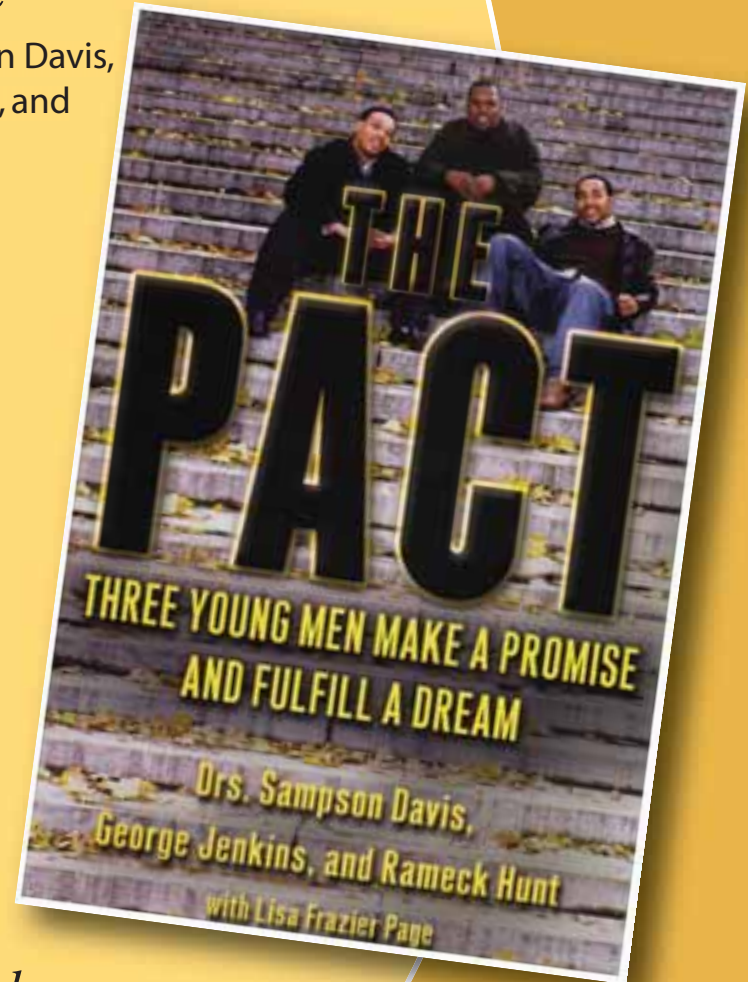
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
is proud to announce the 2008

Ranger Read

First Year Reading Program

The Pact

by Drs. Sampson Davis,
George Jenkins, and
Rameck Hunt



Ranger Welcome
Tuesday, September 2nd

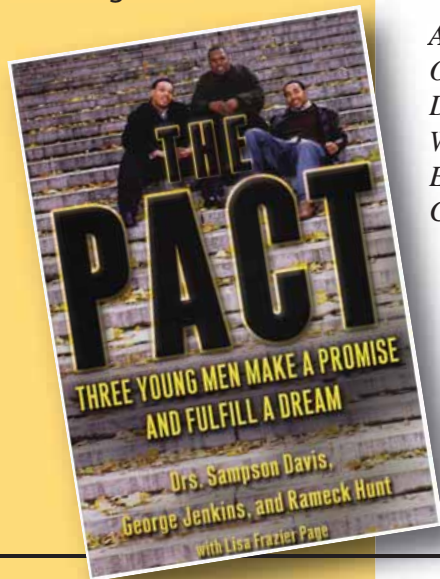
First Year Reading Program

The Purpose

of Ranger Read is to orient new students to our UW-Parkside community by having a common reading experience with fellow classmates, faculty, staff, and upper-class students.

The Goal

of the Ranger Read is to establish a greater sense of community among students and engage students in discussion as a means to introduce them to college life.



The Process:

- **THE RANGER READ PROGRAM** will be introduced to students during the spring and summer Ranger Day Orientation sessions where the book will be distributed to all first-year students.
- **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS** with first-year students will take place Tuesday, September 2, as a part of our Ranger Welcome Orientation and will be facilitated by faculty, staff, administrators, and student leaders.
- **CARRY OVER** into the fall 2008 semester will take the form of further discussion and assignments in, ASCK120, ASCK090, and other courses.

ACTIVITIES

OMSA Speakout

Documentary "The Pact"

Welcome Home Jr. (Theatre Productions)

Essay Contests

Community Service Project

About This Book

The true story of three Newark, NJ youths as they bond to become, respectively, doctors, and a dentist. Each must cope to escape the poverty, dysfunction, and crime that so pervade their community. As they strive for success in the medical profession, the young men must overcome the rigors of maintaining good grades, the high financial cost of college, the strain on social relationships, and, most of all, the pressure that each must carry in their ascension toward their goals. The book also serves as a guide for others in forming their own pact. This is a story about the power of friendship, of joining forces, and beating the odds. A story about changing your life, and the lives of those you love most... together.

The Pact is a really good book! It points out ways to create a support system from the ground up. It's a success story with a powerful impact from places where dreams don't usually come true. Even if you come from nothing, success is possible.

Sophie Brown—Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Pact is an inspiring story that finally gives minority students a success story instead of constant bombardments of grief.

Jasmine Overton—Calhoun, Mississippi



ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt grew up in broken homes in Newark, New Jersey, and both Davis and Hunt served time in juvenile detention centers. They grew up on the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attain that dream—they are all doctors.

