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For Immediate Release

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Gary Mex Glazner Slams into Kerrville on November 3rd at Schreiner University

Kerrville's Texas Heritage Music Foundation and Schreiner University's Department of Student Activities will be hosting nationally renowned slam poet, Gary Mex Glazner, for its "Second Annual Poetry Slam" on Wednesday, November 3rd, at Schreiner University's Cailloux Activities Center. Admission is free.

Billed as "The Minister of Fun of the National Poetry Slam", Glazner will showcase his razor sharp spoken word skills as part of the Foundation's final 2004 installment of its popular Texas Music Coffeehouse Series.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the Coffeehouse will begin with an hour-long "open mic" slam poetry contest that will be judged by a panel made up from the audience. Organizers are encouraging any and all aspiring poets, rappers, and spoken word enthusiasts to sign up for the contest and to test their skills in front of the judges and an enthusiastic audience. Each contestant will be given a maximum of three minutes, and prizes will be awarded to winners, along with a grand prize of \$25.00. Glazner will take the stage at 8 p.m.

Gary Mex Glazner's journey into the world of spoken word began as a graduate of Sonoma State University's Expressive Arts Program with an emphasis in poetry. In 1990, he produced the first National Poetry slam in San Francisco. His work has appeared in *New Mexico Magazine*, *Poetry Flash*, *The Bay Guardian*, *The Harwood Review*, and *Aloud! Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Café*, which won the 1994 America Book Award. His poems have been translated into Chinese, Moldavian, Nepali, and Vietnamese. In 1997, Poets and Writers Inc. awarded him a grant to work with Alzheimer patients using poetry.

From November of 1999 to June of 2001, Glazner was Poet-in-Residence at the Inn on the Alameda, in Santa Fe, NM. Instead of chocolates, the hotel placed his poems on the guests' pillows. According to their records, the hotel gave away 45,862 poems from his southwestern series. Glazner is also the editor of the anthology, *Poetry Slam: The Competitive Art of Performance Poetry*, which chronicles the first ten years of the National Poetry Slam. He also organized SlamAmerica, a poetry bus ride across America in 2000, which featured 37 readings over a 30 day period in 36 cities. More than 100 poets participated and all of it was documented

in his festival award-winning film, *Busload of Poets*. He has also written *Ears on Fire: Snapshot Essays in a World of Poets*.

Called an album, a journal and a recollection, *Ears on Fire* details Glazner's 30,000-plus mile trek around the world with his wife, Margaret, and the people they encountered. "The idea was to travel around the world", say Glazner, "meet poets, work on translations, and write poems. My wife Margaret and I traveled approximately 34,229 miles by planes, trains, tuk-tuks, bemos, ferries, broken down Chinese night buses, and rickshaws." Along the way, they encountered the Princess of Thailand, fried grasshoppers, Tibetan monks in China cheating at cards, Tea House rappers, Xuan Xe of the Naxi Music Orchestra, the Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey, a sandal maker/poet in Greece who was the cobbler for Sophia Loren and the Beatles, Geraldo Rivera, and a visit to Garcia Lorca's home and grave. These chance meetings with dignitaries, poets and everyday people are what inspire Glazner's spoken word performances, as evidenced on his spoken word CD, *Fast as Knives*.

For more information about the Texas Music Coffeehouse Series and its upcoming 2005 schedule, please visit www.texasheritagemusic.org or www.schreiner.edu.