

State College celebrates first Thursday

By Allegra O'Neill
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students and State College residents will be able to experience community camaraderie when the Schlow Centre Region Library presents First Thursday downtown today.

Communications Lecturer Katie O'Toole said she wanted to get people downtown, so she reached out to businesses and asked them to open their doors for something special.

"There is so much talent musically and artistically in this town that something like this being successful would be natural for this town," O'Toole said.

Merchants downtown and campus buildings, such as the Paterno Library, the HUB-Robeson Center and others, are participating in First Thursday, O'Toole said.

O'Toole said she is the self-proclaimed coordinator of the day because of her work in getting downtown businesses to participate.

Some of the events being held are the Christian Science Reading Room and Bookstore's "Spiritual Solutions to Problems," the Anderson Lecture Series at the Palmer Museum of Art and a presentation by Jeffrey Wert at the Schlow Centre Region Library.

The Christian Science Reading Room and Bookstore, 218 S. Allen St., will open its doors from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to help anyone searching for spiritual ideas to alleviate everyday problems. Christian Science Reading Room attendant Janice Kennedy said.

Kennedy said the reading room is open to members of the community of all religious backgrounds.

The Anderson Lecture Series will present visual artist Craig McPherson. The realist and working artist will present his lecture "Road Work" during the Anderson Lecture Series at 7 p.m. in the Palmer Art Museum.

McPherson said he titled the lecture "Road Work" because he has done most of his work while traveling to different places in the country and around the world.

"I am a realist, and I work from life as much as I can," McPherson said.

"For most of my creative work, I work directly from the subject."

McPherson will give a lecture as well as come to the private studios of Penn State arts students to critique their work and give feedback.

The lecture series is funded by the John M. Anderson Visiting Professor Endowment, which was given to the university by Penn State philosophy professor emeritus John M. Anderson, said Lecture Series Coordinator Ann Shostrom.

Jeffrey Wert will bring his extensive knowledge of the Civil War to the community with a presentation at 7 p.m. at the Schlow Library.

Wert said he will focus on Centre County's reaction to the war.

"In the summer of 1862, about 700 hundred men from Centre County volunteered and became the 140th regiment, the Centre County Regiment," Wert said. "The regiment was led by the very well known Colonel James Beaver, like Beaver Ave. and Beaver Stadium."

Wert, whose interest in the Civil War began when he heard stories from his elementary school teacher about veteran

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Communications lecturer

experiences in the war, has written eight books on the war. "I hope this will be a very informal talk with plenty of questions and answers," Wert said.

O'Toole said she hopes this First Thursday will be as successful as the First Thursday concert series that took place this summer.

For more information and to see the full list of events, including multiple exhibits on campus, visit www.firstthursdaystatecollege.org.

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12:10 p.m.: Bach's Lunch presents the Mallet Ensemble at Eisenhower Chapel in the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center

5:30 p.m.: "Spiritual Solutions to Problems - Explore the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" readings at the Christian Science Reading Room and Bookstore, 218 S. Allen St.

7 p.m.: Christian James of ProPhotoSpots.com will give a presentation about his photography and website at Appalachian Outdoors, 123 S. Allen St.

7 p.m.: The Anderson Lecture Series presents artist Craig McPherson with his lecture titled "Road Work" at the Palmer Museum

7 p.m.: A presentation by civil war scholar and author of eight books Jeffrey Wert at the Schlow Centre Region Library, 211 S. Allen St.

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