



Founder and director emeritus Ellen C. Kennedy, outgoing board president David H. Barrett, and incoming co-chair of the board, Tara Hart, celebrate Barrett's service certificate from the governor.

David Barrett Honored After Decade of Service

David H. Barrett received a certificate of appreciation from the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism on Friday, November 11, 2011, at the home of HoCoPoLitSo's founder Ellen Conroy Kennedy. HoCoPoLitSo honored David H. Barrett for his long-time leadership of the board of directors.

Board and family members recalled celebrated milestones, such as facilitating the move of HoCoPoLitSo's administrative offices from the founder's home to an office on the campus of Howard Community College, the selection of staff, and David's ability to complete all board meetings in the allotted amount of time.

Tara Hart and Tim Singleton were elected to serve as co-chairs of HoCoPoLitSo's board of directors following the completion of David Barrett's last term as chair in July 2011. Barrett will remain on the board along with Ellen Kennedy, Catherine McLoughlin-Hayes, Susan Thornton Hobby, Kathy Larson, Padraic Kennedy, and Laura Yoo. Also joining the board for FY 2012 are Zeleana Morris, Mallory Smith and Truth Thomas.

In April 2011 HoCoPoLitSo received a "Friends of Education Award" from the Howard County Public School System and an Honorable Mention from the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism.

Greetings from the New Co-Chairs

We've been part of HoCoPoLitSo for several years, but as new co-chairs of the board of directors, we greet you warmly, fellow literati, and thank you.

As engaged as we've been with this organization (Tim for three decades and Tara for one), we were struck dumb by a recent summary of achievements. We all know that HoCoPoLitSo represents the highest-quality contemporary literature, but did you know that HoCoPoLitSo has brought us, at affordable prices and to convenient locations,

- five Nobel Prize winners,
- 17 U.S. Poets Laureate,
- 11 National Book Award winners,
- 22 Pulitzer Prize winners,
- 7 Maryland Poets Laureate, and
- a veritable "Who's Who" of the most distinguished writers from Ireland,

in addition to our annual writer-in-residence, visiting all of the county high schools, and producing almost one hundred episodes of the cable television interview show *The Writing Life*?

The most amazing reality is that all of this is accomplished with very few people and resources. It's hard work, and we love it, but our tiny staff, board, and volunteers are challenged more every year by the increased competition for funds and for our audience's attention. You'll have noticed updated strategies, such as the use of social media, to alert audiences to our events. Once our audience is there, we know our events do not disappoint – they are voyages of discovery, education, and even exaltation.

We are eager to honor this rich legacy of more than 30 years and to work to keep HoCoPoLitSo happening. Please join our efforts as literary ambassadors to fill the seats at our events. Give what you can, knowing that we work hard to make every dollar count towards sustaining and growing this passionate enterprise.

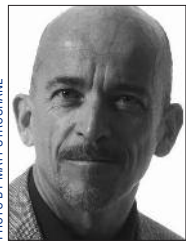
Are you with us? Please let us know. Help us continue to provide unique literary experiences that connect, heal, praise, and enlighten our community.

Tara Hart and Tim Singleton

Public Programs

Total Live Attendance: 1933

SEPTEMBER 26, 2010 In partnership with the Maryland Humanities One Maryland One Book project, the Howard County Library and several other local organizations, HoCoPoLitSo welcomed **Warren St. John**, author of *Outcasts United*, to a reading and discussion at the East Columbia Library.

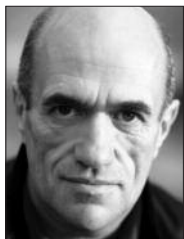


Mark Doty

Hall on the campus of Howard Community College.

FEBRUARY 18, 2011

HoCoPoLitSo celebrated its 33rd Evening of Irish Music and Poetry at the Jim Rouse Theatre with an encore reading by award winning **Colm Tóibín**, author of six novels, two short story collections, and a play entitled "Beauty in a Broken Place." His Excellency Michael Collins, Ambassador of Ireland, the sixth for HoCoPoLitSo, introduced the evening after a prelude by bagpiper **Jared Denhard**. The reading was followed by a concert of traditional Irish music with musicians from Celtic Thunder and Narrowbacks: **Linda Hickman**, **Brendan Mulvihill**, **Terence Winch**, **Jesse Winch**, with **Eileen Korn Estes**, along with stepdancers provided by the **Caulkin School**.



Colm Tóibín



Alice McDermott

ing, where she read from a short story and participated in an extended question and answer session.

APRIL 28, 2011 In partnership with Howard Community College's English/World Languages Division's Blackbird Poetry Festival, HoCoPoLitSo sponsored workshops and readings offered by regional authors **Lyubomir Nikolov**, **Gayle Danley** and **Sue Ellen Thompson**, and a special reading for students by the acclaimed **Martín Espada**.

APRIL 28, 2011 HoCoPoLitSo and the HCC English & World Languages Division offered an evening reading with **Martín Espada**, a poet of justice, in the Montebaro Recital Hall.



Martín Espada

JUNE 2011 In conjunction with the Columbia Festival of the Arts and *Little Patuxent Review*, HoCoPoLitSo staffed a table at Lake Fest. An appearance by author **Francine Prose** was cancelled due to an unexpected personal commitment.

Student Programs

SEPTEMBER 3, 2010 HoCoPoLitSo sponsored a Professional Development Day with **Sue Ellen Thompson**, who spoke to county high school teachers about the importance of re-writing and re-examining one's work, at Long Reach High School.

MARCH 27, 2011 Novelist **Alice McDermott** engaged an audience at a Sunday afternoon reading at the Spear Center in the Howard Hughes Corporation Building,

APRIL 8, 2011 HoCoPoLitSo and Howard County Public Schools presented **Bill's Buddies**, a troupe of Shakespearean actors from the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., to middle school students from the Homewood Center, Bonnie Branch, Mayfield Woods, Cradlerock and a class from Marriotts Ridge High School, who hosted the program.

DECEMBER 2010 – MARCH 2011 Poet-in-residence **Marion Winik** made presentations at 11 county public high schools, the Homewood Center and Howard Community College.

HoCoPoLitSo held its 30th All County Writing Competition for county high school students. The ten creative writing winners were:



Marion Winik

Alison Conca-Cheng (Centennial), **Hilary Andreas** (Mt. Hebron), and **Grace Kuo** (Centennial) in the personal essay category; **Jaclyn Andrews** (Howard), **Kaijai Gomez Wick** (Howard) and **Allegra Garrett** (Mt. Hebron) in the poetry category; and in the short story category, **Colton Cincotta** (Howard), **Rachel Hanon** (Marriotts Ridge), **Ellyssa Tilles** (Marriotts Ridge) and **Zachary Santangelo** (Marriotts Ridge).

In addition, 24 students were chosen by their English Departments to receive HoCoPoLitSo's "Promise and Achievement Awards." The honorees were:

Kevin Judd, **Grace Kuo** (Centennial), **Hannah Athey**, **Faith Walter** (Glenelg), **Eric Bricker**, **Laurel Rotter** (Hammond), **Erika Blakely**, **Tiandre Williams** (Homewood Center), **Rebeka Gomez-Wick**, **Natalie Tomlin** (Howard), **Shaun Harrison**, **Jasmine Hickman** (Long Reach), **Bria Muse-Spears**, **Devin Trim** (Marriotts Ridge), **Ryan Greene**, **Hilary Andreas** (Mt. Hebron), **Maxen Jack-Monroe**, **Vivian Steyert** (Oakland Mills), **Kelly Langford**, **Ryley Mayer** (Reservoir), **Molly Snapp**, **Nuriya Gadiwalla** (River Hill), **Dara Crawley**, **Stephon Powell** (Wilde Lake).

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Ensure HoCoPoLitSo's *FUTURE*. Gifts and pledges to the HoCoPoLitSo Fund at the Columbia Foundation from February 1996 to November 15, 2011. In FY 2011, close to \$7,000 in operational funds were provided.

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HoCoPoLitSo is grateful to everyone for their generous cash and in-kind gifts that help to defray each year's operating expenses. Please consider making a donation to HoCoPoLitSo on-line at www.HoCoPoLitSo.org

HoCoPoLitSo

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Plan to join us!
Friday, February 17, 2012



34th Annual Irish Evening



THE WRITING LIFE

Throughout the year, five times a week in Howard County, HoCoPoLitSo's writer-to-writer talk show *The Writing Life* airs editions on Maryland educational cable channels, accessible to more than two million viewers. Editions can be seen any time at www.howardcc.edu/TWL or heard at www.howardcc.edu/Visitors/hccRadio/index.html.

Three new editions were produced: **Mark Doty** hosted by Sue Ellen Thompson (2011); **Colm Tóibín** hosted by Belinda McKeon (2011); **Martín Espada** hosted by Naomi Ayala (2011). Three editions debuted: **Claire Keegan** hosted by Terence Winch (2010); **Sheila Kohler** hosted by Ron Charles (2010); **Mark Doty** hosted by Sue Ellen Thompson (2011).

TWL ON-AIR SCHEDULE

In July 2010 Roland Flint hosted **Lucille Clifton** (1991); in August Mark Strand hosted **W. S. Merwin** on his translations (1995); in September Terence Winch hosted **Claire Keegan** (2010); in October Ron Charles hosted **Sheila Kohler** (2010); in November Elizabeth Spires hosted **Philip Levine** (1998); in December Michael Collier hosted **Rita Dove** (1999); in January 2011 Colum McCann hosted **Colm Tóibín** (1999); in February Colm Tóibín hosted **Paul Durcan** (2001); in March Charles Guggenheim hosted Reynolds Price (1933-2011) (1998); in April, Sue Ellen Thompson hosted **Mark Doty** (2011); in May E. Ethelbert Miller hosted **Amiri Baraka** (1998); and in June Michael Collier hosted **Madison Smartt Bell** (2002).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 17, 2012

The 34th Irish Evening with **Hugo Hamilton** and music by **Narrowbacks**. Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211558.

Thursday, April 26, 2012

The Blackbird Poetry Festival

HoCoPoLitSo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – donations to which are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting HoCoPoLitSo at DH 239, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044 or calling 443-518-4568. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.