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MARCH 7-8: AUTHOR READINGS, WORKSHOPS FOR ALL AGES AT UD LITFEST

Award-winning author and poet Jimmy Santiago Baca headlines a list of 10 poets and authors scheduled to perform during the University of Dayton’s third annual Litfest Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8.

Baca, who won the International Prize in 2001 for his memoir, A Place to Stand, had already earned acclaim for his contemporary American poetry. His poetry collections have received the National Endowment for the Arts award, Vogelstein Foundation Award, National Hispanic Heritage Award, Berkley Regents Award, Pushcart Prize, Southwest Book Award and American Book Award, among others.

Baca will perform a poetry reading from 7 to 8 p.m., Friday, March 7, in Sears Recital Hall in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center, followed by a book-signing from 8 to 8:30 p.m. in the Humanities Center lobby.

Poetry workshops for children and adults will open Litfest Saturday, March 8. Workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teacher Center located in the lower level of Roesch Library, and include:

- Poetry Workshop for Kids, led by UD English teaching assistant Judith Sroufe. Children will hear readings about children who participated in the historic Underground Railroad movement then write their own verse.
- Reading Poetry, led by award-winning poet Herbert Martin, who has earned national acclaim for his readings and portrayal of Paul Laurence Dunbar. Martin will share insight into the reading and performance of poetry.
- So Real It’s Surreal, led by poet Michael Salinger. Salinger will explore imagery and metaphor in creative writing using exercises based on surrealist parlor games.
- Poetry and Translation, led by David Garrison, poet and chair of modern languages at Wright State University. Garrison will help participants understand the process and importance of poetry translation.

Poets and authors — also including John and Maria Mendoza Booth, Katie Daley, Charles Freeland, Deanna Pickard and Scott Woods — will perform live readings of poetry and fiction from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge.

For more information, call (937) 229-3434.