

Stockton to Host Symposium Honoring African-American Author Zora Neale Hurston

For Immediate Release

Monday, November 02, 2015

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Galloway, NJ – Stockton University's School of Arts & Humanities, Literature program and the Africana Studies program will host the Zora Neale Hurston Symposium on **Thursday, Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m.** in the Campus Center Theatre.

The symposium celebrates one of the most pre-eminent writers of 20th century African-American literature. Hurston's masterwork, the 1937 novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," is a story about an independent black woman's quest for identity. Hurston, who was associated with the Harlem Renaissance, has influenced writers including Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison, Gayle Jones, Alice Walker and Toni Cade Bambara.

The event is organized by Adalaine Holton, associate professor of Literature and American Studies, and Ricky Epps-Kearny, English teacher at Atlantic City High School (ACHS) and a current student in Stockton's Master of Arts in American Studies program.

The in-house symposium is modeled after a symposium held in 2008, also organized by Holton and Epps-Kearny, which celebrated the life and work of Richard Wright, author of "Native Son" and "Black Boy."

The symposium will include speakers and performers from the Anthropology, Music, Literature, Theatre, Communications, and American Studies programs at Stockton. Performances include African-American folk songs performed by Stockton University's Highest Praise Gospel Choir and a dramatic performance by ACHS teacher and Stockton adjunct instructor Louise Gorham-Neblett.

The panel discussion will include: Holton; Epps-Kearny; Donnetrice Allison, associate professor of Communication Studies and Africana Studies; and Linda Williamson Nelson, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Africana Studies.

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“The Hurston Symposium, like the Wright Symposium of 2008, is designed to inspire student appreciation of notable African-American authors,” Holton said. “In order to extend this mission beyond the campus, we have invited groups of high school students from Atlantic City, Pleasantville and Mainland High Schools to attend the event along with Stockton students.”

The students will spend the day on Stockton’s campus learning about Stockton programs, offerings and taking campus tours. For more information, contact the School of Arts & Humanities at 609-652-4505.

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