

Will Rogers Imitator Coming to SWOSU

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Will Rogers reportedly never met a man he didn't like, and he hopes to meet a lot of people during Southwestern Oklahoma State University's first program in the "Library Showcase" series on the Weatherford campus.

As portrayed by Dr. Doug Watson in a historical characterization, Rogers will be making an appearance on Monday, September 29, at 7 p.m. in the SWOSU Conference Center. The free event is sponsored by the Al Harris Library, and the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Dr. Watson, a retired English professor at Oklahoma Baptist University, taught American literature and Western civilization for more than 25 years. Since 1991, he has been involved with historical characterization – first with both the Great Plains Chautauqua and National Chautauqua Tour, and more recently with state humanities council programs across the United States. His characterizations include Nathaniel Hawthorne and Stephen Crane, in addition to Rogers, whom he has been portraying since 1998.

His "Conversations with Will Rogers" program has been praised by scholars and theatre fans alike. "Conversations. . ." began as a Chautauqua-style presentation. Because of the interest in the Rogers character, Watson has performed many programs in 30 different states.

Central to every performance is Watson's intention to use the words and ideas of Will Rogers to entertain and educate today's audiences and to provide the opportunity to interact with the audience, through questions and conversations, both as Will and as a Rogers scholar. In his performances, Dr. Watson tries to keep alive the cultural memory of Will Rogers and share some of his most important ideas.