

the Spotlight

on arts & sciences

Issue 1 - Fall 2015

Newsletter to connect School, 'Spotlight' events, activities

True to its mission statement, Northwestern Oklahoma State University offers educational and cultural opportunities not only to the campus community, but also to the surrounding community through its many activities and events. The School of Arts and Sciences contributes to this endeavor in meaningful ways. From hosting lectures to offering performances to conducting competitions for area high school students, Arts and Sciences students and faculty play a vital role in the life of the university. One goal of *The Spotlight on the Arts and Sciences* is to celebrate these activities.

A second goal is to recognize the scholarly accomplishments of our faculty and students. While maintaining a primary commitment to classroom teaching, faculty members continue to produce an impressive body of scholarship. Many present at local, regional, national and international conferences; others publish book-length works and articles in juried periodicals. *The Spotlight* attempts to highlight the

active role that Northwestern faculty members take in the discourses of their disciplines.

A final goal of *The Spotlight* is to feature information about a single significant effort or accomplishment within the School of Arts and Sciences by putting it "in the spotlight." In this inaugural issue, we feature information about the Heartland BEST competition, hosted by the

Department of Natural Sciences and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. In many ways the competition represents what is best about the university: dedicated faculty using their expertise to enrich the lives of our students and our community.

We hope that you enjoy this first issue of *The Spotlight on the Arts and Sciences*.



Arts and Sciences School members get together to relax, connect and celebrate the beginning of the school year. From left front: Kyle Larson, Dawn Allen, Dr. Kathryn Lane, Dr. Kaylene Armstrong. Behind: Dr. Cornelia Mihai, Dr. Steve Thompson and Dr. Tim Maharry.

Heartland BEST boosts Engineering, Science, Technology

High school and middle school students came to Alva to compete in the Heartland BEST robotics competition on Oct. 31.

“BEST stands for Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology,” explained Steven Maier, who has a PhD in science education. Maier is the director of the Heartland BEST Robotics and has been involved in the competition since 2002. “BEST is an engineering competition that is high energy and a lot of fun,” he said.

BEST’s event, called Game Day, occurs annually, and took place on Halloween this year.

Each year the competition costs around \$20,000 to host. The high cost is due to the fact that the event is entirely free to the schools who are involved. Materials for each team’s robotics kit are provided without charge.

Jenny Sattler, who has a PhD in Biomedical Physics, is in charge of the kits. She explained that all teams are required to use a kit that is provided for them. “Everybody gets an identical kit to build their robot,” Sattler said, explaining that an identical kit provides a level playing field for all participating teams.

Maier said, “It’s a pretty exciting event. We’ll have teams that bring their own bands, pep bands, mascots, and cheerleaders. It’s basically a regional athletic championship, except it’s not athletic: it’s academic. We’ve got robots competing.”

This year, teams from Oklahoma and Kansas participated.

Teams compete in two categories. Maier said, “They can compete in the Game Day competition, which is basically just how well the robot performs. The more prestigious thing they can compete in is called the BEST award.” Teams are

Continued on page 4...

BEST Concept encourages, inspires youth

BEST is a program designed to encourage youth in engineering, science and technology through a sports-like contest in which local high school students design and build a remote-controlled robot.

Education and industry professionals volunteer as mentors and coaches, providing professional expertise in the design and construction process. To simulate a “real world” business and engineering environment, some restrictions include

short development time – six weeks; limited components – identical kits provided; and specific design requirements – size, weight, etc.

BEST program goals are intended to inspire students toward careers in engineering, science and technology by showing that those fields can be fun and exciting. The BEST program was started by two engineers at Texas Instruments in 1993. The first contest involved 14 schools and 211 students. It has now grown to 41 hubs in 15 different states, with more than 850

schools and 12,500 students participating in 2010.

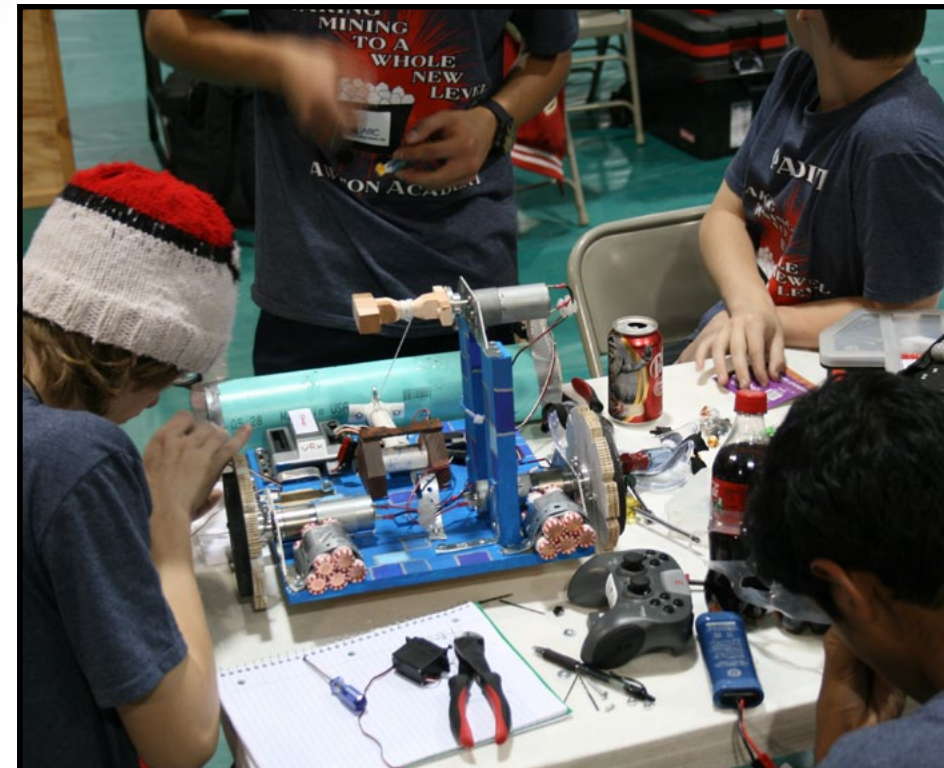
Winning teams at Heartland BEST advanced to Frontier Trails BEST at the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith on Dec. 4 and 5. There, the Heartland BEST teams performed impressively: Perry High School placed third in the game finals competition, OKC Homeschool won first place in the Most Elegant award competition, and Burlington High School won second place in the Most Robust award competition.



Above: Heartland BEST Gameday! Northwestern employees work with students from around the area at the competition.



Below: students work intently on their project.



BEST Volunteers

BEST Award Judges

Dr. Dragos Albinescu, Chemistry, NSU; Mark Bagley, Computer Science, NWOSU; Dr. Ken Brown, retired Chemistry, NWOSU; Debra Hogan, retired Computer Science, NWOSU; Keenan Meeker, Mathematics, NWOSU; Dr. Cornelia Mihai, Chemistry, NWOSU; Dr. Jennifer Page, English, NWOSU; Dr. Cindy Pfeifer-Hill, Biology, NWOSU; Evan Vaverka, Computer Science, NWOSU.

Special Award Judges

Kevin Fields and Brad Churchill

Game Day Judges & Other Helpers

Willow Gahr, Melissa Maharry, Dena Riegel, Connor Swenke, Chemistry Club, Computer Science Club, Math Club, Psychology Club, Society of Physics Students.

In the
Spotlight

Heartland BEST

Heartland BEST..... continued from page 2

judged on Game performance, table display, oral presentation, spirit and sportsmanship, and their notebooks. All five criteria are scored and count toward the BEST award.

“If they win the BEST award, which is the most prestigious, then they get a bid to go to the regional competition in Fort Smith, Ark.,” Maier explained. Students striving for the BEST award were required to give an oral presentation on the 30th. They also had to compete in a table display, which is a presentation of their product.

“The robots that they are competing with are meant to be marketable products based on the challenge that was given to them,” Maier said.

Members of Northwestern’s faculty, community members and some Northwestern student volunteers helped judge and run the competi-

tion. Students helping included Willow Gahr, a physics minor who has helped judge for the past two years, and Francis Declan, who is taking a service learning course built around the event.

Before the competition, Maier talked about the talent and ability of high school and middle school students involved. He said, “I think it’s almost a lesson for college students...It’s amazing to see what middle school and high school students come up with. We worked on a demonstration robot, and I guarantee you their designs are gonna outperform our robot.”

Sattler added, “It’s a surprise to us, too. I mean, some of the ideas they come with, it’s like, whoa, I would have never thought of that!”

Maier expressed that they hoped to continue to see the competition

as a way to recruit and get people involved in STEM. He went on to say, “Even if you don’t know robotics, there are a lot of things we can use volunteers for.”

Story originally written for the Northwestern News/Ranger Pulse by Megan Garnett, student reporter

Board of Directors

Dr. Steve Maier – Heartland BEST Director; Mark Bagley; Tom Boren; Debra Hogan;

Dr. Tim Maharry – Awards & Judging Chair; Amber Maier; Keenan Meeker; Dr. Jennifer Page; Dr. Cindy Pfeifer-Hill – Sponsorship and Finance;

Dr. Mary Riegel – Game Committee Chair; Dr. Jenny Sattler – Kit Committee Chair; and Dr. Jason Wickham.



Members of the Northwestern Family got together at a memorial service to remember Dr. Clarence Johnson, who passed away suddenly at the beginning of the fall semester. The service was organized by members of the English program.

Dr. Clarence Johnson

Mason, Schmaltz publish 3rd *Civitas* volume

Two Northwestern professors announced the recent publication of the third annual volume of *Civitas: Journal of Citizenship Studies*.

The Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies (NWICS) and the Department of Social Sciences make possible this academic publication. Dr. Aaron Mason, associate professor of political science, and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history, serve as Institute co-directors and *Civitas* senior editors.

Civitas is an annual, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed publishing venue aimed at promoting scholarship concerning the humanities and social sciences as they relate to citizenship matters. The journal draws upon the talents and perspectives of a diverse editorial review board from the United States and abroad. It welcomes both qualitative and quantita-

tive submissions by faculty and advanced undergraduate and graduate students from Oklahoma’s regional universities, two-year community colleges, and other institutions of higher education and beyond.

“We are breaking some new academic ground in this third annual volume,” Schmaltz said. “In particular, we are excited to showcase for the first time a number of student contributions from both Northwestern and outside academic institutions. In addition, departing somewhat from the previous two years’ greater local and regional focus, this edition covers an even wider range of citizenship-related topics ranging from issues in Oklahoma and Washington, DC, to distant parts of the former Soviet Union.”

Mason added, “We continue to encourage students from interdis-

ciplinary fields, especially at the graduate level, to consider submitting appropriate original research findings or book reviews for potential publication in *Civitas*. This kind of publishing venue offers many opportunities to younger scholars. It is also a way to help preserve part of our local and regional history.”

At present, Northwestern is the only regional state university in Oklahoma to operate an endowed institute that publishes its own journal.

The link to the journal’s digital copy, as well as submission requirements, deadlines and additional details concerning the journal, is found at www.nwosu.edu/civitas.

Journal print copies also are available for sale at the Institute for \$10 with checks made payable to the Northwestern Department of Social Sciences.



Above: All three of Northwestern's choral groups performed in the 'New Beginnings' concert on Monday, Nov. 23, at the Methodist Church. Pictured above are the members of the Community Choir, which met on Monday evenings. Karsten Longhurst is the choral director.



Below: Susan Duell and Lawana Newell work together for added accompaniment for the choir.

Northwestern's choir presents 'New Beginnings' concert

Northwestern's Choirs, comprised of the University Singers, the University Chorale and the University Concert Choir, presented their first concert of the year, titled "New Beginnings" on Monday, Nov. 23, at the Alva United Methodist Church.

The title of this performance represented the University Singers' new beginning with a new professor, giving the community an inside look at Karsten Longhurst, Director of Choral Studies. Each song performed holds a personal story for him. A wide variety of genre were included in this performance.

"There is so much the students and I have experienced in the short

time we have had together," Longhurst said. "We wanted to create a program that sings to how our two worlds have collided." It was Lon-

Social Work department named in national Top 10

Northwestern's Social Work program has been named as one of the top 10 most affordable selective schools for a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

According to Jamie Agamalian, Editor, *Social Work Degree Guide*, an article has been published that highlights the "50 Most Affordable Se-

ghurst's hope that the community would come to connect with the group through their singing and celebrate the 'new beginnings.'

lective Schools for a BSW" in which Northwestern has been listed in the top 10.

To read more about how schools were selected for this ranking, and to download the award badge, please visit: <http://www.socialwork-degreeguide.com/affordable-selective-schools-bsw/>

Earnest earns doctorate

Kathy Earnest is one of five Northwestern faculty members to completed a dissertation and earn their doctorate this academic year.

Earnest earned her Doctorate of Education from Oklahoma State University. Her dissertation, titled *Experiences of First Generation College Students at a Rural University on the Southern Plains as Told through Stories, Drawings, and Found Poetry*, examined how first generation college students view their college experiences as they are about to graduate or soon after graduation.

Earnest teaches English Usage, Young Adult Literature, Teaching English in Secondary Schools, Composition and Introduction to Literature.



Dr. Kathy Earnest

Enid campus plays host to Constitution Day event

Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser, M.D., keynote speaker for the 2015 Constitution Day celebration, addressed attendees at Northwestern's Enid campus on Thursday, Sept. 17. Dr. Jasser discussed the issue of reconciling Islam and liberal democracy in the 21st Century.

Jasser is the founder and president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD) and the author of *A Battle for the Soul of Islam: An American Muslim Patriot's Fight to Save His Faith*.

Jasser is a former Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy who served for 11 years as a medical officer, including a tour as the staff internist to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court. Currently, he is a well-respected internist and nuclear cardiologist in Phoenix, Arizona. He is also a past-president of the Arizona Medical Association.

A devout Muslim, Jasser founded AIFD in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on the United States in an effort to provide an American Muslim voice advocating for the preservation of the founding principles of the U.S. Constitution, liberty, and freedom through the separation of

mosque and state.

Jasser is a first-generation American Muslim whose parents fled the oppressive Baath regime of Syria in the mid-1960s for American freedom. He is also actively involved in the Syrian-American community.

This event was free and open to the public and was sponsored by Northwestern's Institute for Citizenship Studies and Department of Social Sciences. Dr. Aaron Mason, Dr. Eric Schmaltz and Dr. Kay Decker served as hosts for the event.



Dr. Cornelia Mihai works with students in one of the Chemistry labs that is offered.



Students in one of Tammy Brown's classes take advantage of great weather for an outdoor meeting.

Two Social Work students earn honors

Two students in the Social Work program were honored for their individual achievements.

Joby Saint Fleur, senior Ranger football defensive end from Winter Haven, FL, was recognized as the Great American Conference Defensive Player of the Week following a 31-16 win over Southeastern Oklahoma State.

Chasity McFadden, Waukomis, senior, was selected by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) to be a Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) recipient.

Congratulations to Joby and Chasity on their achievements!

Oklahoma's Poet Laureate is Cultural Heritage Speaker

Every fall semester Northwestern welcomes a guest speaker to present the Annual Cultural Heritage Lecture. This year's lecture was presented by Dr. Benjamin Myers, Crouch-Mathis professor of literature at Oklahoma Baptist University and Oklahoma's current poet laureate.

His talk, "Reticence and Expansiveness: Oklahoma and Its Poetry," provided discussion on the history of poetry within the state. He presented the lecture in the Ranger Room on campus and also gave a reading of his work at the Graceful Arts Gallery and Studios in downtown Alva.

Myers' visit coincided with the recent publication of *The Oklahoma Poets Laureates: A Sourcebook, History, and Anthology* written by Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies and professor of English.

"It is our honor to bring Myers to Northwestern to present the 8 Spotlight

Cultural Heritage Lecture," Holliday said. "Northwestern is becoming known for its relationship with the state's poets laureate, which began with Nathan Brown's visit to campus two years ago. This is an on-going relationship that the university will continue to foster."

The Annual Cultural Heritage Lecture Series is sponsored by the Department of Social Sciences and the Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies, the Master of Arts in American Studies program, and the Department of English, Foreign Language and Humanities.



Nathan Sacket does his best karaoke work as Dr. Claudia Young, associate professor of Spanish, hosts a karaoke event in the Wyatt Room.

Adams to be published three times

Assistant professor of English Dr. Richmond Adams is set to publish several articles soon.

Adams will be publishing a book review in the print journal *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, a three-volume collection of reviews over four individual films that were created before the 1960s.

He discusses *After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War*, written by Gregory P. Downs, an associate professor of history and graduate center at the City University of New York. Downs explores the role played by the Union military in the immediate years of Reconstruction following General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

The review will be published in the spring of 2016.

In the second publication, Adams' work will be published in a three-volume collection of reviews over four

Decker, Earnest play host to ArtPlace meeting

Kay Decker and Kathy Earnest played host to a meeting of ArtPlace staff in Oklahoma City on Sept. 10 to discuss Creative Placemaking as a Component of Community Development.

The executive director of ArtPlace presented a pre-grant session at the Overholser Mansion. ArtPlace is a national consortium of philanthropic leaders.

individual films that were created before the 1960s. The publication, titled *Racial Representation in American*

Cinema: The Complete Resource, targets the relationship between race and American cinema.

Adams will review *Judge Priest* (1934), starring Oklahoma's Will Rogers, its remake *The Sun Shines Bright* (1953), *The Searchers* (1956) starring John Wayne, and last, *Gone with the Wind* (1939), starring Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh and Hattie McDaniel.

"The four films that I am reviewing explore various aspects of racial tension, conflict and, at least in three of them, sequences that undermine racial hierarchy in ways that almost escape notice, but upon reflection are quite powerful," Adams said.

The collection will be published

in 2016 through Santa Barbara ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.

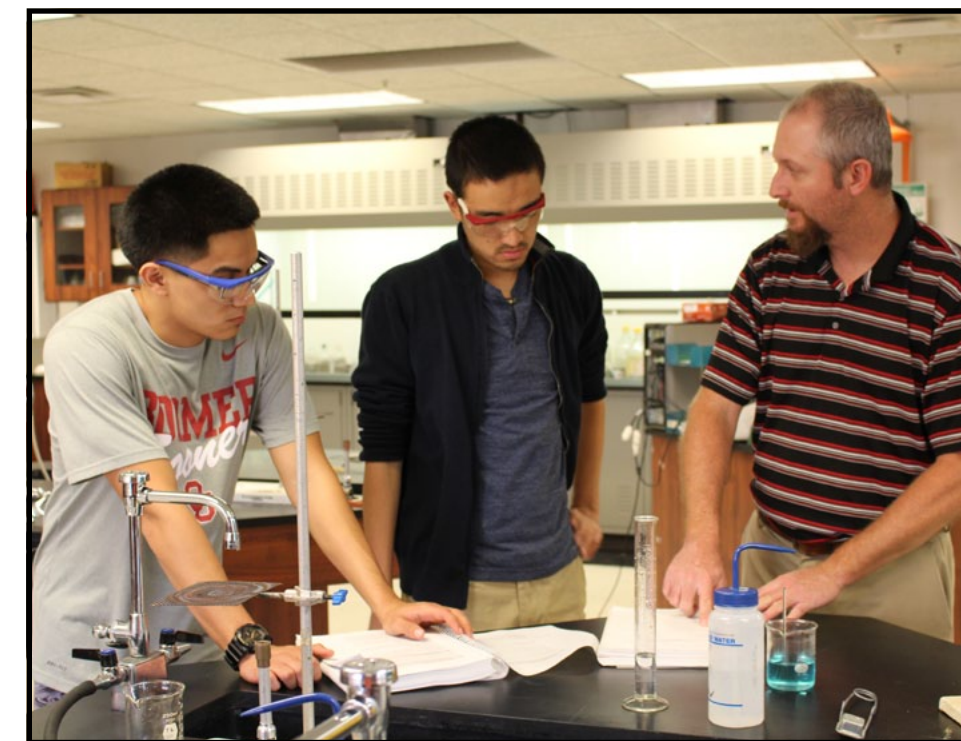
Adams' third publication was written in response to a call for articles on novels concerning the American South during the early years of the present century.

Published as a collection titled *The Twenty-First Century Southern Novel* through the literary journal *Mississippi Quarterly*, it will be in the format of a special edition within the journal.

Adams' piece will explore how Cormac McCarthy's 2005 novel *No Country for Old Men*, set in 1980, examines the changing nature of American exceptionalism, most particularly how it becomes manifest during what all critics have understood as the novel's principal moral crisis of Sheriff Ed Tom Bell's unanticipated retirement with the mass murderer Anton Chigurh still at large from law enforcement's custody.



Dr. Richmond Adams



Dr. Jason Wickham works with students in one of the Chemistry labs that is offered.

Cinderella hits the stage twice this fall

Northwestern's Fine Arts Department has presented two productions about Cinderella this fall. The first was *Cinderella Waltz* on Oct. 1-3.

Cinderella Waltz, written by Don Nigro and directed by Tracy Meza, was the perfect way to begin October with its theme of a not-so-typical Cinderella story based off the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. *Cinderella Waltz* promises to impress with its amazing cast and impressive set design along with many special effects blended throughout," said Tracy Meza, a senior at Northwestern.

The cast included nine members. Rosey Snow was played by Natalie Sacket, Fairview senior majoring in English. Zed was played by Trenton Judd, Sapulpa senior majoring in speech theatre. Mrs. Snow was played by Alica Hall, Alva graduate student in American Studies. Gon-eril was played by Hayden Nickel,

Helena junior speech theatre major. Regan was played by Karlie Klager, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, sophomore majoring in nursing. Mother Magee was played by Taylor Morris, Pacoima, California, mass comm junior. Troll was played by Mickey Jordan, Iowa Park, Texas, junior majoring in speech theatre. Prince Alfred was played by Nathan Sacket, Fairview senior majoring in computer science. Finally, Mr. Snow was played by Charlie Wiley, Ponca City, senior majoring in English education.

The *Cinderella Waltz* crew included director Tracy Meza, St. Cloud, Florida, senior majoring in speech theatre; stage manager Tali McDonald of Alva, Northwestern alumnus who majored in speech theatre; assistant stage manager, Tori Hurley, Sheffield, Iowa, sophomore majoring in speech theatre; and special effects operator Nick Wygle, Noble, a freshman who is ma-

joring in biology. The second production was *Cinderella! Cinderella!* on Nov. 19 and 20 for many area school children and Saturday, Nov. 21, for the public.

Cinderella! Cinderella!, written by Edith Weiss and directed by Kimberly Weast, Fine Arts Department chair and professor of theatre, provided humor and a great lesson right before Thanksgiving break.

In an English village in 1342, Cinderella, a plain-looking girl with big feet, has to compete with her two mean-spirited but stunningly gorgeous stepsisters for the hand of the kind and sincere prince.

With the help of her faithful feline companion, Tom, and a lovable but vision-impaired Fairy Godmother, who's always using the wrong wand, Cinderella finally learns that magic isn't the answer to her problems. Courage, kindness and self-confidence trump superficial beauty and an expensive wardrobe.



Cast members of *Cinderella Waltz*



Cast members of *Cinderella! Cinderella!*



Bands march in Homecoming parade, massed band

Ten bands marched around the square during Northwestern's Homecoming parade this year.

This was the first Northwestern Homecoming parade and massed band half-time performance for the new Northwestern band director, Dr. Marc Decker.

"I'm delighted to share that we had nearly 600 students marching in our homecoming parade this

year," Decker said. "In addition, more than half stayed for the football game and participated in a special half-time performance playing alongside the Ranger marching band in what was a memorable and enjoyable show."

Three of the directors leading their bands in the parade are Northwestern alumni. They include Cara Bradt, class of 2007; Daci Crockett,

class of 2004; and Sherri Lohmann, class of 2000.

Northwestern's Homecoming parade competition and massed band performance were made possible by a generous donation from the Charles Morton Share Trust. The Ranger band, and all the participating students, thank the trustees for their support.

"The students in the Ranger band were thrilled to provide this experience and outreach to the schools in northwest Oklahoma," Decker said. "Ride, Rangers, Ride!"



The Northwestern Jazz Band made its way to the Enid campus to entertain late in October.

Ranger Pep Band adds excitement to basketball games

The Ranger band has now moved from field marching to pep band and concert band.

Fans of Ranger basketball were more than ready for the band to make its first appearance in Percell Fieldhouse.

Make sure you check out the band adding to the excitement of the games!



Northwestern's bands and choirs were united in ringing in the holiday season during their 2015 Holiday Gala on Dec. 5 in Herod Hall. Dr. Marc Decker, director of bands, and Karsten Longhurst, director of choral studies, and their respective groups presented a spectacular event. After the concert, choir members sang while Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, lit the lights on the university Christmas tree on the lawn.

Spanish program celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, two events were planned within the Spanish program.

First, as part of Northwestern's celebration and upon Dr. Francisco Martinez's invitation, Dr. Felix J. Aquino spoke on Oct. 7.

Aquino is the vice president for academic affairs at Oklahoma City Community College, where he also

is a professor of modern languages. Discussion topics included Migration Theory, Demographics and the Future of American Higher Education.

The Spanish Club members also played host to an event recognizing Columbus Day on Monday, Oct. 12. The night included traditional Caribbean food and a poster contest

and in the Student Center Ballroom. Proceeds benefit the Spanish Scholarship Fund.

The Spanish students prepared posters about Spanish-speaking countries. Prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place winners in the contest.

All monies raised from this event were contributed to a scholarship fund named after Dorothy Day, a retired professor of Spanish and the founder of the Spanish program at Northwestern.

Barnes joins staff as ASC director

Matt Barnes, director of the Academic Success Center, is one of 36 new staff members at Northwestern.

Barnes has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and a Master of Education degree from Northwestern. He previously taught English for Northwestern and Northern Oklahoma College. He also worked as a licensed investment adviser.



New faculty members begin the 2015-2016 academic year at Northwestern. Pictured left to right in the front row are Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, assistant professor of mass communication; Mariann Braten-Hall, education; Dr. Marc Decker, assistant professor of music and director of bands; and Mistie Kline, psychology. Second row: Joshua Hawkins, education; Kyle Larson, assistant professor of art; Evan Vaverka, instructor of computer science; Dr. Cristina Gordon, psychology and chair of the psychology department; Stephanie Widick, psychology; and Dr. Christee Jenlink, education and chair of the division of education. Not pictured are Dawn Allen, instructor of English, and Karsten Longhurst, director of choral studies.



Above: Northwestern students work during one of the film seminars presented by the DeadCENTER Film Festival Organization.

Right: Lance McDaniel, Artistic Director for DeadCENTER, and Matt Adair, instructor of mass communication, have a discussion.



Above: A kick-off party was held at the Graceful Arts Center for the Salt Fork Film Festival.

DeadCENTER back for Salt Fork Film Festival

Northwestern played host to the deadCENTER Film Festival Organization Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 9-10, in conjunction with the Graceful Arts Center and Rialto Twin Theatre for the Salt Fork Film Festival. This event was free and open to the public.

The two-day event included educational seminars about film making on both the Northwestern and Alva High School campuses. It also included a kick-off party at the Graceful Arts Center and free film viewings at Rialto.

"This is all about getting the high school students and college students to engage in film," said Dr. Kay Decker, social sciences department chair. "We only made it easier by making it free."

For more information about deadCENTER, visit www.deadcenterfilm.org.

For more information on the Salt Fork Film Festival, contact

Maharry, Rogers, Kelsey attend CEP meetings

Dr. Tim Maharry, Kirk Rogers and Ken Kelsey were representatives to the Course Equivalency Project (CEP) meetings.

The meetings were held at the

Mason, Schmaltz attend 'Let's Talk About It' series

Dr. Aaron Mason and Dr. Eric Schmaltz attended the Anniversary Celebration of the "Let's Talk About It" book series hosted by the Oklahoma Humanities Council in Oklahoma City on Sept. 18.

Decker at (580) 327-8521 or kldecker@nwosu.edu.

Some information was taken from the story by Keaton Kroos, student reporter.

We want to celebrate accomplishments!

Please send future articles or ideas to us by email to Dr. Bell at jlbell@nwosu.edu.

Please list "Spotlight" in your email subject message.

List what you, your department, and your student groups are doing.

McFadden earns CWPEP stipend

Northwestern's Department of Social Work is proud to announce Waukomis junior Chasity McFadden as the new stipend recipient of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) for the 2016 spring semester.

McFadden currently is majoring in social work with a minor in sociology.

CWPEP provides funds for students who plan careers in child welfare services in Oklahoma. The stipends are awarded to full-time students majoring in social work and provide money toward educational expenses to participating students. Students who receive the stipends complete educational internships in child welfare agencies within the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Upon graduation, students are assured em-

ployment in the participating DHS programs.

"I plan to use my degree and work at Department of Human Services," McFadden said. "I have always wanted to help people, so I based my decision on that dream."

CWPEP is a Title IV-E partnership between the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Council, and Social Work Education (CSWE) in accredited social work programs in Oklahoma. The University of Okla-



Chasity McFadden

lahoma manages the child welfare consortium. Other partners along with Northwestern include East Central University and Oral Roberts University.

Funding for the educational program is provided by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, called the Child Welfare Training program.

The CWPEP program at Northwestern is administered by Dr. Kylene Rehder, social work department chair.

For more information about Northwestern's social work program, contact Rehder at (580) 327-8135 or kdrehder@nwosu.edu.

Dunbar completes structural biology research program

One Northwestern student attended the National Science Foundation (NSF) Undergraduate Research Program in Structural Biology at the University of Oklahoma (OU) this summer.

Gabriel Dunbar of Enid, a post-graduate currently completing his second bachelor's degree, was one of 10 students from universities across the nation who completed the nine-week summer program focused on research that involves a structural biology approach to answering biological questions.

"I was first approached about the program by Dr. [Jason] Wickham,"

Continued to page 15...



Students participating in the 2015 National Science Foundation Summer Research Experience in Structural Biology at the University of Oklahoma include: front row (left to right) Gabriel Dunbar, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Kristyn Norris, Mount Holyoke College; Jacob Schillo, Minot State University; Katchen Lachmayr, Roger Williams University; Daniele Ketterer, Truman State University; and Apryl Saunders, Kansas Wesleyan University; back row (left to right) Daniel Sallee, California State University, Long Beach; Marvelle "Chris" Elledge, Rogers State University; Andrew Harwell, University of North Texas; and Matthew Cyr, University of Dallas.



There was a great turnout for the first Watercolor Workshop sponsored by the Visual Arts Program and NWOSU Art Society. Artist-in-Residence Jackie Feng and Assistant Professor of Art Kyle Larson led the event.

Watercolor Workshop very well-received

Members of the Northwestern campus community, students and faculty were out in full force at the Watercolor Workshop, led by NWOSU Artist-in-Residence Jackie Feng and Assistant Professor of Art Kyle Larson, organized by the NWOSU Art Society and the Visual Arts program.

Thirty participants created their own unique watercolor compositions as they experimented with techniques demonstrated by Feng.

Attendees also viewed examples of the use of watercolor by master

artists, from Edward Hopper, Fairfield Porter, John Singer Sargent, to contemporary artists such as Eric Fischl and Phyllis Floyd. Participants explored the expansive medium of watercolor, shared strategies and techniques, and enjoyed snacks

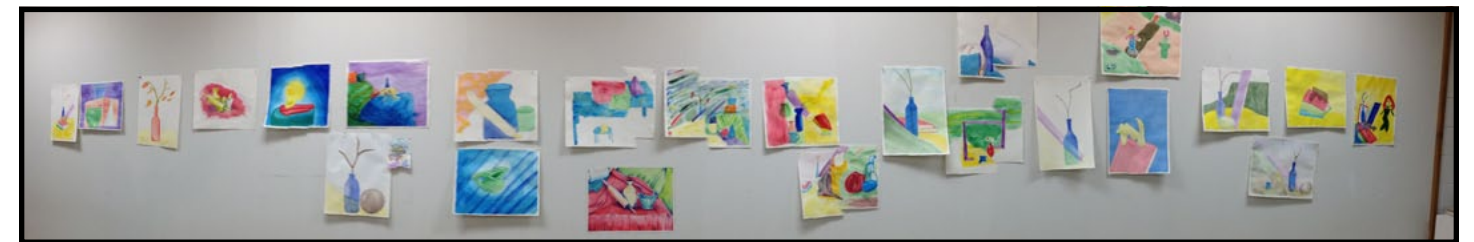
and refreshments as they viewed and discussed their finished paintings.

A short video of the workshop in progress may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/NWOSUVisualArts/posts/652414934861513>

Community workshop given

On Saturday, Nov. 21, Jackie Feng conducted a Beginners Watercolor Workshop open to the Alva community at the Graceful Arts Center.

The culminating exhibition of the work Feng created here at Northwestern was on display Friday, Dec. 4, during the First Friday Art Walk at the Graceful Arts Center, from 6-8 p.m.



Many of the finished pieces of artwork were displayed for discussion following the Watercolor Workshop.

Dunbar continued from page 14

Dunbar said. "He told me to submit an application, and before I knew it I was accepted."

The program is designed to teach students skills in lab research and how to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, understand the process of science and communicate their

research results to their peers and the public.

"The program offered firsthand research experience in a biochemistry lab, which was a phenomenal experience," Dunbar said.

The first group of students in the program presented the results of their research on July 30 during a

poster presentation at the Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center, OU College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Chemistry, on the OU Research Campus.

"Being at Northwestern and developing good relationships with my professors has opened so many doors for me," Dunbar said.

Martinez, Young earn U.S. Citizenship

Two Northwestern faculty members took the Oath of Allegiance to become United States citizens during a ceremony in Oklahoma City on May 26, 2015.

Dr. Francisco Martinez, professor of Spanish, and Dr. Claudia Young, assistant professor of Spanish, were among 45 other candidates who took the oath. The candidates watched videos during the ceremony; some featured moments of when the first immigrants arrived to America and another featured a message from President Barack Obama. Each candidate stood as his or her name and country was recognized, shortly followed by a round of applause.

"The ceremony is an unforgettable time," Martinez said. "It's like the moment we have been waiting for anxiously."

After being recognized, the candidates raised their hands and recited the Oath of Allegiance followed by listening to "The National Anthem." Finally, each candidate received his or her Certificate of Naturalization.

The United States requires that an individual must live in the country for five years before applying for citizenship unless he or she is married to a U.S. citizen, then the amount of time living in the United States is reduced to three years. The process is referred to as "Naturalization."

Martinez chose to apply after living in America since 1999. He earned his Bachelor of Education in ESL from Orient University, Cumana, Venezuela; a Master of

Education in teaching and research with an emphasis in language acquisition from Simon Rodriguez University, Caracas, Venezuela; and a Doctorate of Education in applied educational studies from Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater. Previously, he taught Spanish at OSU and Stillwater High School in 2003.

When Martinez came to America,



Dr. Francisco Martinez and Dr. Claudia Young

he brought his wife and two children with him. His wife, Berta, recently passed away. Martinez's two children are Northwestern alumni: Francis, a 2012 graduate, and Gilbert, a 2010 graduate. Martinez has been with Northwestern since 2004.

Young came to the United States in 1999 with a visa to work. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish language and literature from Escuela Nacional de Estudios Profesionales; a Master of Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Texas at San Antonio; and a Ph.D. in Spanish from Texas Tech University. Young previously served as an instructor in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages at Texas Tech University. She has been

with Northwestern since 2010.

After applying to take their test, Martinez and Young had to wait patiently for notification of a test date. Typically, the wait is anywhere from six to eight months for candidates to hear back from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

"[USCIS] schedules [the tests] in the order that they are receiving the applications," Young said. "Applicants wait until they receive a letter notifying the date and time of the test."

Martinez took his test in March, and Young took her test in April.

"From the beginning, I felt confident about the history and the questionnaire because I had studied and answered all of them," Martinez said. "It's been a long road from beginning to end. It's called the 'Path to Citizenship.'"

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides online self-tests for practice purposes. The test is made up of 100 questions ranging from the history of America, the breakdown of the government and its branches, to the rights of the people and more. Each applicant is asked five to seven questions from the test and responds to a questionnaire in an interview.

"It was easy as long as you knew the answers," Young said. "They tell you immediately after the tests if you passed them or not."

Young said becoming an "official" American citizen means becoming a person with all of the rights and duties to serve the USA.

Continued to page 17...

Evans completes legislative internship

One history major from Northwestern completed an Oklahoma Legislative Internship with Sen. Bryce Marlatt this past May.

Alva campus senior Jordan Evans, Edmond, spent five days at the Capitol. The Social Sciences Department and the Northwestern Citizenship Institute sponsor legislative and congressional internships each year to qualified students in the Social Sciences Department.

"Going into the internship I was definitely worried," Evans said. "The Capitol is a pretty intimidating place. After meeting the senator and the others I would be working with, I became much more comfortable and began to enjoy my time there."

Students can spend anywhere from one week to three months working in the Oklahoma State Capitol or

the United States Capitol learning about legislative- and budget-setting processes.



Jordan Evans and State Senator Bryce Marlatt

"I had many memorable moments while interning for the senator," Evans said. "I sat in on the voting of the Indian Cultural Center in downtown Oklahoma City; I went on the Senate floor and met the other senators; but the most memorable moment was going to lunch with the senator, the office manager and some of the lobbyists. The experience showed me how building relationships with those you work around is one of the most important aspects of the job."

Evans is interested in a political career, more specifically in the public sector.

"Even if it were not a full-time job, I feel very drawn to aid my community in any way I can. By becoming involved in government, whether it is at the local, state or national level, we can help shape the environment around us."

"The experience opened my eyes to the variety of career options that would still allow me to help the public," Evans said. "After the internship, Evans' perspective changed on the legislative process. 'I definitely have a better appreciation for how the legislative process works and for some of the added things that I would not have considered,' Evans said. 'Having a book knowledge on the legislature gave me an idea of what to expect, but getting the hands-on experience really deepened my understanding.'"

Citizenship ...continued from page 16

Martinez cites the citizenship test as the final step for someone who lives, works and has roots in this society. He and Young have gained their voice through the right to vote in federal elections as well as other benefits.

"It is important to participate in society with the vote," Young said. Although Martinez is now an American citizen, he still wants to share the Hispanic culture and American culture with his students and the public.

"For instance, we still celebrate Columbus Day, the Day of the Dead, and Cinco de Mayo to say a few," Martinez said. "Our students, faculty, staff and the community really enjoy that, and they say it's amazing to celebrate other people's culture."

Of the Fourth of July, one of the biggest celebrations for Americans, Young said, "I lived it as never before with more enthusiasm as the rest of the people."

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Left: Dr. Richmond Adams, Dr. Kathryn Lane, and Dr. Kathy Earnest take a break in the day to visit with Dr. Cunningham at the Arts and Sciences get-together in VH 200.

Arts & Sciences group get-together held in VH 200

The members of the School of Arts and Sciences got together to visit, relax and unwind on Nov. 13.

Recently updated and furnished Room 200 in Vinson Hall provided the location for this event.

One of the dean's assessment goals is to plan get-togethers for the school of Arts and Sciences twice a semester.



Above: Dr. Steve Thompson enjoys a snack while Keenan Meeker, Dr. James Bell and Karsten Longhurst enjoy a quick visit.



Left: Dr. Kaylene Armstrong and Tammy Brown enjoy a discussion while many others from the School of Arts and Sciences enjoy snacks and visiting in VH 200.

Schmaltz ends busy year of speaking events in U.S., Germany, Africa

Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history at Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) and co-executive director of the NWOSU Institute for Citizenship Studies, had a busy year of speaking events, consultation work and several completed editing and publishing projects.

Specializing in Russian and German history, as well as ethnic and nationality studies, Dr. Schmaltz has academic interests in a wide range of topics, though increasingly they are devoted to historical and contemporary issues surrounding Eurasia, German global diaspora movements and transnationalism, and the interplay between the broader forces of ethnic nationalism and globalization.

Schmaltz said he is proud to represent Northwestern in this capacity, as he alternates between speaking before academic and general audiences, always appreciating the collegial support that makes these opportunities possible.

One such opportunity came in mid-November, in Berlin, Germany, where Schmaltz presented his paper *What's in a Name?: Russian Germans, German Russians, or Germans from Russia, and the Challenge of Hybrid Identities*, at the academic conference *"Russian Germans in a Comparative Context: New Research Perspectives*.

The conference was hosted by the Federal Institute for Culture and History of Germans in Eastern Europe. It took place in the Lower Saxony's neo-modern state government building that is located blocks away from the world famous city center (Mitte), which encompasses the United States (U.S.) and French Embassies, Holocaust Memorial, Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag. The two-day international conference was conducted in the English and Ger-



Dr Brent Mai of Concordia University of Portland, Oregon (left); Dr. Eric Schmaltz, (middle) and Dr. J. Otto Pohl (right) of the University of Ghana in Legon attending a function at the Asian Studies Conference held in late September 2015 in Accra, Ghana.

man languages with several speakers representing Germany, Russia, Canada and the U.S.

Though placing his Berlin talk within a broader comparative framework, Schmaltz discussed the development of ethnic German-from-Russia identity and self-identification in North America as it took shape during the two world wars against Germany, the Cold War against Soviet Russia, and the post-1960s multiculturalism and ethnic revival era across the Western world. His full paper is expected later to be published with the conference's other submitted findings.

"Because of the mass migration of a few million ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and the former USSR to united Germany after the fall of Communism in 1990-1991, transnational or international issues surrounding German minorities in Eastern Europe and ethnic German diasporas elsewhere remain quite relevant in current German political discourse and academic research, not to mention its strong comparative relevance with more recent and highly controversial mass migrations into Europe, including above all those from the Middle East of mostly Muslim backgrounds," Schmaltz said.

Another opportunity came near

the end of September, when Schmaltz made his first trip to Africa. He participated in a panel discussion at the Inaugural and First Biennial Conference of the Pan-African Association for Asian Studies in Africa (A-ASiA) held at the University of Ghana (Legon) in the capital city of Accra.

It was held in cooperation with the International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS). The well-attended international gathering in West Africa covered the broader theme of "Asian Studies in Africa: The Challenges and Prospects of a New Axis of Intellectual Interaction." Based on his previously published article, Schmaltz's panel paper was titled "Reconsiderations of the USSR's Aborted National Oblast Plan for Soviet Kazakhstan's Ethnic Germans, 1976-1980."

Other similar speaking engagements and panel discussions this year took him to Bismarck, North Dakota; Billings, Montana; Des Moines, Iowa; Portland, Oregon; Tulsa and Shattuck. For the 2016 year Schmaltz plans to present in California, Kansas, Nevada, Oklahoma, and perhaps in Oldenburg, Germany, at a conference on Germans in Eastern Europe and the Holocaust. He also plans to continue working on two or three books in various stages of production.

English program raises funds with Mark Twain bust

Members of Northwestern Oklahoma State University's English program sold tickets for a chance to win a donated Mark Twain bust for a fundraiser for their Visiting Writers' Series.

This series brings writers to campus to present their works to the local community and campus and gives students the opportunity to work with the authors.

Tickets were sold to family, friends, English department supporters and people in the community from the beginning of the 2015 fall semester until Homecoming, Oct. 10, for \$5 apiece. The drawing took place after the Homecoming parade, and local businessman and banker Terry Ross of Alva won the bust. Ross donated the bust to the J.W. Martin Library to be displayed.

Creator of the bust was Nancy Russell. Other artwork of hers in-



Gathered for the donation of the Mark Twain bust to the J.W. Martin Library are Verna Graybill, instructor of library and information services; Sheldon Russell, Nancy Russell, creator of the bust; winner of the bust Terry Ross, and Dr. Kathy Earnest, assistant professor of English.

cludes the Dale Brown bronze displayed at the Runnymede Hotel in downtown Alva. Her husband Sheldon is a 1968 Northwestern alumnus who earned a degree in English. He also is the author of several novels inspired by northwest Oklahoma, including *The Yard Dog*.

In 2006 his *Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush* won the Oklahoma Book Award in Fiction and was selected as an official Oklahoma Centennial Project. Both artists have items displayed and for purchase at the Graceful Arts Center in downtown Alva.

Temporary seismometer station installed to measure aftershocks

In mid-December, Dr. Steven Maier, Dr. Steve Thompson, Steve Sneary, Steve Roberts and Steve Ploetz installed a temporary U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) seismometer at the University Farm to collect aftershock data. These are installed when an increase in earthquake activity within a well-defined location is noticed by the USGS.

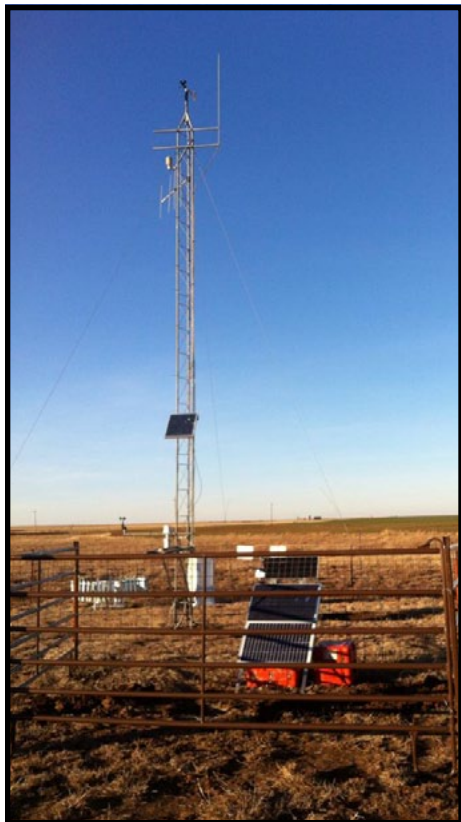
Two instruments were installed: an accelerometer (to measure gross movement) and a broadband seismometer designed to collect high frequency data (very quick vibrations). Each instrument had to be aligned with the Earth's axis of rotation and each measures movement in three dimensions.

The instrumentation is so sensitive that changes in temperature may be detected as soil expands (as it warms) and contracts (as it cools). The swaying of a nearby Mesonet tower will likely also be detected.

The instruments, including the modem and cellular transmitter, are solar powered. Total cost of the equipment is nominally \$70,000.

Northwestern faculty members and students will receive from USGS data on local earthquakes collected by the instrumentation. It will serve as an example of science in the field and a direct application of Earth science. By visiting with the technician on site completing the installation, students interested in Earth processes may receive information on possible career paths.

For example, the \$25,000 and \$15,000 sensors were encased in about \$50 worth of handmade PVC supplies and hardware so that they could be weather-proofed and placed in the ground.



USGS seismometer station is next to the mesonet station. Swaying of the tower could be detected by sensors.

Art Society has sixth Store, Photos with Santa

The sixth annual Holiday Gift Store for Kids and Photos with Santa event was held Saturday, Dec. 12. Members of the NWOSU Art Society (NAS) sponsor this annual event.

"We always look forward to seeing children from Alva and the surrounding communities taking part in the fun," said Angelia Case, sponsor of NAS.

Case said that the Holiday Store provides children an inexpensive and fun way to shop for loved ones, friends, teachers and even pets.

Case said the Holiday Store allows the children to experience the thrill of "secretly" buying gifts, as well as benefiting from the practical lessons of budgeting, handling money and making decisions, but most of all, the pride and joy of gift-giving.

"We welcomed parents and family members to accompany their children through the store if they so chose, but if the child wanted to keep presents a surprise, club members were available to help them

stay within their budget," Case said. "Our club members and volunteers also helped get the gift items bagged and ready for giving during the holidays."

"We only allow a few children to go through the store at one time to make it a positive experience for everyone," Case said. "So, for those waiting to come into the store, a visit with Santa Claus was a possibility. He

was right next door ready to visit and take photos with kids of all ages."

Several photos were taken during visits with Santa and then downloaded to a laptop computer for immediate viewing, Case said. Photos could be selected, and for a flat fee of \$5 for each photo, the purchaser received the original digital negative file(s) saved to their personal jump drive or sent to them via email.



Valarie Case takes one of many great Santa photos for customers.



Volunteers help kids shop at the Holiday Store held on Dec. 12.

WE WISH YOU

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A
RELAXING BREAK!