

Eye On Campus

Litapalooza

By **Brittany Neimeth**
and **Christina Felizzi**

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The Tomezko Classroom Building had a large crowd on Thursday, April 3rd, as the writers on campus showed up to read their poetry to an audience of peers, faculty and staff.

The 12th Annual Litapalooza, the campus literary festival, featured the poet Kate Northrop, an English writing professor at West Chester University. *Back Through Interruption*, her first collection, received the Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Award after its release in 2002. In addition, she is a contributing editor at *The American Poetry Review*.

Northrop read not only her work, but featured other poets, such as Robert Frost and Penn State Brandywine student Joe McFetridge's work at the festival.

Litapalooza is also when the campus literary magazine, *Penn In Hand*, is released. *Penn In Hand* features submitted student poetry, short stories and art. This publication also includes poetry and newly added short story contest; the winners were announced at the festival.

Penn In Hand is compiled by students at the Brandywine campus; editors this year included Teron Meyers, Andrew Dombalagian, and Rahel Teklegiorgis.

"I think overall *Penn In Hand* went well this year despite a lot of conflict that occurred with last minute configuring and what not," commented Teron Meyers. "I think the magazine as a whole is an upgrade of last year's magazine, and that it seems *Penn In Hand* is slowly evolving."

In the Poetry category, first place was awarded to Brittany Neimeth for her work "Jewddhism". Second place was "Ballet Shoes" by Kate Sowinski, and third place went to Joe McFetridge for "Camel Turkish Jades." The short story winner was "Around the Corner" by Taunja Belgrave. The magazine featured cover art by Christina Felizzi and a variety of artwork by other participants throughout.

Copies of *Penn in Hand* can be located in the Writing Center.



Spring 2008 Bell Lecture Series Coming to an End

By **MaryKate Dougherty**

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Penn State Brandywine's annual Bell Lecture Series, which takes place during the spring semesters, is holding its final lecture of the season on Monday, April 21st. This lecture will feature a representative from the PA Horticultural Society speaking about "Tree Vitalize" and Philadelphia's efforts to "go green."

The entire season of the Bell Lecture presentations have been quite successful. A few of this year's speakers included the Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of WHY, who discussed the role of public television in today's world; the Fair Food Director from White Dog Community Enterprises, who explained their efforts to have locally grown foods used within our restaurants and hospitals; and

the COO and Director of Education from the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia, who described how fragile liberty and freedom truly are and that it only takes one person to change something.

All of the speakers for the lecture series have been chosen based on the company's relation to public service in a range of different fields. For example, in previous years, the CEO from Philabundance has been chosen as a speaker to discuss the importance of hunger; the CEO of Wawa was chosen to discuss how for-profit organizations are trying to make community service an integral part of their company; and Brandywine founder John Vairo spoke about what it means to be a loan-grant institution and why the Penn State Brandywine campus was set up.

Penn State Brandywine has established this lecture series to honor State

Senator Clarence D. Bell's memory and to perpetuate his devotion to serving the population of Delaware County. Senator Bell, who died July 26, 2002, at the age of 88, served the 9th District for more than four decades. At the time of his death, he was the longest-serving public official in Pennsylvania and was considered the "dean" of the Senate. Widely known as a champion of veterans, unions, consumers, and motorists, the senator also was instrumental in the development of Penn State Brandywine, playing a key role in obtaining state funding for all the major buildings now on the campus.

For more information on the upcoming lecture, contact Dr. Laura Guertin by email at uxg3@psu.edu, or visit <http://community.de.psu.edu/seminar/default.html>.

Meyers and Chenny Thoury Crowned Mr. and Ms. Penn State Brandywine

By **Christina Felizzi**

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Dressed in formal gowns and ties, and boasting their unique talents, contestants of the annual Mr. and Ms. Penn State Brandywine Pageant sold themselves to the audiences of the event at 6pm on Friday, March 7th in the Tomezko building. The winners of this year's pageant were Jade Chenny Thoury and Teron Meyers.

Four female students, Niambi McDonald, Sophia Obinyan, Tamika Critchlow, and Jade Chenny Thoury, and two male students, Fitzroy Jacobs and Teron Meyers, participated in the pageant. The pageant consisted of three events to determine the two winners; PSU pride-wear, talent, and evening wear.

For the first event, contestants went all out with their attire to see who could appear the most Penn State-proud. When it was Teron Meyers' turn to strut his stuff, he walked out wearing a choir robe, but once he removed his robe, Teron revealed a Penn State football jersey and white paint under his eyes.

Following the pride-wear portion of the events, contestants then had to show off their talents to the audience. Everyone chose to sing. Jade's performance was different from the others in that she performed more of a show. She first played a piano piece by Richard Clayderman entitled, "Marriage D'amour," and mid-way into the song, Jade began to play the wrong notes on purpose. Then, Jade went up to the microphone, apologizing to the audience for not playing well and saying, "I have something on my mind that I need to get off my chest." With that, Jade

began singing "I'm Going Down" by Mary J. Blige. "I think the best part of the show was watching people's reactions when I hit sour keys on the piano," she commented. "No one knew that messing up was a part of my show, and everyone was cringing because they thought my talent portion was ruined."

The last part of the pageant was the evening wear for the Mr. and Ms. Penn State hopefuls. The ladies decked themselves out in beautiful, vibrant gowns, while the two male contestants dressed themselves nicely with suits and ties.

After judges Chris Coia and Dava Murray of the Student Affairs department, and students Stacey Mann and Crystal Bowhall, calculated their votes, the winners of the Mr. and Ms. Penn State pageant were announced. Meyers and Chenny Thoury were extremely happy to win this year's pageant. "I would do it again for the singing experience...it was an odd feeling because it was my first time, just holding the mike - I just went for it," said Mr. Penn State Teron Meyers.

Ms. Penn State Jade Chenny Thoury said, "The best part was definitely when they said my name as the new Ms. Penn State Brandywine because I really didn't think that I won! I was so shocked. I would definitely do it again, and I think this experience gave me a lot of confidence."

The Mr. and Ms. Penn State Brandywine pageant was sponsored by the Black Student League (BSL) and organized

by BSL president Comfort Jones as their last event for the semester.

"I think the turn out for the Mr. and Ms. Penn State Pageant went well. At first, people were shy to sign up but later we had enough males and females to participate," said Comfort. Next year, Comfort plans on preparing herself better



Jade Chenny Thoury and Teron Meyers
(photo courtesy of Jade Chenny Thoury)

for the event, working more closely with the BSL executive board and anyone else who will be helping out. If you missed the pageant this year, make sure not to miss the Miss America of Penn State next year!