



HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY.

**Alumni Book Club
Book Discussion**

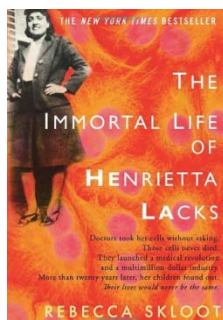
Sunday, March 11, 2012 – 10 a.m.
Libby and Joseph G. Shapiro Alumni House

This month's selection is

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

By

Rebecca Skloot



Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells, taken without her knowledge, became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

Source: The Washington Post

To join the Alumni Book Club or for more information,
please contact the Alumni Affairs Office at (516) 463-6636 or Sandra.J.Lombino@Hofstra.edu.
Save the date: June 3, 2012 – *The Tiger’s Wife* by Tea Obreht