

Humanities department hosts birthday celebration

Ben Franklin turns three hundred years old

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Faculty and students from the School of Humanities celebrated the 300th birthday of founding father and beloved American Benjamin Franklin on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006, in the Gallery Lounge.

Dr. George Boudreau, who is currently writing a book about the famed founder, enlightened several students on the life and times of Franklin with a lecture and slide show presentation in celebration of his birthday. The lecture and slide show was then followed by birthday cake.

Franklin was born in Boston, Mass., on Jan. 17, 1706. He was the 10th son of a soap maker who aspired to make his son a clergyman.

After one year his father could no longer afford to school Franklin. Throughout Franklin's lifespan he received eighteen months of formal education.

At the age of fifteen he became an apprentice printer at his older brother James' print shop.



Dr. George Boudreau led the celebration of Ben Franklin's 300th birthday in the Gallery lounge with a lecture and slide show presentation.

Before long, Franklin found himself living and working in Philadelphia to escape an unwanted life in Boston.

It was in Philadelphia that Franklin found fame and fortune. In 1726, Franklin started his own printing press in Philadelphia, publishing the most circulated paper in the British Colonies, *The*

Pennsylvania Gazette. His most famous work, *The Poor Richard's Almanack*, was also published in Philadelphia.

Also in Philadelphia, Franklin started the first public library, which was a huge success. In the 1730s and 1740s he helped launch projects

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Avoiding Internet scams

By **BRIANNA GUYER**
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As holiday season came and went, many people turned to the World Wide Web to purchase gifts for their loved ones and friends. While that may have helped in purchasing that hard-to-find gift for your distant cousin, it had the potential to present some problems in terms of Internet scams.

These types of scams are on the rise this time of year and one should be somewhat leery of handing out too much information or cash to an Internet auction or online-based company.

In deciding to purchase items online, there are certain things of which to be aware. When using websites such as eBay to purchase a wide variety of products and even those larger purchases such as buying a car on a website like AutoTrader.com, one must be skeptical.

One major thing that should tip off buyers that the transaction might be a

scam is if the seller asks the buyer to use an escrow service to pay for the item at hand.

MSN Encarta defines escrow as "an amount of money or property granted to somebody but held by a third party and only released after a specific condition has been met."

Payment sites like BidPay and SquareTrade never perform escrow services and, if a seller asks you to use one of these services for escrow, the transaction is most likely a scam.

If there is an encounter with a suspicious seller and the buyer is still not tipped off that the transaction is an outright scam, there is another way to tell that the "escrow service" is not legitimate.

Fake escrow services typically try to herd a customer into three payment methods. The first would be wanting payment through a Western Union cash transfer.

Second would be making the customer unknowingly send payment into the E-Gold, E-Bullion networks, EvoCash or

E-Dinar type currency transfer.

Finally, making the customer wire payments directly from their checking account into an illegitimate "escrow company's" bank account.

If the transaction at hand looks like a scam but does not claim to use an escrow service, there are still ways to determine the legitimacy of the sale.

The MSNBC Web site lists signs of possible fraud and how to confirm them on eBay.

Signs on the list include looking at the seller's telephone numbers or address and attempting to confirm them, staying away from auctions that begin and end over a weekend (since eBay customer support is light during those days), trying not to buy from brand-new sellers that have no sales history, and to not buy low-priced high-ticket items, like high-definition TVs, laptops, or jewelry, especially if there are multiple items for sale.

If a "seller" ever contacts the buyer via e-mail asking for any kind of personal information, be sure to scrutinize the e-mail, company, or seller thoroughly before sending the information. Online fraud and identity theft often begin with a spoof e-mail requesting financial information.

These spoof- or scam - e-mails often impersonate a reputable company such as AutoTrader.com by illegally displaying a company's name, logo, or trademark.

The Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union, PSECU, notes that, "The intent [of these "sellers"] is to deceive customers into revealing information such as their username, password, social security number, bank account number, bank routing number, and/or credit card number." PSECU says to always report suspicious e-mails to law enforcement.

Many of the people who have been victims of Internet scams have banded together to prevent this from happening to others.

Hundreds of members of eBay's unofficial neighborhood watch team scour eBay daily looking for suspicious auctions, and many other groups have been set up to search Yahoo and other auction sites for obvious scams. Their tireless efforts have helped many from being the victim of Internet fraud.

Internet scams are definitely something to look out for, but the potential threat of one occurring should not completely turn one off from buying items online.

If one feels uncomfortable buying products online, there are (of course) many other options for purchasing items such as visiting your local mall. If one has decided to buy something online and thinks he or she has encountered a scam be sure to contact local authorities, the internet provider, or a scam prevention website.

Top Ten Internet Frauds of 2005

Category	% of All Complaints	Average Loss
Auctions* <i>Goods never delivered or misrepresented</i>	42%	\$1,155
General Merchandise <i>Sales not through auctions, goods never delivered or misrepresented</i>	30%	\$2,528
Nigerian Money Offers <i>False promises of riches if consumers pay to transfer money to their bank accounts</i>	8%	\$6,937
Fake Checks <i>Consumers paid with phony checks for work or items sold, instructed to wire money back</i>	6%	\$4,361
Lotteries/Lottery Clubs <i>Requests for payment to claim lottery winnings or get help to win, often foreign lotteries</i>	4%	\$2,919
Phishing <i>Emails pretending to be from well-known source asking to confirm personal information</i>	2%	\$612
Advance Fee Loans <i>False promises of personal or business loans, even if credit is bad, for a fee paid upfront</i>	1%	\$1,426
Information/Adult Services <i>Cost and terms of services not disclosed or misrepresented</i>	1%	\$504
Work-at-Home Plans <i>Kits sold on false promises of big profits from working at home</i>	1%	\$1,785
Internet Access Services <i>Cost of Internet access and other services misrepresented or services never provided</i>	1%	\$1,262

For more statistics or to report suspicious fraudulent activity, visit Fraud.org. Statistics courtesy of Fraud.org.

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Remembering a classic

Rediscover the 250-year-old legendary music of Mozart

By **NADEZDA IVANOVA**
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In 2006, Mozart's music is everywhere! On Jan. 27 the world will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of the composer.

Although Europe, especially Mozart's native Austria, will host the major occasion's celebratory events, the residents of Central Pennsylvania will have many opportunities to enjoy the music of Mozart.

For opera fans, I would like to recommend the Metropolitan Opera's live radio broadcast of Mozart's opera "Cosi fan tutte" on Saturday, January 28, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. on WITF - 89.5 FM. This broadcast will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy this exquisite work of Mozart, which was first performed in Vienna in 1790.

"Cosi fan tutte" ("Women Are Like That") is a comic opera, which tells the story of two sisters whose fiancés decide to test their love and devotion. The young men declare that they are going off to war, but they immediately return in disguise. Each friend tries to win the heart of the other sister, and the flirting begins.

Those Penn State students, faculty, and staff members who want to view Mozart's life and work from a more academic perspective will find the resources of our university's libraries quite helpful.

A basic search of the CAT catalogue on the universities library website for "Mozart" results in 2950 titles. Over 150 of which are available at the Penn State Harrisburg Library and the rest of which can be obtained through the university's inter-library loan system. These resources consist of books, articles, music scores, and audio and video recordings.

John Rossellini's book "The Life of Mozart" provides a biography of the composer and will be of interest to a broad audience.

A book entitled "The Mozart Compendium: a Guide to Mozart's Life and Music," edited by H.C. Robbins Landon, is directed toward music and art majors. Nothing can provide a better insight into the lives of geniuses than an examination of their own thoughts.

Also, consider reading "Letters of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" or "The Letters of Mozart and his

Harrisburg library has many works of Mozart available on CDs: "Don Giovanni," "Concerto in A-major for Piano and Orchestra," "The Prague Symphony," "Fantasia in G-major," "Mass in C-minor," "Works for Organ and Orchestra," and many more.

In 1984, the film "Amadeus," directed by Milos Forman, won eight Oscars and made a triumphant journey around the world. The movie was based on an original play written by Peter Schaffer.

Both the movie and the play can be found at the Penn State Harrisburg Library.

Some students will be pleased to hear that the university library has many music scores by Mozart, from operas and symphonies to piano concertos. The scores are located on the second floor of the library in the "Oversized Materials" section.

Although the peak of the Mozart celebration occurs in the month of January, the celebratory musical events will continue throughout the year. Thus, "The Patunos" (the Penn State Harrisburg Choir) will include Mozart's "Ave Verum" in their repertoire. This choral piece will be performed during the choir's Spring Concert on Wednesday, April 26, in the Morrison Gallery, Library Building, at 5:00 p.m.

Whether you are a long-time Mozart admirer or you are just beginning to discover the world of his music, enjoy the special events of this Mozart commemorative year and explore the resources of the Penn State libraries!

Mozart Web Resources:
www.mozart2006.net
www.operainfo.org
Photo courtesy of google.com

