Dear Friends of the Writers House,

Our Class of 1942 Garden looks beautiful in September when students return for the start of the fall semester. “The Quality of Heaven” — a poem by William Carlos Williams etched into the garden path — attracts people from Locust Walk into a lush green oasis, where hostas, ferns, and other shade plants nestle under a canopy of trees. It’s a lovely space, a placid respite from everyday campus activities.

This year, the garden is especially welcoming. A generous gift from Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C’79) and Cliff Eisler (C’79) has enabled us to be responsive to all the ways people enter our cottage. Thanks to their support, we constructed a beautiful new accessibility ramp leading directly into the heart of the Writers House. And with additional support from Kate Levin (G’90, GR’95) and Robin Shapiro, we added even more plantings and a stunning new living room floor to help welcome visitors inside.

The Writers House is for everyone. In the pages of this Annual, you’ll read about many of the people who participate in projects here, including middle-school students from Lea Elementary in West Philadelphia, high-school students from all over the country, and creative people — writers, scholars, artists, musicians, and others — from all over the world, all of whom have helped make this community welcoming and accessible to all.

The Event Highlights section (pp. 4–11) describes many of the writers who visited us this year, including more than a dozen alumni authors returning to Penn to share their knowledge and experiences with undergraduates. Our Digital Projects section (pp. 12–13) reflects on several interrelated, innovative media projects, many of them produced in the Wexler Studio. We detail in our Internships & Mentorships section (pp. 14–16) a selection of special opportunities for undergraduates, including twenty-four paid summer internships made possible through the RealArts@Penn program. Our Outreach pages (pp. 17–19) describe some of the community writing projects we supported, including projects led by undergraduates who sought help with intrepid, out-of-the-box ideas.

Finally, the last pages of the Annual name all of the Friends of the Writers House, without whom the Writers House simply would not exist. We’ve included a special shout-out (p. 21) to people who have supported us since 2004 — fifteen years!

As always, we are grateful to all of the generous people and organizations — including the Office of the Provost — who contribute to the life of the Writers House. We have a fantastic extended family of friends and supporters, including alumni, students, faculty, ModPo participants, Penn parents, Philadelphians, and Friends of the Writers House from all over the world. We are grateful to them all.

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee, thank you for everything you bring to this community!

Al Filreis
Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English

Jessica Lowenthal
Director
AN EVENING WITH THE CRAVEN WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

This year’s Cheryl J. Family Fiction Program featured novelist Weike Wang, who is the Craven Writer-In-Residence in Penn’s Creative Writing Program and a Harvard grad with a doctorate in public health. Audience members were eager to talk with Wang about her first book, Chemistry, which KWH program coordinator Alli Katz described in her introduction as “a novel about feminism, identity, and inertia that seamlessly integrates fiction and science.” Wang also read from a second novel-in-progress, a story about a young woman’s romantic tryst in Portugal. Wang’s workshop student Daniel Finkel (C’20), co-winner of the 2019 Creative Writing Program short story, “The Wichita Vortex.”

We welcomed hundreds of visitors each week into our newly renovated Arts Café for public presentations by students and faculty, conversations with visiting authors, celebratory gatherings, and more. Visit our online calendar (writing.upenn.edu/calendar) for audio and video recordings of the more than one hundred public events produced at the Kelly Writers House in 2018–2019, a handful of which are described here.

THE NEW OLD ARTS CAFÉ

On a chilly December evening, we gathered a crowd of over one hundred people to toast Christine and David Gross-Loh (W’92), whose transformative gift to the Writers House allowed us to reimagine and fully renovate our beloved Arts Café. Faculty Director Al Filreis, Provost Wendell Pritchett, KWH staff member Andrew Beal, and architect Jeff Goldstein (C’98) spoke about the past, present, and future of the re-invented mid-nineteenth century parlor — and thanked the Gross-Loh family for their help in making the complete renovation project possible. Additional thanks went to the thoughtful architects of DGSAAU, who pulled off a seemingly contradictory mandate — make it all new; but keep it exactly the same — and Howie Lipson (W’86), whose support allowed us to install all new theatrical lighting, recording equipment, and multicamera video capability. After the talks and toasts, party guests toured the room and marveled at all the special details, including gorgeous crown molding marking the transition from old to new; an elaborate tech track sporting lights and cameras ready for action, and the familiar old mismatched chairs, creepy as ever.

DELICIOUS TITLES

Our annual celebration of food and books — our delicious and punny Edible Books Party — is a highly anticipated event. This year’s program took on special meaning, as it honored the memory of Blake Bernstein, a brilliant writer and cook, who spent many happy hours in the KWH kitchen during his much-too-short time with us. As usual, we had entries in an array of extremely competitive categories: Most Delicious, Funnist, Best Use of a Single Ingredient, Most Literary, and Most Literal. Josephine Cheng (C’22) and Sydney Loh (C’22) teamed up to bake a huge and beautiful chocolate cake, inspired by a scene in Roald Dahl’s Matilda. Heidi Kalloo formed The Seitanic Verses out of a pile of seitan. Jessica Lowenthal made Handmaid’s, Air by dressing two dozen ginger ales in tiny cloaks and bonnets. Andrew Beal and his daughter asked “Should I Share My Ice Cream?” — and, thankfully, decided to share. In selecting winners, our own Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05) and Philadelphia food illustrator extraordinaires Hawk Krafft really had their work cut out for them. But they had some help from Blake’s parents, Jeanne Pepper and Gideon Bernstein, who reviewed all entries and named one the “Blazest.” Gum Girt, a football-sized, shiny pink bust made of bubble gum, chewed up and sculpted by Allison Ricks (C’22).

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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This year, Kelly Writers House welcomed two new full-time staff members: Development and Operations Coordinator Jean Gelletly and Assistant Program Coordinator Heidi Kalloo.

We celebrated the renaming of our Wexler Studio Coordinator, the Arts Café was fully prepped for the telephone reporting on the Trump family.

THE AUDIO EXPERIMENTS OF JANICE LOWE

We put our brand new Arts Café to the test with a collaborative workshop performance of Desegregation Remix: 3 Women Sing the Borders, a multimedia piece, co-authored by Janice Lowe and Lee Ann Brown. Set in present-day Brooklyn and 1970s Tuscaloosa and Cleveland, Desegregation Remix explores issues of gentrification and race through a provocative mix of text, music, image, and sound. Lowe, a poet/composer who was the 2018–2019 CFWC Fellow in Poetry and Poetic Practice, led an ensemble cast of actors and musicians in the public rehearsal of the piece, including Olithea Anglin, Melanie Dyer, Aliria Johnson, Namaroon, Bi Jean Ngo, Yohann Potico, and DJ Manny Ward. Audience members contributed as well, adding to a loopy vocal collage, created onsite in real time, by answering the question: when did you feel out of place? Thanks to the technical dexterity of Zach Carduner (C’13), our Wexler Studio Coordinator, the Arts Café was fully prepped for the complex performance.

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ALUMNI VISITORS

Founding Hub member Nate Chinen (C’97) joined Anthony DeCurtis in the Class of 1942 Garden for a celebration of Playing Changes, Chinen’s new book about contemporary jazz. In honor of legendary Penn teacher Nora Magid, Stephen Fried (C’76) moderated a discussion about careers in journalism and new media with alumni journalists. JE Castillo (C’91), Jessica Goodman (C’02), and Ashley Parker (C’08).

Our annual Bob Lucid Fiction Program — created in loving memory of Bob Lucid by several of his students — featured Pulitzer prize–winning superstar Jennifer Egan (C’95), who joined us in the Class of 1942 Garden for a twilight reception. Students past and present of Beltran Award winner Charles Bernheimer packed the house for a knockout poetry reading by Trinity Law (C’15) and Steve McLaughlin (C’08). Jamie-Lee Josselyn interviewed Vanity Fair writer Emily Jane Fox (C’11) about her behind-the-scenes reporting on the Trump family.

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CHAIN OF REMEMBERING

When and how should we talk about human suffering? Who bears the responsibility of witness to historical trauma? We discussed these and other questions on the eightieth anniversary of Kristallnacht. when, on November 9–10, 1938, Nazis attacked Jewish people and property throughout Germany. Our intergenerational conversation — organized by Lilli Leight (C’99), Al Filreis, and Ira Blum of Penn Hilliel — gathered faculty, students, and others, including grandchildren and great grandchildren of survivors, for a discussion of the ways in which they, and all of us, are part of a long chain of remembering. Though Holocaust testimony is typically associated with the oldest among us, this conversation suggested an unconventional approach: that we should listen to young people — and respond to the ways they seek and find hope amid tragedy.

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Creative Ventures, which is funded with extraordinary generosity by Marc Wolpow (C’80) and Robin Wolpow, emphasizes creativity and encourages KWH community members to explore innovative modes of learning, making, thinking, and teaching. This year, Creative Ventures enabled a number of ambitious projects, some of which are described here.

PRODUCTION
KWH people made cool stuff — collectibles, memorabilia, and swag — in honor of favorite programs and, sometimes, just to make things. Tyler Daniels (C’21), Eva Lewis (C’21), and others, including high school students in our Summer Workshop, stamped out hundreds of buttons with our trusty button-maker. Alli Katz screen printed special tote bags for graduating seniors. Alyson del Pine (C’21) developed a visual guide to the Miami art scene.

ACTIVISM
Eva Lewis (C’21) organized a team of field researchers in Chicago to canvas residents about resource access. Beatriz Stephen-Pons (C’20) worked on a case study of prisoner re-entry.

PRINTWORK
Mary Tasillo inked special broadsides at the Common Press, with help from Robinson Press assistants Alyson del Pine (C’21), and Rachel Dennis (C’22).

ZINES
Writers House Zine Librarians Alyson del Pine (C’21), Jacob Kind (C’20), and Quinn Gruber (C’22) collected zines and other microprint DIY books for display in the Lipson Family Student Project Space, including zines made by Penn students at KWH workshops and festivals.

CULINARY COMPETITION
Our annual Chili Cook-Off, hosted by Nick Seymour (C’19), brought community members together for delicious chilis (and fierce competition). Henry McDevitt (C’22) created a strange but compelling potato-based dish that challenged our notions of “chili.” Competition winners Tasha Hutnick (C’20) and Brennan Burns (C’20) made a batch with short ribs, bacon, anchovies, and as many types of pepper as they could find. Leah Baxter (C’21) and Madison Taylor (C’20) assisted in the dessert round — and Leah’s ladyfingers put the team over the top.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE
Gawanabees, a writing group for medical students interested in the ways narrative and medicine intersect, gathered at KWH once a month to exchange work, typically over a meal.

URBAN PLANNING AND POETICS
Grad student Davy Knittle (GR’21) paired poets and urban planners for his ongoing interdisciplinary series, City Planning Poetics. Discussions this year focused on urban revitalization, carceral justice, and prison reform.

STAND-UPS SIT DOWN
Our annual Stand-Ups Sit Down program, which is supported by Haim and Jamie Handwerker (C’83), welcomes comedians for frank and often hilarious conversations about show business, stand-up comedy, humor writing, and more. Comedy writers Judy Gold and Laurie Kilmartin (left) joined host Lew Schneider (C’83) for our fourth annual event in April.
Russian-born absurdist poet Eugene Ostaszewskyj joined us for an energetic multilingual reading of poems about migration, translation, and second-language writers wrought by pirates and parrots.

Students of DoubleSpeak magazine arranged a conversation with Anne Ishii, an editor/translator of Japanese manga, who is the newly minted director of Philadelphia’s Asian Arts Initiative.

Angolan novelist Ondjaki, whose prose melds magical realism, poeticism, and political satire into a jubilant depiction of urban poeticism, and political satire Ondjaki, whose Angolan novelist, whose West African politics and Angolan cultural peculiarities, including a discussion with Anne Ishii, an editor/translator of Japanese manga, who is the newly minted director of Philadelphia’s Asian Arts Initiative.

A flurry of white paper clouded the Arts Café when poet Nasser Hussain encouraged us to launch paper airplanes at will during his January reading of poems from his latest book, SKY WRITINGS, composed entirely of words made from three-letter airport codes.

Polish-born poet, essayist, and translator Norbert Lange recited poems in impassioned sing-song German, with translations read by Comp Lit grad student Adam Sax (GR’22). Charles Bernstein led a discussion afterward about Lange’s German-language translations of American poetry, including poems by Bernstein himself.

Russian-language poets from all over the place — Polina Barskova from Massachusetts, Ketì Chukhrov from Moscow, Dmitri Kuzmin from Latvia, Elena Mikhailik from Korea, Galina Rymbu from Ukraine, and Leonid Schwab from Israel — gathered for the third Your Language My Ear Symposium, half a week of intense translation workshops, performance, discussion, and debate with anglophone poets, translators, and scholars, including Penn’s Charles Bernstein, Julia Bloch (GR’12), Yohudith Dashkovsky (C’18), Julia Kolchinski Dasbach (GR’21), and the amazing Kevin Platt, who organized the symposium.

**DOUGLAS KEARNEY**

- Freedom, freedom, where are you, I can’t find freedom cause I need freedom to be free.

Douglas Kearney chanted over footage of Beyoncé and Kendrick Lamar’s 2016 stage performance of the song “Freedom.” Kearney’s captivating multimedia performance — incorporating poetry, music video, and visual art — was just one event in a jam-packed two-day visit to Writers House in October. For a second program, Kearney joined planning historian Brian Goldstein in a conversation about urban revitalization. Organized by Davy Knittle (GR’21), as part of his City Planning Poetics series, the discussion addressed the ways activism and cultural histories shape and respond to the gentrification of large cities. To round out his visit, Kearney also participated in a number of Wester Studio recordings, including a ModPOMinute video about a poem by Sophia Naz and a ModPOplus conversation with Al Fierez about Yuri Harvey’s “The Dream District: Origins.”

**THE WEBER SYMPOSIUM**

- This season’s Weber Symposium, an annual program focused on writing about economics, business, and big tech, featured a conversation with Mehrsa Baradaran, a law professor specializing in banking law, whose newest book, The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap, examines the history and future of America’s business. The wide-ranging discussion, which was moderated by KWH Faculty Director Al Fierez, explored banking failures of the twentieth century — which Baradaran helped contextualize within longer histories of structural inequality. “The reason it’s important,” Baradaran explained, “is because that structure is still in place.”

**ANNUAL MARATHON READING**

- We celebrated Emily Wilson’s stunning translation of The Odyssey by reading it aloud straight through from beginning to end. Sam Claypoole (C’20) claimed the first ten-minute slot of our ten-hour reading, followed by over fifty people who helped shoulder the epic task, including faculty and students from the Classics Department. People visited throughout the day to check on our progress, but longtime marathon reading buff Harry Saffren sat through the entire event, as he has every year since our marathon reading of On The Road in 2007. We sustained our energy with an Odyssean feast of Mediterranean cheeses, olives, and einkorn flatbread reproduced from an ancient recipe by bakers at Lost Bread — all sourced by Jamie Pug (C’06), who led our culinary research work. An amazing crew of students — Zoe Braccia (C’22), Yiwei Chai (C’22), Ashley Codner (C’22), Quinn Gruber (C’22), Husnua Hasnain (C’22), Tasha Hussain (C’20), Emily Rush (C’19), and Rachel Swym (C’22) — transported us to the ancient world with elaborate murals, interactive athletic challenges, hand- painted 3D paper pomegranates, and other imaginative decorations and props. Thanks to their efforts, and with engineering support from KWH program coordinator Ali Katz, a giant cardboard cyclops loomed over the entire event, keeping an eye on everyone.
This year, we welcomed journalists and editors from the programs and events focused on journalism and nonfiction writing, including:

- Jessica Goodman (C'12)
- Jessica Goldstein (C'11)
- Emily Jane Fox (C'11)
- Ashley Parker (C'05)
- Stephen Fried (C'79)
- Arielle Pardes (C'14)
- Mike Murphy (C'09)
- Nate Chinen (C'97)
- Laura Starecheski

Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian, made possible dozens of programs and events focused on journalism and nonfiction writing every year. This year, we welcomed our friends and colleagues (and many of them proud Penn alumni), including:

- Douglas Brinkley
- Jill Castellano (C'16) investigative reporter, data analyst
- Nate Chinen (C'97) jazz critic
- Emily Jane Fox (C'11) magazine reporter
- Stephen Fried (C'79) bestselling author
- Jessica Goldstein (C'11) freelance writer
- Jessica Goodman (C'12) magazine editor
- Alex Lewis radio producer
- Dana Milbank newspaper columnist
- Mike Murphy (C'09) technology editor
- Arielle Pardes (C'14) technology editor
- Ashley Parker (C'03) White House reporter
- Molly Petralia (C'06) freelance writer and editor
- Neena Pothak podcast producer
- Albert Chun (C’10) podcast producer
- Maya Ras newspaper reporter
- Hillary Reinsberg (C’10) food writer and editor
- Jay Rosen media critic and scholar
- Julia Rubin (C’10) digital media editor
- Laura Starecheski investigative reporter
- Kathy Tu podcast editor and host
- Helen Ubiñas newspaper columnist
- Steve Volk freelance journalist

Curated and co-created by KWH Junior Fellow Syra Ortiz-Blanes (C'18), Lluvia de Maria documented the experiences of Puerto Ricans in Philadelphia displaced by Hurricane Maria. A version of the multimedia project also appeared in The Philadelphia Citizen.

Alyson del Pino (C’21) organized a show of comics by New Yorker cartoonist Liana Finck, whose book Posing for Human chronicles a cartoonist’s search for her lost shadow. Del Pino’s hand-drawn gallery featured whimsical descriptions of Finck’s minimalist and arresting work.

Printwork by Penn students opened up our spring semester. Alyson del Pino (C’21) showed cardboard intaglio, copper plate intaglio, and hand-pulled monotype. Brownyn Katz (C’21) showed a series of linocuts depicting characters from “The Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll. Heidi Lee (C’19) showed screenprints on acetate and mylar, including “Mourning,” which commemorates the Birmingham church bombing of 1963.

Emily Rush (C’19) curated a multi-artist show based on the writings of Bernadette Mayer, a poet who sees letters in color. To reproduce Mayer’s experience of language, in which each letter of the alphabet appears to her as a different color, Rush used a Pantone color-key to match Mayer’s vision and then printed large scale versions of her poems. Other contributions to “Poems in (Color) by Bernadette Mayer” included collages by poet Laynie Browne, tapestry by Autumn Wynde (C’19), and a comic by KWH program coordinator Ali Katz.

The list of writers we have named as Kelly Writers House Fellows is remarkable, including — to name only a few — Edward Albee, John Ashbery, Paul Auster, Buzz Bissinger, Joan Didion, June Jordan, Jamaica Kincaid, Tony Kushner, and Susan Sontag. Each of them could have filled a large auditorium, but we welcomed them instead into our cozy cottage for intimate conversations with undergraduates.

Our 2018–2019 Kelly Writers House Fellows were Mei-mei Benssenbrugge, a Chinese American poet whose experimental writing mixes the abstract and the particular in long, gorgeous lines; Rosanne Cash, the legendary singer-songwriter, whose memoir Composed has been called “one of the best accounts of an American life you’ll likely ever read” (Chicago Tribune); and John Keene, the eminent fiction writer who grapples with American history and retells familiar stories from forgotten, unknown, and overlooked perspectives.

Thanks to the efforts of Lily Applebaum (C’12), who organized all the complex details of each visit, the standing-room only performances went off without a hitch. Benssenbrugge tested our newly installed sound system with her characteristically hushed, measured voice, which carried lovingly throughout the Arts Café, reaching all the way to overflow seating in the living room. Cash pushed our acoustics even further by performing a moving rendition of her 1981 hit song “Seven Year Ache.” Keene read a story — at times hilarious, at times heartbreaking — about a young computer whiz who channels his feelings into his keyboard.

For the students in the associated Fellows Seminar — the dozen or so undergraduates who spent the spring semester studying the work of these writers — the classroom proved to be a rewarding, collaborative learning environment. Seminar students worked together to prepare for intensive meetings with our Fellows, each taking on a special research project for presentation to their classmates. Elizabeth Lemieux (C’21) wrote a descriptive analysis of genre in Cash’s music, with a special focus on genre lines she’s crossed or resisted. Lilli Leight (C’19) read the entirety of Keene’s culture blog, dating back to 2005, and reported about the most notable entries. Darby Levin (C’19) read Benssenbrugge’s plays, and described their formal and linguistic relationship to her poetry.

Some of this research and careful reading helped us fete the Fellows with food; snack breaks in the Fellows class featured recipes derived from textual references. Students made a luscious fruit salad for Keene, based on a line in Cuntrannitivas: “avocados, papayas, acerolas, tangerines, limes, mangos.” For Cash, they mounded tomatoes in a bowl, recalling a scene from Composed, in which Cash’s mother fills a washtub with freshly picked tomatoes from their garden.

And, as is now tradition, seminar students also gifted Fellows with their own words, presenting each Fellow with a beautiful, hand-printed broadside, created in collaboration with Mary Tasillo of the Common Press. Lines from Benssenbrugge’s broadside served as an anthem for the Fellows Program and the relationships it engenders: “I write to you and you feel me. / What would it be like if you contemplated my words and I felt you?”
In April the stars aligned for a once-in-a-lifetime extravaganza: we celebrated Charles Bernstein, co-founder of PennSound, with a rollicking birthday bash on the eve of his retirement from Penn. Over one hundred former students, poets, and scholars flew in for the party, including Danny Snelson (GR’15) from California, Christian Boik from New Zealand, and Yunte Wang from China. Many old friends prepared toasts for the occasion — Bruce Andrews, Johanna Drucker, Peter Gizzi, Susan Howe, Erica Hunt, Tracie Morris, Marjorie Perloff, Jena Osman, Bob Perelman, Ron Silliman, and Elizabeth Willis among them. Others piled into the Wexler Studio to record additional testimonials and reminiscences.

Chris Mustazza (GR’19) and Orchid Tierney (GR’19) gathered still more materials — poems and notes and praise — for a special anthology, the Charles Bernstein Mixtape. You can find all this (and more) on our Charles Bernstein Retirement Celebration page at PennSound, where Bernstein’s legacy lives on.

Since 2011, KWH has housed the international online poetics journal, Jacket2, an internet 2.0 update of Jacket, which was founded in 1997 by John Trantier. Each year, Jacket2 editors Kenna O’Rourke (C’15) and Julia Bloch (GR’11) lead undergraduates in the work of editing an academic journal, including proofreading, copyrighting, online file management, and design. Editorial assistants Meejee Jesuthasan (C’19), Kelly Liu (C’21), Alyson del Pino (C’21), and Nick Plante (C’22) had their hands full this year with a small mountain of reviews, articles, commentary posts, and interviews, as well as an omnibus feature on the “extreme,” curated by Divya Victor, which included contributions from over three dozen writers. As always, their editorial efforts were bolstered by Merriam-Webster’s and Chicago Manual of Style, our go-to style guides.

POEMTALK AT THE WRITERS HOUSE

Supported by the Leight Foundation, PoemTalk is a monthly roundtable discussion of poems in the PennSound collection, hosted and produced by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis and edited by Zach Carduner (C’13), our Wexler Studio Coordinator. Most episodes of PoemTalk are recorded in our Wexler Studio, but several episodes this year were recorded on the road, including two in Los Angeles and one in Montreal. Visit PoemTalk’s digital home at Jacket2 (jacket2.org/content/poem-talk) to listen in.

#127 JOHN ASHBERY’S SHORT ANSWER
#128 SUEYEUN JULIETTE LEE’S “PERFECT VILLAGE” SERIES
#129 SYLVIA PLATH’S “THE STONES”
#130 OWEN DOLLYNOOK’S “RIOT”
#131 RACHEL ZOLF’S MARKOV CHAIN TEXT
#132 MARIA HINDMARCH ON VANCOUVER’S POETRY SCENE
#133 DIVYA VICTOR ON WHITMAN’S COLONIAL EXTRACTION
#134 MEI-MEI BERSHENBURG’S “HELLO, THE ROSES”
#135 JOHN CAGE WRITING THROUGH FINNEDANS WAKE
#136 NASSER HUSSAIN’S SKY WR TRI WS
#137 ANNE SEXTON, “THE AMBITION BIRD”

KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis and a team of teaching assistants offered the seventh installment of ModPo, a massive online open course on modern and contemporary American poetry. Over thirty thousand new and returning students joined us for this year’s course, which included weekly webcasts and fresh video content filmed by Zach Carduner (C’13) and Chris Martin, who previously worked closely with Janice Lowe, the 2018-19 CPCW Fellow in Poetics and Poetic Practice, on a series of recording sessions, to flesh out a recording of Lowe’s 2016 collection Leaving CLE, poems of nomadic dispersal. Lowe combined multi-layered vocal tracks with unorthodox instrumentation, including a kalimba and an early-twentieth century Underwood No. 3 typewriter that lives at KWH.

In the studio this year. We recorded number of recordings, to flesh out more. Our talented Wexler Studio team, led by Zach Carduner (C’13), produced a record number of recordings in the studio this year. We welcomed poets, musicians, scholars, audiophiles, and a variety of other talkers, and soundmakers into the flexible space.

Carduner worked closely with Janice Lowe, the 2018-19 CPCW Fellow in Poetics and Poetic Practice, on a series of recording sessions, to flesh out an audio rendition of Lowe’s 2016 collection Leaving CLE, poems of nomadic dispersal. Lowe combined multi-layered vocal tracks with unorthodox instrumentation, including a kalimba and an early-twentieth century Underwood No. 3 typewriter that lives at KWH.

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2018–19 ALUMNI ONLINE BOOK GROUPS

Want to join a book group? Visit writing.upenn.edu/wh-involved/groups/bookgroups. Here you’ll find a community of book lovers, critics, Penn alumni, and other members of the expanded KWH family. Conceived in 2000 by KWH Faculty Director Al Filreis, the KWH Alumni Online Book Groups offer a literary space for people who want to be involved in KWH from afar. Thanks to generous support from David Roberts (W’94), we’ve hosted one hundred and seventeen moderator-led online discussions. In recent years we’ve expanded beyond books to include discussions about music, genre, and special themes, including group #112, led by Lauren Yates (W’12), on witchiness, femininity and healing, group #118, led by Lily Applebaum (C’12), on the music of Kate Bush; and group #116, led by Victoria Ford (C’15), on the uses of dark humor in Black literature.
Bassini Apprenticeships
For the thirteenth consecutive year, the Bassini Apprenticeship Program matched Penn students with professional writers affiliated with Penn’s Creative Writing program, giving students firsthand experience in the day-to-day pleasures and difficulties of working on long-term professional writing projects.

This year’s Bassini Apprenticeships were distinguished by an emphasis on research practices. Working with nonfiction writer Sam Apple, Dillon Bergin (C’19) performed primary research about German chemist Otto Warburg. Amy Juang (C’20) helped poet Janice Lowe develop a database of innovative multi-genre writers, curators, and artists. William Miller (C’20) and Sabrina Qiao (C’19) investigated doctor-writers and medical narratives with novelist Jill Miller. Sabrina Qiao (GR’21) interned for a month at the Philadelphia Citizen, a nonprofit news service that covers the local school system.

Morgan Skidmore worked for The Teachers Institute of Philadelphia, a project that allows Philadelphia public school teachers to enroll in seminars taught by Penn professors. Amber Rose Johnson (GR’21) and Davy Knittle (GR’20) TA’d for a graduate seminar on modern and contemporary poetry run in parallel to ModPo, a massive open online course on the same subject. Sean McGeehan (C’16) and Luisa Healey (C’21) pitched in at PennSound, our enormous archive of audio files, where they learned about digital media and streaming, audio editing, and HTML.

Povich Internship Prizes
The Povich Internship Prizes, sponsored by Maury Povich (C’62), enabled students to accept internship opportunities at creative companies. Student interns included Angiela Bernal (C’21) at NoCameals.com, Ka Yee Christy Ching (C’19) at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Rachelle Frederic (C’21) at Safeface Pictures, Kati Kim (C’20) at Mad Chance Productions and Joint Effort Productions, Peter Lu (C’21) at Mophonics and Spin Move Producers, Amy Marcus (C’20) at To Write Love on Her Arms, Janice Lowe (C’20) of MSNBC, (C’18, Gardenswartz of VICE Media, Jacob Gardenswartz (C’18), LP318 of MSNBC, Caroline Lee (C’19) of BuzzFeed, Michelle Ma (C’19) of the Wall Street Journal, and Samantha Sharf (C’12) of Forbes.

Alumni Mentorship Program
The Alumni Mentorship Program connects undergraduates with Penn alumni who work in creative fields. Important mentoring relationships develop through informal lunches, small gatherings at Writers House, and one-on-one conversations.

Students interested in journalism, editing, and publishing met in the fall semester with alumni working in those fields, including Jay Bauer of the Today Show, Julie Merberg (C’98) of Downtown Bookworks, Taylor Hosking (C’17) of VICE Media, Jacob Gardenswartz (C’18), LP318 of MSNBC, Caroline Lee (C’19) of BuzzFeed, Michelle Ma (C’19) of the Wall Street Journal, and Samantha Sharf (C’12) of Forbes.

In the spring, students met with alumni working in the entertainment industry, including executive producer Allison Greenspan (C’17), Viacom Catalyst Senior Vice President Cheryl Family (C’95), producer Allison Friedman (C’09), FilmNation’s Mike Jasonk (C’85), executive producer Ariana Jackson (W’03), writer/director Lew Schneider (C’83), screenwriter David Stern (C’89), Creative Artists Agency毛孔room clerk Tahir Bell (C’73), 321 Theatrical Management assistant Timothy Bloom (C’17), Single Parents writer Maurin Mwombela (C’17), William Morris Endeavor assistant Brian Park (C’18), MTV/VH1 assistant Sydney Rodriguez (W’83), and Woman Up script coordinator Emma Soren (C’93).

GET INVOLVED!
All of our internship and mentorship programs are organized by R.J. Bernocci (G’12) and Mingo Reynolds in the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. With the help of Penn alumni, parents, faculty, and staff — including RealArts@Penn Faculty Director Anthony DeCurtis and Van Doren Fellow Stephanie Garcia (C’18) — they work tirelessly to connect Penn students with career-boosting opportunities. Do you want to find out more? Email us at realarts@writing.upenn.edu to get more information or get involved.

The Friend Fellows Project
Supported generously by the Harris Family Foundation, Katherine P. Harris, and Bill and Linda Friend, the Friend Fellows project enables a mix of internships, research projects, and teaching assistantships during the academic year.

Naomi Elgant (C’19) wrote for the Philadelphia Public School Notebook, a nonprofit news service that covers the local school system.

Mee abelle Jessuthasan (C’19) and Isabella Simonetti (C’21) interned at The Philadelphia Citizen, an online media organization, where they wrote articles and assisted with social media, grant work, and company-wide events.

Morgan Skidmore worked for The Teachers Institute of Philadelphia, a project that allows Philadelphia public school teachers to enroll in seminars taught by Penn professors.

Special Opportunities
The Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund helps fill some of the financial gaps that exist in university support for creative students. Thanks to this extraordinary fund, KWH Faculty Director Al Filsies helped several students meet their creative and intellectual goals this year. Sophia DuRose (C’21) traveled to the West Coast to assume the life of her twin sister for a writing research project. Husnaah Hashim (C’22) attended the Summer Writing Program at Naropa University. Anthony Lagana (C’22) interned for a month at Harvard’s Woodbury Poetry Room. And Mary Ouslanou (C’20) traveled to London to document minority skateboard culture.

Many alumni, parents and friends contributed to this special opportunities fund, including Jon (C’71) and Barbara Avnet, Emilio Bassini (C’71 W’71 WG’73) and Reina Marin Bassini (CW’72 GED’72), Lucy Oh Cook (C’95), Reuben (W’91) and Jennifer Daniels, Caryn Karmatz Rudy (C’92) and Lee Rudy (C’92), Marcy (C’88) and Jeff Schneider (C88), Mark (C’95) and Rachel Sherman (C’95), and Melisa and Lawrence Stoller. To find out how you can join in this effort, email Andrew Beal (abbeal@writing.upenn.edu).

INTERNSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS
UNDERGRADUATE OUTREACH WORK

Eva Lewis (C’21), a Levin Outreach Intern at KWH, took a lead role in developing our outreach capacity by performing much needed research about volunteer opportunities in Philadelphia.

Juliana Kemenosh (C’20), Rachel Kulik (W’21), Carrie Shade (C’21), and Linda Zhou (C’21) served as lead coaches for Write On!, our after-school writing program.

Ian McCormack (C’21) and Yiwei Chai (C’22) assisted with our Summer Workshop for Young Writers.

James Fisher (C’19) worked at Mighty Writers, an off-campus after-school writing program, where he assisted high school students with college applications.

A grant from Writers House helped Max and Sam Strickberger (C’22) expand InLigt, a publication based in Washington, DC that helps build empathy through storytelling.

Imani Davis (C’20), who served as a teaching assistant for Rachel Zolf’s Community Writing course, developed writing workshops for students at Sayre High School.

RECRUITMENT AND ACCESS

- We want talented high school writers to apply to Penn, so we are always on the lookout for prospective students with interest in writing and the creative arts. Our student recruitment efforts are led by Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05), who visits high schools and youth writing programs all over the country. Four steps this year included the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, the Orange County School of the Arts, Interlochen Arts Academy, WriteGirl, Writopia Lab, Bardgate Educational Complex in the Bronx, and the Charleston County School of the Arts.

And, of course, she met with plenty of prospective students and their families right here at KWH, too, with help from Ian McCormack (C’21), who greeted visitors and led dozens of special tours throughout the year.

A lot of people help make this work possible. Over one hundred alumni, parents, and other friends joined us at the Louis K. Meisel Gallery in November for our seventeenth annual Writers House New York event, hosted by Susan and Louis Meisel, to pledge their financial support for our recruitment efforts. Thanks to their generosity, we raised over one third of our annual goal for our student recruitment program. Other assistance came from KWH alumni and members of the KWH Board who helped us connect with local writing programs, area high schools, and individual prospective students. We are also grateful to Crissy Iglesias and the Office of Penn Admissions for their ongoing support of our recruitment efforts.

ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

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SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG WRITERS

- Twenty writers participated in our third annual Summer Workshop for Young Writers, an intensive ten-day residential program for high school students.

Summer Workshop Director Jamie-Lee Josselyn (C’05) led lively discussions every morning about personal essay writing.

David Marchino (C’16), Izzy Lopez (C’19), Ian McCormack (C’21), and Yiwei Chai (C’22) moderated additional collaborative sessions in which students workshoped fresh drafts, inspired by their work with Josselyn and one another.

Afternoons were reserved for one-off craft sessions taught by KWH-affiliated artists and writers, including experimental poetry with Michelle Taransky, poetry and science with Kautilin Moore (C’18), comics with Alli Katz, food writing with Kristen Martin (C’11), persona poetry with Victoria Ford (C’15), character development with Melissa Jensen, narrative collage with Karen Rile (C’80), creative annotation with Sarah Arkbauser (C’11), letterpress with Mary Tasillo, audio recording with Zach Carduner (C’13), and pie-making with Lily Applebaum (C’12). (Yes! We made — and ate — a half-dozen pies.)

Food played a central role in other activities as well, daily fruit breaks, snacks of bubble tea and Insomnia Cookies, and catered lunches representing Philly’s diverse food scene. A field trip to the Magic Gardens included a stop at Ishkabibble’s for cheesesteaks and Gremlin (a local drink made of equal parts lemonade and grape juice). A late afternoon hangout on the hammocks at Spruce Street Harbor Park involved two kinds of water ice. And plenty of popsicles throughout the ten-day program helped our workshopers beat the Philly heat.

Days and nights were otherwise filled with conversation, writing assignments, and games of Uno in the Rodin College House rooftop lounge, so our workshopers had little time for rest. But these brilliant students emerged from the program with renewed creative energy. Deborah Olutunji put it this way: “I learned that when life is going too fast to fully recollect moments, taking time to pause is essential for growth as a writer, friend, and human being.”

We are grateful to Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung for their support of this program. With their help, we award grants of financial assistance to more than half of participants.

OUTREACH WORK

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Bassini Apprenticeship Endowed Fund

> In partnership with the Bernstein family, we are proud to honor the legacy of Blaze Bernstein, an extraordinary young writer whose tragic death we all mourn.

> In honor of Blaze, this fund supports an annual RealArts@Penn Internship in Los Angeles, as well as community-oriented programs that center writing and food, two of Blaze’s great loves. The 2019 Blaze Bernstein Memorial Intern was John Anderson (C’21), who worked at Genie Films. Founded in 2008 with a lead gift from Gideon Bernstein and Jeanne Pepper Bernstein, the Blaze Bernstein Internship Fund helps professional writers, undergraduate apprentices gain first hand experience at a writing studio.

> In 2019, the Blaze Bernstein Memorial Internship Fund supported eleven interns in the summer of 2019. Fourteen of the thirty interns in the summer of 2019 were funded through an additional gift from Joshua Greenwald (C’97). The internships were funded by the following organizations:

- The Povich Prize Fund, which supports the core mission of the RealArts@Penn project: mentoring undergraduates. 

- The 2019 Blaze Bernstein Memorial Fund, which supports the core mission of the RealArts@Penn project: mentoring undergraduates.

> In 2019, the Blaze Bernstein Memorial Internship Fund supported eleven interns in the summer of 2019. Funded with a special gift by Marc Wolpow (W’80), the Povich Prize Fund helps level the playing field by offering funding to students who have secured unpaid or modestly paid internships at cultural institutions, art organizations, or creative companies. Preference for the award goes to students with demonstrated financial need. The Povich Fund supported eleven students in the summer of 2019, including Ka Yee Christy Ching (C’19), who interned in the conservation department at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Endowed by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung.

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The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Endowment Fund supports Jacob Kelly, an online journal of contemporary poetry and poetics, which will enable Kelly’s assistants to launch a new series of conversations hosted by KWH Faculties and contribute to the production of the podcast PoemTalk.

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Endowed Prize in Journalism Magazine Endowment Fund supports the work of emerging art curators, who will produce a series of interdisciplinary discussions between visual artists, curators, and art historians.

The Creative Ventures Fund supports ambitious projects and ideas, especially those that emphasize innovation, discovery, and imagination. The Creative Ventures Fund offers several magazines this year including Zine-Making and PoemTalk.

The Heled Mentorship Award Endowed Fund supports a poetry reading by his former mentor, and co-founder of PennSound.

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Endowed Prize in Journalism Magazine Endowment Fund supports the Journalistic Nonfiction Award. This year’s honoree was Charles Bernstein, a renowned poet and critic who has won several major awards for his contributions to the field of contemporary poetry and poetics.

The Heled Mentorship Award Endowed Fund supports a poetry reading by his former mentor, and co-founder of PennSound.

The Carol Catanese Endowed Fund supports the production of a chapbook about Asian Pacific Islanders in America.

The Poetry Foundation Endowment Fund supports the work of emerging art curators, who will produce a series of interdisciplinary discussions between visual artists, curators, and art historians.

The Brodsky Gallery Endowment Fund supports the work of emerging art curators, who will produce a series of interdisciplinary discussions between visual artists, curators, and art historians.

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**Targeted Opportunities and Open-Ended Support**

**Kane-Wallace Kitchen Endowed Fund**
- Ppe workshops for high school students, late-night baking sessions, lunch breaks, snack breaks, and prep for more than one hundred public receptions each year. All this and more happen in our beautiful kitchen.
- As in many homes, our kitchen is the heart of our house. Students spend countless hours in the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, drinking coffee, leading to the shaping of vegetables, and making lifelong friends.
- Endowed by Ed Kane (C’78, Trustee 1996–2000) and Marty Wallace in 2010.

**The Hartman Dining Room Endowment**
- The Hartman Dining Room Endowment provides support for the many and various activities of the Writers’ House throughout the year, including dinners with writers we admire, lunches for noon-time readings, weekly staff meetings during the summer, and break-out sessions for youth writing programs.
- The Hartman Dining Room is a special gathering place. Endowed by Alan Hartman (W’57) and Kim Hartman in 2010.

**Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund**
- This multipurpose fund, to which anyone can contribute, enables Faculty Director Al Filreiss to invest in creative projects proposed by KWH community members. Filreiss helps students meet their creative and intellectual goals this year, including Anthony (C’21), who interned at Harvard’s Woodberry Poetry Room, and Mary Osunlana (C’20) who documented minority street culture in London. Supported this year by John L. Joffe and Barbara Arvet, Emilio Bassi (C’77, W’74), W. Q. (Jesu) and Reina Maria Bassin (C’72, W’72), G. G. Dubin, L. R. (Zac) and Jennifer Daniels, Carolyn Jacobs and Erik Simpson, Edward Jacobson, David and Teresa Jones, Jeffrey Juberlar, Emily Kaplan, Sally Kaplan, Eric Karan, Ros-Karan, Fredericks and Phyllis Kassel, Richard and Kathy Katz, Adam Kaufman, Crawford and Jeffrey Kaufman, Mark and Stacey Kaufman, Donald Neim, Edward Kelly, Janet Kent, Kenmore Krenzler, Louis Kingston, Beth Kissieff and Jonathan Perlman, Bethy Klauzman, Daphne Klauzman and Ronald Litman, Sabrina Kleier-Morgenstern, Stephanie Klein, Kenmore Krenzler, Estelle Kravitz, Joan Lapadula, Deborah Koimn, Joshua and Reina Kopelman, and Richard Levin.

**Alice Cooper Shoublberg Scholarship Endowment Fund for the Support of Student Creative Writing**
- A stellar student who graduated from Penn’s College for Women in 1955, Alice Cooper, is known to us all as an influential career as a Philadelphia public school teacher. Established in her memory, the Cooper Shoublberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Student Projects Space, where undergraduates depend on computers for design projects, magazine production, and more. Endowed by Overbrook High School classmates of Alice Cooper Shoublberg in 1998.

**Gordon Walls ’38 Creative Ventures Fund**
- Through this flexible fund we support fresh initiatives and ideas, especially the creative (and sometimes outlandish) dreams of our Hub members, who constantly revitalize the KWH project with new publications, outreach programs, literary celebrations, and other community-driven projects. The Gordon Walls Fund helped support community-focused events and projects, including monthly Hub meetings and our annual Hub Thanksgiving. Further, it supported the technological needs of our Student Projects Space, where undergraduates depend on computers for design projects, magazine production, and more. Endowed by Overbrook High School classmates of Alice Cooper Shoublberg in 1998.

**Outreach / Beyond the Campus**

**Digital Poetics Fund**
- Our Digital Poetics Fund allows us to make our vast digital resources freely available to anyone. The fund supports several interrelated projects, including PoemTalk, an online journal of critical writing about poetry, and ModBo, our free open online course on modern and contemporary poetry taught by Filreiss and a team of TAs, which Laurens both designed and teaches. Supported by Gordon Lane Bond (C’06) and Sunny Bond.

**Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship**
- The Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship is a two-year opportunity to recent Penn graduates. The Van Doren Fellowship helps connect undergraduates with creative opportunities at the Institute for Contemporary Art, an arts center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. Supported by the Van Doren Fellowship, postgraduate fellowship recipients and students who have completed an MFA degree in poetry or fiction are eligible to apply. Supported by the Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship, creative opportunities at the Institute for Contemporary Art, an arts center for Programs in Contemporary Writing.

**Additional groups were led by Lily Applebaum (C’12), Fifeir, Hennessey, David Roberts (W’84), and Lauren Yates (C’12). Supported annually by David (W’84) and Deborah Roberts (W’84).**

**Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund**
- For ten days each summer, talented high-school writers attend our Summer Workshop for Young Writers. The rigorous program emphasizes writing in a community setting, but also makes room for pre-baking tutorials, audio recording, letterpress printing at the Common Press, and seeing through the city. Thanks to the Maury Povich Summer Workshop Fund, more than half of the workshop participants receive financial assistance. For students of greatest need, the program is entirely free of charge. Funded annually by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung since 2017.

**Esther T. Saxon Term Fund**
- The Esther T. Saxon Fund supports our community outreach efforts, particularly programs and projects in schools and in under-resourced elementary schools.
- Our efforts in this area include two major projects: Wall to Wall, a weekly writing workshop for kids from nearby Lea Elementary, and Transcribe, a monthly writing group for trans and gender non-conforming youth. Supported annually by Jerolyn Saxon (W’90) and Brian Pernig (W’90). The Esther T. Saxon Term Fund provides annual support for the Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship, a two-year opportunity to recent Penn graduates. The Van Doren Fellowship helps connect undergraduates with creative opportunities at the Institute for Contemporary Art, an arts center for Programs in Contemporary Writing. Supported by the Van Doren Fellowship, postgraduate fellowship recipients and students who have completed an MFA degree in poetry or fiction are eligible to apply. Supported by the Van Doren Arts Engagement Fellowship, creative opportunities at the Institute for Contemporary Art, an arts center for Programs in Contemporary Writing.

**Sayet-Rosenberg Endowed Fund for Young Writers**
- The Sayet-Rosenberg Fund supports the work of the Associate Director of Recruitment, Jamie-Lee Josey (C’05), and also funds teaching internships for KWH-affiliated students. 2019 Sayet-Rosenberg Intern Amanda Boley (C’22) led creative writing workshops at Frost Valley YMCA Summer Camp. Endowed by Harold L. Rosenberg (W’79) and Dr. Laurie A. Sayet in 2001.
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS CIRCLE

Christine and Armany Bernstein, Daniel and Steven Bleider, Gordon and Sunny Bond, Mary Brauer-Cox, Cheryl Family and Ken Saji, Andrew and Susan Gold, Ted and Judy Goldsmith, Neil and Carin Grabowski, Harry and Evelyn Groome, Adam and Susan Hartman, George Johnson, Ethan and Cathy Kohn, Mark and Reed Cordish, Deanne and Seth Lipsay, Michael Magee, Leslie and Jeffrey Mendell, Deborah Miller and Stanley Maloney, Janet and Byron Stier, Sebastian Stockman, Elizabeth and Harris Steinberg, and Daniel Spinelli, Nicholas Spitzer, Thomas Rile, Mina Smith-Segal, Judith and Barry Shaw, Karen Hurvitz and John Shea, Patricia Craig Shannon, Helene Shavin, Alonna Mary Scott, Sheila Segal, Matthew Selman, Irene Savitz, Elaine Simon, Simonett, Sergio Singer, Arrington, and motherhood, “Other Women Don’t Tell You,” with Sara Burnett, Ananda Cleve (C’88, W’88) in 2016.

Endowed by Kathy DeMarco Van Kaufer (C’21).

Craven Writer-in-Residence.

Events and Programs

Irynn and Lucy Applebaum Endowed Fund

In November, the Applebaum Publishers and Editors series welcomed Almiel Alcalay, the general editor of Lost and Found: The CLUNY Poets Document Initiative. The fund makes possible visits from publishers and editors — the people who curate, refine, distribute, and market the books we read and enjoy. Endowed by Irynn Applebaum (C’75) and Lucy Applebaum in 2008.

Blutt Songwriting Symposium

Endowed Fund

It’s riveting when Storytelling editor Adam DeCourtes interviews a rock legend for an audience of fifty in our Arts Café — and that’s just what the Blutt Fund makes possible. This year’s symposium featured the Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Jason Isbell. Endowed in 2009 by Margo Krody of the publication Modern Loss, and a conversation about hormones with Dr. Kauders Fund: a discussion of fifty in our Arts Café — and that’s just what the Blutt Fund makes possible. This year’s symposium featured the Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Jason Isbell. Endowed in 2009 by Margo Krody of the publication Modern Loss, and a conversation about hormones with Dr. Kauders (CW’42) in 2007.

The Levin Endowed Fund for an Annual Symposium in Memory of Charles Bernheimer

The Levin Endowed Fund allows the KWH Program Coordinator to plan a program that engages her most creative impulses. This year, the
Levin Program supported a panel discussion of comedy in the age of social media, hosted by Ronald Metellis. *Endowed in 2007 by Kate Levin (C’80, GR’95) in memory of much-beloved Comp Lit professor Charles Rembekemer.*

The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment » We collaborate with WXPN (88.5 FM) to produce a monthly one-hour radio show. Hosted and produced by KWH Program Coordinator Ali Katz, “LIVE at the Writers House” features some of Philly’s most exciting up-and-comers. For one show, formerly incarcerated writers explored themes raised in Jesmyn Ward’s novel, Sing, *raised in Jesmyn Ward’s novel,* included lunchtime conversations with award-winning journalists, a panel discussion with alumni writers about the role of technology in journalism, and a discussion with bestselling author Stephen Fried (C’79) about his book on founding father Benjamin Rush. *Endowed by Maury Povich (C’62)* and *Connie Chung in 2000.*

The Bob Lucid Memorial Endowment Fund » Robert “Bob” Lucid was a visionary teacher and mentor whose pedagogy helped inspire and structure our literary community. Friends of the Writers House established this fund in his memory, allowing us to host an annual fiction program that pays tribute to Bob as a continuing inspiration. Our 2018–2019 Lucid Program featured the extraordinary Jennifer Egan (C’85), who received the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction award for her 2017 novel *Manhattan Beach.* *Endowed by the KWH community, with lead gifts by Susan Small Savitsky (CW’75) and Ed Kane (C’77). Trustee 1996–2000.*

Poetry Endowment Fund » Endowed anonymously in 2019, our Poetry Endowment Fund will nurture all kinds of poetic activity, including poetry readings, student writing projects, and collaborations between poets and other artists. We look forward to bringing more poetry to the Writers House and sending more poetry out into the world. *Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund* » The single largest programming gift in Writers House history, the Maury Povich Journalism Program Fund permanently endows our nonfiction programming, a range of events that include readings, craft talks, and mentor meetings with journalists, essayists, critics, and other writers of nonfiction. Povich Journalism Programs this year included lunchtime conversations with award-winning journalists, a panel discussion with alumni writers about the role of technology in journalism, and an evening with bestselling author Stephen Fried (C’79) about his book on founding father Benjamin Rush. *Endowed by Maury Povich (C’62) and Connie Chung in 2000.*

The Caroline Rothstein Endowed Fund in Support of Oral Poetry » The Rothstein Fund helps us celebrate the oral tradition of poetry in its many forms, including performance poetry, spoken word, and slam. Thanks to the Rothstein Fund, Imani Davis (C’20) invited Kirwyn Sutherland, whose poems explore the Black experience in America, for a performance in February. *Endowed in 2007 by Penn parents Nancy (C’75) and Steven Rothstein in honor of their daughter Caroline Rothstein (C’06).*

Eva and Leo Sussman Poetry Endowment Fund » We honor the memory of Eva and Leo Sussman, beloved grandparents of Daniel Morse, with an annual poetry program. Our 2018–2019 Sussman Poetry Program explored the legacy of Walt Whitman, with an evening of discussion, featuring Davy Knittle (GR’21), Ujjwala Maharjan, Ron Silliman, Simone White, and others. *Endowed by Penn parents Daniel and Miriam Morse, in 2012, in memory of Eva and Leo Sussman.*

The Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Endowment Fund » Our annual Weber Symposium celebrates a writer who illuminates the workings of business, finance, and economics with clear and lucid prose. *The October 2018 Weber Symposium featured Mehra Jaziradaran, a professor of law, whose critically acclaimed writing tackles issues related to law, economics, race, and politics. Endowed in honor of Stacey Gillis Weber (W’85) and Jeffrey A. Weber in 2008.*


Wexler Family Endowment Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture » The Wexler Family Fund helps us celebrate Jewish life, art, and culture. This year, the Wexler Fund helped Sam Strickberger (C’22) undertake a documentary project in Israel and provided support for a special intergenerational conversation about bearing witness, co-presented by Penn Hi!iel on the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. *Endowed by Penn parents Gary and Nina Wexler in 2010.*

The Kelly Writers House Advisory Board is a group of active alumni, parents, and friends who are deeply invested in the people and projects of Kelly Writers House. Board members support us in countless ways, with their time, their ideas, and more. We can’t thank them enough for everything they do to encourage all facets of our mission.

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**Paul Kelly (C’62 W’04), Chair**
Cheryl Family (C’91), Vice Chair
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Herman Beavers (HOM’96)
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Maury Povich (C’62)
David Roberts (W’84)
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Henry Siegel (C’92)
Harry Steinberg (C’78, GAP’82)
Nina Wexler
Nina Wolpow (C’14)

**Bonnie Tannenbaum Eisler (C’79) – Secretary**

I was an English major who graduated from Penn in ’91, missing the magical experience of Kelly Writers House by a few years. When the Advisory Board was formed, I immediately said yes. The sheer number of programs at the House is impressive, and the community it creates for creative students from across the University is invaluable. And now, the outreach it does across the country to find the very best young writers and turn them on to the idea of spending their undergraduate years at Penn is bringing new voices to campus. Locust Walk is all the richer for it.

— Cheryl Family (C’91)
Become a Friend of the Writers House

Free readings and workshops by contemporary writers. Coffee percolating in the kitchen. Conversations in the garden. Online archives of live performances by eminent authors. Internships and awards that let students explore their professional and personal passions — and opportunities for them to share what they’ve learned with each other. All of these things and more are funded through the annual donations of the many Friends of the Writers House.

The Kelly Writers House seeks assistance from its community members to help us with what people in the fundraising world call “term support” — small- and mid-sized donations that offset the costs of our programs in the immediate and near future.

Will you help us protect and sustain the Writers House project? Your gift will be acknowledged in our printed Annual next year, as well as online at writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/friends.php. If you want to remain anonymous, that’s fine; you can also request that we publicize your gift in honor, or in memory, of others.

Becoming a friend is easy. To make a donation with a credit card, visit writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/online.php or fill out the lines below. If you would prefer to send a check, mail it along with this form to:

The Kelly Writers House
3805 Locust Walk
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150

Attention: Andrew Beal

Please make checks payable to “Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania” and be sure to jot “Kelly Writers House” on the memo line.

☐ $40  ☐ $250
☐ $100  ☐ $500
☐ William Carlos Williams Circle $1000
☐ Emily Dickinson Circle $2500
☐ Please send me more information about additional giving opportunities.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone Number: ____________________

Your name or the name of another as you would like it to appear on the Kelly Writers House website:

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If you would like to use a credit card, please provide the following information:

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Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania
3805 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6150

writing.upenn.edu/wh

So many people help to make the Kelly Writers House possible, including Friends of the Writers House from all over the world. We are especially grateful to the people in the Office of the Provost for everything they do to support us. Thank you, friends!

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