Sounding of Brazil echo at DCCC

By Joseph Giordano
Staff writer

Samba rhythms and the sound of conga drums filled the air in DCCC’s large auditorium on March 5 when musicians showcased Brazilian music, highlighting some of its most important elements.

The five performing musicians are members of a larger group called Alo Brasil, which is based out of Philadelphia.

Alex Shaw, a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist with Alo Brasil, introduced the band members and explained the types of Brazilian music they were playing, as well as the origins of the different styles and rhythms.

The other four members were Patricio Acevedo (guitar), Jeremy Dyen (keyboard), Josh Robinson (percussion), and Francois Zayas (drums).

Karen Rege, DCCC’s director of library services, organized and hosted the event.

The 45-minute set began with a demonstration of Ijexa, a mix of samba and African music brought over by slaves to various parts of Brazil but mostly centered in the state of Bahia, Shaw explained.

The music featured prominent use of the agogo, an iron instrument with two different sized bells that produce pitched notes. Shaw explained the history of the various musical instruments and how they played a part in the song’s structure.

Recessionista shops at thrift stores

By Katy O’Dwyer
Managing Editor

In these tough economic times, it’s hard to be well put together and fashionable. From clothing to accessories, everything is overpriced and there seems to be no way out of paying forty bucks for a wallet.

A great way to get a lot for less is going over the consignment and thrift shops in the area and dredge up some good deals.

First stop is Plato’s Closet, located on Speak Road in Springfield. Plato’s closet is a consignment chain that originated in Columbus, Ohio, and is now become a national franchise. The stores are individually owned and operated, and each buy “brand name, gently used” clothing for small fees.

The Springfield store is mostly geared towards teenage girls, but the staff kindly refers the more mature shoppers to the Paoli location, right off Route 30 by the train station.

Now this place is a goldmine of cheap designer brands aiming towards young women in their early 20’s, with brands like Free People and Express selling for less than $20.

The next pick is Dandy Deals, located on King Street in Malvern, Pa., which is just a short 15-20 minutes away from the Main Campus.

The store mainly sells housewares and furniture, but has a great section in the back where one can buy used clothes for two dollars and up.

This place also has plenty of cheaper accessories.

“It took us a while to learn how to price things,” said Melissa Kandratavich, who opened the store with her twin sister Lynn less than a year ago.

The store has thrived in the little town of Malvern and has a loyal customer base.

The store is in the ground level of an old house, with each room featuring different items.

The back room is full of clothes while the former living room houses kitchenware and furniture.

“We even have a little Christmas room,” said Mr. Thomas in Dandy Deals.

Networks sites endanger users privacy

By Michael Brisgone
Staff writer

Social networking sites draw millions of people to sit in front of their computers for hours each day. Little do these individuals know of the harm and the breach of privacy these Web sites may hold.

“Social networking sites leave you with zero privacy and no legal rights,” said Joe Shaffner, an IT developer.

Once a picture is posted on a social networking site it can end up anywhere.

According to Facebook’s privacy terms, when users sign up for the site they are allowing Facebook to redistribute any and all information in their profile without their knowledge.

“The site sets up small programs called cookies,” Shaffner said.

“These cookies copy where you go and what you do via the internet and report it back to anyone who may want it.”

If users click on any advertisement located on MySpace, MySpace is not responsible for any of the information that is collected by the cookies on the Web sites that the advertisement directs you to.

“Having cookies on your computer is essentially like constantly eating greasy foods,” said Shaffner. “Eventually it is going to start to slow down your computer.”

The cookies may add spyware which will easily lower your computer’s lifespan, Shaffner said.

According to Cohen, this service will be beneficial to everyone owning a phone. Cohen claims it will be the “death” of prank calling and the end of the telemarketer’s ability to hide in the digital shadows of communication.

“It will be the end of inappropriate anonymity,” Cohen said.

Some, however, do not share his opinion.

By Katy O’Dwyer
Managing Editor

AT&T, Sprint and Verizon provide. However, according to Meir Cohen, 27, president and co-founder of TelTech systems, such services give users a false sense of security.

“No one using the *67 feature offered by major companies was ever truly anonymous,” Cohen said.

“When you dial an 800 number, because you’re not paying for the call, the recipient has the right to oversee your restricted number.”

Operating on a similar principle, TrapCall reroutes incoming blocked calls to TelTech’s 800 “dummy” number where blocked caller’s id’s are reprocessed and re-sent to the person being called in a matter of seconds. This triangulation gives TrapCall users instant access to the phone number, billing information and name of the once private caller.

However technology blogs, both private and corporate, have questioned TrapCall users’ right to disable a service for which many Americans pay top dollar.

“It is your right to know who is knocking on your door before opening it,” Cohen said.

“It’s your right to know who’s calling before answering.”

According to Cohen, this service will be beneficial to everyone owning a phone. Cohen claims it will be the “death” of prank calling and the end of the telemarketer’s ability to hide in the digital shadows of communication.

“It will be the end of inappropriate anonymity,” Cohen said.

Some, however, do not share his opinion.
“Music is a part of people’s daily lives in Brazil. People communicate with music, and it is a part of Brazilian social life.”

Alex Shaw
member of Alo Brasil

“People communicate with music, and it is a part of Brazilian social life.”

Contact Joseph Giordano at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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Melissa said. “We have to have a variety of things, and keep people coming back.”

Bella Boutique and Consignment in Exton is a great pick for the high-end clothing shopper. With Coach and Vera Bradley bags, designer shoes, and a large selection of denim, this store is a must for any fancy lady on a budget. Since Bella has been under new ownership in 2005, they have been an award winning shop that has “boutique-like setting” so you won’t feel like you’re thrifting shopping.

This shop may be a little stretch from Delaware County, but it is well worth the gas. Each of these thrift shops has something for every shape and size. It is important to spend hard earned money at these places to keep them in business, dishing out the goods for less.

Contact Kathy Dreeser at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Questions & Answers with Alex Shaw, of Alo Brasil

By Joseph Giordano
Staff writer

Q: How did you become a musician?
A: I grew up in a musical family. My father was a classic cellist and my stepmother was a professional violinist. My brothers are also string players. I started playing piano and percussion in high school. I eventually branched out into Latin and Brazilian music.

Q: What drew you to this style of music?
A: I really felt the emotional response of it and acquired a profound affinity for it. It inspired me and I listened to it for hours everyday.

Q: How did you become involved in Alo Brasil?
A: Alo Brasil has been around for nine years. I joined the band in 2001. I had been taking Brazilian dance classes at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and I eventually became friendly with the band when they would play during the class and was invited to join them.

Q: Where has Alo Brasil played in Philadelphia?
A: We have played at World Café Live, the Trocadero, the Theater of Living Arts, as well as numerous music festivals in the Philadelphia area.

Q: Do the songs you play feature any certain musical structure?
A: There is an established structure, but sometimes we just have some fun and just go with the music. We play a mix of originals, covers, and traditional songs.

BRAZIL from Page 1

Robinson introduced the congas, adding rhythmic qualities to Zayas’ performance on the drums.

The next form of music performed was Capoeira, which Shaw said encourages participation from the audience.

“This music is a not spectator sport,” said Shaw. “Everyone joins in.”

Capoeira was developed by slaves from the Congo region of Africa. It is also a form of martial arts, but because slaves were not permitted to practice any form of self-defense they disguised it as a style of dance.

Introducing the instruments that were respective to Capoeira, Shaw played the berimbau, commonly known as a tambourine.

“You can hit it in so many ways to produce different sounds,” he said, using his palm and fingers to create low and high pitches.

Next, Shaw introduced the berimbau. This instrument is shaped like a bow and played by striking a string with a rod to create deep percussive sounds.

While the music played, Shaw left the microphone to demonstrate his own Capoeira moves. The band didn’t miss a beat and the performance was met with rousing applause.

Both styles of music presented have their origins in the northeast of Brazil. “The northeast is considered a holrd of music,” Shaw said. “Many of the Afro-Brazilian styles of music were developed there.”

The band also demonstrated a style of music known as Pagode. “This is music that is played after a party, usually in someone’s backyard,” Shaw said.

It was a mellow performance compared to the earlier songs with Acedeso playing the Cavaquinho guitar, a small four-stringed guitar with a sound similar to a ukulele.

The band was joined mid-show by dancer Willie Brown who added a touch of flair to the performance, twisting and turning to every note and beat.

After the show, DCCC students in the audience gathered down by the stage to participate in a workshop being held by both Shaw and Rege.

The participants picked up percussion instruments and with Shaw’s guidance were able to construct a basic song out of the different rhythms outlined in the performance. “Music is a part of people’s daily lives in Brazil,” Shaw said.

Enforcement to ensure the quality of our product and the safety of our customers,” Cohen said. And with a detailed “terms of use” contract, Cohen believes that his services will do far more good than harm.

“But the American public is not responsible,” said Megan Anderson, a 19-year-old DCCC science major. Anderson believes that information obtained by the TrapCall might encourage illegal and violent behavior by disgruntled TrapCall users towards the marked callers.

In addition to unmasking restricted calls, a feature which one can acquire for free, TrapCall offers a host of innovations only available through a paid membership, including voicemail transcription, the ability to “blacklist” or block callers, and the ability to record one’s phone call.

A default automated warning message precedes the recording of any call made or received by a TrapCall member. However, as many states do not require by law that warning be given, users may disable the message at their own discretion.

According to Cohen, the majority of TrapCall’s features are only available through cellular networks; however, in the near future, TeTech will make their services available for land line use as well.

Many experts believe virtual privacy is never certain and is only as reliable as the technology that protects it. “You have to keep track of technological advances,” said Mike Parrello, 18, a DCCC liberal arts major. “Stay alert because virtual security is remodeled and updated constantly — stay vigilant because it’s dog eat dog.”

Contact Maxwell McAdams at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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PARRELLO, 18, A DCCC LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR...
Jamming with the librarian

By Alicia Murphy

Karen Rege is the director of library services here at DCCC but she is not your ordinary librarian by any means. When the workday ends, she is ready to jam. Rege is a member of two jazz bands, both of which she started herself.

Nine years ago, Rege started a Latin jazz band called Pastiche. Pastiche is a French word that means a mixture of people coming together to play. “Although it is not a large band, each member brings so much energy that you would never know it was only seven of us,” Rege said.

Rege is also part of another jazz type band called Atiba’s Dream. The repertoire of this band includes traditional jazz and new style: free jazz, Caribbean and African influences.

“This band is composed of older masters of music,” Rege said. “I am the only non-African-American female under the age of 55 in the band.”

Rege has rehearsal for both bands every two weeks, and she also does side gigs in other jazz bands.

“A typical day for me would be to work until 4:30 p.m. or so, run home to grab dinner and equipment, and then I am off to rehearsal which is usually somewhere in Philly,” Rege said.

Karen Rege is pounding the ivory as the pianist of Atiba’s Dream. Keith McCarther is seen plucking at the bass. (Photo courtesy of Karen Rege)

By Ken McLaughlin

San Jose Mercury News/MCT

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The young man in the tall swivel chair at the mall seems lost in nicotine nirvana as he takes a deep drag on a cigarette and blows smoke rings to the surprise of passing shoppers.

Sarah Kruberg, a 21-year-old college student from Pleasant Valley, Calif., does a double take but keeps walking.

“I knew it couldn’t be someone smoking a cigarette,” she said with a laugh. “But I didn’t know what it was.”

What Kruberg saw at Westfield Valley Fair mall in San Jose was a young man plucking at the bass.

“It’s the first time I’ve seen the product,” she said. “For me it’s a new drug. I have seen them before. I was like, ‘What’s that?’ And then I was like, ‘What is that?’”

Rege, whose experience ranges from concert production to stage and artist management, said she feels fortunate to be doing what she loves. “Brazilian music and library science. "In my job, anything could happen on any given day and what I love most is that people come to me for help," Rege said. “My day is never boring and never the same. How many people can say that about their jobs?”

For more information on Pastiche and Atiba’s Dream visit www.sulsermusic.com.

Contact Alicia Murphy at communitarian@email.dccc.edu

(Photo courtesy of San Jose Mercury News/MCT)

Nati Arialli blows smoke from an electronic cigarette he sells at a kiosk in a mall in San Jose

"I believe there is a need now more than ever for librarians," Rege said. “We are more facilitators more than ever for librarians," Rege said.

By Alicia Murphy

Staff writer

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(Photo courtesy of San Jose Mercury News/MCT)

Nati Arialli blows smoke from an electronic cigarette he sells at a kiosk in a mall in San Jose
**Teenagers see serious consequences of ‘sexting’**

By Bianca Prieto

The Orlando Sentinel/MCT

ORLANDO, Fla. — After his former girlfriend taunted him, Phillip Alpert remembered the nude photos she e-mailed to him while they were dating.

He took revenge with an electronic blast — e-mailing the photos of the 16-year-old girl to more than 70 people, including her parents, grandparents and teachers.

Three days later, Alpert, then 18, was charged with transmitting child pornography. Today, Alpert is serving five years of probation for the crime, and he is registered as a sex offender — a label he must carry at least until he is 43.

“I didn’t know how bad of a decision it was,” Alpert, now 19, said recently at his MetroWest apartment. “I don’t think it’s fair.”

Alpert is one of many people across the country who are being charged with felonies and getting sentenced as sex offenders for doing something their friends do all the time, unaware of potential criminal charges.

One national study found that as many as 20 percent of teens have sent or posted nude or seminude photos of themselves in what has become known as “sexting.” Young teens are using high-tech phones to text, post or e-mail racy photos — technically what has become known as “child pornography. Today Alpert is serving five years of probation while they were dating.

Regardless of the situation, the law dictates the charges, and they have to register as a sexual offender,” Padilla said.

The consequences of sexting are unpredictable. An Ohio teen bailed herself in May after her ex-boyfriend forwarded nude photos of her, sharing them with other high school girls.

“If that guy who you used to trust all of a sudden shares it, you have no control over it,” Nightingale, with the advocacy group, said. “If you regret it and change your mind, there is nothing you can do about it, or very little you can do about it.”

For Alpert, he never asked for the photos that got him in trouble in 2007. He met the girl at a church function in 2005 and dated her off and on for about 2 years, he said. At one point the girl took nude photos and videos of herself and sent them to his e-mail.

He tried using them against his ex-girlfriend with the mass e-mail after she called him and said she was much happier without him. Although Alpert was charged with transmission of child pornography, the girl was never in any legal trouble. She did not respond to requests for interviews with the Sentinel.

Since his arrest and conviction, Alpert’s life has been difficult.
Scientists examine how social networks influence behavior

By Faye Flam
The Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT

PHILADELPHIA — Convention wisdom holds that it’s not what you know but who you know. By now, most social scientists are skeptical. But now scientists studying networking are taking to realize that when it comes to much in life, it’s also what you know who you know, and perhaps also who those people know.

Drawing from career science, sociology and other disciplines, researchers are starting to figure out how those branching thickets of human social networks are shaping our tastes, our purchases, how we vote, and even our health and happiness.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Michael Kearns is using controlled voting experiments to show how a small minority view can win over an overwhelming majority.

Kearns, a computer scientist and expert on machine learning and game theory, examines the connections between networks and how people believe in settings as diverse as voting and the vulnerability of the Internet to terrorism.

His human experiments and others like it could overturn our notion of the way trends and influence spread through society, said Duncan Watts, a physicist and networking expert at Yahoo.

Watts said the marketing firm and much of the public have embraced the idea that humanity is run by a minority of well-connected “influentials” who help ideas spread like infectious viruses.

“It’s an idea popularized by books such as Malcolm Gladwell’s ‘The Tipping Point.’ But nobody knows if it really works this way,” Watts said.

“For this all discussion about influential and how they drive word-of-mouth despite the empirical evidence — no real theory,” said Larry Naison, a black studies scholar. He said, is starting to bring a more hard-science approach to bear on the issue.

For his most recently published experiment, Kearns created a network from a group of 36 subjects. He put each one at a workstation linked to between two and 18 others.

They were asked to vote for red or blue. If everyone in the group could agree on a color within one minute, everyone would get rewarded with money. If they failed to reach consensus, they would get nothing.

But none of the subjects preferred different colors. Some were told they’d get paid $1.50 for each round that red won and only 50 cents if blue won. For others the incentive was reversed.

“People can’t really perceive the outcome to their liking, Kearns said, even if the majority has a strong incentive to go the other way. In this case having some fraction of extremists is actually helpful, but students want a teacher who performs

By Ronelle Bradley
Staff writer

As a part of Black History Month, DCCC honored W.E.B Dubois, a prominent figure in black history, with a screening of “W.E.B Dubois: A Biography in Four Voices” by Louis Messiah on Feb. 26. The documentary highlighted Dubois’ work as a sociologist, scholar and activist for African-Americans.

“Dubois was such a towering figure,” said Messiah who is the executive director of Scribe Video Center, a non-profit organization that offers amateur film makers the opportunity to produce videos dedicated to social issues and community life under professional instruction. “He is someone who believed that as [African-Americans] we needed to analyze where we are.”

According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which Dubois co-founded, Dubois devoted much of his life to gaining equality for African-Americans.

The NAACP’s mission is to ensure political, educational, social and economic equality for all people and to eliminate hatred and racial discrimination.

“Being a scholar, Dubois was committed to social improvement and political change to have a true democracy,” Messiah said.

Dubois wrote numerous books and magazines catered to the African-American way of life. One of his well known books, “The Souls of Black Folks,” was based upon his research of African-Americans in their community between 1897-1903. The book featured 13 essays and one short story.

“I love the way the book is put together,” Messiah said.

One of Dubois’ essays from the book is titled “Of our Spiritual Strivings,” a nine-page essay focused on African-Americans in society.

Dubois expressed how African-Americans lacked a race and cultural identity in America. Constant brutality such as lynching and segregation are examined throughout the essay. His purpose was to expose the struggle amongst African-Americans as they fought for social and cultural integrity. Dubois’ other famous work, “The Philadelphia Negro,” examined the poverty stricken neighborhoods of African-Americans in Philadelphia.

As the assistant instructor of sociology at the University of Penn, Dubois was given the opportunity to research Philadelphia’s seventh ward, a section of between Spruce street and South streets heavily populated by African-Americans.

Dubois studied the seventh ward by surveying its residents and recorded information such as occupation and employment statistics to examine any possible links between race, poverty and criminal activity, according to The Literary Encyclopedia.

“If they’re poor, black people have a higher propensity for crime,” Messiah said.

After the presentation, Messiah fielded questions from the audience ultimately leaving attendees with a better understanding of Dubois’ life and work.

For more information on the presentation and W.E.B Dubois visit www.scribe.org or NAACP.org.

Contact Ronelle Bradley at communitymail@mdc.edu

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William Edward Burghardt Du Bois

W.E.B. DuBois, co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was honored during Black History Month at DCCC.

( Photo courtesy of naacp.org)

NAACP co-founder honored by DCCC

By Roselle Bradley

Shawn Alexander leads a class in his African-American studies program at the University of Kansas.

( Photo courtesy of Chicago Tribune/MCT)

Shawn Alexander leads a class in his African-American studies program at the University of Kansas.

After 40 years of black studies, more whites teaching courses

By Dawn Turner Trice
Chicago Tribune/MCT

CHICAGO — Shawn Alexander can recognize the look immediately. It’s one of surprise when a student enters his African-American studies class and begins standing at the front, a white guy.

“Young, it happened more,” said Alexander, 34, who grew up near Rockford, Ill., and teaches at the University of Kansas. “I’d see the kids walk into my room, look down at their registration cards and up at me, and then walk out to make sure they had the right classroom.”

Around the country this year, college campuses are marking the 40th anniversary of African-American studies programs. Although black students still largely dominate majority of the faculty, white students are increasingly making their mark, including two teaching at Northwestern University.

It may be the ultimate in inclusion as well as diversity. African-American history is taught at many Black Power movement of the late 1960s to challenge “the man” and the white status quo.

By 1973 nearly all of the country’s major universities had a black studies program, but the transition was less than smooth. When Mark Naison began teaching at Fordham University in 1969, students had a lack of encounter skepticism about a Jewish guy from Crown Heights teaching in the South.

“There was a group of Black Nationalist students who completely rejected me doing this,” said Naison, 60, who wrote about the experience in his book “White Boy, A Memoir.” “I wasn’t who they had fought for, and they would try to scare me down. I grew up in Brooklyn, I’m not a small person, I stared back.”

African-American studies programs emerged in the 1960s from the racial transformation taking place on college campuses across the country. More black students were arriving and facing racism, and they believed universities could help by adding more black professors along with courses that reflected their experiences and sensibilities.

The first black studies program began in 1969 at San Francisco State University. Nathan Hare, a black professor hired the year before to head the department, said its mission was to create a new approach to scholarship that would lead to changes on campus and in the community.

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The Communitarian is produced by both current and former students of Fundamentals of Journalism II in collaboration with Campus Life and published at Delaware County Community College. Students who would like to write for the campus newspaper and have already completed Fundamentals of Journalism I should register for Fundamentals of Journalism II (ENG 131). Students who have completed both classes are welcome back to join the senior staff. For more information, see Bonnie McMeans in Room 4311, call 610-359-5271, or send an e-mail to bmcmeans@dccc.edu or communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

By Lilach Assayag
Executive Editor

The built-in camera lens in my laptop always reminds me of George Orwell’s novel, “Nineteen Eighty-Four,” in which he describes a gloomy futurist society that is constantly surveilling its citizens to the point of being “by Big Brother,” a totalitarian entity.

Unless you’re on the FBI hotlist, however, I think the built-in camera lens is far less intimidating despite its technological ability—the government is watching you.

What online users should be concerned about, though, is their digital freedom of speech and privacy. Today, the security of the personal information they post online is used for services on the Internet that saturate the World Wide Web with personal, financial and residential information. Online tools like Google Earth and Facebook not only make it easier to check if the grass is greener on the other side of the computer screen but also can be used for malicious and illegal purposes.

Last February, Denise Finkel, an 18-year-old from New York, filed a lawsuit against Facebook and a group of her high school peers for defamation, appealing for $12 million in punitive and compensatory damages after the latter unjustly attacked Finkel’s character in their Facebook group.

The “innocent until proven guilty” concept in Finkel’s case means that without evidence of fault no one—including her peers through the aid of Facebook—has the right to publically accuse her of anything.

In courts, a person cannot be tried without proper evidence; in news writing, a reporter cannot propose allegations without first checking documentation; and in advertising, a company cannot make a statement without having data to substantiate its claims.

Should online claims on “personal” profiles and groups be substantiated by documents as well? Who should be responsible for verifying the accuracy of the posted information, the publisher or the writer? As it turns out, even your own comments on your own Web page can potentially get you in trouble.

Last month, Don Leone, a day-gate worker for the Eagles was fired after posting a hasty comment on his personal Facebook profile, criticizing the team management’s decision not to renew their contract with Brian Dawkins.

Leone worked for the Eagles for six years and was fired, cold heartedly, over the phone a few days after posting the comment—even though he had already deleted the comment at his own discretion.

Would the same happen if the comment was said out loud and overheard by a member of the Eagles management? When does the obligation to the company you work for end and your personal opinion begin?

Leone was not in uniform when he made his remark and the only link to his job might have been his name on Facebook. Does online interaction constitute private life if it is potentially viewed by thousands if not millions of people?

The prevalent use of the digital medium comes with both benefits and disadvantages. Google’s Street View feature, for example, which displays 360-degree photos of almost every crossroad in the country, takes us to places we can’t easily reach, but, occasionally, it also discloses unfurling images of individuals who got caught in the frame.

Another issue pertaining to privacy and security of information is computerized information systems. President Barack Obama’s Recovery plan reserves $20 million to research security issues that would accompany the president’s plan to implement the use of electronic medical records, an online database that would presumably reduce healthcare costs and improve the quality of care.

Surely, this may also jeopardize patients’ privacy and the integrity of their information, just as online transactions put consumers’ card information at risk.

We live in a digital age of discovery in a lawless virtual land that raises many uncertainties and questions of ownership. Until our IT experts, legal minds and law enforcers find a way to protect our digital rights, think about what you post online, read carefully the terms of use, and beware of seemingly innocent online services that might put your wellbeing at risk.

Contact Lilach Assayag at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
Attend Arcadia’s Transfer Decision Day
Wednesday, May 13
Noon to 6:30 p.m.
Grey Towers Castle

Bring your transcript for a credit evaluation. Find out about scholarships, grants and loans. Come to Transfer Decision Day and get an instant admissions decision.

Register at www.arcadia.edu/transfer.

“Arcadia made it easy to transfer— and made sure we had the courses to apply for assured admission to the Physical Therapy program.” Ashley Eisennagel (left)

“We went on Italy Preview! For $495 we got airfare, hotel accommodations, and 2 credits, too! We learned so much and had a great time.” Jennifer Eisennagel (right)

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Japanese drummers shake the Kimmel walls

By Lilach Assayag
Executive Editor

The hefty Japanese drums rested on stands on the stage, and filled the hall with roaring primal vibrant vibes, encouraging each other with enthusiastic smiles and shouts. Every year, Kodo, which translates from Japanese as “heartbeat” or “children of the drum,” leave their living-community in Sado Island of Japan and perform around the world as a part of their “One Earth” tours. On March 17, the group brought their skill and passion for drumming to the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.

The traditional Japanese drum, or “taiko,” comes in different sizes and varies in depths of sound. It is said that the sound of the “O-daiko,” a drum 4-feet in diameter that is carved from a tree, has a soothing effect that resembles the sound of a mother’s heartbeat as heard by her child in the womb.

With magnificent punctuality, ensembles of drummers performed unique compositions with a different variety of portable and staged drums while other members prepared the stage for following segments, creating a continuous mesmerizing beat.

Each segment presented a fantastically coordinated dialogue between the drummers and a carefully crafted elegant choreography that demanded physical strength, discipline and zeal.

Showing exquisite control over their instruments, the drummers incorporated the sound of the instruments’ wooden sides and even the sound of the drumsticks clacking against each other. Some compositions also incorporated flutes, traditional Japanese violin, and vocals.

“Monochrome” featured seven drummers who set in a row, each with a “shime-daiko,” a 1-foot diameter roped drum. Tapping on the drums together with interchanging strength and rhythms, the ensemble animated the changing of the seasons from drizzling rain through a hailstorm and onto gentle dew drops.

“Jang-Giwara,” another unique composition that was dedicated solely to metal cymbals, opened with two men playing on the stage while clapping their cymbals. As the two were joined by three others who were also equipped with cymbals, all sat down and captivated the audience with a wide range of sounds and rhythms they produced with those simple instruments. Spicing the show with a dash of humor, one of the segments featured three drummers in a comedic choreography, which was rewarded by the audience with cheers and outbursts of laughter.

A belling cultural experience, Kodo’s dynamic pulsing on the ancient drums carried a message of community and co-existence, individuality and cooperation.

For more information visit www.kodo.org

Contact Lilach Assayag at communimgr@mail.drexel.edu

New ‘Fast & Furious’ stalls in the excitement lane

By Roger Moore
The Orlando Sentinel/MCT

“Fast & Furious” is the fourth film in the “Fast/Furious” franchise, a tepid, repetitive and digitally augmented hot cars-hot women thriller that might probably won’t give Vin Diesel and Paul Walker the career boost that “The Fast and the Furious” did.

“Fast & Furious” welcomes Diesel back into the franchise that made him — and shows that he’s lost his fast-ball. Reprising the hard-driving/hard-loving Dom Torreto, Diesel reduces his performance to stillness — long stares, poses and limited bits of action. He’s not Eastwood, so this approach has only limited success.

Dom and his team (Michelle Rodriguez and Sung Kang, also back) are in that corner of the Dominican Republic that looks like the high desert of Mexico, hijacking gasoline super-tanker trucks.

But the law is closing in on Dom, so he leaves his woman behind and heads to Panama. A death back home lures him to L.A., where he vows revenge on the drug lord who killed one.

“Please, let this go,” his sister (Jordana Brewster) pleads. He won’t.

Any more than F.B.I. agent Brian O’Conner (Walker) will. He’s after the same mobster. And when these rivals come to blows, the Mexican mob needs fast drivers to deliver their drugs and that’s where you get to see an Allosaurus smoking? Plus, the song was pretty good.

Probably strangest sketches are about audience presidential assassination. According to them Lincoln was actually beaten to death with a hammer while watching “Hamlet.” Of course their version of Lincoln talks like a gangsta-wannabe and “Hamlet” is about vampires for some reason.

That’s one thing this show gets right — surprising the audience with either a nice twist or an oddball ending. You rarely know where a sketch is going to lead.
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Phantoms defeat Adirondack with all around performance

By Tim Brennan
Staff writer

Following a 3-0 loss, the DCCC Phantoms baseball team responded on March 16 with an impressive 8-2 home victory against Adirondack Community College.

The Phantoms dominated from the mound, in the field, and from the plate.

While the Phantoms did find themselves in bases loaded jams during the first two innings, they managed to battle their way out unscathed as freshman starting pitcher Eric Hihn began to settle down and the defense found their form.

They followed in the third by getting the first three batters out at the plate and only facing three in the fourth following a strike and a heads up double play, catching a runner away from first base.

The fifth was the only blemished inning for the Phantoms pitching staff. Hihn surrendered two runs in what would be his final inning of a strong performance. In the end, Hihn surrendered only two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and two walks.

But the bats and cleats also came out to play, as the Phantoms took the lead in the first inning off an RBI single from No. 5, Joseph Rawlings, that was set up by one of three stolen bases in the inning.

Following a very quiet second inning, the Phantoms bats exploded, adding one run in the third, three in the fourth, and three more in the fifth.

Rawlings led the way going 2-3 with three RBI's. Leadoff man Eric McAnally also had a solid game going 1-1, drawing a walk, scoring two runs, and stealing two bases.

The most eye popping hit, though, came from center fielder Travis Wrambel in the fifth inning. Wrambel blasted one to left center field that fell just short of homerun territory and went for a triple.

Wrambel is a player that team Coach Paul Motta is very excited about and fully expects to receive an athletic scholarship to a four-year school after this season. “He’ll have more scholarships than he can handle,” Motta said.

Motta coached the Phantoms for 38 years, making them a main-stay in postseason play. “Mr. Motta is like baseball God around here,” said Andrew Johnson, director of Wellness Athletics and Recreation. Johnson had nothing but praise for the team describing them as “the one team that consistently makes the playoffs.”

Johnson also noted that the team is playing more than half of their games out of conference because they want to face better competition. The team is loaded with position players, he added, but doesn’t have many pitchers.

The lack of pitching depth however, didn’t present itself on this day. After Hihn exited the game, the bullpen took over and shut the game down.

Andrew Grafstrom came in and pitched well, going three innings surrendering no runs or hits with one walk and one strikeout. Chad Sample then came in to close it out, surrendering no runs, one hit and one walk.

With 11 freshmen on the team, Motta is still searching for “the right combination of infielders and outfielders,” with the hope and expectation of making the playoffs this season.

Contact Tim Brennan at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Phantoms pitcher Eric Hihn following through on his delivery.

Sample then came in to close it out, surrendering no runs, one hit and one walk.

With 11 freshmen on the team, Motta is still searching for “the right combination of infielders and outfielders,” with the hope and expectation of making the playoffs this season.

Contact Tim Brennan at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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