CSU students gain insights on author Richard Wright from his daughter

Chicago — Julia Wright, daughter of one of America’s greatest authors, the late Richard Wright, will reveal insights into his life in *Richard Wright: The Legacy and the Man*, Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in Chicago State University’s New Academic Library. The event is hosted by CSU’s Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing.

Ms. Wright a life-long civil rights advocate, helped form the international section of the Black Panther Party in Algeria and worked as a journalist in Ghana and Nigeria. She was educated in Paris and London and studied sociology at Paris’ Sorbonne University.

Joining Ms. Wright will be the founder of Third World Press and CSU Distinguished University Professor Dr. Haki R. Madhubuti. The event is free and open to the public.

The following day, April 9, the U.S. Postal Service will unveil the Richard Wright commemorative stamp at 11 a.m. in the lobby of the Main Chicago Post Office at 433 W. Harrison. The stamp unveiling, also co-sponsored by the Gwendolyn Brooks Center, will mark Wright as the 25th inductee into the Postal Service’s *Literary Arts* series.

Mr. Wright is best known for his books “Native Sun,” “Black Boy” and “Uncle Tom’s Children.” Born in Mississippi in 1908, Wright moved to Chicago in 1927 where he worked in the post office, and wrote his first novel, “Cesspool.” He joined the Communist Party in 1933. He moved to New York in 1937 where his collection of short stories in “Uncle Tom’s Children” earned him a Guggenheim Fellowship. The fellowship enabled him to write the autobiographical “Black Boy” in 1940.

He became an American expatriate when he moved to Paris in 1946. There he became friends with existentialists Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus and continued a prolific writing career. He died in 1960 at the age of 52, following a heart attack.