

College Writers Conference Hosts Michael Cunningham

By Abby Hochman,
Writers' Club President

"Writers are murderers," author Michael Cunningham said on Friday, November 14, in his keynote address for the annual Montgomery County Community College Writers' Conference. He was talking about the critical editing writers need to do when they write, even at the expense of their characters. Cunningham has written four novels, including *The Hours*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1999 and was later adapted for film. He has also written one nonfiction book and his work has been printed in numerous notable publications, including *The New Yorker* and *The Paris Review*. He spoke for almost an hour on the writing process, his works, and his experiences as an author, including the beginning of his love of Virginia Wolfe, which became his inspiration for *The Hours*. At fifteen, Cunningham tried to impress a girl only to be asked, "Have you ever thought of being less stupid?" The next day, he picked up Virginia Wolfe's *Mrs. Dalloway* at the library and fell in love with a book for the first time.

Cunningham's speech was only the beginning of the conference's events. Saturday brought a host of lectures and

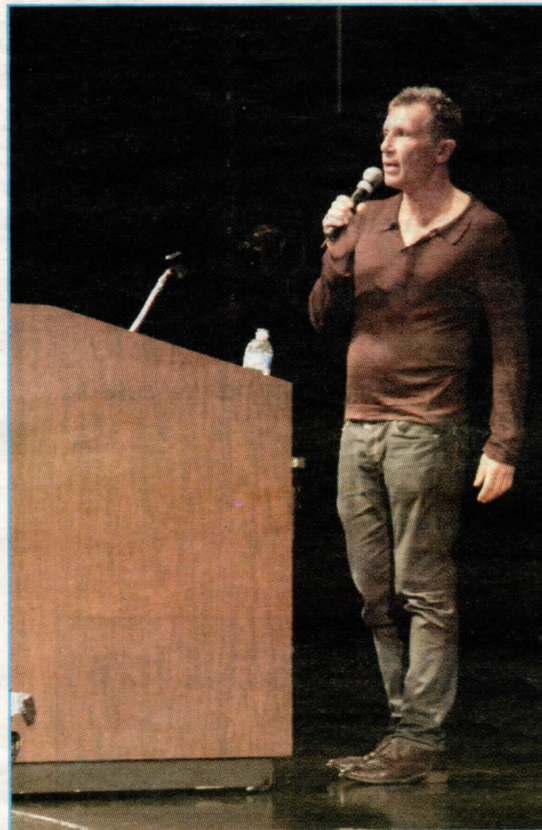


Photo by Dennis Verbo, Photography Editor

Michael Cunningham gave the keynote address in the Science Center Theater.

workshops for aspiring writers. A panel of agents and editors opened the day's events, giving their perspectives on the writing industry, as well as answering questions from the audience. Pre-registered conferees also had an opportunity to give a five minute pitch of their book ideas to one of the agents who had been on the panel. Later sessions offered workshops in the art of writing fiction, poetry, scriptwriting, and even comics and graphic novels. Tutorials on the business of writing also ran throughout the day, on topics including literary law and crafting book proposals.

MCCC Wins Prestigious Tech Award

By Kerri Hughes, Staff Writer

This year, Montgomery County Community College had the tremendous honor of winning first place for the National Technology Award out of

1,400 community colleges in the country. The award was given to the MCCC from the Center for Digital Education. I

had the privilege of speaking to Celeste Schwartz, Vice President of Information Technology, who informed me of the process of winning this prestigious award. Celeste is a graduate of MCCC who has worked her way up to her position after 38 years. It is clear that she is truly knowledgeable in her field academic and administrative position.

The National Technology Award is exclusively for community colleges. What the judges look for is not only the type of hardware and software that MCCC uses, but also how it is incorporated into the curriculum. As a communications major, I can be the first to attest that all of my professors not only use the technology provided, but also teach the technology in creative and interactive ways.

In order to be nominated for the award, the college must fill out an extensive survey, documenting the type of technology we have, how it is utilized, and presenting proof of all survey facts specified (such as websites). Members of the IT Department and members of our school's faculty participate in this survey.

Next time you are in class or hanging out with friends on campus, take some time to look at all of the technology provided for students and faculty. It is no surprise that MCCC won first place this year. Congratulations to all!



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