

## YOUR WEEKLY READER

### Rescuing Reading Project

Thomas Nelson Community College  
January 25, 2007

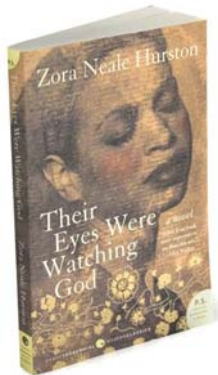
### TNCC Spring 2007 Book Circles

Faculty at Thomas Nelson Community College will invite their students to participate in the Spring 2007 Book Circles, which features three works of fiction: Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; *Une si longue lettre* by North African writer Mariama Bâ (selected by Prof. Gloria Smith for advanced students in French); and a collection of short stories in Spanish by Costa Rican author Uriel Quesada (selected by Prof. Ellis Long and Prof. Alicia Lowery for advanced students in Spanish).

Book Circles' participants reading Hurston's ground-breaking novel will be joining dozens of reading groups throughout the Virginia Peninsula in The Big Read, funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Uriel Quesada's short stories will also be used by the college's students in a first-ever study-abroad course that will bring them to Costa Rica in March.

Plans are underway for Uriel Quesada to visit the college on the day of the **Book Circles, Friday, April 13, 2007, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Wythe Hall Library Gallery.**



### TNCC Faculty Prepare as The Big Read Subject Experts

Adjunct and full-time faculty at Thomas Nelson Community College have volunteered to serve as regional subject experts for community book groups and reading events in May and June under the auspices of The Big Read.



Susan Pongratz, Jacqueline Blackwell, David Kleinman, Vic Thompson, Kathleen Schuck, Heath Scott, Allison Folkwein, Lori Large, Hollis Pruitt, Mary Dubbé, and Tom Long have begun an innovative on-line professional seminar concerning

the career of Zora Neale Hurston, focusing in particular on her novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, selected by the Virginia Peninsula Literary Consortium for The Big Read.

Using Blackboard, these faculty will access digital archives and conduct asynchronous on-line discussions about Hurston and her novel.

### Circulation

*Your Weekly Reader* reaches across the Virginia Peninsula, across Virginia, and even across the Atlantic.

Among our subscribers are over 500 full-time and adjunct faculty and administrators at TNCC, as well as constituents in public education and higher education.

We welcome your views and news:  
[longt@tncc.edu](mailto:longt@tncc.edu) .

### What They're Reading

"I just finished *The Language of God* by Francis Collins MD. Dr. Collins was head of the Human Genome project and is enormously respected by the scientific community. His premise is that DNA/evolution is the vehicle by which God/Higher Power/Source influences the Universe and all Life. The book is heavy on the teachings of Christianity (and C.S. Lewis in particular, whom Dr. Collins clearly admires) A thoughtful, provocative read. For lighter fare, I am reading Eizabeth George's *Missing Joseph*. It is an English modern mystery featuring Detective Lynley--sheer fun! (I am one of those creatures that adores books....the look, smell and feel of them and reads voraciously. I have most from college and graduate school. I support public library but, I prefer to own them....at last count, 15 large bookcases in my home....and counting!)" --**Katheryn Lovell, Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology**

### Poeana

As we turn our backs on the two-faced month, it is remarkable that it contains several milestones in the life of Edgar Allan Poe. Born in Boston on January 19, 1809 (a numerologists delight!), Poe was court martialled at West Point on January 28, 1831 (he had served briefly at Hampton's Fort Monroe) and went on to publish "The Raven" on January 29, 1845 in the New York *Evening Mirror* (back in the days when dailies published poetry).