

AWARD-WINNING BOOK INSPIRES SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

(New Paperback edition)

THE OXFORD PROJECT

Photographs by Peter Feldstein Text by Stephen G. Bloom

Gold Medal winner of the IPPY
for Outstanding Book of 2009:
Most Original ConceptWinner of the American Library
Association's 2009 Alex AwardOne of Amazon's Ten Best
Books of 2008: Art/PhotographyOne of NPR's Best
Gift Books of 2008

The Alex Award-winning *The Oxford Project* is back in an abridged paperback edition and rapidly becoming a model for grassroots community projects nationwide. Schools, libraries, museums, and theaters are using this profoundly intriguing book to engage their communities in an effort to get to know each other more deeply.

Less expensive, more portable, and retaining all the drama of this extraordinary true tale of a seemingly ordinary Midwestern town through the pictures and words of its residents. Equal parts art, American history, cultural anthropology, and human narrative—*The Oxford Project* is at once personal and universal, surprising and predictable, simple and profound.

The Project began in 1984, when artist Peter Feldstein set out to photograph every single resident of his town, Oxford, Iowa (pop. 676). He converted an abandoned storefront on Main Street into a makeshift studio and posted fliers inviting people to stop by. At first they trickled in slowly but in the end nearly all of Oxford stood before his lens. Twenty years later, Feldstein decided to do it again. Only this time he invited writer Stephen G. Bloom to join him, and together they went in search of the same Oxford residents Feldstein had originally shot two decades earlier. What emerges is a living composite of a quintessential Midwestern community, told through the words and images of its residents—then and now. This intricate web of human connections among neighbors, friends, and family, is the mainstay of small-town American life—unforgettably captured here in Feldstein's candid black-and-white photography and Bloom's rhythmic storytelling.

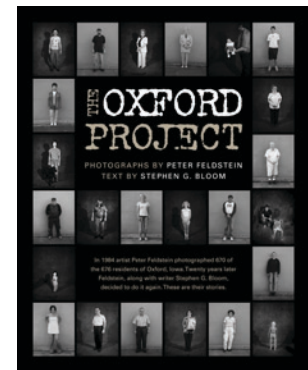
PRAISE FOR THE OXFORD PROJECT:

"For my Creative Writing students the portraits in *The Oxford Project* really are worth a thousand words. When used as writing prompts, the transformative nature of the portraits help my students practice crafting characters. The portraits have also inspired my students to bring in portraits of themselves as children which they use to spark pieces of writing that explore connections between the yesterday of their childhood and the today of their teen years. This year students will use the *Oxford Project* as a template to create their own *Oxford Project* that focuses on the childhood portrait of a relative or neighbor they know who is from an older generation." —Junius Wright, Academic Magnet High School

"This powerful confessional book draws its strength from the truth that so-called ordinary people are actually the heroes of our American drama." —Ken Burns, Filmmaker

"Strongly recommended." —Library Journal

Since its original publication in Fall 2008, *The Oxford Project* has been adopted for school projects in Memphis and Iowa City AND NEW SCHOOL PROJECTS THIS FALL. Of special interest is the new Reader's Questions at the back of the book and the new Teacher Guide, available in September online at www.welcomebooks.com/oxfordproject. The Teacher Guide provides ideas for incorporating *The Oxford Project* into classroom curriculum for grades 9 through 12 and focuses on how people change over the course of their lives and the value of documenting the lives of ordinary people.

THE OXFORD PROJECT
Photographs by Peter Feldstein
Text by Stephen G. Bloom

200 pages, 9 x 11 1/4

More than 200 black and white photographs
Trade Paperback with flaps, \$29.95 (\$34.00 CAN)
ISBN:978-1-59962-087-9On Sale: September
PHOTOGRAPHY

PETER FELDSTEIN is an artist working at the intersection of photography, drawing, printmaking, and digital imaging. Feldstein's work has been shown in galleries across the country, in group exhibitions at the Center for Creative Photography, Walker Art Center, and the Rhode Island School of Design. He has received an NEA Individual Artist's Grant and two Polaroid Collection Grants. For more than three decades, Feldstein taught photography and digital imaging at the University of Iowa School of Art & Art History.

STEPHEN G. BLOOM is the author of *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America* (2000). He is also the author of a collection of nonfiction stories, *Inside the Writer's Mind* (2002), and *Tears of Mermaids: The Secret Story of Pearls* (St. Martin's Press). Since 1993, Bloom has taught at the University of Iowa, where he specializes in narrative writing.

To request an electronic image, excerpt, or interview, please visit:
www.welcomebooks.com/oxfordproject