CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Prisoner-turned-poet Jimmy Santiago Baca will read his works during a free public reading on Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. in the University Center Bayview Room 320 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. A book signing will follow the reading.

On Friday, March 25, Baca will conduct writing workshops with Miller, King, and Moody high school students participating in the English Department’s annual University Authors Day program held on campus.

The reading and the writing workshops, being held in conjunction with the annual Authors Day program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, will be hosted by the University’s English Department.

The New Mexico-born poet is the recipient of many honors including the Pushcart Prize, the American Book Award, the Hispanic Heritage Award, and the prestigious International Prize. In 2006 he won the Cornelius P. Turner Award, a national award that annually recognizes one GED graduate who has made outstanding contributions to society in education, justice, health, public service and social welfare.

Baca, who first lived with his grandmother and later became an orphan and a runaway, turned his life around after spending five years in a maximum security prison. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including “Spring Poems along the Rio Grande,” “Black Mesa Poems,” and “Working in the Dark: Reflections on a Poet in the Barrio.” Baca received his BA in English from the University of New Mexico, and an honorary Ph.D. in Literature from the same institution.

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Devoting his life to writing and teaching others who are overcoming hardship, Baca has conducted hundreds of writing workshops in prisons, community centers, libraries, and universities. In 2005 he created Cedar Tree, Inc., a nonprofit foundation dedicated to helping others improve their lives.

These events are hosted by the Paul and Mary Haas Foundation, the John W. Hill Endowed Author Series and the College of Liberal Arts.

For more information, call the University’s English Department at 361.825.3457.