



NEWS BUREAU

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WASHINGTON COLLEGE'S MICHAEL BUCKLEY CAPTURES REGION'S STORIES IN NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK, 'VOICES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY'

CHESTERTOWN – Farmers, watermen and musicians; scientists, Native American elders and state governors – the diversity of the region's humanity comes to life in *Voices of the Chesapeake Bay* (Geared Up Publications), a new book by Michael Buckley, Program Manager of Washington College's C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience.

Buckley is the longtime producer and host of "Sunday Brunch," which airs every Sunday from 7 to 10 a.m. on WRNR (103) in Annapolis, as well as on various satellite stations. For 14 years, the program has featured an interview series, "Voices of the Chesapeake Bay," which has won multiple "Best in Baltimore" awards from Baltimore *City Paper* and two Governor's Citations for Community Service. Buckley's book is a rich collection of those interviews, with striking black-and-white portraits of each interviewee by well-known Chesapeake Bay photographer David Harp.

There is Mary Parks Harding, who grew up in Dorchester County, daughter of Bronza Parks, a well-known boat builder. "I went to a one-room schoolhouse," she begins. "The roads when I was little, they were called corduroy roads. They were built by laying pine trees crossways and filling them in with oyster shells from seafood processing plants."

Then there's Piscataway Tribal Chairwoman Mervin Savoy, who counts her heritage, not in hundreds of years, but in thousands, and whose vision of historic Maryland is filled with wolves and mastodons and green alligators and forest buffalo. "I was born in the month of frogs," she says. "We were here before Columbus decided to get lost."

Buckley, who joined the Starr Center's staff in January, is teaching Washington College students the arts of oral history, including interviewing, research and recording techniques. This spring, students are join him on various segments of his four-month Voices of the Chesapeake Tour, sponsored by the Keith

Campbell Foundation for the Environment, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Washington College. One recent weekend, they criss-crossed Cecil County, recording 12 interviews in two days – canal keepers, equestrians, a chronicler of ghost stories. The next leg is a helicopter trip to Tangier Island.

“Michael Buckley is the Studs Terkel of the Chesapeake,” says Adam Goodheart, the Starr Center’s Hodson Trust-Griswold Director. “His ongoing work is creating a sort of human map of the Bay region, through its people and their stories. And now Washington College’s students have an opportunity to participate in the creation of a priceless oral history.”

Voices of the Chesapeake Bay has already been receiving rave reviews. *Bay Weekly* called it “a masterpiece collection,” and the Annapolis *Capital* described the book as “a testament to ... Mr. Buckley’s devotion to the water and his commitment to oral history.” *Baltimore Magazine*’s reviewer wrote that the individual chapters “function as more than simple interviews, they’re insightful character studies.”

Established in 2000 with a grant from the New York-based Starr Foundation, the C.V. Starr Center explores our nation's history—and particularly the legacy of its Founding era—in innovative ways. Through educational programs, scholarship, and public outreach, and especially by supporting and fostering the art of written history, the Starr Center seeks to bridge the divide between past and present, and between the academic world and the public at large. From its base in the circa-1746 Custom House along Chestertown's colonial waterfront, the Center also serves as a portal onto a world of opportunities for Washington College students. As Program Manager of the Starr Center, Buckley is responsible for administering, organizing, and publicizing its many public programs.

Buckley’s *Voices of the Chesapeake Bay* is available in local stores or directly from the publisher at www.geareduppublications.com.