

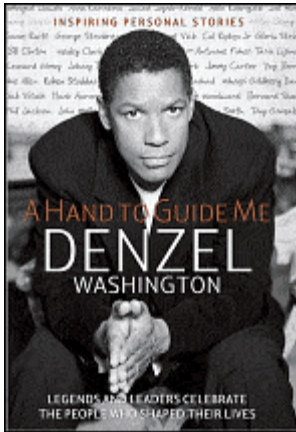
YOUR WEEKLY READER

[Rescuing Reading Project](#)

Thomas Nelson Community College
November 16, 2006

Washington Mentor Promoted Reading

In a new book collecting the testimonial narratives of leaders in entertainment, sports, business and politics about the people who mentored them, actor Denzel Washington includes his own story featuring a high school English teacher who required Washington and fellow students to read the *New York Times* daily.



[Washington's book, *A Hand to Guide Me*](#), features the stories of more than 70 leaders. The book is a fundraiser for Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Numbers: College Grad Literacy Declining

Less than a third of college graduates can read and extrapolate from a complex text, according to a study published last year by the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (an office of the federal Department of Education) and reported in [an article in the Washington Post](#). That's **down** 10 percentage points from a decade ago.

Frankenstein on Stage

Fall 2006 Book Circles' readers who enjoyed Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* will want to see it adapted for the stage at [The American Theatre](#) in Hampton. The Flying Machine production of *Frankenstein*, reinvented as a dark midwinter fairy tale, will be performed December 1 and 2 at 8 p.m.

Book Circles Spring 2007

As a partner in the Virginia Peninsula's [The Big Read](#), funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and spearheaded by Newport News Public Libraries, the **Book Circles** for the spring semester will gather on **Friday, April 13**, to discuss [Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*](#), which has been selected to be read by community reading groups throughout the Peninsula during the late spring.

In addition, the Foreign Language Department is in the process of selecting a book in Spanish by the **Costa Rican writer Uriel Quesada**, which will be assigned in Spanish classes and to the [study-abroad students visiting Costa Rica](#) in March.



Uriel Quesada (Photo: Editorialcostarica.com)

About his writing, Quesada has said: "I am a writer because I need books. I love collecting books, and of course, reading many of them. I love fiction too. I am always curious about the craft of fiction: concepts such as structure, language, plot and character. But first I need to be delighted by the story. Reading is always a matter of pleasure" ("[Why I Write, What I Write, and How I Write It](#)")

According to Dr. Ellis Long, chairperson of the Foreign Language Department, plans are underway for Uriel Quesada to visit Thomas Nelson Community College for the Book Circles in April.

What They're Reading

Professor and department head of Physics, Dr. Jim DellaValle, has been busy with books including: "*Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance* by Ian Buruma. An insight into the issues facing the liberal Netherlands and the influx of Muslim immigrants. Gets confusing at times. *The Moral Center: How We Can Reclaim Our Country from Die-Hard Extremists, Rogue Corporations, Hollywood Hacks, and Pretend Patriots* by David Callahan. What else could I add to that! *ENOUGH: The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movements, and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America - and What We Can Do About It* by Juan Williams. An analysis of the state of American Black culture fifty years after the Brown vs. Board of Education decision with commentary on Bill Cosby's outspoken criticism of the Black community itself. Very interesting reading."