

Eye On Campus

National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

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The 22nd Annual National Conference of Undergraduate research (NCUR) was held at Salisbury University in Maryland from April 10, 2008 to April 12, 2008.

Ten honor students, presenting five posters, on Earth Science, Engineering and English research attended.

The NCUR was established in 1987 and began as a way to promote undergraduate independent research and studies in all academic fields.

Penn State Brandywine joined over 2,800 students and faculty from over 350 campuses, ranging from Harvard to the University of the Virgin Islands and 50 different

disciplines.

Penn State Brandywine has had a long standing history of undergraduate research. In the last 17 years, this campus has mentored 95 students in 59 meeting presentations. In spring of 2008, the campus will add another 24 students along with 17 more meeting presentations to that list.

The projects presented this year included:

A Glimpse of Shakespeare's Outsiders by Dana Gibson

Autonomous Mobile Robotics using Lego NXT and LabView by Douglas May

Solar Decathlon 2007: Capturing the Sub Through Advanced Technology by Emily Robb, Matthew Lis-kowycz, Lindley Jones, and Rocco Arena

Shakespeare's Women: Property or Independent Voices of Reason? By *Adrienne Showalter*

Enhanced Podcast of Pennsylvania Biodiversity in The Ridley Creek State Park by James Woodruff, Erika Acuna, and Raquel Silano

The projects were available to view on campus at EU-RECA.

Lion Literacy Day

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Lions, Lions, Lions! The theme was clear at the Lion Literacy Day held on April 28, 2008. If you were on campus, you couldn't miss the students, grades 1st through 5th, who attended the event. The program was organized for the elementary education student teachers' classes from Overbrook and Lambertson Elementary school. The students enjoyed several lion-themed events.

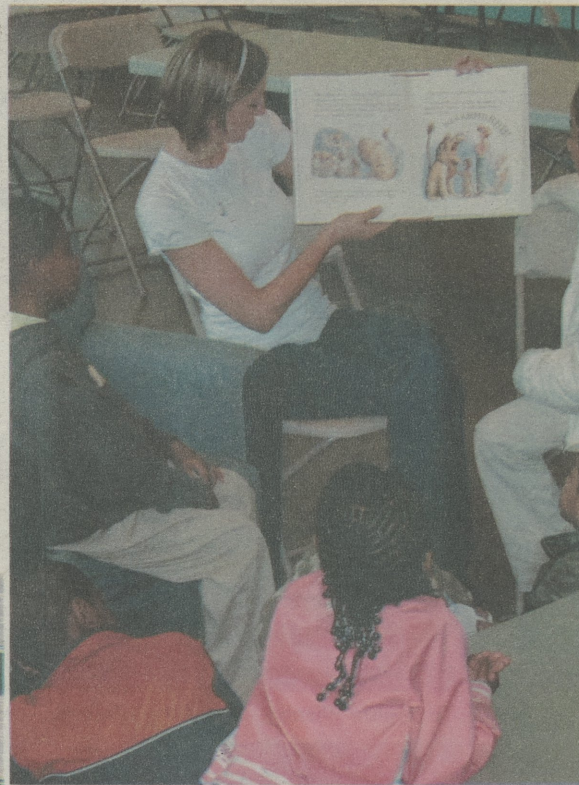
In the library, Penn State Brandywine Professor Connie Kirker asked the students to find out how many lion models had painted toe nails and if they could match collars to the appropriate lions. "It was great to see the kids enjoying all the lions," said Kirker.

The students gathered in the Tomeszko Lounge to hear Mrs. Sharon Manco read *We are Penn State!*, a children's book written by Sue and Joe Paterno. The familiar cheering of "We are Penn State" could be heard echoing through the building during the reading. After that, the students gathered around volunteer staff and faculty members for stories. The books all had the lion theme. The sounds of growling could be heard as well and it is still a mystery whether it was coming from the students or the painted lions that lurked around the lounge.

Professor Pat VanLeunvan held a science session for the students in the library computer lab. The students learned about the differences between the Nittany Lion and the African Lion.

After the session, Dr. Butler asked a student which lion he would rather be. "I would want to be the Nittany Lion," the student said. "The Nittany Lion is too wild to be caged up in a zoo. The African Lion can be."

The Lion Literacy Day was organized by Dr. Butler and with the help of faculty and staff the event was a great success. The book store donated animal crackers and lemonade, and Jim Gastner, the Athletic Director, invited the students to play games in the large gym. These special contributions helped to pull the event together



Photos courtesy of Sarah Lane

Top - Sharon Manco reads to a group of elementary students in the Tomeszko lounge

Top-Left - Elementary students play games in the gymnasium

Right - Student Sarah Lane reads "We Are Penn State!" to the elementary students

Bottom-Left - Smiling elementary students sitting in the Tomeszko lounge