

Performing arts center awarded 200K grant

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant, students in architecture, dance, engineering and landscape architecture will merge with art in a project next fall.

The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) — a national service and non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to developing and supporting performing arts and its professionals — awarded the Penn State Center for the Performing Arts (CPA) with the Creative Campus Innovations Grant.

Only six universities in the country received a grant, according to a press release.

CPA was awarded \$51,670 in operating support for its ongoing performing arts program, according to a press release.

To fulfill the grant's mission, CPA will work with the Diavolo Dance Company, of Los Angeles,

on "The Secret Life of Public Spaces."

The project will look at the hidden dynamics of how spaces work and the rights a person has in spaces, like where to sit, said Peter Aeschbacher, assistant professor of landscape architecture and architecture and one of the program's professors.

The program has two goals: influencing Diavolo's new performance, the world premiere which will be held at Eisenhower Auditorium, and producing three student performances, on- and off-campus.

Currently, the CPA and Diavolo are developing the new arts course, trying to recruit students and figuring out the schedule for when Diavolo will visit Penn State.

The courses that go along with the program will only be offered during fall 2011 and spring 2012, but CPA Audience and Program Development Director Amy Vashaw said the goal of the project

is to create sustainable programs.

When Diavolo — which features dancers, gymnasts and actors who collaborate for performances on moving structures — performed at Penn State in 2006, "something just clicked," Vashaw said.

"We knew we were going to do something together again," said Vashaw, who is also the project's director.

The CPA got its chance when it began working on the proposal for the grant in 2006.

And after two rounds of applications over four years, Vashaw said she felt "panic mixed with joy" when she heard Penn State won the grant.

"It was an 'Oh wow!' moment that we get the privilege to execute this, but also 'Oh wow, now we have to execute it,'" she said.

The group is excited about Diavolo's use of people interacting with moving objects and wants to add in the impact of landscape.



Chloe Elmer/Colegian

Members of STOMP perform in a Center for the Performing Arts (CPA) show earlier this year. The CPA was recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

"Landscape has form and impact on spaces," Aeschbacher said. "Landscape moving with dance becomes a kind of simulation of actual spaces. That formed

the pitch for the project: active people, active objects and active topography."

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Alumnus publishes Internet safety guide for teens

By Julie Mastrine
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State alumnus Jeff Sechler tackles Internet safety concerns in his first book: "Young Adult's Guide to Safety in the Digital Age."

The book, which targets people ages 14-22, provides information and advice to young adults who want to be smart about using the Internet. The book covers a variety of issues, like texting and sexting, identity theft, Internet addiction and online reputation.

Sechler, Class of 2003, is now a web developer and IT consultant at University Park. He became interested in writing a self-help book when a student who had

attended an Internet safety conference was concerned about protecting information. The student approached him about deleting the student's website from the Penn State servers.

"I came to realize that there were no good sources out there for the young adult population regarding Internet safety," Sechler said. "Most of the books were geared toward parents and how to talk to their kids about it. There was nothing for the kids themselves on what to do and how to protect themselves."

Young people need to know that when they put personal information online, risks are involved, Sechler said, citing status updates and away messages as examples.

"Those types of messages tell people where you will be, but they also let people know where you won't be," he said. "If you post online that you won't be at home, people could potentially seize that opportunity to go into your home and steal your things."

What may be an even bigger concern for college students is online reputation. The book covers why it's important for young adults to maintain a professional appearance online, Sechler said.

"Your online reputation will definitely affect your job search," Sechler said. "It's a tough job market as it is, and something as simple as what profile picture you have on Facebook can make or break your application process."

Lawrence Knorr, owner of the book's publisher Sunbury Press, said the book is a valuable reminder to young people of the consequences of their actions.

"All young people make mistakes, but the difference is that in the past the Internet wasn't there to capture all of those mistakes and broadcast them to everyone," Knorr said. "People need to think bigger than what's going on right there in front of them and think about the ramifications if something ends up on Facebook."

Some students said they think the book will be useful to those who may not have given much thought to their online reputation.

"College students are transitioning from the high school stu-

dent world into the professional world," Cecilia Miyares (senior-theatre) said. "They need to monitor the information they put out there for future employers."

Miyares said she has her e-mail address on her Facebook, but because her page is set to private, she's not worried.

But Michael Steel (senior-broadcast journalism, international relations and Spanish) said it can be hard for students to monitor exactly what goes online.

"There's this social explosion that's happened with the Internet, so you're pressured to keep up with everything that's happening online," he said.

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010:

This year, you are able to make a change in how you structure your life. The question remains: Do you really want to? Your finances and domestic life become increasingly important. Realize your limits. Try not to be so serious all the time. Develop techniques to lighten up. You will detach and make better decisions. If you are single, you could be startled by what 2011 blows in. You might have more than one choice of suitor. If you are attached, the two of you will start having more fun together if you can stay light and easy. CANCER can pressure you with ease!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** Moods change quickly, and you could be overwhelmed by everything that seems to be flying at you. Someone you'd counted on to remain steady pulls away. This person also could be very angry. Find out what is cooking here. Tonight: Stay home.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** Postpone a discussion if you can. Your mood swings from overindulgent to closed down. What could be upsetting today might be meaningless another day given time. Focus on absorbing more information. Research and matters at a distance are favored. Tonight: How about a movie?
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** What is motivating you and your ideas is great, but the timing is off. Go

off and maybe buy a lottery ticket if you feel lucky, or get into a long-overdue project. Beware of expenses and hidden costs. Tonight: Treat a friend to a drink and munchies.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** As the day progresses, especially if you are an early riser, it gets better. Though you might be tempted to use that innate magnetism to draw results, watch out for manipulation. That behavior also has its costs. Tonight: Top dog.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Kick back and work on becoming less involved, if only for a few days. You might be stunned by how much you accomplish if you can just relax. Screen your calls and don't break into the Leo socialite model. Tonight: Keep it low-key.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Understanding evolves to a new level. You could be taken back by the difference when you have support as opposed to going after a goal alone. A child or loved one could be unusually rebellious; let go. Tonight: Where the action is.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Others look around to see who will be the flag bearer. You might wonder why it is you. With your overly serious behavior lately, many might think you are more responsible than you are, or perhaps that you like responsibilities a lot. Tonight: Could go till the wee hours.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** You might want to weave your way out of a discussion in order to get more facts. Tap into several experts' opinions. There is no such thing as too much information, but make sure some-

one has his or her facts straight. Tonight: Revising your opinion.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Your instincts tell you to defer to a partner or loved one. You demonstrate your confidence in this person. Be willing to work through a money issue. When in a lighter setting, you find a friend or acquaintance heavy. Tonight: Accept an offer.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Of all signs, no one expects you, the Goat, to get flaky on them, though you might not see the profound change you are going through in this light. Don't become overly heavy or serious, if possible. Tonight: Let someone else decide.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Do what you need to do, but don't have any great expectations. Try to discover whether you are tired or just bored. Make adjustments to relieve this condition. Tonight: Early to bed.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Express your creativity without offending a key character in your life. This person of late could have been extremely manipulative. Pressure builds within a partnership. Tonight: Let your hair down.

BORN TODAY
Actor Eric Stoltz (1961), singer Johnny Mathis (1935), actress Angie Dickinson (1931)

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