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2010 ANNUAL

Dear Friends of the Writers House:

LOVINGLY BUILT BY OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS from the ground up, the Kelly Writers House is a collaborative freespace where capacious programming is driven by the collective ideas of our diverse volunteer Planning Committee, also known as the “Hub.” Our community fills the House with a palpable energy. Step inside KWH and you’ll find spirited conversations, a welcoming warmth from our living room, the smell of fresh cookies (or chili, or roasted vegetables) wafting from the Kane-Wallace Kitchen, and Hub members reading and writing in every nook.

Each year, we try to outdo ourselves with the ambition and scale of our projects. Programs designed by Hub members this year explored a remarkable range of contemporary writing. Max McKenna (C’10) cooked up the “George Borge Smorgasbord,” a celebration of Jorge Borges culminating in an Argentinean feast. Michelle Taransky and Sarah Arkebauer (C’11) directed a troupe of actor-poets in a production of the *The Alps*, a verse play by Penn faculty member Bob Perelman. Our Kerry Prize winner Trisha Low (C’11) led a panel discussion on contemporary feminism and print culture. And Jared Rosenberg (C’10) presented on the work of Radiohead, after a semester-long independent study of their music. Our roster of featured readers was similarly ambitious. The prolific writer Joyce Carol Oates visited for two days through the Kelly Writers House Fellows Program. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rae Armantrout read from her newest book *Versed*, just months before it won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Lewis Lapham, veteran editor emeritus of *Harper’s Magazine* and founder of the critically acclaimed journal of history and ideas, *Lapham’s Quarterly*, helped us inaugurate the new Applebaum Publishers and Editors Series. And we invited writers to visit us from Brazil, Russia, and Canada – among other far-flung places.

As always, we tried some new things: Al led a poetry seminar in Second Life, a virtual world with its own Writers House. We hosted a “Publications Collective Coffeehouse,” through which the editorial boards of 20 student publications shared their work with one another and the Penn community. And we did the classic things too: our annual traditions include “Mind of Winter” (with soups and stews and wintry readings), a potluck Thanksgiving, a marathon reading of a single novel (this time *The Great Gatsby*), and our beloved Senior Capstone (where we celebrated a record number of graduating seniors).

Our rich tradition of collaboration with partners throughout the university and across the city allowed us to promote all kinds of writing and writing communities. Through the good work of Allyson Even (C’13), our new Community Outreach Coordinator, we teamed up with two Philadelphia-area literacy projects – Spells Writing Center and Mighty Writers – and launched *The Blacktop*, an online literary magazine featuring the work of young Philadelphians. With Penn’s Facilities and Real Estate Services and the Fine Arts Department in the School of Design, we co-sponsored the ArtsEdge Residency project, which subsidizes living and studio space in West Philly for emerging talents in the literary and visual arts. PoemTalk, our joint venture with PennSound and the Poetry Foundation, brought 25-minute podcast conversations about poetry to listeners around the world. And with the assistance of Penn departments and programs – such as Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Creative Writing, Penn Humanities Forum, Jewish Studies, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, Comparative Literature, English, and Women’s Studies – our programs and events explored the full range of contemporary literature.

We are astounded by what we are able to produce with the help of our wonderful community – kind-hearted and imaginative people who give freely of their ideas and their time to make things happen in this space. We owe our remarkable success to people like you who believe in our mission and take the initiative to involve themselves in it. Thank you for all you do as a friend of the Writers House!

On behalf of the Writers House Planning Committee,



Jessica Lowenthal, Director



Al Filreis, Faculty Director
Kelly Professor of English



PEOPLE

THE HUB

The Writers House Planning Committee – also known as “the Hub” – is the core group of writers and writing activists who keep us bubbling with new energy and initiatives. Hub members were busy this year generating ideas at monthly meetings, planning up a storm of raucous events, and getting involved with all aspects of this collective project. Several Hub members volunteered whenever or wherever we needed them, especially **Trisha Low** (C’11), **Grace Ambrose** (C’11), **Colleen Quinlan** (C’11) and high school intern **David Cherry**, who each put in countless hours cooking with **Erin Gautsche** (CGS’06) to keep us all well fed with a steady stream of gourmet (often vegetarian, sometimes gluten-free) marvels. Other Hub members took on leadership roles. **Brittany Young** (C’13) reinvigorated our Speakeasy open-mic night with themed readings, webcasting, and amped-up PR. **Amaris Cuchanski** (C’12) stepped up to become the KWH liaison to Front Row Theatre, our partner in an annual playwrighting fellowship for Penn students. Her efforts resulted in a stellar workshop reading of *A Faustplay* by fellow Hub member **Lee Huttner** (C’10). Lee’s play represented only a small portion of his leadership here: if you dig around our website, you’ll discover him as the mastermind behind several ambitious projects, including “Media Res,” an annual celebration of medieval literature, and *EII*, a yearlong investigation of the

legacy of Christopher Marlowe. It was a year for celebrating theater and theatrical writing: **Sarah Arkebauer** (C’11) and **Michelle Taransky** led a team of poets-turned-actors in a staged reading of faculty member **Bob Perelman**’s poetry-play *The Alps*, a reprise of the original 1982 San Francisco production. We were also proud to host a screening of *Valentine’s Day*, a work by **Cecilia Corrigan** (C’10), one of her “Holiday Trilogy” of plays, which won a campus-wide arts grant. Lots of Hub members spent some time on the road: professors **Al Filreis**, **Charles Bernstein**, and **Kenny Goldsmith**, undergraduates **Kim Eisler** (C’11) and **Rebekah Caton** (C’10), and English grad students **Julia Bloch** and **Sarah Dowling** traveled to Banff, Canada, to attend a several-day poetry conference. **James LaMarre** (C’11), **Michelle Taransky**, and **Leo Amino** (C’10) drove eight hours to Amherst to represent KWH and the Common Press at the Juniper Literary Festival. And the Hub came together, as we always do, to share good food and gratitude. Our Thanksgiving potluck was a delicious success, thanks in part to **Peter Manda** (G’89), who carved the turkey, **Deirdre Bullard** (C’13) who supplied us with a loaf of her now-famous pumpkin bread, and all the Hub members who shared homemade family recipes (corn pudding, collard greens, and Brussels sprouts with and without bacon).



STAFF

We couldn't run the Writers House without staff members who lovingly imagine and plan programs, document events, coordinate outreach efforts, bake scrumptious desserts for themed receptions, balance the books, and produce elaborate happenings to mobilize the area's most creative thinkers and writers. Our dedicated staff engages fully in the mission of the Writers House, especially our student staffers, whose work feeds directly into the heart of the project. This year's undergraduate staff members included Purchasing Librarian **Andrea Amanullah** (C'12); New Media Documentarian **Kathryn Lipman** (C'10); Webmasters **Jillian Blazejewski** (C'11) and **Zach Carduner** (C'13); Archivist **Violette Carb** (C'11); Development Assistants **Sarah Arkebauer** (C'11) and **Ali Kriegsman** (C'13); Project Assistants **Kristen Martin** (C'11) and **Callie Ward** (C'13); Gallery Curator **Kaegan Sparks** (C'10); Outreach Coordinator **Allyson Even** (C'13); Media Editors **Florentina Dragalescu** (C'12) and **James LaMarre** (C'11), PR Assistant **Rivka Fogel** (C'11); Resident Medievalist **Lee Huttner** (C'10); YouTube Editor **Amaris Cuchanski** (C'12); Sous Chef **Lindsey Todd** (C'12); Program Assistants **Chaia Werger** (C'11), **Max McKenna** (C'10), and **Emily Harnett** (C'13); Summer Interns **Jeremy Levenson** (C'12) and **Pimrapee Thungkasemvathana** (C'13); *Jacket2* Editorial Assistants **Lily Applebaum** (C'12) and **Emily Orrson** (C'13); and Summer Project Assistant **Molly O'Neill** (CGS'11). Our nonstudent staffers included Night Manager **Peter Schwarz** (CGS'04, LPS'08), Project Assistant **Ellie Kane** (C'09), Administrative Assistants **Allison Harris** and **Aisha Hadlock**, Assistant to the Director **Michelle Taransky**, *Jacket2* Editors **Mike Hennessey** and **Julia Bloch**, Assistant to the Faculty Director **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05), Assistant Director for Development **Arielle Brousse** (C'07), Program Coordinator **Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06), Director **Jessica Lowenthal** and Faculty Director **Al Filreis**.

ALUMNI

We're always glad to have alumni come home. The alumni who contribute to the KWH project as mentors, visiting authors, online book group leaders, audience members, Board members, and "Friends of the Writers House" (supporters of our annual fundraising campaign) never cease to amaze us with their generosity and enthusiasm for what we do. Alumni sustain us each year with their energy and support and we're grateful for their continuing involvement. This was a record year for alumni participation. We spoke with several alumni authors over intimate lunches in our Arts Café, including grant-writer and activist **Andy Robinson** (C'80), jazz critic and founding Hub member **Nate Chinen** (C'97), political writer and GQ correspondent **Lisa DePaulo** (C'82), journalist **Jo Piazza** (C'02), financial wizard **Howard Marks** (W'67), and sportswriter and former Major League Baseball player **Doug Glanville** (C'93). The alumni who volunteered for our Alumni Mentors series – including playwright **Tony Gallo** (WG'63) and fiction writers **Melissa Jensen** (C'89, GPU'93) and **Julie Kraut** (C'04) – met with small groups of Penn students to advise them about the business of writing. We helped **Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve** (C'88, W'88) celebrate the publication of *Drizzle*, her magical children's book about a chocolate rhubarb farm, and we invited **John Carroll** (C'05) to participate in a taping of "LIVE at the Writers House" featuring writers from the collaborative effort *Philly Fiction 2*. **Becca Kantor** (C'08) returned to share her experience of traveling to the Baltic to investigate the

familial history of her grandfather, the architect Louis I. Kahn. **Greg Maughan** (C'06) chaired a panel discussion featuring local Philadelphia comedians and comedy writers. Our alumni-led Homecoming program was as lively as ever: "The Next Page in Book Publishing" featured a provocative conversation about the future of the book business with **Dennis Drabelle** (G'66, L'69), **Matthew Algeo** (C'88), **David Borgenicht** (C'90), and **Stephen Fried** (C'79). And we ended the year with a moving Alumni Day reading by **Beth Kephart** (C'82), who shared marvelous new work, and **Alice Elliott Dark** (C'76), whose short story "In the Gloaming" brought many in attendance to tears.

HELED TRAVEL GRANT: EMMA MORGENSTERN (C'10)

Emma Morgenstern, founder and editor-in-chief of Penn's food writing magazine *Penn Appetit*, traveled to Greece last summer, thanks to the Terry B. Heled Travel & Research Grant, a project funded by **Mali Heled Kinberg** (C'95) that enables a student to travel for the purpose of conducting the research that will lead to a significant writing project. In Greece, Emma interviewed speakers of Judeo-Spanish, a dying language that bears the traces of a collective historical memory. Her resulting project displayed a true fluency, not just in a multilingual context (Spanish, Hebrew, Greek, and Judeo-Spanish), but also with a culture of memory, loss, and mourning.

THIS PAGE: Program Assistant **Max McKenna** (C'10) and Hub member **Colleen Quinlan** (C'11); Night Manager **Peter Schwarz** (CGS'04, LPS'08).
OPPOSITE PAGE: the Writers House staff.





We sat down with our Behrman Scholars, **Florentina Dragulescu** (C'12) and **Rebecca "Rivka" Fogel** (C'11), and our Caterfino Scholar, **Kristen Martin** (C'11), for a freewheeling conversation about their experiences as writer-scholars at KWH:

Writers House: What is your favorite thing about KWH?

Rivka Fogel: This year brought kittens Lola Mae and Wild Bill to the House, and the occasional mountain-high stack of journals. We all fell in love with Jessica's daughter Alice, many of us covertly reading her contemporary poetry to sway this tiny budding poet. And, of course, there have been the events, the Thanksgiving and end-of-year dinners, the Fellows chats with David Milch and Joyce Carol Oates, a reading of Susan Howe that spoke to my own work on poetry and religion, and that became the subject of my thesis. Which brings me to my favorite thing about KWH: the community. The House is a space for interaction, around the kitchen table or in the Arts Café, in the Hub room or in the cozy classroom at the back where I had a four-person workshop last spring on feminist poetics and the avant-garde. Here I meet the personalities behind the words, and my own work changes with the ideas that are everywhere throughout the House. I'm doing work that I couldn't have done three years ago, and it's exciting and wonderful and much of this I owe, I think, to the Kelly Writers House.

KWH: How have the Behrman and Caterfino Scholarships allowed you to pursue opportunities at Penn?

Kristen Martin: Writers House has become that go-to place for me – for advice, laughs, brownies, tea, friends, intellectual conversation, basically everything. It's just the perfect small community at this big pre-professional school. I certainly wouldn't be able to spend the amount of time that I do at the Writers House if I didn't have the Caterfino scholarship. Basically, the scholarship has given me an excuse to get more involved and more grounded at the KWH.

RF: The Behrman Scholarship has let me spend much of my time writing and being at the House, and embarking on adventures like the one I'll take this summer, studying subjectivity in religion as it relates to the author function in Israel. It's freed me to explore.

Florentina Dragulescu: For me, the Behrman Scholarship meant more than financial support. It gave me much more confidence in my writing and it showed me that there are no real language barriers in poetry.

KWH: What have been your most memorable moments at KWH this year?

KM: David Milch's Fellows visit will always be lodged in my brain. He was just so honest and open about his life and work, and he told the most unbelievable stories in class and at the dinner. I sat next to Milch at the dinner, and at the end, he picked up his place card, pointed to his name, and winked at me.

FD: One of my favorite things this year was the fact that, working on Saturdays, I got to see the works of the "Write On!" team up close. The instructors' and the students' work from throughout the year resulted in an end-of-year celebration, where the children proudly read their works at the same podium where Joan Didion, Rebecca Walker, or Joyce Carol Oates once did. This showed the very essence of the Writers House – creating opportunity and access to writing and literature.

KWH: What are your plans for next year and beyond?

RF: I'll be applying for doctoral programs in English lit, while finishing up two book-length projects: a thesis on Susan Howe's work and a series of poetry on/of appropriation. I'll also continue editing and writing for the various journals on which I'm lucky to collaborate.

KM: I'm planning on writing a creative thesis – it will be a nonfiction project about my family directed by Professor Paul Hendrickson. Besides that, I'm going to be taking English and Creative Writing seminars, working at the House, and tutoring with CPCW.

FD: For my junior and senior year at Penn, I plan to continue to write and publish my work in Penn's literary magazines. I also hope to get more involved with certain publications. One of the other things that I hope to accomplish in my last two years of Penn is to manage to raise awareness about international young poets – highly recognized in their countries but not yet famous in the US – and bring their translated works to the Penn community.

WRITING SCHOLARS

The Behrman Family Scholarship Fund for a Young Writer, established by **Grant Behrman** (WG'77) on behalf of his family, provides three years of financial support for two undergraduate students involved in KWH projects and programs. The Douglas W. Caterfino Endowed Scholarship Fund for a Young Writer, created by **Elissa Caterfino Mandel** (C'83) in loving memory of **Douglas W. Caterfino** (W'83), provides financial support to an undergraduate student who is a member of Penn's extended writing community.

KERRY PRIZE: TRISHA LOW (C'11)

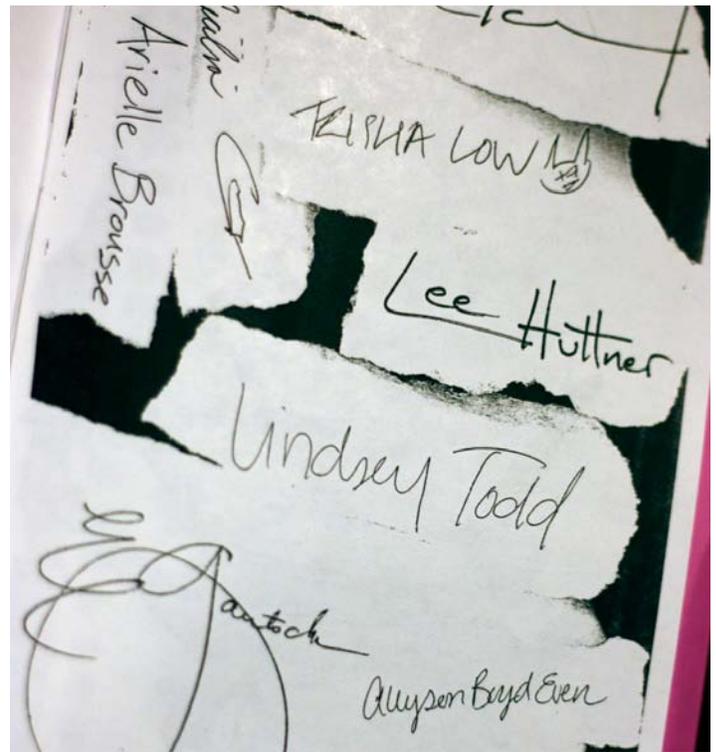
Every year KWH honors our first Director, **Kerry Sherin Wright**, with the Kerry Prize, a grant that enables a Hub member to plan a program that captures Kerry's aesthetic capaciousness and literary communitarianism. This year's prize winner **Trisha Low** asked the Hub: "what does it mean to be a woman?" and Hub members **Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06), **Michelle Taransky**, **Cecilia Corrigan** (C'10), **Lee Huttner** (C'10), **Rivka Fogel** (C'11), **Violette Carb** (C'11), **Arielle Brousse** (C'07), **Lindsey Todd** (C'12) and **Allyson Even** (C'13) responded to the question with art and writing that translated the academic discourse of feminism into more personal vernaculars. Drawing on the divergent aesthetics of Riot Grrrl zines and pinups, Trisha gathered the work into a book, *Live Paper Dolls*, which she printed and bound using Robinson Press equipment. We celebrated the release of *Live Paper Dolls* with an interactive panel discussion, moderated by Trisha, featuring former KWH staffer and Riot Grrrl **Allison Harris**, Jezebel.com editor and writer **Sadie Stein**, and Penn grad students and fabulous feminists **Katie L. Price** and **Julia Bloch**.

REALARTS@PENN INTERNSHIPS

We received hundreds of applications this year for the six paid RealArts@PENN summer internships. Through RealArts@PENN, and with the help of grants from **Paul** (W'76) and **Ossi Burger**, **Alan** and **Phyllis Berger**, **Dirk Wittenborn** (C'72) and the **Cape Branch Foundation**, we set up (and paid stipends for) summer internships at leading organizations in the arts, which allowed us to integrate real world practice into the intellectual and cultural life of the university. The 2010 interns were **Hannah McDonnell** (C'11) at MTV, **Lauren Lipsay** (C'11) at *Rolling Stone*, **Sarah Stoecker** (C'11) at Brooklyn Films, **Naomi Tarlow** (C'11) at *Philadelphia Inquirer*, **Chris Milione** (C'11) at Shore Fire Media, and **Emily Mullin** (C'11) working with screenwriters **David Stern** (C'89) and **Stuart Gibbs** (C'91). Many generous Penn alumni and faculty – including **Paul Davies** (W'74), **Cheryl Family** (C'91), **Jon Avnet** (C'71), **Anthony DeCurtis**, and **Karen Beckman** – lent us their expertise in the real world of the arts and have been vital in helping us make connections at these and other arts organizations.

HARRISON PRIZE: LEE HUTTNER (C'10)

Thanks to the generosity of **Joan Harrison** (C'81), we offer an annual "writing scholarship" for a current undergraduate affiliated with KWH. The 2009-2010 Harrison Prize recipient, **Lee Huttner**, spent close to a year investigating and writing about the continuing legacy of Christopher Marlowe's play *Edward II*. Over the course of the year, Lee organized a series of readings and discussions of *Edward II* and its adaptations: Penn English professor **Margreta**



THIS PAGE: an artifact from the *Live Paper Dolls* program; Kerry Prize winner Trisha Low (C'11) (right) with Julia Bloch and Allison Harris during the panel discussion. OPPOSITE PAGE: Behrman scholar Rivka Fogel (C'11).

DeGrazia presented on the interconnected roles of history and sexuality in Marlowe's original play, Temple professor **Norman Roessler** discussed the art and politics of adaptation in Brecht's *Edward II: A Chronicle Play*, and Penn English professor **Heather Love** spoke about Derek Jarman's film *Edward II*. Working with Marlowe's text, the adaptations by Brecht and Jarman, and incorporating images, historical documents, and original writing, Lee wrote his own adaptation, *EII: A Playtext*. With *EII*, Lee challenged contemporary notions of a script, authorship, and the relationship between textuality and performativity. His work was at once a critique and commentary on the state of modern theater, as well as a deeply personal exploration of history, sexuality, and the artistic process.

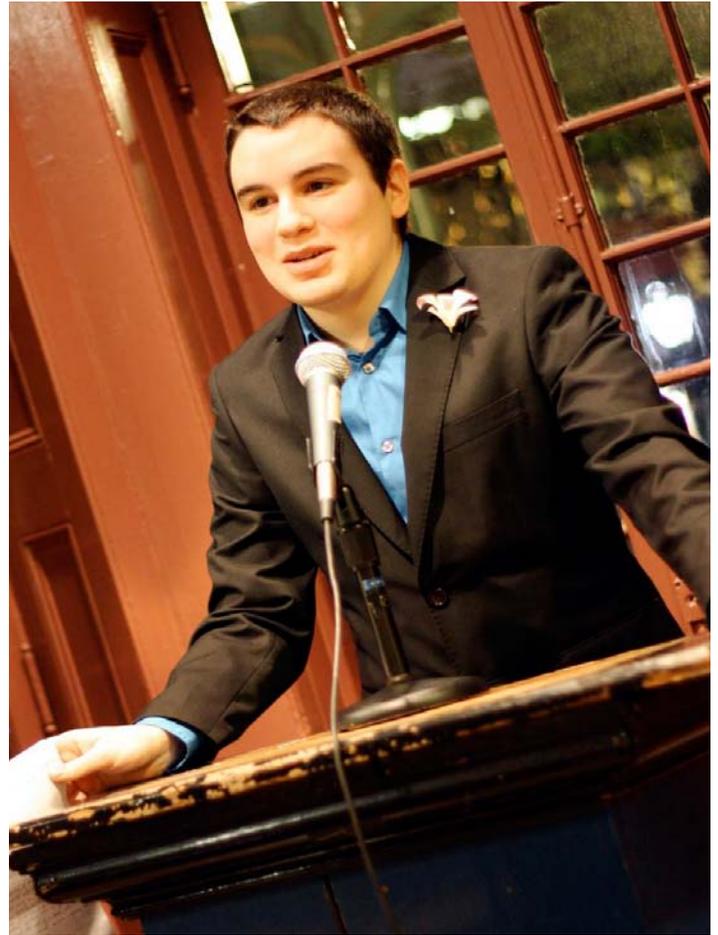
BASSINI WRITING APPRENTICES

The Bassini Writing Apprenticeships project, made possible through a generous grant from **Reina Marin Bassini** (CW'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73), promotes advanced research, mentorship, and apprenticeship experiences for Penn juniors and seniors. This year we sponsored three semester-long apprenticeships with faculty members affiliated with Penn's writing programs.

Jeffrey Boruszak (C'10) worked with **Mike Hennessey**, who said of him: "During his apprenticeship, Jeff took part in the full range of PennSound activities: digitizing new materials, editing audio files, and creating author pages. He oversaw several large projects, including significant additions to the author pages of poets Noah Eli Gordon, Stephen Ratcliffe, and Tony Towle, and wrote a number of PennSound Daily entries, including several highlighting PoemTalk podcasts. Perhaps the biggest project begun during his apprenticeship (which he continued working on over the summer) involved processing a massive number of historical recordings from the archives of poet Bill Berkson. The Berkson project served as an excellent summation of his apprenticeship. The skills he honed over the past semester were put to good use as he corresponded with Berkson, cross-checked the recordings against PennSound holdings, created indices of the various recordings, and made multiple masters of selected tapes to ensure the highest fidelity."

Thomson Guster (C'10) worked with **Kenny Goldsmith**, who said of him: "Thomson Guster acted as my research assistant on my ongoing book, *Capital*, which is a rewrite of Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Projects* transposed to NYC in the 20th Century. After a comprehensive orientation of the scope and parameters of the project (now in its fifth year), Thomson was assigned to gather and collect materials. We then worked together to form information filters from these materials that would impact the research in a productive manner. The idea was to work closely enough that he would no longer need my guidance, instead being able to research and contribute to the project on his own. And in fact, that was the result. By the end of the semester, Thomson had substantially added to my project, expanding it in ways I hadn't been able to foresee. Much of the work that Thomson did for me will end up as part of my final book and in the process, he learned some finer points of research and information management."

Katie Sanders (C'12) worked with **Kathryn Watterson**, who said of her: "Katie Sanders has been a wonder from the beginning. She dove right into geographical and medical research for the novel I'm currently completing. For my article, 'Chocolate & Slavery,' she turned up the going price of the 11- to 16-year-old slaves (on average, \$90) who harvest cocoa beans sold to the chocolate industry for one-tenth what farmers from the Ivory Coast were paid 25 years ago. She found that Americans, who eat an average of 12 pounds of chocolate a year, pay \$13 billion annually for it – mainly to Hershey's & Mars, which do not pay fair trade prices. She listed Fair Trade companies (only one percent of the market), as well as all the companies reliant on slave labor. Katie also tackled a reorganization of the manuscript, *The North's Most Southern Town: An Oral History of African American Princeton 1900-2000*, which I began with students at Princeton ten years ago at the request of residents of the neighborhood. Katie has led the way in pulling quotes and organizing material in a way that I think makes it very publishable. Not only is Katie a brilliant research assistant, intern and apprentice, she's a spectacular person and a delight to know. I have loved this most rewarding experience and am so grateful to the Bassini Apprenticeships and CPCW, Writers House, and the Creative Writing Program for making it possible."



NEW INITIATIVES

WEBER SYMPOSIUM

Stacey (W'85) and **Jeff Weber** created the "Stacey Gillis Weber & Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium" to emphasize the virtues of clear writing in business and economics, and we couldn't think of a better way to kick off the series than by inviting **Lawrence Summers**, the Director of the National Economic Council, to speak to a small group of students and community members about his work. Before serving as economic advisor to President Obama, Summers was the 27th President of Harvard University and Secretary of the Treasury for President Clinton. In an intimate session in our Arts Café (for no more than 40 guests), Summers explained the paramount importance of transparent and effective communication in managing a staff – at any level of industry. The conversation was at once thrilling and practical, and we're grateful to the Webers for encouraging us to include business writers among our regular guests.

WHENEVER WE FEEL LIKE IT

After graduating from the Iowa Writers Workshop in 2008, **Michelle Taransky** and **Emily Pettit** were looking for a new space to host their reading series, "Whenever We Feel Like It." That summer, Michelle landed in Philadelphia and – recognizing a kindred spirit – we hired her as the Assistant to the Director and an ideal partnership between "Whenever We Feel Like It" and KWH began. The first "WWFLI" reading in Philly featured Hub member and Penn poet **Cecilia Corrigan** (C'10), alongside poets **Heather Christle** and **Natalie Lyalin**. The series partnered with Asian American Studies, SASGov, and Penn's Poetry and Poetics group to bring distinguished poet and professor **Myung Mi Kim** to Philadelphia from Buffalo. Following Kim's evening reading, local poets and scholars met with her the next morning in our Arts Café to chat about her work and feast on a brunch of baby quiches and winter fruit salad prepared by Michelle with help from **Sarah Arkebauer** (C'11), **Callie Ward** (C'13), and **Emily Harnett** (C'13). "WWFLI" also presented one of the best attended poetry readings of the year: "We All Feel Like It," a reading that showcased six stellar Hub poets, **Rivka Fogel** (C'11), **Lindsey Todd** (C'11), **Chris Milione** (C'11), **Kim Eisler** (C'11), **Lily Applebaum** (C'12), and **Rebecca Caton** (C'10). KWH poetry enthusiasts packed the Arts Café and even spilled out into the living and dining room to hear the dynamic and electric verse of these young poets.

EDIT: NETWORKING WRITING POETICS

Working as an editor for the last few years at online archives such as PennSound, UbuWeb, and Eclipse, first-year English doctoral

candidate **Danny Snelson** noticed the widely under-developed poetics of editorial practices, particularly in innovative poetry, criticism, and the arts. With this in mind, he initiated the new KWH series "Edit: Networking Writing Poetics" to explore issues of editing in contemporary practice, typically by pairing an artist and an interlocutor for a live "editing" session. The inaugural "Edit" event featured poet, performer, and printmaker **Jeremy James Thompson**, who spoke about his own poetry as well as collaborative broadside projects with poets such as Joan Retallack and Charles Bernstein. While Jeremy gave his talk, newly-minted Philadelphian **Astrid Lorange** wrote a live correspondence on an in-room plasma screen, initiating a critical dialogue with the audience. The second "Edit" event was more performance oriented: co-sponsored by "Writers Without Borders", it featured a talk by transmissions artist **Tianna Kennedy** and some bewildering sounds from the Japanese sound poet and electronic voice improviser **Adachi Tomomi**. Finally, **Tan Lin** broke the "Edit" mold with his event "Handmade book, PDF, lulu.com Appendix, Powerpoint, Kanban Board/ Post-Its, Blurbs, Dual Language (Chinese/English) Edition, micro lecture, Selectric II interview, wine/cheese reception, Q&A (xerox) and a film." Together, Danny and Tan brought in some thirty editors (students, poets, critics, and professors) from surrounding areas to collaboratively write, edit, and publish a dozen works expanding Tan's *Seven Controlled Vocabularies and Obituary 2004*. *The Joy of Cooking* (Wesleyan Poetry, 2010). For a single day the KWH was transformed into a mess of wires, printers, typewriters, and computers in a theatrics that some commentators have called "a nerdier version of Warhol's factory." The project is ongoing and can be followed in Wiki format at: <http://aphasic-letters.com/edit-wiki/>.

THE BLACKTOP

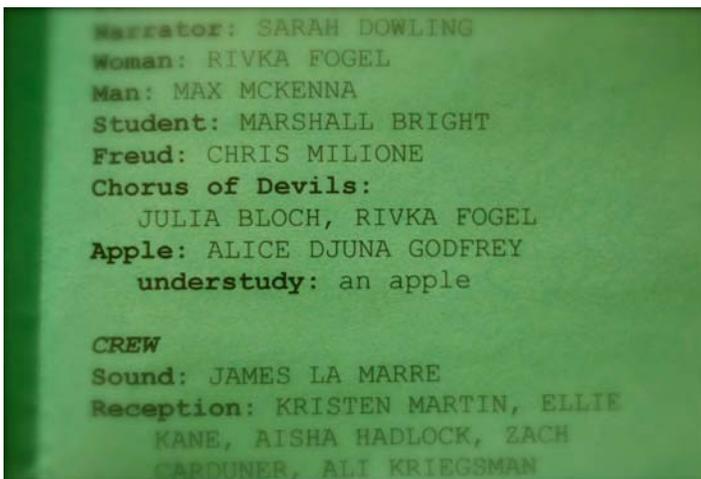
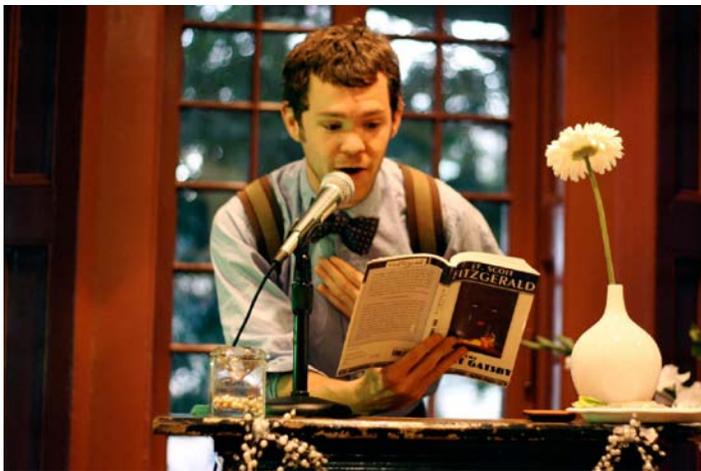
Brainchild of KWH Outreach Coordinator **Allyson Even** (C'13), a civic-minded freshman from Rhode Island whose passions include education and literacy, *The Blacktop* is an online literary magazine for Philadelphia-area students K-12. Allyson launched the magazine with help from **Meghna Chandra** (C'13) and **Mark Pan** (C'11). *The Blacktop* encourages creative expression by offering young writers an opportunity to publish their work and share it with friends, family, teachers, and a broader writing community. A neighborhood blacktop is a typically free and open space, a space that draws people of all ages together, where kids can be kids on a playground. Inviting and public, the blacktop is also decidedly urban. Our *Blacktop* is likewise a public and city-specific space for Philadelphia kids to express their creativity freely and openly. Visit the magazine (www.theblacktop.org) to read more.

PROGRAM & PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BOOK VISITING AUTHORS SERIES

We have become known across the country – and, indeed, around the world – for our robust programming, and particularly for our support of formally innovative writers. Thanks in part to the generosity of **Roxanne** and **Scott Bok** (C’81, W’81, L’84, Trustee 2005-present), whose Bok Visiting Authors Fund allows us to explore the full range of contemporary writing, our programming was stronger than ever this year. We maintained three series focused on poetry and poetics: “Whenever We Feel Like It” (organized by the extraordinary **Michelle Taransky**, an award winning poet in her own right) brought interesting clusters of poets to Philadelphia to read with undergraduate Hub members; “Edit: Networking Writing Poetics” (led by English grad student **Danny Snelson**) used new media and technology to investigate poetic practices of editing and performance; and “Emergency” (curated by the dynamic duo of **Sarah Dowling** and **Julia Bloch**, doctoral candidates in English) featured young or emerging poets and explored how theoretical stances and aesthetic practices are transmitted among poets at different stages in their careers. The Bok Fund supported a panel discussion about artistic collaboration, “Cross-Pollination of the Arts,” led by our ArtsEdge Resident, fiction writer **Liz Moore**, in conversation with visual artist **Ricardo**

THIS PAGE: writer Sam Allingham reads from *The Great Gatsby*; the playbill from Bob Perelman’s *The Alps*. OPPOSITE PAGE: grad student Sarah Dowling and Max McKenna (C’10) during the production of *The Alps*.



Zapata (MFA’09), photographer **Jeffrey Stockbridge**, and musician **Laura Shay**. Professor **Max Apple** invited his good friend and colleague **Jeff Hass** to talk to us about his book *The Assassination of Fred Hampton*, which chronicles his personal account of the eighteen-month trial in which he pursued Hampton’s assassins. Screenwriting instructor **Kathy DeMarco Van Cleve** (C’88, W’88) led an exciting and revealing discussion with film producer **Alicia Sams**, whose most recent film as director/producer, *By the People: The Election of Barack Obama*, followed Obama and his campaign staff from 2007, all the way to the White House in 2009. And we were honored to host **Rebecca Walker** for lunch; her writing about the evolution of the human family challenges people to look deeply into their assumptions about race, class, culture, and gender.

CELEBRATION OF CHARLES BERNSTEIN

The publication of **Charles Bernstein**’s selected poems (*All the Whiskey in Heaven*), which happily coincided with the advent of his 60th year, gave his Writers House friends – there are many – the opportunity to do something the Writers House does well: celebrate literarily and socially at once. Charles is Donald T. Regan Professor of English at Penn, teaches often at the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing and works closely with director **Jessica Lowenthal** on poetic programming at the Writers House. He is, with **Al Filreis**, the co-founder and co-director of the PennSound archive, now the world’s largest archive of accessible recordings of poets reading their own poems (20 million poems downloaded each year). The special gathering in April included Charles’ mother, wife (painter **Susan Bee**) and son; many friends from outside Philadelphia from the world of poetry and poetics; and dozens of Penn, Temple University and other Philly-area colleagues, students, readers and fans. Several friends and loved ones gave creative toasts and readings in his honor, and then Charles himself performed, movingly, a few poems from the new book. Our reception included foods and drink mentioned in *All the Whiskey in Heaven*. “All I remember,” said one poet friend, “is that there’s a lot of coffee and whiskey in the poems.” Everyone lingered long over the repast, though, as there was much more there to assuage stomachs, hearts having already been satisfied by the beautiful verse.

MARATHON READING: THE GREAT GATSBY

For our fourth annual marathon reading, we selected F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* and read the great American novel straight through, just eight days shy of the 85th anniversary of its publication. Led by Hub member and KWH staffer **Arielle Brousse** (C’07), a committee transformed the House into a Gatsby soirée, bedecked in beads and feathers and flowers and light. A team in the kitchen whipped up elegant tidbits that Tom and Daisy Buchanan would have been proud to serve, including mini quiches, deviled eggs, spiced baked ham, delicate cakes, and crates of oranges, while staffer **Lee Huttner** (C’10) served mocktails as the butler at our makeshift bar. A selection of 1920s jazz hits selected by Hub member **Allison Harris** served as the soundtrack, 1920s advertisements and sheet music covered the tables in the living room, and the bespectacled eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg leered from the alcove. People lined up to read the book in shifts at our gilded podium while others filtered through to listen, eat, and revel in the flapperish atmosphere.



THE ALPS

During the spring of 2009, Sarah Arkebauer (C'11) worked as a research assistant for Professor Bob Perelman, a job that included typing up Perelman's play, *The Alps* (originally published in *Hills 9*), for inclusion in *The Kenning Anthology of Poets Theater: 1945-1985*. The transcription project resulted in long Writers House discussions about particular lines and phrasings, and the language of the play shortly became a language of the Writers House. Our production of *The Alps* celebrated the Kenning anthology, as well as our teacher, mentor, and friend Bob Perelman. The play featured a cast and crew of Hub members, poets, graduate students, Writers House staffers, and poetry by Bob – which meant, of course, cameos by Father Time, a seriously serious teacher, and puns galore. In her introduction to the event, co-producer Sarah said: "Working on our production of *The Alps* reflected the innovation and excitement that the original cast and collaborators must have felt. The potential and possibilities for the staging urged us along, as did Bob's language as it became our language, and our Alps. And this sense of community around a poetic act is one we are all so grateful to be a part of."



DOES A GREAT POEM DO ANY GOOD?

Every year at Homecoming, we welcome alumni for a more-the-merrier open house, followed by an alumni-led panel discussion and a fancy reception. In honor of Penn's university-wide "Arts & the City" theme, we added a special session to this year's Homecoming line-up: **Al Filreis** led a seminar on contemporary poetry open to all. Al put together a packet of four 20th century poems and parsed them with the eager group gathered in the Arts Café, a group that included alumni, current students, prospective students, parents, and folks from the neighborhood. The session was so popular that we repeated it in the spring for Alumni Weekend, with special invitations for the class of 1970, celebrating their 40th reunion.



WRITE ON!

In an academic year that included a SEPTA strike and an unprecedented number of snow days, our literacy outreach program "Write On!" faced unique challenges. Despite obstacles, the program shone brighter than ever: our coaches were steadfast in their commitment to the program's mission to teach creative reading and writing, and the students from Lea Elementary and Penn Alexander continued to write imaginative and skilled poems and stories. In their introductory letter to a year-end anthology of student work, "Along Came a Writer: Poems, Short Stories and Other Fun Exercises," head coaches **Rachel Sheperd** (C'11), **Zachary Lyons** (C'13) and **Collin Scheck** (C'11) reflected on their experiences, noting the dedication of their fellow Penn student coaches as well as the joy of teaching writing within this community. We are grateful to **Jerilyn** (C'91) and **Brian Perman** (W'90) for their generous support of the "Write On!" project.



KELLY WRITERS HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Just before a Kelly Writers House Fellow visits us, KWH is abuzz with energy. Students in the Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar scour a month's worth of reading and notes in preparation for a private meeting with the Fellow. A specially appointed chef – this year, **Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06) – preps an ambitious, many-course, homemade dinner, with help from staffers and volunteers. Fellows Program Coordinator **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C'05) reviews her long checklist, perfected over many years: order chairs (check), buy and arrange flowers (check), confirm travel and lodging details (check), organize guest list (check), assign jobs to volunteers (check), select special gift for Fellow (check), read books (check). Registered guests line up early for seats. Staffers try to wrangle extra chairs. We all fantasize about what it will be like to finally lay eyes on the Fellow. And, then, she arrives – and it's as if she has come home. When **Susan Howe** visited us this year, she marveled at the *Singularities* t-shirt designed by **Michelle Taransky** in honor of Susan's book and seemed utterly and genuinely overwhelmed by the loving attention lavished upon her by students and admirers. **David Milch** doted over our Director's eight-month-old daughter **Alice Godfrey** (who was pleased even if oblivious to the honor) and he stayed up late to read writing by students and community members that he personally requested. We shared an unexpected moment of intimacy with **Joyce Carol Oates**. Joyce was clearly moved when Jamie-Lee presented her with a cat quilt from Whiskers Rescue (in Sayreville, NJ). The Writers House Fellows Program, funded by a grant from **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64), truly makes it possible for members of our community to have sustained, meaningful contact with authors of great accomplishment in an informal atmosphere.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Writers House Fellow Susan Howe; Faculty Director Al Filreis, PR Assistant Rivka Fogel (C'11), Assistant to the Director Michelle Taransky, and Development Assistant Sarah Arkebauer (C'11) model Michelle's Susan Howe t-shirts; Writers House Fellow David Milch; Writers House Fellow Joyce Carol Oates.

LIVE AT THE WRITERS HOUSE

“LIVE at the Writers House” stands in a tradition of “new writing” for radio; Cid Corman, a poet and great supporter of experimental poetry in the 1950s, created his own broadcast, “This is Poetry,” over WMEX-FM (Boston). Our own experiment, “LIVE,” is a long-standing collaboration of the people of the Kelly Writers House and of WXPN FM (88.5), made possible through the generous support of **BigRoc**. Six times annually between September and April, the Writers House airs a one-hour broadcast of poetry, music, and other spoken-word art, along with one musical guest – from our Arts Café onto the airwaves at WXPN. As the Producer of “LIVE,” **Erin Gautsche** (CGS’06) (our Program Coordinator) strives to use the radio show to bring diverse groups of people into the KWH and to expose the listening audience to a wide variety of writing styles and voices. This year’s shows included local fiction writers, journalists who capture Philadelphia’s spirit, winners of Leeway Art and Change awards, and a group of students participating in the Mighty Writers program.

ROBINSON PRESS

The fourth year of our collaborative letterpress project brought big changes. Endowed by **Nina Robinson Vitow** (CW’70, WG’76) and renamed the Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress (in loving memory of Nina’s parents), our letterpress project also took on new leadership. **James LaMarre**, a Penn junior who has interned with Ugly Duckling Press, took the lead role in planning our broadside series and organizing volunteers to work the presses. James and his crew created stunning hand-printed limited-edition broadsides for Kathleen Fraser, Régis Bonvicino, and Susan Howe. **Erin Gautsche** introduced a new crop of students to the press through “Grotesque Forms,” her bookmaking course exploring the grotesque in art and literature, co-taught with a member of the Design department. Curators of our Brodsky Gallery team used the press to create visually arresting exhibit posters and catalogues. And Junior **Trisha Low** printed a feminist ‘zine, as part of her Kerry Prize project.

BOB LUCID MEMORIAL PROGRAM IN FICTION

As a testament to **Bob Lucid**, whose generous vision helped imagine the Writers House into being, we host an annual “Bob Lucid Memorial Program in Fiction,” supported lovingly by **Susan Small Savitsky** (CW’75) and **Ed Kane** (C’71, Trustee 1996-2000). This year, following a month-long listserv discussion of contemporary fiction writers we admire, we invited acclaimed writer **Lydia Davis** to honor Bob (poet **Dottie Lasky** said: “I would give away all my favorite sweaters to see Lydia Davis”). Grad student Hub member **Adrian Khactu** introduced Davis to us by emphasizing her “illicit” approach to storytelling: how her carefully articulated prose neatly blurs the lines between poetry and fiction. Davis thrilled the assembled audience – many of them longtime fans of her work – by reading expansively from her collected short stories, ranging from her earliest prose experiments to her most recent work. Her writing amazed everyone for its vibrancy and breadth, with subjects careening from extremely funny existential snippets of academic life to stories reflecting her deep concern with social justice, all the while experimenting with form and genre. This wide-ranging, astonishing performance continued into a lively question and answer session, when she tackled subjects as varied as the difficulties of translating Proust to the first thing she bought with her MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship money. We were all very honored to hear and talk with Lydia Davis, a writer whose work has certainly challenged the way we think of fiction itself.

KWH ON THE ROAD

While our home is here in Philadelphia, every year we spend some time on the road to deliver our one-of-a-kind salon-style programs to friends, advocates, and curious people in other cities.

*For the eighth year in a row, **Susan and Louis Meisel** generously hosted a benefit at the Louis K. Meisel Gallery in SoHo to raise money in support of the Kelly Writers House Young and Emerging Writers Fund. Our “Writers House New York” program at the Meisel Gallery recreated the spirit of the KWH Arts Café by engaging the entire room in discussion and discovery of literary works. This year’s featured readers included celebrated poet and Penn professor **Charles Bernstein**; former CPCW Fellow and sound poet **Tracie Morris**; veteran children’s book editor and Creative Writing faculty member **Liz Van Doren**; experimental poet and Brodsky Gallery curator **Lily Applebaum** (C’12); and former KWH staffer and memoirist **Molly Johnsen** (C’10). To conclude the program, **Al Filreis** led the room in an impromptu parsing of Cid Corman’s poem “It isn’t for want.” The Meisels kindly donated the use of their gallery – as well as a delicious reception for 100 people – and, once again, this annual event allowed us to reach out to our NY-area friends with great success.*

*In September, we held an event at the home of **Judith Zarin**, who provided a lovely reception on her garden terrace. This session was more seminar than salon, featuring a discussion of John Ashbery’s deceptively tricky poem “Some Trees,” led by Al Filreis. We dwelled for a long while on lines about our connectedness to one another: “you and I / Are suddenly what the trees try / To tell us we are: / That their merely being there / Means something.” Merely being there – being together – does mean something.*

*KWH Advisory Board Members **Gary and Nina Wexler** graciously hosted a salon in May – their third! The evening’s featured readers included longtime Hub member and KWH staffer **Jamie-Lee Josselyn** (C’05), filmmaker **Blake Martin** (C’01), experimental poet **Kim Eisler** (C’11), poet and lawyer-to-be **Sam Donsky** (C’07, L’11), and Creative Writing faculty member **Beth Kephart**.*

**WRITERS WITHOUT BORDERS:
THE PROVOST'S INTERNATIONAL WRITERS SERIES**

While we celebrate local writers every chance we get, we're proud to take a global approach to literature, too. Thanks to the generosity of **Seth Ginns** (C'00), who funds our international writers series, we're able to host writers from all over the world and support an expansive view of contemporary literature, to include often-underrepresented aesthetics and regions of the world. "Writers Without Borders" initiates new conversations and exchanges between international authors and members of our community. **Dmitry Golyenko**, an accomplished St. Petersburg-based poet and a contributing editor of *Moscow Art* magazine, visited for lunch and a radio interview (taped in our Arts Café) with professors **Charles Bernstein** and **Kevin Platt**. Our Robinson Press hand set a broadside to commemorate the reading by **Régis Bonvicino**, who is recognized as one of the most talented and innovative Brazilian writers. The new KWH poetry series "Edit" partnered with "Writers Without Borders" to host **Tomomi Adachi**, a Japanese sound poet, whose improvisational work with live electronics and self-made instruments demonstrated the far edges of aesthetic play.

THIS PAGE: the audience during our annual 7-Up program. OPPOSITE PAGE: Project Assistant Ali Kriegsman (C'13); Program Assistant Chaia Werger (C'11) and Hub member Kim Eisler.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

KWH outreach focuses largely on local schoolchildren. We invite students from public elementary schools to the house for weekly creative writing lessons led by Penn undergraduate volunteers, through the "Write On!" project. We also host occasional poetry seminars for visiting classes (from local schools such as Episcopal Academy and Friends Central, as well as from schools farther away, such as KIPP Academy in Houston). Some of our committed volunteers – **Callie Ward** (C'13), **Lee Huttner** (C'10), **Emily Harnett** (C'13), **Allyson Even** (C'13), **Michelle Taransky**, and others – took writing seminars to schools all over the city. We offered a semester-long internship to high school junior **David Cherry**, who took what he learned from us about running an event (especially from Program Coordinator extraordinaire, **Erin Gautsche** (CGS'06)) back to Mastery Charter School, where he organized a special event. To help lead our outreach efforts, we hire a student staffer as our Outreach Coordinator. This year's Coordinator, **Allyson Even** (C'13) put several projects in motion, including launching *The Blacktop* (www.theblacktop.org), an online literary magazine that highlights area youth literary programs, including Spells Writing Lab and Mighty Writers, by publishing their work in a public forum.



SUPPORTING KWH

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Renovations in 1997, funded through the generous support of Penn alumnus **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64, Trustee 1997-present), readied the old nineteenth-century cottage for 21st-century forms of innovation and creativity. We spent the next decade establishing the reputation of the Kelly Writers House as Penn's freest-form student-centered space. Now our next phase: we are working hard to preserve the heart of our mission – our programs. To reach our goals we have initiated both an ongoing annual "Friends" campaign, which funds projects from season to season, and – crucially – an endowment campaign to secure the long-term future of the Kelly Writers House. Endowment gifts, such as those that perennially provide support for an annual event or series, allow us, one gift at a time, to progress toward our goal of being a permanent fixture on the Penn, Philadelphia, and national cultural landscapes.

There are numerous endowable programs: support of specific projects such as publications and new student initiatives; naming the rooms that host our presentations, workshops and seminars; and naming and supporting the Directorship. Some of our donors have chosen to recognize family members, others to memorialize favorite Penn professors or express gratitude to old Penn friends by naming endowment gifts in their honor or memory. These are lasting tributes to loved ones or mentors that will also ensure that the Writers House will continue to grow and thrive. If you want to find out more, contact our Assistant Director for Development **Arielle Brousse** (C'07) at brousse@writing.upenn.edu, or call (215) 746-POEM.

We have been honored to receive generous endowment gifts from many of our far-thinking friends. We are grateful for their enthusiasm, encouragement, and support, and pleased to describe their gifts here:

Irwyn and Lucy Applebaum Fund

We're always eager to offer opportunities for students to directly engage with writing professionals. **Irwyn** (C'75) and **Lucy Applebaum** established this fund to sponsor discussions with editors, publishers, and people who make their careers in book and magazine production. We inaugurated the **Applebaum Editors and Publishers Series** this year with a program featuring Lewis Lapham, award-winning editor emeritus of *Harper's Magazine* and founder of *Lapham's Quarterly*.

Bassini Apprenticeships Fund

Each year during the spring semester, the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing hosts three writing apprenticeships for Penn students. Paired with a faculty mentor affiliated with Penn's writing programs, each apprentice works on a project that is at the heart of the mentor's work as a practicing writer and/or as member of a professional writing community. Writing apprenticeships are made possible through a generous grant from **Reina Marin Bassini** (CW'72, GED'72) and **Emilio Bassini** (C'71, W'71, WG'73).

Blutt Songwriting Symposium Endowed Fund

Founded by **Mitchell Blutt** (C'78, M'82, L'84, Trustee 1998-2008) to support an annual songwriting symposium, the Blutt Fund makes it possible for us to welcome legendary performers into our intimate



space for an evening of discussion, and, if we're lucky, bonus-track strumming. Visitors in the series have included **Rosanne Cash**, **Suzanne Vega**, and **Steve Earle**.

Bok Endowed Visiting Writers Series Fund

Roxanne and **Scott Bok** (C'81, W'81, L'84, Trustee 2005-present), members of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, created one of our first endowment funds, enabling us to pay honoraria to an exciting roster of writers year after year. This year's Bok visitors included not just novelists, poets, and journalists, but also filmmakers, memoirists, and critics.

The Cheryl J. Family Fund for Fiction Programming

Cheryl Family (C'91), a member of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, established the Family Fund to support an annual program for a young or emerging fiction writer. Our third annual program featured short story writer **J.C. Hallman**.

Terry B. Heled Travel and Research Grant Fund

As a way of memorializing her mother, **Terry B. Heled**, and honoring the students of her alma mater in gratitude for the encouragement her own research and writing received while she was at Penn, **Mali Heled Kinberg** (C'95) created this endowed fund at the Kelly Writers House that, each summer, enables a student to travel for the purpose of conducting the research that will lead to a significant writing project. This year's grant winner was **Emma Morgenstern** (C'10).

Writers House Journal Endowment Fund

Through this generous gift, **Harry Groome** (C'63) – also a member of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board – has supported the publication of a nationally distributed literary journal (*Xconnect* from 1995 through 2008). Starting this year, the fund will support *Jacket2*, an internationally renowned online literary journal of poetry and poetics.

Sylvia W. Kauders Fund

The Kauders series, established by **Sylvia Kauders** (CW'42), allows us to meet informally with memoirists, journalists, and other notable writers of nonfiction who visit the Writers House for conversations over lunch in the dining room and Arts Café. This year's Kauders series included a visit by **Steve Lopez**, a former writer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* whose book *The Soloist* was recently chosen as the book for Philadelphia's community reading project, One Book One Philadelphia.

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

Established in the memory of Comparative Literature teacher and scholar **Charles Bernheimer** by KWH Advisory Board member **Kate Levin** (GAS'96), the Bernheimer Symposium is organized each year by the Writers House Program Coordinator, who takes the opportunity to think expansively about programming possibilities. This year, the fund supported a symposium about crime fiction.

The LIVE at the Writers House Endowment

Established pseudonymously by **BigRoc**, this fund supports the monthly radio show "LIVE at the Writers House," an ongoing collaboration between the Writers House and WXPB 88.5, produced by KWH Program Coordinator **Erin Gautsche**. "LIVE" allows us to extend our reach to people and writing communities all around Philadelphia.

NEW ENDOWMENTS

Kane-Wallace Kitchen Fund

An extraordinary gift from **Marty Wallace** and **Ed Kane** (C'71, Trustee 1996-2000) has endowed the Writers House kitchen – enabling us to produce delicious food to feed our friends and guests forever. Serving up gallons of morning coffee and plate after plate of late-night leftovers alongside poetry, philosophy, and conversation, the kitchen functions as the heart of the Kelly Writers House. At any point in the day you might find a pancake-craving student whisking a bowl of batter, a staff member making fruit kabobs for an afternoon "Write On!" snack, or our Program Coordinator demonstrating the fine art of cheese plate garnishing. Because KWH is committed to catering almost all of our dinners and receptions ourselves and our space is open at all hours for writing and conversation, our kitchen is used constantly, for cooking, eating, and just hanging out around the green table (with snacks, of course).

The Brodsky Family Art Gallery Fund

Michael (W'88) and **Heidi Brodsky** (C'89) created this fund to support and rebrand the Writers House art gallery, which typically features 4-6 shows each year in our downstairs spaces, all curated by student volunteers. Formerly KWH Art, which was curated with spectacular success by young phenom **Kaegan Sparks** (C'10), the Brodsky Gallery at KWH inaugurated a new curating committee in fall of 2010: **Lily Applebaum** (C'12), **Sarah Richter** (C'13), **Henry Steinberg** (C'13), **Harry Tenzer** (C'11), and **Pimrapee Thungkasemvathana** (C'13).

The Herman and Jeanne Robinson Letterpress Fund

In memory of her parents **Herman** and **Jeanne Robinson**, **Nina Robinson Vitow** (CW'70, WG'76) established the Robinson Letterpress Fund to support Writers House activities at the Common Press, a letterpress printmaking studio founded by Writers House, Penn's School of Design, and the Rare Book and Manuscripts Library to mark the 300th anniversary of Ben Franklin's birth. The Common Press provides a mixed media environment where students can move between digital and manual image making, collaborating with writers, printmakers and others in the book arts. Nina's gift will help keep KWH hands inky and involved in the art of bookmaking and will name a new imprint series the Robinson Press.

Wexler Family Endowed Fund for Programs in Jewish Life and Culture

This fund, created by Penn parents and KWH Board members **Gary** and **Nina Wexler**, will give a unifying identity to KWH projects and programs that focus on Jewish literature, life, culture, and literature, such as discussions of contemporary Hebrew novels, Holocaust remembrance events, and the occasional Yiddish poetry slam. We'll kick off the series in the fall of 2010 with a reading by **Joseph Skibell**, whose writing has been compared to the work of Philip Roth, Groucho Marx, and Woody Allen. In the spring of 2011, we'll celebrate *Zeek*, a Jewish journal of thought and culture, and we'll welcome novelist **Sam Munson** for a reading from his debut novel, *The November Criminals*.

The Caroline Rothstein Fund in Support of Oral Poetry

Performance artist **Ursula Rucker** joined us this year for a lyrical showcase of her work. Rucker's visit was supported by the Caroline Rothstein Fund for Oral Poetry, established by **Nancy** (CW'75) and **Steven Rothstein** in honor of their daughter, **Caroline Rothstein** (C'06), an active member of the Writers House community who was a leading voice in spoken-word projects at Penn.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: the audience during our annual 7-Up program lies on the floor of the Arts Café to better understand "space"; Al Filreis addresses alumni; students in the Fellows seminar await the start of a program.



The Bob Lucid Memorial Fund

With this generous fund, **Susan Small Savitsky** (CW'75) and **Ed Kane** (C'71, Trustee 1996-2000) created an annual fiction program in memory of beloved Penn professor **Robert "Bob" Lucid**. Bob taught at Penn for 32 years until his retirement in 1996, and his visionary spirit and pedagogical idealism filled the Writers House from its beginning. Our second Bob Lucid Memorial Fiction Program featured a reading by the eminent writer **Lydia Davis**, introduced by grad student and Hub member **Adrian Khactu**.

Alice Cooper Shoulberg Scholarship Fund for the Support of Student Creative Publishing

A stellar student who graduated from Penn's College for Women in 1955, **Alice Cooper Shoulberg** went on to a brilliant career as a Philadelphia public school teacher. Established in her memory, the Shoulberg Fund supports the technological needs of our Publications Room, where students depend on state-of-the-art computers and software to edit and publish their magazines.

The Stacey Gillis Weber W'85 and Jeffrey A. Weber Symposium Fund

Established by **Stacey** (W'85) and **Jeff Weber**, the annual **Weber Symposium** emphasizes the importance of clarity in writing about finance and economics by featuring guest speakers whose work reflects this commitment to lucid prose. In the first year of the program, we invited Lawrence Summers, Director of the National Economic Council, for an conversation with students in our Arts Café.

The Wexler Fund for Programs at the Kelly Writers House

Established by **Gary** and **Nina Wexler**, who are Penn parents and members of the Kelly Writers House Advisory Board, the Wexler Fund supports all kinds of programs and initiatives and allows students to think creatively about what can happen in our space. Projects the Wexler Fund supported this year included a discussion with filmmaker **Daniel Algrant**, openings for the KWH art gallery, and a program about comics and comic makers, featuring local personality and writer **Alli Katz**.

Zarin/Rosenfeld Endowed Fund for Literary Journalism Magazine

Penn parents **Judith Zarin** and **Gerald Rosenfeld** support *The Green Couch*, a magazine of literary journalism. Current editor-in-chief **Carolyn Volpe** (C'11) worked hard to put out the latest issue, which features work by **Lauren Lipsay** (C'11), **Eric Morris** (C'11), **Megan Shaw** (C'11), and others, with a special "Couch Potato" centerfold called "The Lyme Witch," by founding editor **Eric Karlan** (C'09).

Class of 1999 Parents Project: Beyond the Classroom – the Undergraduate Experience

In honor of the class of 1999, Penn parents elected to assist with three separate projects: Kelly Writers House, The Ellen and Howard Katz Fitness Center, and Civic House. Their gift demonstrated that Penn parents support the University's emphasis on encouraging creativity, well-being, and social responsibility. Contributions from the **Class of 1999 Parents Project** were directed toward our General Endowment, an all-purpose fund that continues to support program development, student initiatives, and more.

OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS

While the Kelly Writers House actively seeks permanent endowment funding for its existing programs, we relish the introduction of new initiatives, especially when the ideas for such things originate from within our extended community. Term gifts allow us to expand what we do by supporting such new projects as well as short term needs.

Kelly Writers House Fellows

This one-of-a-kind program, funded annually by **Paul Kelly** (C'62, W'64, Trustee 1997-present), allows us each year to invite three eminent and influential contemporary writers to visit the Writers House for two days of intensive discussion about their works. The KWH Fellows program makes it possible for students to have meaningful, one-on-one contact with accomplished authors and critics. This year, the Fellows program sponsored visits by **Susan Howe**, **David Milch**, and **Joyce Carol Oates**.

The Kerry Sherin Wright Prize Fund

We award the **Kerry Prize** each year to honor the extraordinary achievement of **Kerry Sherin Wright**, our beloved director from 1997 to 2003. The prize supports Hub member projects that capture the aesthetic capaciousness and literary communitarianism that are founding ideas of Writers House and hallmarks of Kerry's work as its director. Anyone can contribute to this prize to help ensure the continuation of Kerry's spirit.

Gordon Walls (C'38) Creative Ventures Fund

This all-purpose fund allows us to support fresh initiatives and ideas, especially the creative and sometimes outlandish dreams of our Hub members, who constantly renew the KWH project with proposals for new publications, outreach programs, literary celebrations, and other community-led creative ventures.

RealArts@PENN Internship Funds

Our **RealArts@Penn** summer internship project sets up (and pays stipends for) summer internships at leading organizations in the arts, such as MTV Networks, *Rolling Stone*, and Brooklyn Films. These are highly competitive, substantive internships for creative-minded students. The RealArts project is supported generously by three funds: the **Paul and Ossi Burger RealArts@PENN Internship Fund**, established by **Paul** (W'76) and **Ossi Burger**; the **RealArts Internships Fund**, created by **Dirk Wittenborn** (C'72) and the **Cape Branch Foundation**; and the **RealArts Fund**, established by **Alan and Phyllis Berger**. Together these funds ensure robust internship experiences for talented Penn writers.

Anonymous Family Foundation Fund

Established by a family who wanted their contribution to have a broad and direct impact, this fund supports general operating costs associated with developing and running Writers House projects. We need all kinds of things that fall outside of traditional university budgets – paid summer interns, handmade paper and other art supplies, antique chairs for our Arts Café, state-of-the-art digital equipment – and this fund allows us to be flexible and responsive in relation to the ever-emerging ideas of our vibrant Planning Committee and the real operational needs of the space.

CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund

Supported by **Dirk Wittenborn** (C'72) and the Cape Branch Foundation, the **CPCW/ICA Seminar Fund** makes possible an extraordinary year-long course, which is given as a collaboration between the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing and the Institute of Contemporary Art. Led by a member of the Creative Writing faculty, conceptual artist **Kenneth Goldsmith**, this year's CPCW/ICA Seminar explored the manipulated voice, beginning with 78 RPM recordings of seances through the more



recent phenomenon of Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) – spirits conducted by radio waves. This is a course in which students are encouraged, as writers, to develop correspondent literary methods of responding to the ICA’s exhibits in the visual and aural arts. Students in the course visited and responded to exhibitions of soundwork in Philadelphia and New York, and had access to the most cutting-edge artists today via class visits and studio visits. The course culminated in a publication co-sponsored by the ICA and CPCW and the students’ direct curatorial involvement with an ICA exhibit. In addition to funding from the Cape Branch Foundation, work at the ICA in association with the course is made possible by grants from Penn’s **Office of the Provost**.

Seth Ginns Fund for International Writers

Through this gift, **Seth Ginns** (C’00) supports “Writers Without Borders: The Provost’s International Writers Series,” which brings writers from around the world to our house. Some of the stand-out international visitors from the year were Japanese sound poet **Adachi Tomomi** (who visited as part of the “Edit” series, hosted by **Danny Snelson**), Brazilian writer **Régis Bonvicino** (for whom we made a broadside via the Robinson Press), and Canadian artist and poet **Christian Bök** (who showed his visual art in our art gallery and shared some of his writing, too).

KWH Alumni Online Book Groups Fund

The KWH community extends beyond the walls of our house, thanks in part to online discussions, both informal and formal. Since January of 2000, KWH has run 46 online book groups for alumni and Penn families to discuss all kinds of writing. “We wanted to create a learning community for alumni who wouldn’t be able to be involved otherwise,” Al Filreis said upon the launch of the **Online Book Groups** program. Thanks to the support of Wharton alumnus and Penn parent **David Roberts** (W’84), KWH has expanded and enhanced the program to offer more groups each year. Our Online Book Group program now features month-long discussions (such as a group this year led by Professor Peter Decherney that focused on the work of Lawrence Lessig) and ten-day sessions (such as a group led by Dean Rebecca Bushnell that explored poems by John Donne and Ben Jonson). Serial book group participant **Ann Hostetler** (GAS’96) shared her enthusiasm for our project: “It is so refreshing in our current world, with its shallow and divisive public discourse, to be in the company of those who love to explore subtlety, nuance, and even – yes – the semi-colon. Thank you all for making my inner life so rich these past weeks with your contributions to the collaborative meanings we’ve been making – and to those who are out there listening.”

Faculty Director’s Discretionary Fund

Al’s Discretionary Fund – which has been supported by **Emilio Bassini** (C’71, W’71, WG73) and **Reina Marin Bassini** (CW’72, GED’72), **Jon** (C’71) and **Barbara Avnet, Alan and Phyllis Berger**, and **David Roberts** (W’84) – helps maintain the Writers House as a creative incubator, where students can develop ambitious writing and art projects. With the help of this fund, Al constantly seeks out, encourages, and invests in student talents and innovations. This year, Al supported summer writing and research projects, internships with new KWH magazine *Jacket2*, our ArtsEdge Residency project for emerging writers, and various new media experiments.



THIS PAGE: New Media Documentarian Kathryn Lipman (C’10); Emily Kaplan (C’10) poses with her family. OPPOSITE PAGE: Program Assistants Amaris Cuchanski (C’12) and Emily Harnett (C’13).

Esther T. Saxon Term Fund

Funded over the past ten years by **Brian** (W’90) and **Jerilyn Perman** (C’91), the Saxon fund supports community outreach programs that encourage writing and literacy, such as “Write On!”, a student-coordinated project that invites kids from Lea Elementary and Penn Alexander for weekly creative writing activities and peer feedback. And this year, with help from the Saxon fund we launched a new online magazine for young Philadelphians called *The Blacktop*.

Stocking Our Shelves

For the fourth year running, **Irwyn** (C’75) and **Lucy Applebaum** sent us lovely care packages stuffed to the brim with goodies for the kitchen. Our resident chefs-in-training nearly swooned over all the beautiful platters and cheese knives (for our fancier receptions), and everyone who visits KWH delights in sampling the seemingly endless variety of Tazo teas.

FRIENDS OF THE KELLY WRITERS HOUSE

Friends of the Kelly Writers House support our mission by giving contributions that help us provide home-cooked receptions for our many programs, purchase books for the library, and fund upstart projects like websites and campus magazines. Their gifts provide the foundation on which we've built this House and made it a home to writers of all kinds. Thank you, friends, for protecting and sustaining this unparalleled creative enterprise.

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*THIS PAGE: professors Greg Djanikian and Max Apple; Penn alumni.
OPPOSITE PAGE: the Writers House porch.*



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PAUL KELLY

Penn alumnus **Paul Kelly** (C'62, WG'64) generously supported a complete renovation of our 1851 cottage back in 1997, when we were a fledgling project. His support made possible our emergence as a significant Penn program. At the end of '97 we celebrated our re-opening and dedicated the space in honor of Paul's parents Thomas and Rita. We've been known as the *Kelly Writers House* ever since. Paul's faith and investment in the House and his confidence in the creative ingenuity of its community has continued well beyond his initial grant; each year he funds our premiere series, the Kelly Writers House Fellows program, which has enabled us to meet and interact with writers of immense accomplishment, such as Art Spiegelman, Susan Sontag, John Ashbery and Jamaica Kincaid. This year, Paul has once again shown us that his dedication to this project is deep and heartfelt: he has announced his pledge to support our term campaign with major annual gifts, a commitment that allows us to grow with full confidence that the Kelly Writers House is a permanent place.



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Will you help us protect and sustain the Writers House project? Please choose a level of support, send a check, and we will immediately list you as among our “Friends.” Your gift will be acknowledged in our electronic *Annual*, which is available at all times on our web site: writing.upenn.edu/wh/support/friends.html. We will also thank you in the Spring with a special Writers House gift. If you wish to be anonymous, that’s fine; you can also request that we publish your gift in dedication to, or in memory of, others.

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We would love to hear from you!

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