

campus life

Def Artist Poet Staceyann Chin visits Stack's stage

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Def Artist Poet Staceyann Chin appeared on Stack's Stage for only a minute before she walked off to begin her performance in the audience. She read selected poetry and excerpts from her book, "The Other Side of Paradise: A Memoir," which comes out in April.

The Def Poetry Jam took place on Jan. 15 and started late. Communications major Jade Lauren, 20, who coordinated the poetic entertainment, said, "The original start time was 8 p.m. Due to audience deficiency in attending on time, we ended up starting at 8:30 p.m."

Chin asked the audience if the crowd was for Bush or Obama. After the crowd screamed, "OBAMA!" she recited a negative Haiku poem about Bush's second term.

After the laughter stopped from her haiku, she led into an excerpt from a memoir from when she was about eight to 10-years-old. The expert explained that she realized she was attracted to the opposite sex when she stumbled across three dirty magazines with the images of women touching themselves.

At times students remained expressionless in their seats as Chin covered topics like, the first time she masturbated, her first period, racism and memorable childhood experiences. She said she was telling her story.

"I don't claim to speak for everyone," she said. Throughout her performance she shed layers of clothing getting down to bare feet, a bubblegum pink spaghetti strap tank top and multi-pocketed olive green pants.

"My favorite part of her performance was when Staceyann shed herself of her yellow and white patterned

hoodie, her red Crocs slides with wool/cotton-like insulation and her socks that left her barefoot. This immediately let me know, that she was comfortable with her surroundings," said Lauren.

Darrell Williams, 19, who lives on campus and is an economics major, enjoyed Chin's performance.

"I think Staceyann Chin's performance was very riveting and down to earth. She didn't hold anything back and that is something I like in a performer," he said. "I was shocked about how graphic she was with certain topics, but with her being graphic she related to the audience better."

At the end of Chin's performance audience members were allowed to engage in a question and answer session with the poet. She was asked about a few things including her sexuality and her astrological sign. She answered by saying she was a Capricorn.

Among the 37 people in the

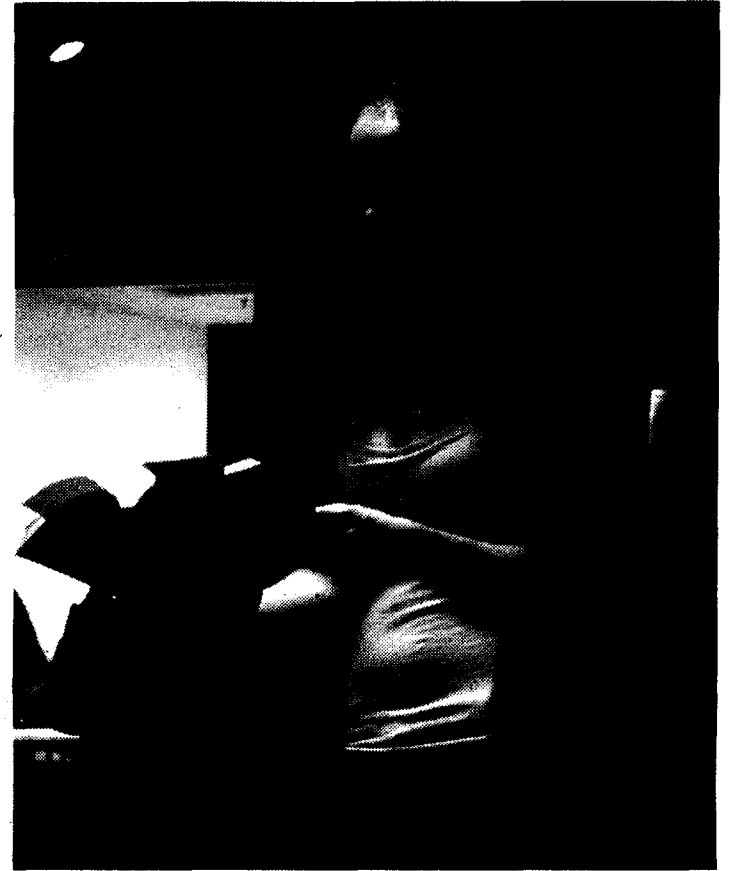


Photo by JUNA LEE/ The Capital Times

Def Artist Poet Staceyann Chin reads an expert from her book "The Other Side of Paradise: A Memoir."

audience, most were students, two were faculty members, and one was a guest. Chin said the range of responses she

received was good, as well as honest. She described reactions to her performance as being confused, upset and funny.

Freidman brings lessons from around the world to his classroom

By MARTY SANTALUCIA
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Experiences from New York City to Washington D.C. to Mexico City have come together in Dr. Doug Friedman's marketing classroom since the summer of 2000, when he started teaching at Penn State Harrisburg.

Growing up in a suburb of New York City, Friedman always had an interest in history - a subject which sometimes caused tension in the classroom as he would debate teachers who presented their political opinions as fact.

Had he not gone into teaching, Friedman had thought of getting a law degree and starting a political career with presidential aspirations but was deterred by the apparent dishonesty involved in politics.

In the 1980's Friedman was looking for a career and decided to try his hand at journalism, moving to Mexico City, Mexico

to work for the now defunct English-language Mexico City News. Knowing no one in his new home and only possessing rusty Spanish skills, Friedman departed Washington D.C. just four days after a major earthquake that knocked out all long distance communication - there was no way of telling if the newspaper still even existed.

Fortunately everything worked out well and he covered the city for the next two and a half years, getting a more local feel and perspective of the region rather than simply what tourists see. While in Mexico, Friedman met his future wife.

After leaving Mexico, Friedman traveled back to New York for a period of time and then to Ann Arbor, Michigan where he



Photo courtesy of DOUG FRIEDMAN

received his PhD in Marketing from the University of Michigan; Friedman lists completing his PhD while supporting his family as his greatest achievement. Friedman chose to go into teaching because he enjoyed the challenges presented by each unique class, semester, and research project.

Professor Friedman's favorites

Food: Lox on a salt bagel

Drink: Chocolate milkshake with a banana

Desert: Chocolate mousse or flan

Song: "Dream Operator" by Talking Heads

Season: Spring

Holiday: Passover, though Thanksgiving is nice too

In June of 2000 he moved to Lower Paxton Township with his wife and three children to take a position at Penn State Harrisburg. PSH appealed to him because of its balanced approach, focusing on teaching and research rather than the heavy research focus of other universities.

Generally, his experience here has been good, citing the enjoyment he gets from interacting with students and talking to former students about how they had applied what they

learned from him. His only wish was that more students would come to class better prepared as that facilitates a higher quality interaction and makes for a more interesting class. Currently, he hopes to get tenure so that he can spend the rest of his career here at Penn State Harrisburg.

Outside of the classroom Friedman enjoys watching football and hockey and playing

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