

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# In Celebration of African American History Month, Explore the Dynamic Works of Renowned Author, Editor and Educator, Jessie Redmon Fauset

Everyone is invited to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of African American women to history and culture at the *Literary Lecture on Jessie Redmon Fauset* presented by LeMoyne-Owen College's Dr. Catherine Johnson.

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012, at NOON

**WHERE:** Hollis F. Price Library in the Alumni Room on the LeMoyne-Owen College campus, 807 Walker Ave. 38126

**BACKGROUND:** Jessie Redmon Fauset was a dynamic magazine editor and writer and the first African American woman in the United States elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Fauset is most noted for her work at the *Crisis*, the official publication of the NAACP. As *Crisis* editor, Fauset published the works of such Harlem Renaissance writers as Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and George Schuyler. Fauset also contributed some of her own essays, poetry, and short stories to the magazine. She also edited *The Brownie's Book*, the NAACP's monthly children's magazine, and published four novels during her career.

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The American Missionary Association founded LeMoyne-Owen College in 1862 to educate freedmen and runaway slaves at the Union Army's Camp Shiloh in Shiloh, Tennessee. The school relocated to Memphis a year later, but was destroyed during race riots in 1866. Lincoln Chapel, as the school was then known, was rebuilt and reopened in 1867 with 150 students and six teachers. Lincoln Chapel was renamed LeMoyne Normal and Commercial School in honor of benefactor, physician and abolitionist Dr. Francis Julian LeMoyne and relocated to its current site at 807 Walker Ave in 1914. After more than 50 years of steady growth, LeMoyne merged with Owen College in 1968. Today, LeMoyne-Owen College has a student body of more than 1,000 students and offers 4-year degrees in five disciplines: Business and Economic Development; Education; Fine Arts and Humanities; Natural and Mathematical Sciences; and, Social and Behavioral and Sciences.