

Pulitzer winner speaks

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As a journalist, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ken Armstrong is used to being called a lot of names — but “distinguished,” he said, is usually not one of them.

Armstrong spoke at the 23rd Foster Conference of Distinguished Writers last night at the HUB Auditorium, addressing a crowd of more than four hundred students, professors and faculty.

Visiting Professor and Coordinator of the Foster Conference Gene Foreman introduced Armstrong and his work. Some of his biggest stories included pieces on the University of Washington’s protection of football players accused of serious crimes and the wrongful convictions of prisoners sentenced for execution in Illinois, which led the governor to later pardon them.

Armstrong was part of a reporting team that covered the search for a man accused of killing four police officers and whose prison sentence for a prior crime had been commuted by Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. The team won a Pulitzer Prize for the story this past year.

“This is an example of how journalism, at its best, can inter-



Steph Witt/Collegian

Award-winning journalist Ken Armstrong, left, and John Curley laugh during the Foster Conference in the HUB Auditorium Tuesday night.

vene when the system fails,” Foreman, the inaugural Foster Professor, said.

Armstrong said the tip parents and coaches give to their children about always keeping their eye on a ball, whether a golf ball or a baseball, doesn’t apply to reporters.

“For reporters, the opposite holds true. If 15 reporters are looking this way, and you’re the sixteenth reporter, try looking that way,” Armstrong said. “You’ll be surprised what you’ll see.”

After Armstrong’s speech, Distinguished Professional in Residence John Curley moderated a question and answer session.

When Curley asked how Armstrong began his story about the University of Washington football team, Armstrong emphasized the preparation that went into the story. Armstrong said the

story required 96 public disclosure requests from more than 20 agencies.

“There’s no good writing without good reporting,” Armstrong said. “The best reporting is done with depth and transparency.”

Mike Dusak (junior-journalism) said he really enjoyed what Armstrong said and especially liked the excerpt from his book.

“It was a nice way to give us a feel for his writing style,” Dusak said. “It’s very in depth. It’s very descriptive. Like John Curley said, it’s more like a novel than a story.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning former Baltimore Sun medical reporter Diana Sugg will speak Wednesday at 10:10 a.m. in the HUB Auditorium as part of the Foster Conference.

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Faculty approves new minor policy

By Alaina Gallagher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students seeking to obtain a minor from a particular campus are now able to earn that minor at any campus university-wide, thanks to a revision to Penn State’s current policy that was approved yesterday.

Penn State’s Faculty Senate met Tuesday afternoon in Kern building for its second meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year to vote on the revision to the minor policy and to discuss other issues.

Because of the overlap of so many courses offered at campuses across the commonwealth, many students can earn credits toward minors that are offered at Penn State campuses other than the one they attend. Although they are capable of filling all the requirements, students are currently unable to actually earn that minor unless it is offered by the campus at which they are enrolled.

The new legislation would allow those students who fulfill the requirements to earn their minors, but would not allow students to transfer campuses for the purpose of completing a minor, said Faculty Senator Robert Shannon, who presented the legislation.

The new limitation on students transferring for minors raised concern among some senators, who proposed an amendment to that part of the legislation.

The amendment was ultimately rejected and the legislation was approved, despite some mixed feelings.

“I’m disappointed the report regarding the minors passed with the stipulation that you couldn’t change campuses for the primary purpose of pursuing a minor,” said Blake Bunnell, a student from the College of Engineering.

“I think it’s limiting that students can’t control their own education.”

At the beginning of the meeting, Penn State President Graham Spanier took questions from the Senate. Senators raised concerns about two stabbing incidents over Homecoming weekend and security for students living off campus — especially with the Penn State-Michigan game and Halloween falling on the same weekend.

Spanier said he was pleased with the response of student leaders to the situation and that security at on-campus events has discouraged incidences of violence on campus. He added that the university is “mindful” about security for the weekend of the Michigan game.

“... We hope we’ll be on top of it,” he said.

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Spanier

9-12 Project discusses Constitution and government

By Nick Manella
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the last time before the looming Nov. 2 elections, the 9-12 Project of Central Pennsylvania held a general meeting Tuesday night.

The focus of the meeting was to discuss ways to remind the federal government of the Constitution and what it entails. The group had absentee ballots readily available at the meeting.

Member Greg Fasolt, of Mingoville, spoke about how to get elected officials to act according to

the will of the people.

“What we need to do is follow proven techniques to get these people to act appropriately and accordingly,” said Fasolt. “We need to inject thoughts about the Constitution.”

The meeting also featured an extensive video on the economic downturn of Detroit. The video detailed the relationship between unions and legislative decisions, which the 9-12 Project feels is responsible for much of the economic crisis in the United States today.

“The reason the unions have

controlled the automotive industry is because of government laws,” said president Peter Trippett. “If the government would pass laws to limit the powers of these unions, we wouldn’t be in this situation.”

The progress of the group’s Sheriffs Project was also discussed. Earlier this month, sheriffs from all over Pennsylvania met with the 9-12 Project to voice mutual support.

Trippett enthusiastically voiced the need for sheriffs to confront federal agents who enter their jurisdiction to, as he put it, uncon-

stitutionally enforce laws. Sheriff Walsh, the leader of the Sheriff Project, enforced the importance of sheriffs and citizens standing up against the federal government.

“If we find a few particular things that will give us a ground to stand on, we need to take advantage,” said Walsh. “Putting out little fires here and there doesn’t really do anything. The Sheriff’s Brigade gives us real ground to stand on.”

While the overall movement remains the Sheriffs Project, she stressed the creation of a “Sheriff’s Brigade” in each county

to support and protect their local sheriff.

The group also detailed their plans to hold a rally on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg.

“We need to show America that we do have a voice, we do know when our government has gone awry, and we will not be silenced,” said Fasolt.

Attendees of the meetings were invited to join a Tea Party Rally on the stairs of the capital building in Harrisburg on Oct. 23.

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