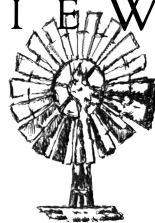


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New Barista

Dennis Ross
Iowa State University

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The logo for Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). The letters "SWOSU" are in a bold, blue, serif font. A stylized, light blue swoosh or arc curves around the "O" and "S" from the top right to the bottom left.

New Barista

By Dennis Ross

She moves like a half-grown colt,
all legs and skinny arms,
a bit awkward, not in complete control,
ready to shear off and gallop
among the tables at the slightest need,
another latte, cappuccino, or bagel.

Energy courses like a flowing river,
her first real job, college this fall,
excitement at the infinite horizons
stretched all around her,
spring on an unbounded prairie
of flowers and tall grass,
any thunderstorms off in the distance,
not even a thought to ripple the day.

So gallop across the fields of wonder,
let the sun warm your supple back,
crop the dewy new grass and flowers,
and glory in another brand-new day.