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**Subject:** McCourt Tribute

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**Please note:** Our launch of the special Frank McCourt issue of *The Southampton Review*, planned for Friday, July 24, at 7:30 p.m., will now be a celebration of Frank's writing, teaching, and *joie de vivre*. Our featured reader, Billy Collins, will join Roger Rosenblatt, Robert Reeves, Lou Ann Walker, and many others for an evening of readings, reminisces, literature, tears, and laughter. Photo by Chip Cooper.

THE SOUTHAMPTON REVIEW HONORS FRANK McCOURT,  
 AWARD-WINNING WRITER, TEACHER, HUMANITARIAN

“Storytelling is teaching.”

--Frank McCourt

SOUTHAMPTON, NY - *The Southampton Review (TSR)*, the literary magazine published by Stony Brook Southampton's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program in Literature and Creative Writing will honor Frank McCourt – the bestselling author and faculty member who died on Sunday – in its Volume III. *TSR* became available for sale on July 15 to inaugurate the MFA Program's annual summer Writers Conference (July 15 – July 26).

Following what is fast-becoming a tradition, the new issue will be feted at a gala launch with readings by a selected group of contributors – many of whom are household names – on Friday evening, July 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the beautifully restored Avram Theater on campus. The event will be a celebration of Mr. McCourt's writing, teaching, and *joie de vivre*. Featured reader Billy Collins will join Roger Rosenblatt, Robert Reeves, Lou Ann Walker, and many others for an evening of readings, reminisces, literature, tears, and laughter.

In remembering Mr. McCourt, Robert Reeves, founder and director of the MFA Program said, “On a faculty with Nobel Laureates, Poet Laureates, winners of Pulitzers, Emmys and Oscars, only Frank's readings would fill football stadiums. He was our rock star.”

Frank McCourt turned the odds of a difficult childhood in his favor, finding riches in poverty, family, immigration and teaching. He wrote *Angela's Ashes* in 1996, at the age of 60, defying F. Scott Fitzgerald's edict that “there are no second acts in American lives.”

He received the Pulitzer Prize (1997) and National Book Circle Award (1996) for his first effort, followed by *Tis* (1999), *Teacher Man* (2005) and *Angela and the Baby Jesus* (2007). As Anne Bancroft said to Alan Alda, as they sat side-by-side in his celebrated memoirist class, “Where else would you want to be on a summer afternoon?”

McCourt had been a member of the MFA faculty for almost a decade.

*TSR* readers will find W.S. Merwin's essay *Listening to Frank*, Terence Moran's *First Friday Club*, which included Jimmy Breslin, William Kennedy and Mr. McCourt, Clark Blaise's *Smudges on the*

*Photographs: The Memoirs of Frank McCourt*, and Malachy and Alphonse McCourt's essays. There is even a Frank McCourt Quiz, "Everything You Think You Know about Frank" by Christian McLean, a flock of quotes, "The Wit and Wisdom of Frank McCourt" and a cartoon image of Frank McCourt by Jules Feiffer.

In addition, there are essays by Roger Rosenblatt, Distinguished Professor at SUNY, Anne Taylor Fleming, Susan Ann Gilman, Nicholas Sopkin and Helen Simonson, a recent MFA graduate who will publish her first novel with Random House. *TSR III* includes poetry from Grace Schulman, Julie Sheehan, award-winning poet and MFA faculty, Alexandra van de Camp, Jay Rubin, Tara Propper, Michelle Whittaker, Patricia Spears Jones and Robert Thomas. Additional contributors are Melissa Bank (*Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*), cartoonists Liza Donnelly (*New Yorker*) and Michael Maslin, artists Amy Portnoy (*The New York Times*) Gregory de la Haba and Arnold Roth. Jacques Barzun and Lionel Trilling tackle the writer's craft, in "How to Write."

*The Southampton Review* was first published in 2007. A natural offspring of Southampton's MFA Program and Writers Conference, *TSR* places the works of established and emerging writers side-by-side, nurturing new talent.

"I was already dreaming of a school where teachers were guides and mentors." Frank McCourt

For information about the Writers Conference and the Gala *TSR* Launch, please call 632-5030.  
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