

ALLI HETIZENRATER
H&SS editor • creative writing

New York Times Best Seller List:

- Hardcover Nonfiction:**
1. *The Grand Design*, by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow
 2. *Crimes Against Liberty*, by David Limbaugh
 3. *A Journey*, by Tony Blair
 4. *Sh*t My Dad Says*, by Justin Halpern
 5. *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson

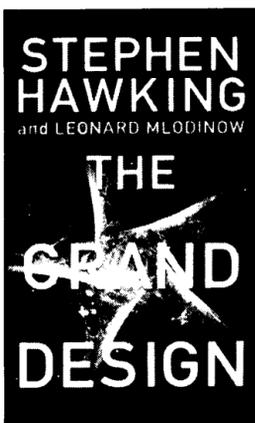


photo from ghead.com
The Grand Design by Stephen Hawking

Physicists Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow put forth a new book, *The Grand Design*, in which they propose questions that question the meaning of life and why and how the universe works in all the ways it does. The questions include, but are not limited to, "why is there something rather than nothing?" and "why do we exist?"

They theorize many possible solutions, the major one being that God has nothing to do with the universe being the way it is. Another theory the duo dive into is their "M-Theory." The M-Theory, however, is not just one theory. It is made up of many theories, each of which observe a range of multiple physical situations.

In addition, the book questions why things in the universe are able to coexist simultaneously. The book is written through terms of science, not religion.

Hawking has written other books, such as, *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes and Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays*.

Jewish physicist Mlodinow has written and co-authored a number of books, such as *The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives*, *Euclid's Window*, and a children's book series, *The Kids of Einstein Elementary*.

Hawking and Mlodinow collaborated in 2005, when they wrote, *A Briefer History in Time*.

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Readers impress students at Smith Chapel

MATT DEFUSCO
H&SS writer • creative writing

Doctor Tom Noyes' introduction for Professor George Looney's reading on Sept. 9, 2010 was personal and direct. He discussed Looney's new book, *Open Between Us*, as being a very personal collection of poems that incorporates elements of individual growth but also themes of societal growth within the confines of poetic prose. The "Us" in the title was said to be interpreted in various ways, but the collection as a whole was to be a map that directed "us" to the right places.

Looney has received many awards for his books of poetry and received the Undergraduate Program Leadership Award from Penn State in 2007. His new collection, is a compilation of poems written between 1983 and 1992 that had been revised and edited several times and yet all fit together with common themes.

Looney began his reading by reading a poem that was inspired by Noyes' young daughter. She asked Looney if he would be showing up to the baby shower for Noyes' second

child and Looney replied, "unless I die". He decided then to name the poem "The Ghost at the Baby Shower."

Nearly each poem was prefaced with a description of where Looney's inspiration had come from. These were subjects such as

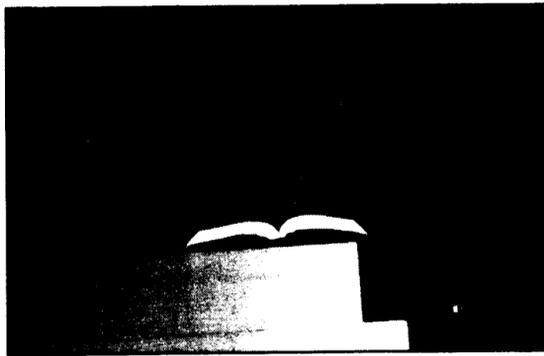
doing a reading and Looney heard a sentence read that flowed like poetry. The poem was called "Not About Time or Ending" and the resonance of its words truly entered the hearts of its listeners.

On Sept. 16, Behrend was honored with "out of

his first time in Erie and also his first time reading in a chapel. He joked that it made him want to "do something dirty."

He moved on to discuss his new novel which was primarily about the discovery of Pluto. He read a chapter of the novel where the protagonist, Alan Barber, has an awkward conversation with a past love after an evening of having drinks with peers. The dialogue was quick and witty, and Byers was successfully able to portray idioms of speech that were present during the late 1920s.

Byers' story collection, *Coast of Good Intentions*, was honored with the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In addition, the collection was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. Along with these recognitions, Byers has received the annual fiction prize from Friends of American Writers and was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. His work has been featured in publications like *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*.



Michael Byers reads one of his works to Behrend Students

Richard Hugo, birds, electric storms, old college friends or the sound of rain on sheet metal. One inspiration, on the other hand, stuck out for a lot of people in the Smith Chapel that night. Looney decided to read a poem that sparked from his friend and colleague, the late Dr. Archie Loss. The poem was first thought of when Loss was

town" writer, Michael Byers, who read from his recently published novel, *Percival's Planet*. Professor Eugene Cross, who introduced Byers, was one of Byers' students when Byers taught at the University of Pittsburgh. Byers now teaches at the University of Michigan.

After being introduced, Byers admitted that it was

Labs offer new opportunities for students

BROOKE BAROLOMEO
H&SS writer • communications

This spring is expected to mark the beginning of a new era for the communication department.

Instructors and students alike are anticipating the opening of two production studios – one for radio and the other for television, along with a large classroom and six audio and video editing suites.

The soon-to-be fully equipped studios and classroom are located in the lower east wing of Irvin Kochel Center.

Kochel 069, previously a seminar classroom, has been cleared out for renovation. It will serve as the television production studio.

Students can rest assured as these huge, empty rooms will not be bare for long. They will soon be

filled with media equipment that students will be able to get their hands on.

"Students will get a hands-on learning experience," explained Kimberly Young, professor of journalism.

"Rather than just talking about the concepts of television journalism, radio journalism, and film, we can actually work in the setting."

Presently, film students must use personal laptops to complete projects. However, once the editing suites are available, students will have everything they could possibly need at their fingertips.

"It's a classroom that's designed to encompass editing," said Young.

However, the learning experience for eager students need not end when video production or radio broadcast class is over.

The labs will be utilized for the launching of Behrend's Internet radio station and eventually television programming.

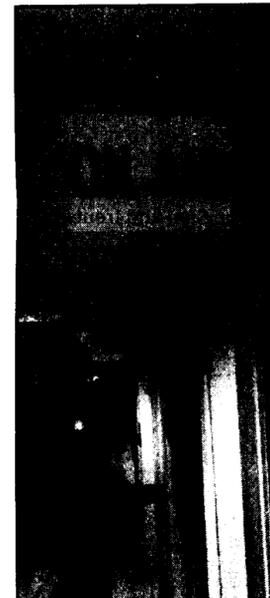
"WSEE was kind enough to donate their old news set, which I used to anchor at," said Young.

The lab will be complete with a large green screen, students can even deliver professional-looking weather reports.

"Students here really want this," explained Young. "Ever since I got here, students have said, 'I have to go to University Park since I'm in broadcasting.' I think the interesting thing is that we're merging all of this. Communication is how we make sense of our world. This will give students a real valuable experience."

Renovation of the labs is slightly behind schedule, but they are expected to be

ready for use by the beginning of the spring semester, at the very latest.



Quote of the week:

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."

-F. Scott Fitzgerald

ALLI HETIZENRATER
H&SS editor • creative writing

New York Times Best Seller List:

- Hardcover Fiction:**
1. *Freedom*, by Jonathan Franzen
 2. *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, by Stieg Larsson
 3. *No Mercy*, by Sherri-Lyn Kenyon
 4. *Getting to Happy*, by Terry McMillan
 5. *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett

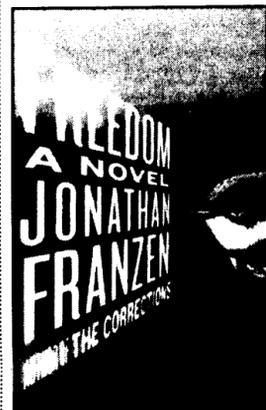


photo from bloomberg.com
Freedom by Jonathan Franzen

Johnathan Franzen's newest novel, *Freedom*, is about a couple, Walter and Patty Berglund, who just moved to Minnesota to start their new life. Patty was the kind of person everyone wanted to know. She was persuasive in the community and genuinely wanted to help other people.

Her husband, an environmental lawyer passionate activist, and one of the few true family men left, was the same kind of person. Together, they were perfect parents and seemingly perfect people.

A few decades later, their seemingly perfect life has become something of a mystery. Their teenage son has moved out of their home and into a Republican neighbor's, Walter has taken a job with Big Coal, an old college rival of Walter's, who happens to be a punk-rock turned alternative-country musician is back in the picture, and the biggest question of all, what has happened to Patty? She is the complete opposite of the person she once was.

This highly-anticipated novel combines modern day romance with the temptations of liberty in a comical, yet tragic way. If you liked Franzen's previous novel, *Corrections*, you can be sure to love his newest novel in nine years.

The Smith Reading Series continues

EMILY RAE BROUGH
H&SS writer • creative writing

The Smith Reading Series continues with the poet Nin Andrews and literary nonfiction writer Steven Rinella.

Nin Andrews is a native of Virginia and received her Bachelor of Arts from Hamilton College and her Master of Fine Arts from Vermont College. She has been the recipient of two Ohio Arts Council grants, won the Gerald Gable Award for her book of poetry, *Why They Grow Wings*, and was the winner of the Pearl Chapbook Contest for her poetry collection, *Spontaneous Breasts*.

Her first publication, *The Book of Orgasms*, received critical acclaim for its humor, originality and lyrical composition. Other publications include the prose poetry collection, *Midlife Crisis with Dick and*

Jane, which explores the adult realities of the iconic childhood characters Dick and Jane. *Sleeping with Houdini*, a tale of a young girl who wishes she could disappear, and *Dear Professor: Do You Live in a Vacuum?*, a book that transformed actual letters to a real professor into poetic form. Her recent work, *Southern Comforts*, was published in 2009 and is written in the vernacular, filled with the lively, common phrases and slang.

Andrews also edited a translated collection of poetry by French poet Henri Michaux, entitled, *Someone Wants to Steal My Name*. Her poetry can be found in *The Best American Poetry 1991, 2001, and 2003*. She currently lives in Ohio, and maintains an active blog where she posts new poetry.

Literary nonfiction writer, Steven Rinella, is a native of Michigan and cur-

rently resides in New York. He is a correspondent for *Outside* magazine, where he's been a frequent contributor for the last decade. Rinella's literary nonfiction work can be seen in several publications, including *Men's Journal*, *Field and Stream*, *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *American Heritage*.

He also has work in two anthologies: *The Best American Travel Writing* and *The Best Food Writing*.

Rinella is an outdoor enthusiast and his first book, *The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine*, takes the reader on a one-year journey with him through America and Canada while he hunts, procures and prepares all the ingredients he needs for a 45-course banquet described in master chef Escoffier's 1903 *Le Guide Culinnaire*.

Rinella's most recent publication, *American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost*

Icon, has received numerous accolades and was the 2009 Sigurd F. Olson Environmental Institute Nature Writing Award Winner. In 2005, Rinella won a lottery to hunt wild buffalo in Alaska and he describes his arduous journey with humor and stark honesty. His use of historical detail and first-hand experience draws the reader in and offers a fitting tribute to an American icon.

The Nin Andrews poetry Reading will be Thursday, Sept. 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Smith Chapel. Steven Rinella's literary nonfiction Reading will be Thursday, Oct. 14 at 6:00 p.m. Both readings will begin with a reception at 5:30 p.m. The Smith Reading Series are free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact George Looney.

Any student within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences benefits from involvement in a publication. The Beacon is currently seeking contributors for our new Humanities page, which covers all majors within the school.

What are you waiting for?

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To write for the Humanities page, e-mail Humanities Editor Alli Heitzenrater at ahetize@psu.edu.