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NEWS

Contact: Vicki Woodard (csvns@eiu.edu)
Melinda Matthews (csmem2@eiu.edu)
217-581-7650
217-581-8444 (fax)

Department of University Communications
600 Lincoln Avenue
Room 2142 Old Main
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099
(www.eiu.edu/~pubaff/index.htm)

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For Immediate Release:

WRITERS TO SPEAK AT EIU ABOUT EXPERIENCES AS AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE AUTHORS

CHARLESTON – Two writers, including an Eastern Illinois University graduate, will read their works and share their experiences as African-American female authors as part of EIU's African-American Heritage Celebration.

EIU alumna Shahari G. Moore and Tayari Jones are to speak from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, in Buzzard Auditorium on campus. The free event is being held in conjunction with a book fair sponsored by Scholastic Book Co.

"This event is an especially good opportunity to hear and meet two wonderful up and coming authors," said EIU English professor Tim Engles, co-organizer of the event. "It's especially delightful to have EIU alum Shahari Moore returning here because her visit will alert current students to yet another possibility for success beyond their days at EIU. Those who come are also sure to hear some great stories, and it really adds to that experience to hear them told by the authors who wrote them."

Moore has edited one book and written another. "Violets" is a collection of inspirational poems by 22 women from Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and "It's Good Sunday!" tells the children's story of a little boy who loves church.

Moore is an assistant professor in the department of African-American studies at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from EIU, where she joined Delta Sigma Theta, of which she is a life member. A licensed clinical professional counselor, she is also a member of the Association of Black Psychologists.

Jones' first novel, "Leaving Atlanta," has received several awards, including the Hurston/Wright Award for Debut Fiction. The book was named "Novel of the Year" by Atlanta Magazine and "Best Southern Novel of the Year" by Creative Loafing Atlanta, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and The Washington Post named it one of the best books of 2002.

Jones is a graduate of Spelman College, The University of Iowa and Arizona State University. She is an assistant professor of English at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she teaches creative writing. Her second novel, "The Untelling," is to be published by Warner Books in April. She is to be included in Essence magazine's April issue.