

Tailgate explores digital media

By Mike Hrick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

More than 100 faculty and staff members from Penn State campuses across the state gathered at Foster Auditorium in Pattee Library for the Media Commons Tailgate 2010 on Friday.

The tailgate, sponsored by Media Commons at Penn State, hosted speakers who explored uses of new educational technologies in the classroom, as well as their advantages and disadvantages.

College of the Liberal Arts Dean Christopher Long delivered the event's keynote address, exploring traditional and new media literacies.

An avid blogger and Twitter user, Long said social networking websites are untapped resources for college educators.

"This is a mode of students, with our students and with one another. It's really the ability to get responses," Long said.

Educational Gaming Commons

Instructional Technologist Chris Stubbs and Media Commons staff members Aaron Smith and Ryan Wetzel held a "fireside chat" discussing storytelling across mediums, or "transmedia" storytelling.

Stubbs said educators should not lose sight of educational goals with the rise of new media.

"It's a tool in the toolbox. That's the idea of transmedia," Stubbs said.

Assistant Head of Library Learning Services Elyssa Cahoy unveiled plans for a revamping of the first floor of Paterno and Pattee Libraries to become more conducive to multimedia.

Cahoy said this will entail a total overhaul of Pattee Library's Reserve Reading Room, including the addition of a 40-person classroom surrounded by projection screens.

Senior sociology lecturer Sam Richards led a student panel featuring Interfraternity Council President Max Wendkos and staff members of Onward State, an

online news outlet for Penn State students.

Panelists delved into digital media etiquette for students and its impact on job prospects.

Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said he made social networking mistakes early into his career as IFC president.

He said Penn State should teach students to conduct themselves correctly online as sites like Facebook gain more importance.

"If social media can be used to increase the level of student participation, that's awesome," Wendkos said.

Drew McGhee, instructional development specialist at Penn State Altoona, said he enjoys going to events like the tailgate.

"I get to see what new things are other faculty members are doing," McGhee said.

"Problems they run into are problems our faculty are running into as well."

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Daniel Bott/Colegian

Amy Ray of The Indigo Girls performs at Cafe 210 on Sunday night. The group is known for its diversity of instruments played.

Ray, Indigo Girls bring soothing vocals to Cafe

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Destiny Aman also attended because she thinks the Indigo Girls are "awesome."

Amy Ray carries a piece of State College everywhere she goes.

"I got one of my main tattoos done here," the Indigo Girls singer told the audience of her solo concert Sunday night at Cafe 210 West, 210 W. College Ave. "I don't remember who did it though."

Ray played a variety of music from "Bus Bus" — an upbeat song that got the crowd dancing — to "She's Got to Be" — a slower tune.

"It's nice to have y'all singing," she told the audience after she finished.

Ray made an effort to show her appreciation to the audience after almost every song, thanking them for the applause. She said before she began the set that it was a "drag" that the Indigo Girls hadn't performed in State College in many years.

Raylene Holt, a Pleasant Gap resident, attended the concert because she's been a big fan of Ray and the Indigo Girls since college.

"I think they have a lot to say," Holt said. "They have a wide variety of music and they're fun to sing along to. For me it's all about their lyrics."

She added that she's spread her love of the Indigo Girls and Ray onto her mother and to her 6-year-old son.

Aman (graduate-geography) said that her favorite song by the band was one of Ray's called "Rock and Roll Heaven's Gate."

"It's edgier and more political," she said. "Amy's songs are more 'think hard' songs."

Local band Pure Cane Sugar opened the show, playing songs from their album as well as a cover of "Come Together" by the Beatles.

In addition to an acoustic guitar and tambourine, Pure Cane Sugar also had conga drums and a fiddle player, who coincidentally was the only male performer in the group. Holt added that she was standing at the front of the bar when Pure Cane Sugar began playing and she thought it was Ray singing until she got back to the stage.

Also opening for Ray was Mount Moriah, a folk band from North Carolina, who said they were "tickled" to be on tour with her. During their set, the band told the audience while they were driving to State College earlier today their GPS took them on back roads instead of the highway, including through a legal hunting ground.

"I thought it was a joke," lead singer Heather McEntire said, which brought a loud laugh from the audience.

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NRT to hold auditions for spring

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Actors who want to showcase their talents this spring semester will have the opportunity to try out for No Refund Theater's upcoming productions this week.

NRT will hold auditions for the plays being performed in the first half of the spring semester from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight through Wednesday in the Chambers Building lobby.

Callbacks will be held 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday in the same place.

Nicole Wells, vice president of NRT, said actors who want to audition need to prepare a one-minute monologue that showcases their skills to the fullest.

"We have monologues from the shows available for them," Wells (junior-recreation, park and tourism management) said. "But it looks better if they have a monologue of their own choosing."

Actors auditioning for "Othello" need to have a Shakespearean

monologue prepared, while those trying out for the musical "Songs From a New World" will need to sing 16 bars of a song of their choice A cappella.

Andrew Jen, director of the musical, said he researches multiple plays every semester to decide which one he wants to put on.

"I tend to pick shows based on what will fit in with the rest of our season, what will look good on our stage and what the club needs as a whole," Jen, Class of 2010, said.

NRT actress Elaina Mercurio has acted in 13 total shows since she began the first semester of her freshman year and plans on attending auditions this week.

She said she researches all the plays to decide which ones she wants to act in the most.

After she makes her decision, she picks a monologue to audition with.

"I don't have set monologues that I use all the time," Mercurio (senior-human development and family studies) said. "I pick a

monologue that goes with the show I want to act in. If I want a part in a comedy, I pick a comedic monologue."

Jen said he approaches auditions for comedies differently than dramas because the actors trying out for funnier shows need to have a strong sense of comedic timing.

"In my experience, timing is impossible to teach," he said. "You either have it or you don't, and without it the show will never be funny."

Jen encourages students who have never done NRT shows to try out.

"If you never try it, you'll never get anywhere, and you might just be missing out on one of the most enjoyable things you could ever do with your life," he said.

This semester NRT will perform "The Twilight Zone," "The Penis Monologues" and "Othello," among other plays that have yet to be determined.

To e-mail reporter: hmr5027@psu.edu

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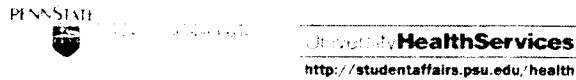
- Monday, **September 13, 2010** (Dose 1)
- Monday, **November 15, 2010** (Dose 2)
- Monday, **March 21, 2011** (Dose 3)

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