Alumni Book Club Discussion
Sunday, March 13, 2016 – 11 a.m.
Libby and Joseph G. Shapiro Alumni House

With Special Guest
Kelly McMasters
Author and Hofstra University Assistant Professor of English
and Director of Publishing Studies

This month’s selection is

Welcome to Shirley: A Memoir from an Atomic Town

By Kelly McMasters

Shirley seemed to be doomed from the beginning. Founded by a Vaudevillian huckster who touted it as a seaside haven despite the sand bar that blocks access to the shore, the town has been plagued by one disaster after another—a UFO, a childhood cancer cluster, and a mysterious federal nuclear laboratory in nearby Brookhaven that leaked toxic nuclear and chemical waste into the aquifer from which the residents unknowingly drew their well water.

This is Kelly McMasters' account of growing up in a cursed town and loving it anyway, and of a girl's awakening to tragedy and to a sense of mission. Told in a deliciously engaging voice, Welcome to Shirley balances the bitter with the sweet, the funny with the infuriating, in an unforgettable story of working class Long Island.

Source: Amazon.com

A documentary based on the book, The Atomic States of America was a 2012 Sundance Film Festival selection.

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