

Author explains 'Color of Water'

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

What is the color of water? That's a question best answered by author James McBride.

McBride spoke for the Schreyer Honors College Signature Lecture Thursday evening in Schwab Auditorium.

The lecture, titled "The Color of Water: A Meditation on Identity," was co-sponsored by the Presidential Leadership Academy and the University Park Allocation Committee.

A major topic of the lecture was McBride's best-selling 1996 memoir "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother."

The book chronicles McBride's years as one of twelve children born to his Jewish mother during "some of the most turbulent decades in this country's history," according to the Schreyer Honors College Web site.

In addition to talking about his work, McBride shared his philosophies of life.

One such belief was the notion that before you learn to succeed, you must learn to fail.

"If you can leave [Penn State] with the ability to fail and learn from it, you will have done more

than anyone at any other college." Davide Conte (sophomore-aerospace engineering and mathematics) said McBride's speech was very insightful.

"He's more open-minded than I thought," Conte said. "He said it's not just about money — it's about being yourself and enjoying life. He definitely made me feel like I was on the right path."

"The Color of Water" was a summer reading selection for this year's incoming Schreyer Scholars.

Ashley David (junior-nursing) said she thoroughly enjoyed the required reading.

"It wasn't just a chore," she said. "I really enjoyed it. I especially liked the character descriptions — very vivid."

Jared Marshall (sophomore-biology and physics), a member of the committee that hosted McBride, said the author was a clear choice.

"We value the tenants of diversity, and, given his background and the nature of his lecture, we figured he would be appropriate."

In addition to his published novels, McBride is also a former writer for the Washington Post, People Magazine and the Boston Globe.

And McBride's experience goes



Amanda August/Collegian

James McBride, author of "The Color of Water," speaks as the Schreyer Honors College Signature Lecturer at Schwab Auditorium Thursday night. McBride also wrote the book "Miracle at St. Anna."

beyond the typewriter, as he is an award-winning jazz composer.

Christine Crain (junior-education) said McBride's wide range of talents was very respectable.

"It's very impressive," she said. "He's not only a writer but also a musician — a true artist."

McBride ultimately said the key

to living a proper life is to be a dreamer.

"If you do what you want to do, you'll do it well enough that somebody somewhere will pay you for it," he said. "Do what you like, and you'll never be sorry."

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Hospital requests police

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

An armed police officer may be stationed in the emergency room of Mount Nittany Medical Center, pending action by the Centre Region Council of Government.

The hospital's ER is sometimes forced to aid violent, disruptive patients throughout the year — especially during Penn State football game weekends, State Patty's Day and other events when notoriously high levels of alcohol are consumed.

"Traditionally, we have requested assistance from local law enforcement when behaviors of a patient or their visitor have escalated to the point beyond our scope of providing care," said Lou Brungard, vice president of facilities and plant services at Mount Nittany Medical Center.

He said incidents requiring police assistance are infrequent occurrences, but they should still be taken seriously.

"We have uniformed security officers at the medical center, but if there is an imminent threat to a patient, employee or physician, we will ask for additional assistance," he said.

The medical center expressed the need for full-time supplemental, armed security last year. Legislation passed in 2008 by Pennsylvania's General Assembly places the issue in the hands of the municipalities, which began the discussion.

James Rosenberger, a State College Borough Council member and a COG member, said he didn't think it was the municipal government's responsibility to micromanage the police force.

Bryce Boyer, supervisor for Patton Township, countered that the hospital's request compels municipalities involvement.

"The request for officers to be there full-time, just to have a presence as needed — you need an officer there that precludes the action of those patients," Boyer said.

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Ghosts to haunt Beaver Stadium

By Mike Hricik
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Beaver Stadium may need a good exorcist on Saturday night.

Inspired by a Facebook event page called "GHOST OUT AT THE MICHIGAN GAME," more than 8,000 fans are slated to haunt Beaver Stadium in ghost costumes at the home football game against University of Michigan.

Created by two Penn State students, the page invites fans to dress in costumes in honor of both Penn State's annual White House game and Halloween occurring in the same weekend, event co-creator Will Cooper said.

Co-creator Caroline Zielinski said Penn State fans wear white for the game every year, but not-

ing like this has ever been done before.

Cooper (senior-supply chain management) said he and Zielinski developed the idea for the event two weeks ago while eating with a small group of friends.

Zielinski (senior-biology) said she created the event that evening, complete with a doctored and "corny" ghost picture.

But she chose not to promote the event, sharing it as an inside joke among friends.

Two days later, word of mouth spread.

At one point, the page logged 13 accepted invitations per minute, Cooper said.

8,255 fans were committed to dressing as ghosts at press time,

according to the Facebook page.

Zielinski said she is still surprised at how fast fans responded to the event.

"Things can spread so fast. It's still astonishing how fast things can come together in one day," Zielinski said.

Despite comments on the Facebook page calling the event "racist" because of the costume's similarities with the Klu Klux Klan uniform, Cooper said the event is not meant to be bigoted.

"This is about Halloween. This is meant to be really fun. It clearly has nothing to do with [racism]," Cooper said.

NAACP President Travis Salters said he sees the event as harmless.

"It's just people having fun on

Halloween," Salters (junior-broadcast journalism and African American studies) said.

Salters said he looks forward to Penn State students showing their school pride.

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If you ghost

What: Ghost Out for the Penn State vs. Michigan game

When: Saturday Oct. 30 at 8 p.m.

Where: Beaver Stadium

Details: Students are encouraged to dress up like a ghost for the game.

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