

A CELEBRATION OF AUTHORS

AN ANNUAL FESTIVAL aims to give students at a high school in New York insight into authors they are currently studying, as well as an understanding of the life of a scholar, through a panel discussion featuring nationally and internationally known experts on American authors.



*Transcendentalist
Henry David Thoreau*

Founded in 2000 by Dr. Richard Kopley, Penn State DuBois professor of English, at his alma mater, New Rochelle High School, the literary festival centers this October on the Transcendentalists. Penn State faculty Drs. Phyllis Cole (Brandywine) and Sandra Petrulionis (Altoona) have joined the panel. Past festivals have focused on Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Robert Frost, among others.

“I think the speakers convey to the students a sense of the adventure of reading and of scholarly discovery,” said Kopley, who organized with Penn State Conferences the 2008 Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Summer Meeting at Bowdoin College, sponsored by the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society and Penn State’s College of the Liberal

Arts, University College, Center for American Literary Studies, Department of English and DuBois campus.

Added Leslie Altschul, Language Arts chair at New Rochelle High School, “The visiting professors ... showcase the joys and rewards that accrue from lifelong learning.”



enhancing arts INSTRUCTION

COMPUTER-BASED LEARNING is taking new shape as components for studio classes like sculpting, art and dance are increasingly available online through Penn State’s e-Learning Institute, a division of the College of Arts and Architecture.

“Whenever you can digitally capture a studio component, you have the ability to enhance the instruction by making it conveniently available to the students anytime,” said Dr. Keith Bailey, e-Learning Institute director, adding that students in all disciplines are demanding instructional technology. The online format doesn’t replace a studio, explains Bailey, but enlarges the scope of a classroom.

A small but energetic group explored the challenges of instructional technology in the arts at the third annual Designs on e-Learning Conference this September—sponsored by the institute and the University of the Arts London, with Penn State Outreach’s Conferences unit—the only e-learning conference focused on arts and design.

“Designs,” with support from Penn State’s Education Technology Services, a division of Teaching and Learning with Technology, provided a hands-on workshop allowing participants to experience for themselves new technologies that can be easily and inexpensively incorporated into the arts and design classroom, said Virginia Belser, who coordinated the conference with Bailey.

Other conference themes focused on the development of faculty-student relationships, funding and innovations.

MESSAGES OF HOPE

THE MEMBERS OF the Save Darfur: Central Pennsylvania chapter have been working to raise awareness and financial support for its mission to help the victims of genocide in Darfur, Sudan—under the direction of Dr. Lee Ann De Reus, Penn State Altoona associate professor of human development and family

studies and women’s studies. Next fall they are headed to the Altoona Curve for an overnight Tents of Hope event to “raise awareness about refugee children around the world,” said De Reus. For more information about this and other events, contact De Reus at lad12@psu.edu.



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE | DEVIANT STYLE

WHEN IS DIRT more than, well, dirt? When you consider how race, gender, ethnicity and class play a part in a person's definition of the term, according to British architecture scholar Ben Campkin.

In the exhibition "Dirty House, Dirty City," Campkin examines how those issues, in historical and cultural contexts, influence attitudes toward dirt and cleanliness. The exhibit is part of "Deviant Decoration: The Architectural Interior," a yearlong lecture and exhibition series from the Penn State Department of Architecture, launched at the University Park campus in spring 2008. This fall's focus is ecological design, with speakers addressing issues of urban recycling and biological systems in relation to the interior.

"We used 'deviant' in the series title

because we are featuring speakers who are at the forefront of architectural theory and practice—people who are radically rethinking how we live and behave," explains Christine Gorby, associate professor of architecture and series coordinator.

In the spring, the series will explore the concerns, both physical and psychological, of the disabled in engineered settings. The exhibition, "Disability Arts," will feature the first building to house the National Disability Arts Collection and Archive in England, designed by Sarah Wigglesworth Architects. Located in a nature reserve, the totally accessible building will provide extensive storage areas, plus a space

where visitors can handle fragile objects.

Last spring events focused on feminism and domestic space, with an exhibition featuring quilter Mozell Benson's new studio. As one of 10 children born and raised in rural Alabama, Benson learned how to quilt as a necessity but never had sufficient studio space. "I've learned that you can make something out of nothing, and that's what I want to teach people," she says.

The Penn State Institute for the Arts and Humanities and the Department of Architecture are funding the series. For a full schedule, visit <http://www.arch.psu.edu> or call 814-865-9535. College of the Liberal Arts faculty were involved in the initial planning of the series.

A photo of quilter Mozell Benson's Alabama studio is shown in an exhibit on feminism and domestic space.



Sheri Schumacher, Auburn University