

## **St. Cloud State to lead community-wide reading event**

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced today that St. Cloud State University is one of 127 organizations to receive a grant to host a Big Read celebration of one of 16 classic novels from January-June 2008.

Assistant Professor Julia Wilkins, special education, said more than 20 university departments will be involved in conducting discussions, delivering presentations and screening films related to the book during the Big Read to be held April 7 to May 9. A partnership with the Great River Regional Library System means the event will be an opportunity for the entire community to share in the reading of a classic piece of literature.

The St. Cloud State program will include events, such as book discussions, writing workshops, film screenings and library exhibits, aimed at avid and lapsed or reluctant readers alike. Participating communities receive reader's guides and teacher's guides for each novel, audio guides that also can be used as radio programming, publicity materials and access to a comprehensive Big Read Web site.

St. Cloud State will receive a grant of \$15,000 for the community-wide program. The NEA launched the Big Read nationally in 2007 in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

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