

NEWS

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ATWOOD

Atwood converses with Rosenblatt



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"Have you ever talked to a mad person before?" Rosenblatt joked in response.

The pair touched on more serious issues as well, such as the role of evil in the world and Atwood's connection to nature as an author and environmentalist.

"Do I think that we will be able to kill everything on the planet?" said Atwood. "I don't think so. The question is, will we change nature so much that (humans) can't live in it anymore?"

Atwood also spoke about her writing process.

"Pencil-sharpening followed by procrastination and panic," Atwood said of her process during the afternoon Q&A session. "Followed by watching TV. I seem to have to work myself up to that moment of 'I've got just the right amount of time to do this'. Delay more, and then you really have to do it."

Buckner, who is in charge of organizing and overseeing Bryan Series events, said that Atwood was a great addition to the Bryan Series lineup.

"She's known around the world," said Buckner. "She's written these incredible books. The interesting thing about Margaret's work is that people keep coming back to it. It seems like even if the book is 20-30 years old it is still timely to today."

"I wanted to attend because we'd just read 'The Handmaid's Tale' for class, and I was interested in hearing more about the rest of Margaret's writings and in hearing her speak," said junior Sophia Silverstein-Rivera. "I thought it was interesting to hear her and the other author talk to each other. She was so funny."

"Margaret Atwood is a hero of mine," said Emma Hadley, a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University, in an interview after the event. "It was a nice experience to actually see her in the flesh. I think (the talk) was brilliant. She's a lovely, smart woman who is sharp as a tack still."

There was a book-signing following the event, as well as a special surprise — the lineup of next year's Bryan Series was announced. The new lineup is usually presented at the end of the final event of the year, but this year event organizers decided to try something different.

"It gives us a little more time to promote sales while people are still attending events," said Buckner of the decision to release the lineup early. "It will give (season ticket holders) a chance to learn more about the speakers before they make their decision."

Next year's Bryan Series lineup includes journalist and foreign affairs analyst Robin Wright, surgeon and author Atul Gawande, historic nonfiction author Jon Meacham, actor George Takei and author Malcolm Gladwell.

New subscriptions to the Bryan Series will be available starting May 18.

Boone brings together the past, present of race issues

BY MATTHEW JONES
STAFF WRITER

Students put down their coffees and picked up their pens as William Boone began his talk titled "Race for Prophets: A Critical Conversation."

"One of my issues with academics, particularly at my institution, is that we tend to mystify all these conversations," said Boone, an associate professor of English and Africana studies at Winston-Salem State University. "I'm not trying to talk over your head; I'm going to speak directly to you."

Boone covered a wide range of issues relevant to race in his discussion with students and faculty in the Leak Room on March 12. He encouraged students to speak their minds on diverse topics from President Barack Obama to hip-hop mix tapes.

"I'm so thrilled that we have (Boone) here from WSSU, which is a historically black college and university," said Associate Professor of English Heather Hayton. "Guilford needs to do more work to create conversations with other campuses."

At WSSU, Boone teaches classes on gender, African-American culture and popular culture. He is also the founder of Afro Blew Media Inc., which promotes local hip-hop artists.

To open the discussion, Boone shared some of his experiences with race from growing up in Orange, N.J.

"I was with my mom and a bunch

of my first cousins at a supermarket," Boone told the audience. "A group of white young men who were across the railroad tracks yelled across the tracks, 'Hey n—s,' pardon my French. I asked my mom, 'Mom, can we curse?' and she said, 'Yeah, sure.'"

"These are my introductions to race."

Throughout his talk, Boone brought up contemporary issues to hold a mirror to America's racial divide. He asked students for their thoughts about the 2014 Grammy Awards, when the black artist Kendrick Lamar was passed over in favor of the white rapper Macklemore. Macklemore's later acknowledgment on social media that Lamar should have won the award prompted even more controversy.

"For me, it's a question of how do we wrestle with this because clearly Macklemore has issues with it," said Boone. "So, how do we destabilize the powers that be that make these decisions?"

Boone also included a plethora of historical references. He shared quotes from prominent figures such as Harriet Tubman, showed timelines of the history of race in education and discussed the wording of historical advertisements for slaves.

"The problem is when we have these talks, we talk about the present when the past has so much more to do with it than the present," said senior C.J. Green. "Sculptures are not made overnight; it takes the

artist a lot of time to rub it, touch it and put different aspects on it."

Towards the end of the talk, Boone asked for questions from the students. This spurred a lively discussion about the role of young people in activism and themes in contemporary hip-hop.

"It was unique because for me, I had never really honestly thought about hip-hop," said junior Jared Gasaway. "The hip-hop culture and underground counter culture that is going on with Ferguson and whatnot is a reflection of that divide (between races and classes)."

Boone focused on students throughout the conversation. He moved throughout the room and several times stopped to ask students for their thoughts. During the discussion about hip-hop, when students were not taking notes on him, he took notes on the students' comments.

When asked about the role of the audience in bringing about change, he emphasized it would be the young people, not his generation, who would make the biggest difference.

"I tell my students when they make all these complaints, 'Let's leave class and go talk to the chancellor; I guarantee this s— will change,'" said Boone. "But they don't want to. When they get serious about that, in the same way the Greensboro Four were serious and the same way that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Charlotte (was serious), all this s— is going to change."

Fall Registration is soon

CCE students can register beginning April 11

First-Years

Friday April, 17

earned credits:
less than 24earned credits:
56-87

Monday April, 13

Juniors

Sophomores

Wednesday April, 15

earned credits:
24-55earned credits:
88 or greater

Saturday April, 11

Seniors

All holds must be cleared
BEFORE
you can register!To check your holds, log
on to BannerWeb

Online registration begins at 7 a.m. on the date specified