

# SWOSU-Sayre Literary Festival Planned October 7

09.24.2015

Amber Bachiochi

Betty Banks

Henry Kirkland

Loralee Cooley

Jessica Chapman

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The annual SWOSU-Sayre Fall Literary Festival will be held Wednesday, October 7. The festival is a mix of presentations, workshops, panel discussions, book signings, vendors, and student entries to view. The theme for this year's event is "The Game of LIFE."

"The Literary Festival is an opportunity to showcase talented local writers, and we're excited to bring people to campus for the event every year," said festival coordinator and SWOSU-Sayre Instructor Terry Ford.

At 9 a.m., children's author Betty Banks will discuss her stories of adventure that captivate young readers, and newspaper reporter Amber Bachiochi will discuss the kinds of stories that a hometown news reporter gets to tell.

Every year in conjunction with the festival, SWOSU-Sayre releases its anthology, which features stories, poems and photographs submitted by college students.

At 10 a.m., student anthology contributors will discuss their works and offer tips for college success. SWOSU-Sayre Instructor Landry Brewer will moderate the panel discussion.

Also at 10, former SWOSU professor Dr. Henry Kirkland will be featured. In addition to being the first black professor hired at SWOSU, the novel *A Rainbow in the Dark* is based on Kirkland's childhood in segregated Eastern Oklahoma.

At 11 a.m., author Tommy "Mack" Childers will recount stories of his Western Oklahoma childhood, and storyteller Loralee Cooley will discuss her book about the Hawaiian childhood home of the United States President.

"We're expecting a large group of high school and college students to attend, but the general public is also invited, and admission is free," Ford said.

Attendees will judge a Vine Video Contest at noon while enjoying free lunch from The Picket Fence provided by Great Plains National Bank.

Following lunch, children's author Jessica Chapman will discuss her new book *Duck Out of Water* at 1 p.m.

That evening at 6:30, Gallery@112 in downtown Sayre will host an open mic night in conjunction with the Literary Festival. Singers, songwriters, and poets are invited to perform their works for a live audience.

Booth space remains available for authors and vendors.

For more information, contact Terry Ford by e-mail at [terry.ford@swosu.edu](mailto:terry.ford@swosu.edu) or by phone at 580.28-5533.