

Oklahoma State Poet Laureate Jim Barnes to Speak at SWOSU

11.11.2010

Jim Weaver McKown Barnes, the 2009-2010 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, will be reading his poetry and sharing personal stories on Thursday, November 18, on the campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The 7 p.m. event will be held at the SWOSU Conference Center, located at the corner of Seventh and Davis Streets in Weatherford. Admission is free, and the public is invited. A book signing will be held immediately following the event.

Barnes has published several works of poetry and one major work of non-fiction prose, *On Native Ground: Memoirs and Impressions*, which reflects Oklahoma and native culture and won the American Book Award in 1998. Some of his published works of poetry include *The Sawdust War: Poems*; *Paris: Poems* which won the Oklahoma Book Award in 1993; *On a Wing of the Sun: Three Volumes of Poetry*; and his most recent work, *Visiting Picasso* (2007). He has published over 500 poems in more than 100 journals and his poems appear in over 40 anthologies.

He was a professor of comparative literature and writer-in-residence at Truman State University from 1970 to 2003. After retiring from Truman State, he was Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at Brigham Young University. Barnes' honors include two

Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio (Italy) Fellowships; a Senior Fulbright Fellowship in Switzerland (University of Lausanne); and two Camargo Foundation Fellowships (Cassis, France). Also, he received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry in 1978.

Having previously visited SWOSU in the spring of 2008, Barnes returns as the 2009-2010 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. The Oklahoma state poet laureate program is facilitated by the Oklahoma Humanities Council on behalf of the governor. It is an honorary position (usually a two-year term) that recognizes the accomplishments of an Oklahoma resident in the field of poetry.

For more information about the event, contact Jason Dupree, head of public services at the SWOSU Libraries, at 580.774.3031 or email jason.dupree@swosu.edu.