

Students select three professors to deliver last lectures

What would you choose to say if this were your last chance to speak before an audience? That question is posed to professors who are nominated by their students for the ASU Last Lecture Series each year. Three ASU faculty have been chosen to present their "last lectures" at the 2002 Last Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m., April 10, 18 and 24.

This year's honored teachers are English Professor Neal Lester, History Professor Laurie Manchester and Geology Professor Paul Knauth. Students nominated 106 faculty for this honor. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Students nominate professors whose lectures they find compelling. The nominated professors then indicate what they would speak about if they were selected, and a student panel has the challenging task of choosing among these outstanding faculty. The Last Lecture Series, sponsored by Co-Curricular Programs, is now in its seventh year.

Lester, whose specialty is African-American literature, will present "Let's Give 'Em Something' to Talk About: African-American Self-Creation, Self-Preservation and Community



Neal Lester



Laurie Manchester



Paul Knauth

Through Talkin' and Testifyin'." His lecture will take place on April 10 in the Memorial Union (MU) Pima Room.

Lester's interactive demonstration will illustrate the strength of the human spirit in the face of oppression and the power of talking rituals in building community among all peoples. As a testimony to his ability to engage students, Lester's nominator described his classroom as a "melting pot of excitement,

passion and 'live' learning."

The student who nominated Manchester considers her "the most involved professor" she's had in her college career. Manchester's lecture, "The Olympics, Mail-Order Brides and the Cold War: Is Russia Deviant or Part of the Western World?" will be April 18 in the MU Alumni Lounge.

Manchester's lecture will dispel some common myths about Russia and will present an

"insider's view" of the Russian people and culture. Drawing upon her years of study, as well as her experiences living in Russia, Manchester will shed light on this often misunderstood country.

The final lecture will be April 24 in the MU Pima Room. Knauth will present "What is Nature Doing? Campfire Reflections on the History of Life in the Cosmos." In a letter nominating Knauth for the Last Lecture Series, a student wrote, "(He) has always had the capability to capture and humor his audience ... His visionary perspective and creative approach are very impressive."

Knauth's current research is in the area of astrobiology, and his lecture will explore the changing nature of the earth and life on Earth through geologic time. He will challenge conventional wisdom on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence and will offer some insight into what might lie ahead.

Each event begins with a reception at 7 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Co-Curricular Programs at (480) 965-9600 or visit the Web at (<http://www.asu.edu/vpsa/partnerships>).

SEE ASU full of wonder for students, mom

By Ina Smith

On the morning of March 29, the first- and second-graders at Broadmor Elementary School were so excited they could hardly stand it. They were all feeling the effects of "field trip fever." With an abundance of enthusiasm, first grade teacher Flo Geck gave her class instructions.

"If you are being a good listener, show me a thumbs up," she said firmly.

The classroom became quiet and a wave of little thumbs went up. She smiled tenderly and paused before explaining the rules for the walking field trip to SEE ASU – stay together, hold hands crossing streets and remember to be a good listener.

"Yes, Ms. Geck," they promised in unison.

With bottled water and lunches in their little backpacks, about 140 Broadmor students, their teachers and several parent helpers cheerfully began the hike to Wells Fargo Arena.

My seven-year-old son Austin Ball had never attended SEE ASU, and he was psyched.

"I want to see science contraptions," he said as he got in line with the others. "I want to see fossils and bones and stuff."

About 45 minutes later we reached the arena. Before going in, we sat on the grass and unpacked our lunches. As we ate, I asked Austin's classmate Andrea Salas what she wanted to see inside the exhibit.

She pondered my question as she took a sip from her juice box.

"I want to see animals," she finally replied. "I want to be a vet when I grow up. I want to take care of a lot of different animals."

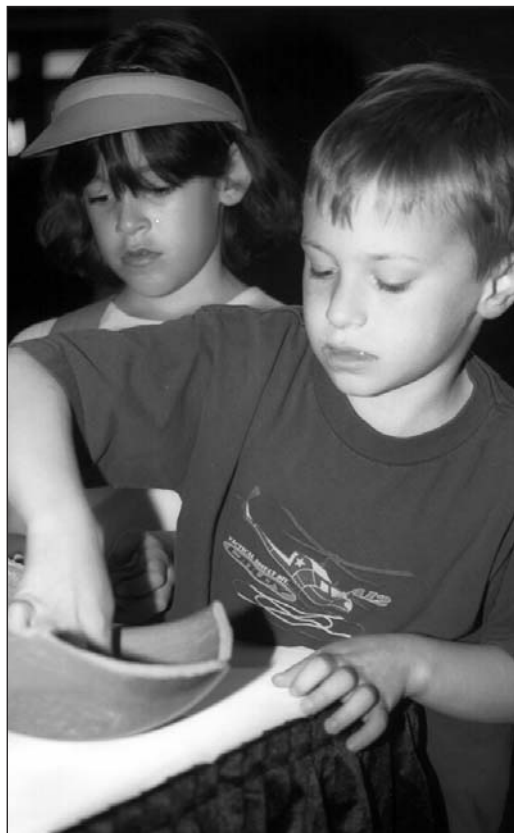
Salas' mother Aniuska Garcia smiled brightly at her daughter's response and said she was really enjoying her day as a parent helper.

"SEE ASU is a wonderful idea," Garcia said. "The children are having so much fun."

Once inside, the children got to look at cells under a microscope and check out the Center for Environmental Studies bugs and birds display.

While the girls learned more about the Techgirl Web site, Austin tried out the ASU Police riot shields, helmets, handcuffs and batons.

Another booth he loved was one where several animal skeletons were lined up. Each had a label asking, "What am I?" There was a cat



John Buchholz photo

Broadmor Elementary School first-graders Austin Ball (right) and Andrea Salas participate in one of the activity centers featured at SEE ASU on March 29. The event provided Valley students and the community with the opportunity to learn about science and technology in a fun atmosphere.

skeleton, a monkey skull and even a Rhinoceros skull – including its huge teeth.

"Look mom," Austin said. "It doesn't look like the rhino was a very good brusher. Look at those teeth."

"Oooh groooss," the kids chimed in.

The group was thrilled by the images and animations about the Galileo, Mars Pathfinder and Mars Global Surveyor missions.

"I want to be an astronaut,"

Austin declared.

"Me too," said his friends.

Next the group played an interactive guessing game at the "Ask a Biologist" booth, presented by Life Sciences and ASU Research Publications.

When it was time to head back to Broadmor, Ms. Geck said she was really impressed with the exhibit.

"There were so many great hands-on activities," she said. "It was absolutely worth it. It is wonderful to see them get so excited about science."

Smith, with Media Relations & Public Information, can be reached at (480) 965-8145 or (ismith@asu.edu).

In Person

Two ASU juniors earn competitive scholarships

By Sarah Auffret

Two ASU students have won highly competitive scholarships, one of which will fund an around-the-world research trip this summer.

Michael Cocco, a junior in economics, won the Circumnavigators Scholarship and will visit seven countries to analyze living costs for senior citizens. Esther Ellsworth, a biology junior, has received the national Udall Scholarship to pursue a career in environmental public policy.

Cocco, a 1999 graduate of Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, will receive \$8,000 for a self-designed trip that will take him to China, Russia, Greece, Norway, South Africa, Jamaica and Costa Rica. He will collect information on living costs and meet with government representatives to develop a senior citizen cost-of-living index for each country, taking into account government subsidies.

Working as an intern in the Elder Affairs Program of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Cocco became interested in the kinds of social assistance available to seniors around the world. He is writing an honors thesis on the topic, examining the pressure that will be put on assistance programs as baby boomers retire.

A presidential and Regents scholar, Cocco also works as an admissions counselor in the MBA program at ASU and as a resident assistant in the residence halls.

Ellsworth, who also was named last month to win a national Truman Scholarship, will receive \$5,000 to help pay tuition and living costs for her senior year. About 70 students from across the United States are chosen each year for the Morris K. Udall Scholarships, to help them prepare for careers in environmental policy, health care and tribal policy.

Having grown up in Prescott, Ellsworth currently is a teaching intern in an elementary school science classroom and has developed K – 12 classroom materials for the Southwest Center for Education and the Natural Environment. She plans to attend law school and pursue a doctorate in bioethics and environmental health.

The Circumnavigators Scholarship is awarded every other year by the Phoenix chapter of the Circumnavigators Club, an international organization founded 97 years ago to promote global fellowship and understanding.

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ASU Insight

ASU Insight is published by Media Relations & Public Information, a department within the Office of Institutional Advancement. Insight is published on Fridays, except during university holidays and other times as deemed necessary by the Insight editorial board.

Submit items typed, double-spaced. The editor reserves the right to edit for style and space.

Bring items to the Administration Building, room B170. Send e-mail to (asu.insight@asu.edu). Fax (480) 965-2159. Send campus mail to 1803 – ASU Insight. Telephone (480) 965-9689.

Deadlines: Submit all articles, notices and calendar items as early as possible. **Deadline is Friday before 5 p.m. for the following Friday's paper.**

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