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Methodist's Longleaf Press Showcases Poets

By Mary Dewey
Staff Writer

Methodist College's Longleaf Press showcased its 1998 poetry chapbook contest award winner and runner-up in a poetry reading that took place Saturday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Berns Student Center.

The poetry reading was included in the schedule of events during the college's recent Southern Writers' Symposium.

Runner-up, Carole Boston Weatherford, a native of Baltimore, currently lives in High Point, NC. Literary titles to Weatherford's credit include her chapbook, *The Tan Chanteuse*, and several children's books, such as *Juneteenth Jamboree* and *My Favorite Toy*. Weatherford presented

high-energy poetry during the reading that highlighted her love for jazz and family tradition.

1998 Longleaf Press Poetry Chapbook Contest winner Barbara Presnell is a native of Asheboro, NC and currently lives in Lexington. Presnell won the North Carolina Poetry Society's Zoe Kincaid award in 1994 with her first chapbook, *Snakedreams*. Presnell received an undergraduate and Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master of Arts from the University of Kentucky. Presnell teaches literature and creative writing at Catawba College in

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MC Alumna First Runner-Up in Miss America Pageant

By Jameil Boone
Staff Writer

Kelli Bradshaw, a graduate of Methodist College and Miss North Carolina 1998, took the title of First Runner-Up in the 1998 Miss America Pageant. Kelli also won a preliminary award in the swimsuit compe-

dition. Kelli has received \$45,000 in scholarships since 1996, when she first started competing in pageants. Through this experience, Kelli has won money to help her achieve her goal, which is to attend graduate school. Several of the local papers mistakenly reported that Kelli is currently in graduate school, but Kelli reports that she is not in graduate school nor has she applied for medical school yet. She will devote this year to travelling, but she plans to continue her education after a year's break. She hopes to earn a Master's degree in Microbiology, and enter East Carolina University School of Medicine.

As Miss North Carolina, Kelli would like to add a statewide CPR course to the high school health curriculum. Kelli's volunteer service taught her the importance of human life. During the interview portion of the pageant, Kelli expressed the rewards of working in a field where she has the opportunity to save lives.

In a telephone interview, Kelli, who still thinks of herself as "a plain country girl from Spivey's Corner" shared a bit of personal history about the Spivey's Corner Hollerin' Contest. Although she did not compete, her great uncle was the first champion. She made the decision to compete in pageants for scholarship money, and for "the chance to speak about something I feel strongly about." When asked her opinion on the relevance of the swimsuit competition and the



Poets Carole Weatherford (l.) and Barbara Presnell.

belief by many women that the competition is degrading to women, Kelli expressed the opinion that it was not degrading. She believes it shows that she is "devoted to physical fitness," and that she is committed to taking care of herself. She also added that none of the other contestants found it to be degrading.

When asked to give advice to students at Methodist College, Kelli responded, "Keep your mind on your goals—what you want." She also suggested that young women consider participation in the Miss America pageant which has given over 30 million dollars in scholarships.



Kelli Bradshaw

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