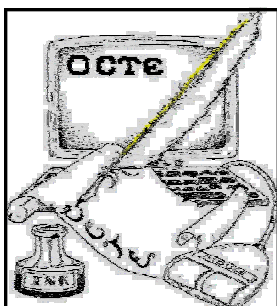


# OCTE Exchange

December 2007



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## Jimmy Santiago Baca Featured poet for 2008 Spring Conference

This year's speaker is the self-styled "poet of the people," Jimmy Santiago Baca. Born in New Mexico in 1952, Baca is of Indio-Mexican descent. Raised by a grandparent after being abandoned by his parents, he ended up in an orphanage by the age of 13.

After living on the streets, Baca served six years in a maximum security prison after a conviction for drug possession. During his prison sentence, four years of which were served in isolation, Baca taught himself to read and write, and discovered a passion for poetry. At the urging of a fellow inmate, Baca submitted his poetry to Mother Jones, where then-editor Denise Levertov first published several of his poems.

Since then, Baca has made a career as an award-winning writer and a teacher. His many prizes include The Southwest

Book Award (1993), The International Hispanic Heritage Award (1990), The American Book Award for Poetry (1989), and The Pushcart Prize (1988).

While Baca has taught at Colorado College, Yale, and UC-Berkeley, he has also lead hundreds of writing workshops for the disadvantaged and underprivileged in prisons, libraries, barrio community centers, on reservations and at schools and other venues across the country. Harbor Winn of OCU expects Baca to be able to present a workshop at the El Reno juvenile detention center.

Baca's most recent publications are the poetry collections Spring Poems Along the Rio Grande (2007) and Winter Poems Along the Rio Grande (2004). His memoir, A Place to Stand (2001), describes his youth and the prison time that

lead to his transformation into a poet.

For more information visit the Academy of American poets website at <http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/547> which includes a link to Mr. Baca's home page. The Modern American Poetry website has interviews and [http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/a\\_f/baca/baca.htm](http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/a_f/baca/baca.htm).



## 2008 Calendar

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>10 Jan 2008</b><br>Deadline for YWA submissions                              | <b>19 Jan 2008</b><br>Winter Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.<br>Full Circle Bookstore<br>50 Penn Place OKC | <b>2 Apr 2008</b><br>OCTE Spring Conference<br>Oklahoma City University |
| <b>10 Jan 2008</b><br>Deadline for submissions to NCTE 2008 National Convention | <b>15 Feb 2008</b><br>Deadline for submissions for OCTE spring conference                           | <b>20-25 Nov 2008</b><br>98th Annual NCTE Convention in San Antonio, TX |



The Oklahoma Humanities Council took the Poetry Out Loud contest statewide in 2007. OHC facilitates the competition in partnership with the Oklahoma Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation.

Jennifer Kidney, the project coordinator for OHC reports that 26 schools will have school contests. Participating schools include Red Oak, Fletcher, Pittsburg, and several other small communities as well as several schools in the Tulsa and OKC areas.

There will be five regional finals on February 2, 2008. They will be held in Ada, Poteau, Alva, and Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Jennifer Kidney expects this year's state finals to be "a real event." The state finals competition will be held on March 1, 2008 at Oklahoma City University. National Finals will be held in Washington, D.C., on April 28-29, 2008.

The winner of the state finals competition will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington (with an adult chaperone) to compete for the national championship. The winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. One runner-up will receive \$100; his or her school will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books.

A total of \$50,000 in scholarship awards and school stipends will be

awarded to winners at the *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals, with a \$20,000 college scholarship awarded for the National Champion. Note that prizes are offered only for official competitions identified and conducted by the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

The Council invites high school teachers and their students to participate in the national *Poetry Out Loud* (POL) competition next year. The program requires only two or three weeks of class time and does not require full class periods. *Poetry Out Loud* materials will be sent to participating high schools. *Poetry Out Loud* satisfies most of the [NCTE English Language Arts Standards](#)

Curriculum materials include print and online poetry anthologies, a teacher's guide to help instructors teach recitation and performance, an audio CD featuring distinguished actors and writers, promotional and media guides, and a comprehensive website. Hard copies of all materials are free for schools participating in the official program. Curriculum materials are also available for download on the *Poetry Out Loud* website. Schools not involved in the official contest are welcome to use the online materials.

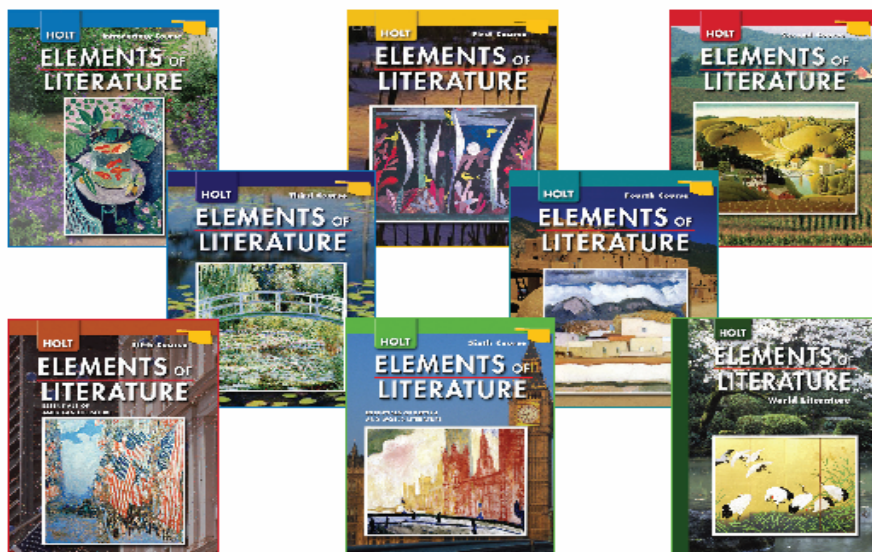
For more information, contact Jennifer Kidney at the Oklahoma Humanities Council: (405) 235-0280; Email: [jennifer@okhumanitiescouncil.org](mailto:jennifer@okhumanitiescouncil.org); or visit the *Poetry Out Loud* website: [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)

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# Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English 2008 Spring Conference

## PRESENTATION PROPOSAL

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at Oklahoma City University

### PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

***Send a one-page email attachment (MS Word or .rtf file) to the appropriate chairperson:***

#### COLLEGE SECTION CHAIR

**Teresa Rothrock**

[trothrock@ecok.edu](mailto:trothrock@ecok.edu)

Dept. of English and Languages  
East Central University  
Ada, OK 74820-6999  
(580) 559-5439

#### SECONDARY SECTION CHAIR (K-12)

**Linda Fracek**

[ljfracek@gcnet.net](mailto:ljfracek@gcnet.net)

60100 E. 320 Rd.  
Grove, OK 74344

***Make sure the attachment contains all of the following information:*** (Incomplete submissions may not be considered, or delayed in their consideration. If you have questions, contact the chair listed above).

#### 150-word abstract must include

- **Description of session** (content, approach, relevance, etc.)
- **Title**
- **Type of session** (50 minutes maximum)
  - > *Individual Presentation:* 15-20 minute talks to be combined with others, based upon topics
  - > *Panel Presentation:* two or more individuals present on a theme, with time for Q & A
  - > *Round Table:* three or more speakers leading a discussion on a specified topic
  - > *Workshop:* two or three presenters engage participants in promising teaching practices

*Preference will be given to interactive sessions. Since space is limited, accepted sessions may be combined, thus affecting time frame.*

#### ▪ **Target audience/grade level**

Elementary

High School

Beginning Teachers (preservice, interns, residents)

Special Education

Middle Level

Higher Education

K-12

All

#### ▪ **Any special requests**

- > limit to number of participants
- > special room accommodations
- > equipment needs\*

\*In most cases, you will need to provide your own equipment, but we need to know what electronic accommodations you might need. You will be notified regarding your request.

#### 25-word biographical blurb on each presenter

- Name
- School affiliation and job title
- Contact information (work and personal, include email and fax)

**Deadline for receipt of submissions: Feb. 15, 2008**

You will be notified of acceptance and assignment by March 1, 2008

Presenters must register for the conference (\$20.00 for members; \$25.00 for non-members). Registration forms are available online and must be received before the conference. A gratuity of a one-year OCTE membership (or renewal of current membership) is given to presenters.

**Oklahoma Council of Teachers  
of English**

c/o Dianna Just  
440758 E. 230 Rd.  
Vinita, OK 74301

Phone: (918) 256-6777  
E-mail: [djust@junct.com](mailto:djust@junct.com)

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[www.ecok.edu/octe](http://www.ecok.edu/octe)

**Christmas  
Present?**



Whatever you call it,  
please take the time to  
renew your membership  
soon. An OCTE mem-  
bership is one of the  
nicest things an English  
teacher can do for him  
or herself, or for a col-  
league. Memberships for  
teacher candidates are  
\$12, and for first year  
teachers, only \$8.



**New Year's  
Resolution?**

**OCTE MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Annual Dues**

Single Membership \$25  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Teacher \$12  
Teacher Candidate \$8

Retired \$10  
Joint (2 people, one address ) \$30

Send to: OCTE, c/o Dianna Just, 440758 E 230 Road, Vinita, OK 74301  
(918) 256-5654 ~ [djust@junct.com](mailto:djust@junct.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching level: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail correspondence to: \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ School

Please make checks payable to OCTE.

**COVER SHEET**  
*2008 Oklahoma Young Writers Competition*  
(Please type information.)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of words in entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURES:**

I hereby attest to the originality and length of this piece.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

I verify that the above is my student, the number of words is correct, and I am a current member of OCTE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

**Postmark Deadline: January 10, 2008**

**Please send submissions and coversheets to:**

Dr. Deborah Brown  
English Department  
Box 184, UCO  
100 University Dr.  
Edmond, OK 73034

Work: 405-974-5605; [djbrown@ucok.edu](mailto:djbrown@ucok.edu)  
Home: 405-755-2665; [djbrown6@cox.net](mailto:djbrown6@cox.net)

## 2008 OKLAHOMA YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

**CATEGORIES:** Short Story (maximum 1,500 words)  
Essay (Expository, no narrative essays, maximum 500 words)  
Personal Narrative (first person, maximum 500 words)  
Descriptive Paragraph  
Poetry  
(\$2 entry fee per entry)

**Fillers:** Descriptive sentences may be submitted as “fillers.”  
(\$1 entry fee) **Note:** Writers of descriptive sentences that are used in the anthology are welcome to attend the Young Writers Conference and luncheon April 2 for the discounted price of \$10 per person and to purchase a copy of the 2008 Anthology for the discounted rate of \$3.00.

**Age Groups:** K-6  
7-9  
10-12  
College

**Entries:** Each teacher (OCTE members only) may enter up to 10 original manuscripts for his/her students with a fee of \$2 per entry. Also, each teacher may enter up to 10 “filler” descriptive sentences for his/her students with a fee of \$1 per sentence. Make checks payable to OCTE.

No student may enter more than one entry per category. Entries must be typed and double-spaced. Poems may be single-spaced. **Teachers should submit the original entry plus two copies of each manuscript. No electronic submissions will be accepted.**

**Contest rules:** All contest rules, such as maximum word length, entry deadline, OCTE membership for teachers, numbers of copies, cover sheets, no names on entries, etc., must be strictly observed. Failure to do so will disqualify entries. No entry fees will be refunded.

**Cover Sheet:** After duplicating, fill out the enclosed cover sheet completely. Use only one cover sheet per entry. **The student’s name should appear on the cover sheet only.** Please be sure all letters are legible to ensure names are accurate.

Approximately thirty-five winners will have their work published in the 2008 *Oklahoma Anthology* and will be invited, along with their teachers and parents, to attend the Young Writers Conference and luncheon April 2, 2008, to meet with the judges and receive a copy of the anthology.

Sponsored by:  
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