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Poet Eugene Redmond will Read at LU Feb. 26

2/12/2008

Celebrated poet and lecturer Eugene Redmond will present a reading of his works at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, in the auditorium of the Lindenwood University Cultural Center (400 N. Kingshighway in St. Charles, three blocks north of the main Lindenwood campus).

Presented by Lindenwood's MFA in Writing and undergraduate writing program, the event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Michael Castro at 636-949-4520.

An emeritus professor of English at SIU-Edwardsville and the editor of *DrumVoices Revue*, Redmond is an active voice in the regional writing community as well as in national and international circles. A tireless promoter of the art of poetry, Redmond has touched with his work the lives of children, adults, college students, African Americans and diverse audiences of all types for decades. As the founder of the Eugene B. Redmond Writers' Club (1986) in East St. Louis, he continues to influence novice and experienced writers in his own community and across the globe.

A national and international lecturer, Redmond reaches worldwide audiences with his multicultural messages. In 1999, Redmond joined Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Walter Mosley, and Henry Dumas as an inductee into the National Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent. While a professor of English and ethnic studies at California State University-Sacramento (1970-1985) he was named Poet Laureate of East St. Louis, a position he still holds.

In 1976 Doubleday published his critical history, *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry*, which has become a seminal text in the field. From 1967-69, he taught at the Experiment in Higher Education (Southern Illinois University-East St. Louis), where his colleagues included Henry Dumas (whose posthumous book of short stories Redmond edited to critical acclaim), Joyce Ladner and Katherine Dunham, with whom he remained close until her recent death.

Redmond's numerous honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing fellowship, a Lifetime Achievement Award from Pan-African Movement USA, a Pushcart Prize: Best of Small Presses, a Tribute to an Elder from the African Poetry Theater of New York City, An American Book Award for *Eye in the Ceiling: Selected Poems* (1993), and Writing fellowships from the California, Illinois,

Louisiana, Missouri and Virginia Arts Councils. In November 2007, upon the occasion of his retirement from teaching and seventieth birthday, he was honored for lifetime achievement by the Missouri Historical Society.