

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Press Releases

Office of Communication

3-15-2018

Ouachita to host George Drew for poetry reading March 27

Katie Smith

Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita News Bureau

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Smith, Katie and Ouachita News Bureau, "Ouachita to host George Drew for poetry reading March 27" (2018). *Press Releases*. 486.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/486

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Communication at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

For immediate release

Ouachita to host George Drew for poetry reading March 27

By Katie Smith

March 15, 2018

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University's Department of Language and Literature will welcome poet George Drew for "An Evening of Poetry: George Drew with Johnny Wink" on March 27 at 5:30 p.m. in Ouachita's Hickingbotham Hall, room 200. The event will feature Drew with Dr. Johnny Wink, Ouachita's Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, as they read selected poetry works and share stories of writing them. The event is free and open to the public.

"George will read the lion's share of the poems," Wink explained. "I'm planning to read a couple of mine and a couple by Jack Butler, a friend of long standing and a wonderful writer. It was through Jack that George and I got to know each other."

Drew was born and raised in Mississippi, and several of his works reflect his southern upbringing. Much of his writing has been featured in magazines and journals nationwide. Some of his more recognized writings include *Pastoral Habits* and *Down & Dirty*.

"George Drew is a remarkable person," Wink said. "He's lived a very interesting life, and he talks and writes about it beautifully. I'm enchanted when I'm in his presence. I've never encountered a poet who addresses a wider range of subjects than does George."

Dr. Doug Sonheim, chair of Ouachita's Department of Language and Literature, emphasized that the event will offer attendees the opportunity to hear an author read and reflect on his own words.

"Art in general, and poetry in particular, humanizes us, allowing us to see the world from someone else's point of view," explained Sonheim, who also serves as professor of English and holder of the Clarence and Bennie Sue Anthony Chair of Bible and Humanities.

"Think about it," Sonheim continued. "Hearing someone read aloud a poem he wrote is a face-to-face, never-to-be-repeated experience that brings you into the presence of another human being – actually, many humans, as you share that experience with the folks sitting next to you in the audience. Whereas a lot of what we hear these days divides and depresses us, the poems from George and Johnny – even the sad ones – will in their beauty uplift us."

Drew currently lives in New York state and has won many awards for his work, including the Adirondack Literary Award for best poetry in 2009 and 2017 and the 2016 Bucks County Muse Award. He has authored eight collections, with his most recent, *Fancy's Orphan*, being published in 2017.

For more information, contact Dr. Doug Sonheim at sonheimd@obu.edu or (870) 245-5554.