

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Eugenia Collier

PERSON

Collier, Eugenia W.

Alternative Names: Eugenia Collier;

Life Dates: April 6, 1928-

Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Residence: Catonsville, MD

Occupations: English Professor

Biographical Note

Author and professor Eugenia Collier was born on April 6, 1928 in Baltimore, Maryland to Harry Maceo, a physician, and Eugenia Williams, an educator. She received her B.A. degree from Howard University (magna cum laude) in 1948. In 1950, she received her M.A. degree from Columbia University and in 1976, her Ph. D. degree from the University of Maryland. Collier's dissertation was "Steps Toward a Black Aesthetic: A Study of Black American Literary Criticism," which was published by the University of Maryland.

After graduating from Columbia University, she worked as a caseworker from 1950 to 1955 with the Baltimore Department of Public Welfare. In 1955, she joined the faculty at Morgan State College (now Morgan State University) as an English instructor. She remained at Morgan State until 1966, as assistant professor. From 1966 to 1996, she taught English at several other colleges and universities, including the Community College of Baltimore (1966-1974), the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (1974-1977), Howard University (1977-1987), Coppin State College (now Coppin State University) (1987-1992) and Morgan State University (1992-1996). She also served as a visiting professor at Southern Illinois University and Atlanta University. She then served as a consultant for several schools and organizations, including Workshop of Center for African and Afro-American Studies (1969), Call and Response Workshop at Karamu House (1970), Pine Manor Junior College (1970) and Bond Humanities Fair, Atlanta, Georgia (1973-1974). In 1996, she retired from teaching.

In 1969, Collier published "Marigolds," which remains a widely read short story. Collier has written or co-written a number of other short stories, essays and books. Collier won the Gwendolyn Brooks Prize for Fiction award in Negro Digest in 1969 for "Marigolds." She also received the Outstanding Educators of America Award in 1972

and the Distinguished Writers Award by the Middle Atlantic Writers Association in 1984. Her work has appeared in the Negro Digest, Black World, TV Guide, Phylon, College Language Association Journal and The New York Times. Collier has been a member of several organizations, including the College Language Association, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the Middle Atlantic Writers Association and the African American Writers Guild.

Eugenia Collier was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 7, 2013.

Related Entries

Deanwood Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

P.S. 112 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

3rd - 6th Grade

Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Frederick Douglass High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Columbia University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

University of Maryland [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Maryland Crownsville State Hospital, Baltimore Department of Public Welfare [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to ?]

Case Worker

Morgan State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1955 to 1966]

Assistant Professor

Community College of Baltimore [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1974]

Professor

University of Maryland, Baltimore [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2000 to ?]

Associate Professor

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Associate Professor

Coppin State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 1992]

Professor/Chair

Morgan State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1992 to 1996]

Professor/Chair

Coppin Theater Production [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Volunteer

College Language Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Mid-Atlantic Writers Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Arena Players [MEMBEROF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Volunteer