

## Alumni Group Book Club

One of the best ways to build community and continue our lifelong learning is through book clubs. We have selected a list of books that can directly connect you back to Ohio State by way of an alumni writer or interesting facts and stories about The Ohio State University itself.

- Raimund Goerler, *The Ohio State University: An Illustrated History*. (OSU Press, 2011) [Purchase Link](#)
- Bill Shkurti, *The Ohio State University in the Sixties* (OSU Press, 2016) [Purchase Link](#)
- Lentz, Ed, *Columbus: The Story of a City* (Arcadia, 2003) [Purchase Link](#)
- Bob Hunter and John Baskin, *Chic: The Extraordinary Rise of Ohio State Football and the Tragic Schoolboy Athlete Who Made It Happen* [Purchase Link](#)
- Doreen Uhas Sauer and Stuart J. Koblenz, *The Ohio State University Neighborhoods* [Purchase Link](#)
- Jack Park has also written a series of books on OSU football – see: [Purchase Link](#)
- Another suggestion is a book written by Todd Purdum about Representative William McCulloch called *An Idea Whose Time Has Come*. McCulloch was an alumnus (Law) and was the key Republican in the House of Representatives to ensure passage of the Civil Rights Bill. Todd did a lot of research at the Archives for his book. [Purchase Link](#)
- Ohio State Graduate J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy* [Purchase Link](#)

## Other Book Club Options

If your club or society is interested in additional lifelong learning, special interest, or diversity opportunities, there are plenty of great options that have been previously featured as a part of the [Ohio State Alumni Book Club](#). Here are some titles that we would recommend for your group's book club:

- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead ([Purchase Link](#))
- *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth ([Purchase Link](#))
- *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg ([Purchase Link](#))
- *Dopesick* by Beth Macy ([Purchase Link](#))
- *The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups* by Daniel Coyle ([Purchase Link](#))
- *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb ([Purchase Link](#))
- *The Outsider* by Stephen King ([Purchase Link](#))
- *Prayers for Bobby* by Leroy Aarons ([Purchase Link](#))

- *Kindred* by Octavia Butler ([Purchase Link](#))
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin ([Purchase Link](#))
- *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng ([Purchase Link](#))

In addition to the titles featured by the Ohio State Alumni Book Club, we also highly-recommend considering a title from [The New York Times Bestsellers List](#).

## Discussion Options

Under ordinary circumstances, we would encourage our alumni groups to meet in-person to discuss their current book club selection. In order to promote social distancing by allow opportunity for a group discussion during the era of COVID-19, The Ohio State University Alumni Association has compiled [a list of audio and visual conferencing resources](#) that can be used to facilitate a group discussion for your book club. We also recommend that you review [our recommendations for virtual event registration](#) to make it easy for your Buckeyes to sign-up for your book club and to make it easier for you to report your group's participation at the conclusion of your book club event. [Here are some additional resources](#) that may be useful in planning your virtual event. If you are looking for some sample questions to help guide your book club discussion, [this website](#) is a great resource.

## Reimbursement for Alumni Groups

Book Clubs qualify for reimbursement as they can be classified as a Lifelong Learning or Diversity Category 1 event. To make this process easier for our alumni group volunteers and their constituents, we recommend surveying your audience to see who would like to participate, so that you can place a single order for the book of your choosing and request a single reimbursement for the group. If the total number of books exceeds the reimbursement amount, your group can decide the cost for your constituents to participate in your book club.

For a Book Club event to meet the qualifications to be a Diversity event, the book as well as the subsequent group discussion should focus on the struggles and triumphs of underrepresented populations, such as: African-Americans, Women, Veterans, the LGBTQ community, the Latinx community, and immigrant communities. If you are not sure if your selection qualifies for a Diversity Program, please reach out to your Regional Engagement Officer or Society Liaison.

Questions? Please reach out to your Regional Engagement Officer or Society Liaison and begin planning your Book Club event!