



Michael S. Glaser

named as Maryland's new poet laureate

Of Michael Glaser's appointment as Maryland's Poet Laureate, longtime friend and colleague Lucille Clifton, the Distinguished Professor of Humanities at St. Mary's and a former poet laureate of Maryland (1975-1985), said, "This award recognizes his many years of service to poetry in Maryland and the quality of his own poetry."

On August 2, 2004, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., announced the appointment of St. Mary's College English Professor Michael S. Glaser as Maryland's new poet laureate. Formally established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1959, the poet laureate provides public readings for the citizens of Maryland, ensuring that people in all geographic regions of the state have access to at least one reading during the term of service.

Glaser is a nationally recognized poet and has published more than 300 poems in literary journals, newspapers, and anthologies. His collection of poems, *A Lover's Eye*, is in its second printing, and he recently released a new collection, *Being a Father*, which is published by the Bunny and Crocodile Press for Seasonings Press. In addition to his own writings, Glaser has edited the anthologies *The Cooke Book: A Seasoning of Poems*, and *Weavings 2000: the Maryland Millennial Anthology* (a collection of work by writers who live or have lived in Maryland).

Since joining the College in 1970, Glaser has worked to foster community arts outreach programs that strengthen the quality of life in Southern Maryland. He founded and directs the Literary

Festival at SMCM, which recently celebrated its 24th year. Glaser also founded the VOICES Reading Series, which offers students and the local community a diverse selection of poetry readings and literary salons by nationally known writers. He has served as a Poet-in-the-Schools for the Maryland State Arts Council. His work in Maryland's public schools helped inspire the annual St. Mary's County Children's Poetry Festival.

In 2002, Glaser received the College's Homer L. Dodge Award for Excellence in Teaching, given once every three years to a full-time faculty member. In 1995, he received the Columbia Merit Award from the Poetry Committee of the Greater Washington, D.C. area for his service to poetry. His chapbook, *In the Men's Room and Other Poems*, was the winner of the 1996 *Painted Bride Quarterly* chapbook competition, and he received a 1997 Individual Artists Award in Poetry from the Maryland State Arts Council.

Glaser and his wife, Kathleen, live in St. Mary's City. Glaser is a new granddad and the proud father of five children: Brian, Joshua, Daniel, Amira and Eva.