

YOUR WEEKLY READER

Rescuing Reading Project

Thomas Nelson Community College

October 5, 2006

Rescuing Reading Partners with Public Library, The Big Read

The Rescuing Reading project has joined forces with Newport News Public Library System, which is applying for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to bring The Big Read to the Virginia Peninsula.

The grant proposes the selection of Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* for a series of community reading events, including a visit by Lucy Anne Hurston, a surviving niece of the author and a community college professor, and nationally recognized librarian and author, Nancy Pearl. Rescuing Reading will schedule the novel among its Spring 2006 Book Circles selections, and English faculty at Thomas Nelson Community College will serve as content specialists.

Representing TNCC in this initiative are Mary Dubbé and Susan Pongratz, assistant professors of Reading, and Dr. Thomas Lawrence Long, professor of English.

According to Judy Condra of the Newport News Library System, this collaboration is "the beginning of helping each other acquire grants, go for funding, etc. This is a big step toward cooperative efforts on the Peninsula."



Web Watch

Rescuing Reading got its start as a response to the National Endowment for the Arts report, Reading at Risk. One NEA Initiative is The Big Read, whose goal is nothing less than "creating a nation of readers." For more information, visit: <http://www.neabigread.org/> where you'll find news, book notes, and profiles of participating communities.

TNCC Fall 2006 Book Circles

Friday, November 3, 2006

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Thomas Nelson Community College
Wythe Hall Library Gallery

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Shane by Jack Schaefer

*Journey on the James: Three Weeks
through the Heart of Virginia* by Earl Swift

Catch Someone Reading Photography Contest

Photograph someone reading and promote Rescuing Reading and the Newport News Public Library's Big Read Project, a year-long community reading endeavor.

Photos selected by our judges will be used to create a digital display and traveling exhibit.

Photos may be any size up from 3 x 5 through 11 x 14, color or B&W. They may be mounted, but that is not a requirement. The contest is open to all TNCC students--one entry per student. Entries will be accepted at 419 Hastings Hall. For more information, call Susan Pongratz at 757-825-2916 or Mary Dubbé at 757-825-3666.

What They're Reading

Jack Dougher (TNCC instructor of Philosophy and Religion): "I just finished Deepak Chopra's, *Peace is the Way*, New York: Harmony Books, 2005. It is written in the belief that people are ready to put aside war as a reasonable way for humans to move forward on the planet. The book is both visionary and practical. It is loaded with things the individual can do, but sees individual effort coalescing into a new consciousness which will make a difference."