20th Year on the Air
HoCoPoLitSo’s The Writing Life, a cable television series, airs up to five times a week round on local educational cable stations. Shows changing monthly are accessible to more than two million Marylanders. This writer-to-writer talk show has been repeatedly funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maryland Humanities Council, as well as by local sponsors and viewers. In FY 2006, two new editions were produced at the Howard Community College TV Studio: Sherman Alexie hosted by Edgar Silex; Anne Enright hosted by Michael Collier (1999) in February; and Terence Winch hosted by Gregory Orr (1986) in July; Madison Smartt Bell (1995) in August; Saul Alinsky interviewed with students (1986, 2005) in September; Edward P. Jones hosted by E. Ethelbert Miller (2005) in October; Ciaran Carson with Terence Winch (2003) in December; Elizabeth Spires with Michael Collier (2003) in January; Rita Dove with Michael Collier (1999) in February; Mark Strand hosted by H. Enry Taylor (1991) in May; and Carolyn Forche – Poetry of Witness with Roland Flint in June.

29th Annual Irish Evening

LIVE EVENTS 2007
Paul Mullaney at 8 PM, Friday, February 9, 2007
David Mura at Noon, Wednesday, May 23, 2007

COMING UP THIS WINTER
DECEMBER: Ciaran Carson hosted by Terence Winch
Irish poet Ciaran Carson, a traditional musician, flutist, tin-whistler, and singer, is hosted by poet and musician Terence Winch. Author of nine books of poetry and five of prose, he reads excerpts from Last Night’s Fun as well as from his recent translation of Dante’s Inferno. M. C. Carson was featured at the 25th Annual Evening of Irish Music and Poetry in Columbia in February 2003. (Encore)

JANUARY: Celebrating Josephine Jacobsen
Three Maryland poets – Lucille Clifton, Michael Collier and Elizabeth Spires – celebrate their distinguished colleague, the late Josephine Jacobsen (1908-2003). A closing segment includes never-before-seen videotape of M. S. Jacobsen, “a simply astonishing poet.” (Baltimore Sun) reading three poems and talking about poetry during a 1982 Howard County visit. (Not to be confused with her 1995 show, at 88, with Roland Flint.) (Encore 2003)

FEBRUARY: Robert Bly hosted by Cornelius Eady
The poet who authored over 40 books at that time, dedicated this edition of TWL to his poetry which William Stafford says, “enriches your life.” A World War II veteran, he talks about the power of the poems of that era that expressed emotions on the subject and the differences he saw with the Vietnam War. Among the poems Bly reads are: “Counting Small Bone Joints,” “Why We Don’t Die,” and “Ode to My Socks.” (Encore 1997)

2006 Event Highlights
HoCoPoLitSo’s 32nd program year opened with Native American poet/novelist Sherman Alexie performing to an overflow audience at Howard Community College. His residency was made possible through a partnership with the HCC Book Connection. That evening, a screening of Smoke Signals, based upon Alexie’s novel Reservation Blues, preceded a discussion facilitated by poet and professor Edgar Gabriel Silex.

In November at the Ta Sophia Institute, four local writers, Anne Barney, Ann Bracken, Mike Clark, and Brendan O’Regan, read from their work in “Speaking of Healing.” At the 28th Annual Evening of Irish Music and Poetry, Event Chair Catherine McLoughlin welcomed Dublin author and broadcast journalist Anne Enright to The Jim Rouse Theatre in Columbia, MD. Mrs. Enright read Niall Fahy, an ambassador of Ireland, introduced the evening. A concert of traditional Irish music with musicians from Celtic Thunder and Narrowbacks Dominick Murray, Linda Hicke, Tony DeMarco, Terry Winch, and Jesse Winch, along with stepdancers Maura Hodge, and Caitlin Golding, followed.

Pulitzer-Prize winning poet Marilyn Kumin was unable to attend the scheduled Poetry Month reading. In her place Linda Pastan, former Maryland Poet Laureate and winner of the 2003 Ruth Lilly Prize, read with colleague Jean Nordhaus.

As part of the Columbia Festival of the Arts and in partnership with Howard County Library, HoCoPoLitSo screened Voices in Wartime, a documentary that illuminates war through the light of poetry, followed by a panel discussion with local poet Karen Arnold and historian Komoloi Woodard, moderated by education expert Dennis O’Dwyer. A residency by pop-up book artist Robert Sabuda and T The Langston Hughes Project, a multimedia presentation, were also part of the Festival.

20 Years of The Writing Life
I’ve now participated in the production of four episodes of The Writing Life, sitting in the HCC TV studio to watch our hosts interview author Michael Coady, Edward P. Jones, Sherman Alexie, and Anne Enright. At that point, having arranged the partnership and managed to get the writer to the studio on time (or not – there are good backstories there), there is nothing to do but sit and watch what happens…which is always unexpected, enlightening, inspiring, and often hilarious. The writers and hosts are endearing in their willingness to demystify the idea of The Writer and his or her life, to laugh at themselves and the eternal optimism that keeps people telling and listening to each other’s stories. Mysteriously, however, the more they show us behind the curtain, the greater my esteem, regard, and awe for their art.

HoCoPoLitSo created this rich literary archive, spanning twenty years and over sixty poets and writers, under the direction of Ellen Conroy Kennedy as founding president and Writing Life producer. Honored by the National Humanities Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Columbia Foundation, The Columbia Festival of the Arts, The
Student Audiences

Between October 2005 and March 2006, more than 765 students from Howard County’s public high schools discussed the process of writing poetry with Baltimore poet Kendra Kopeckie, HoCoPoLitSo’s 14th poet-in-residence. An Associate Professor of Communications Design and Director of the M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts at the University of Baltimore, she has authored two collections of poetry and is co-editor of a national literary journal focusing on writings by new writers, her work is also included in the anthologies Divas Dance the Diva Squad Poetry collection.

Kopeckie also capitivated students of Howard Community College and the Howard County Library Teen Time. On April 19, the Folger Shakespeare Library’s touring quartet “Bill’s Buddies” presented scenes from the Bard to 300 from Burleigh Manor Middle School and Marثa Ridge High School.

Up and coming poet Jenny O’Grady offered a workshop for students of the Glenelg Country School. For twenty-five years HoCoPoLitSo has awarded prizes to the winners of its All County Writing Competition and an additional twenty students were recognized for their achievements.

In memory of Tessa Hart

Apart From Programming

Howard Community College provided a work-study student, Illya Reid, who has transcribed five editions of The Writing Life High School Intern Emily Lovico from River Hill High School assisted with program design.

The Writing Life

continued from previous page

Rouse Company Foundation and friends of HoCoPoLitSo, the half-hour shows feature unique conversations – moments and insights not reproduced anywhere else – between distinguished writers and their dedicated hosts. Those interviewed could form an anthology of the most well-known and award-winning names in contemporary literature, including Lucille Clifton, Michael Collier, Beryl and Fred, Linda Pastan, E. Ethelbert Miller, Henry Taylor, Stanley Kunitz, W.S. Merwin, Grace Paley, Richard Wilbur, Aминa Baraka and Philip Levine.

There are no plans to change the successful premise of the show, but you will be seeing updated graphics and other design enhancements in future episodes. And, if you log on our website, www.hocopolitso.org, for information about The Writing Life and news of upcoming events, you’ll be treated to a site with an entirely fresh and contemporary look and enriched functionality.

Invited researchers designed the pro bono site with an entirely fresh and contemporary look and enriched functionality.

The Columbia Foundation

The Horizon Foundation

In memory of Dorothy Bracken

In memory of Ralph & Margot Treitel

Please let us know if there are errors or omissions.

Serial gifts by the same contributor are merged. Every effort has been made to include all names and to spell them correctly.

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

This list includes cash and major-in-kind contributions received between July 1, 2005 and October 15, 2006. Serial gifts by the same contributor are merged. Every effort has been made to include all names and to spell them correctly.

Please let us know if there are errors or omissions.

E n d o w m e n t g o f f s t u d i e s

Gifts and pledges to the HoCoPoLitSo Fund at the Columbia Foundation from February 1996 to October 15, 2006 are indicated below.

N o b e l c l a s s

Laura Messenheimer (Glenn), and Erica Szalkowski (Hammond); in the playwriting category, Gabrielle Boguslaw (Glenn), Laura Messenheimer (Glenn), and Erica Szalkowski (Hammond); in the short story category, in the poetry category, Gabrielle Boguslav (Glenn), Laura Messenheimer (Glenn), and Erica Szalkowski (Hammond); in the playwriting category, Steven Yenzer (Centennial).

The Writing Life

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