Bill Harris will be reading from *Booker T & Them: A Blues* his forthcoming book from Wayne State University Press. In a fact-based imaginative historical/poetic account the presentation will follow Booker T. Washington’s historic White House meeting with President Theodore Roosevelt as Washington takes the train home to Tuskegee, Alabama. It was 1901. It was the time of the first formidable rise of Jim Crow. Along the route we hear from some of the leading voices of the day, including Charles Darwin, Pitchfork Ben Tillman, Lewis Carroll, and George Washington Carver. Also introduced, in order to create an imaginative narrative for the so-called Booker T. Washington era, are fictional characters, including a ragtime playing mathematics professor, a lynch mob, its victim, and his widow. Washington, the most powerful Negro in America at that time, also recalls his youth working in a post-slavery coalmine.

**Tuesday, February 7th**
12:30 PM - 1:30PM
**2339 Faculty/Administration Building**
**Free and Open to the Public**

Bill Harris recently retired as a Professor Emeritus of English from Wayne State University. In 2011 he was honored with the Kresge Eminent Artist Award. He has published two books of poems. There have been over 100 productions of his plays throughout the United States. Several of his plays have been anthologized or published under his own name. *Birth of a Notion*, a poetic examination of American history, was awarded the Wayne State Board of Governor’s Faculty Recognition Award. His latest book, *Booker T & Them: A Blues*, is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2012.