FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVELIST JAMES BALDWIN
TO TEACH AT BOWLING GREEN

BOWLING GREEN, O.--Apparently, internationally-acclaimed author James Baldwin just plain likes Bowling Green State University, its academic environment and its students.

On Monday (May 21), Baldwin will visit the campus for the third time in two years--this time to sign a contract as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Ethnic Studies.

Under the terms of the contract, Baldwin will teach an undergraduate and graduate course this fall quarter. And, according to a verbal informal agreement between Baldwin and the University, the contract will be only the first in a series of agreements which will bring the award-winning author to campus to teach one quarter each academic year.

Bowling Green Provost Michael Ferrari, the chief academic officer at the University, said "the appointment is one we prize very much. We are enormously pleased and we hope this will be a continuing relationship we have with him.

"For the University, I think it is a mark of distinction to have a person of his caliber here," Dr. Ferrari added.
Dr. Ernest Champion, assistant director of the Ethnic Studies Program and instrumental in bringing Baldwin to the University, was even more enthusiastic about the appointment. "I think it is one of the best things to ever happen to the University and the (Ethnic Studies) program."

"It adds to our faculty strength, and the benefit to our students as a result of the close association they will have with an eminent writer like Baldwin, is immeasurable," he added.

The undergraduate course Baldwin will team-teach with Dr. Champion is entitled "Arts and Sciences 300: Minority Writers and the Western Tradition." The graduate course, which will be limited in enrollment to 10 students, is entitled "English 664: Contemporary Fiction."

Baldwin first came to Bowling Green two years ago when he spent two days on campus. During those two days, he attended a campus-produced dramatization of excerpts from his works, talked to classes and lectured.

Last year, Baldwin returned to campus as writer-in-residence during the month of May, and team-taught an undergraduate and graduate course.

It was during that time that Baldwin began thinking about teaching here on a regular basis, Dr. Champion said. "It (the teaching experience) gave him a new insight into the workings of the intellectual world. He liked the students, and he found Bowling Green very attractive," Dr. Champion added.

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Baldwin is the author of 17 books, five of which have been on the national best seller list. Those best selling books are "Nobody Knows My Name," "The Fire Next Time," "Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone," "If Beale Street Could Talk," and "Another Country."

When "Another Country" appeared in 1960, "The Washington Post" wrote, "This is a masterwork by one of this country's finest writers." And Granville Hicks of "Saturday Review" added, "one of the most powerful novels of our time. The complexities of love have seldom been explored more subtly or at greater depth."

In addition to writing novels, Baldwin is an essayist, playwright and critic. Two of his plays, "Blues For Mister Charlie" and "The Amen Corner" were produced on Broadway.

A spokesman for and sometimes-critic of the civil rights movement in this country, Baldwin now divides the year between his homes in New York and southern France.

He is the winner of a Eugene F. Saxton Memorial Trust Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship and Ford Foundation Grant-in-Aid, and many other literary awards. He is also a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: A news conference for James Baldwin has been set for 2 p.m. Monday (May 21) in the Assembly Room of McFall Center on the Bowling Green campus. If you are planning on attending, please contact Gardner A. McLean Jr., assistant director of News Service (372-2616).