Gamma Beta Phi making a difference in the community

By Linda Chappie
Gamma Beta Phi

The Gamma Beta Phi Society is an honor and service organization for students in colleges and universities in the United States. It is non-secret, non-profit, and co-educational; and its membership does not exclude a student from membership in any other organization.

This past holiday season, Gamma was pleased to partner up with the Sharing and Caring Program of Benton County. Gamma members set up a bulletin board with a felt Christmas tree filled, with almost 50 tags of wishes from children in the community. These children may not have otherwise had anything under the tree for Christmas. The faculty, staff, and students were an essential part of the success of this project. Gamma members were also there for the distribution day at the Benton county fairgrounds, where the families came to pick up the gifts just before the holidays.

On Highway 540 between exits 86 and 88, Gamma has adopted a one mile stretch of the bypass that is maintained by our members. We will be out there on the first Saturday of each of the next three months, for this HWY Clean-up project. Kennedy Coffee at the corner of Hwy 102 and Moberly Lane has generously donated coffee/latte for the HWY clean-up crew, in support of our efforts for a more beautiful environment.

Our Spring inductions were held March 13th 2005 at the Shewmaker Center. We congratulate the new inductees and welcome them to this outstanding honor and service organization. Remember that Gamma is not only a two-year college organization, but can be transferred to many four-year institutions throughout the U.S.

For more information on what's happening with Gamma Beta Phi, including any upcoming events, please check out our website at www.nwacc.edu/clubs/gamma/index.html

February and March Golden Eagle Award presented to Porter, Wieneke

By Chrystl Lowry
SAAB Member

Wieneke

Kimberly Porter is the recipient of the February Golden Eagle Award. She enjoys sharing her talents with those she serves. She volunteers, together with her family, at church and within the community. She also volunteers for various child advocacy groups. Porter aspires to obtain her doctorate in social work and family science.

Elizabeth R. Wieneke is the recipient of the March Golden Eagle Award. She is a sophomore presently pursuing her degree in elementary education. Wieneke works as an assistant to Dr. Becky Paneitz, the President of NWACC. In her free time, Wieneke enjoys horseback riding, reading, and volunteering at Habitat for Humanity.

Student Ambassadors

Photograph by Jim Hall

The 2005 spring semester Student Ambassadors and Activities Board members are, left to right, Rachel Oliver, Erin Hawks, Tara Quinn, Chrystl Lowry (President), Chelsea McDowell, Elizabeth Wieneke and Becky Hudson.

8 easy steps for a smooth transfer by an NWACC student

Advice for first-year transfer students at NWACC.

Step 1. Choose my curriculum at NWACC based on my college major when I transfer or choose general transfer core courses – get a plan.

■ Follow an AA or AS degree plan that lists transferable courses.

■ Get a transfer guide (on NWACC web page) to help me choose the correct courses for the College and major I choose or learn how to look it up on the internet or in the college catalogs.

■ If it is not reasonable to earn a degree but only take prerequisite classes for my major program, then find out what they are.

Step 2. Decide on my college major when I transfer if I'm still undecided.

■ See a career specialist.

■ Take only general education core courses for transfer or courses that may not transfer but will give me an experience in a field of interest - it's good to explore.

■ Check out some community service opportunities to help me decide.

Step 3. Locate a faculty advisor or an advisor in the Learner Development Center to be a guide in the process.

■ Is it advisable to earn an associate degree before transferring?

■ Am I on the right track to graduate or transfer when I want?

■ Can I reach my goals if I stay on this track?

■ What do I need to know to finish at the community college and transfer when I plan to, such as course sequences and prerequisites.

Step 4. Learn about the general transfer curriculum at NWACC.

■ What transfers – why or why not?

■ Are there courses related to my major area that might fulfill a requirement and give me elective credit at NWACC?

Step 5. Find colleges that offer my major.

■ Look at location, cost, and size of schools.

■ Look for scholarships to help pay for my education.

■ Visit with college reps that visit campuses.

■ Visit the college I like and get a feel for the community of students and faculty. Is it a good fit for me?

■ Sit in on a class or two.

■ Get catalogs and familiarize myself with curriculum and deadlines.

Second-year transfer students at NWACC

Step 6. Mail my application for admission to the college(s) of my choice and send other admission materials as needed and know deadlines.

■ Pay application fee

■ Send NWACC transcript and transcripts from any other colleges I have attended (request in writing from the Admissions Offices).

■ Send letters of recommendation from college personnel if needed.

■ Campus housing forms, if applicable.

■ Financial Aid application forms for both Federal aid, loans, and scholarships.

Step 7. Visit the campus

■ See an admissions counselor.

■ Talk with an advisor in my major department.

■ Attend an orientation at the transfer college during my last semester at NWACC. Find out when the orientation will take place and go.

■ If there are transfer credit issues unresolved at the transfer college, I will seek help from a transfer advisor at NWACC.

Step 8. After I am admitted to a four-year college or university, be sure I am ready to transfer.

■ If I am denied admission, I need to seek the help of an advisor to help explore alternative choices.

■ If I transfer to another college before reaching sophomore status, I will be considered a new freshman and will need to remember to send my high school transcript (request from my high school) and my ACT or SAT scores. If I didn't take an ACT or SAT test before coming to NWACC, I need to schedule one. This information is available at http://www.collegeboard.com.

www.nwacc.edu THE STUDENTS' NEWSLETTER Free

Wieneke

Golden Eagle
Elizabeth Wieneke awarded Golden Eagle Award for March; Kimberly Porter awarded for February, Page 4

NWACC TODAY

NO.1 IN THE STATE

Life is a cabaret
The Flying Tomato Cabaret dinner show raises funds to send Chamber Singers on tour, Page 2

■ Student Spotlights, Page 3

Volume 5, April 2005

Dateline

■ April 4 - Summer and Fall Registration begins.

■ April 8 - Last Day to Withdraw from 16-Week Classes with "W" on Transcript.

■ April 8 - Last Day to Withdraw From Late Start Classes with "W" on Transcript.

■ April 21 - Last Day to Withdraw from Second 8-Week Classes & Weekend College (Second 8-Week Classes) with "W" on Transcript.

■ April 29 - Honors Convocation

■ May 5 - Last Day of Spring Classes.

■ May 6 - Commencement.

■ May 9-14 - Final Exams.

■ May 13-14 - Last Day of Weekend College (Second 8-Week Classes).

■ NWACC Nursing Graduation/Pinning Ceremony May 14.

■ May 14 - Last Day of the Semester.

■ May 17 - Grades Due to Registrar by Noon; Faculty Contracts End.

■ May 9-14 - Final Exams.

■ May 13-14 - Last Day of Weekend College (Second 8-Week Classes).

■ May 14 - Last Day of the Semester.

■ May 17 - Grades Due to Registrar by Noon; Faculty Contracts End.

■ May 22 - Adult Education graduation ceremony.

NWACC Today is a quarterly newsletter by the Student Ambassadors and Activities Board. For more information, call Mary Odima at (479) 619-2224 or e-mail at modima@nwacc.edu.

What is the Homeland Security Grant?

By Becky Hudson
SAAB Member

Most students have heard about the $1 million Homeland Security grant awarded to NWACC, but how many actually know how it will be used? Following is some basic information concerning the grant.

In May 2004, the Department of Homeland Security along with the Office of Domestic Preparedness, issued a grant initiative called the Competitive Training Grants Program (CTGP). They offered $33 million nationwide to agencies to develop and conduct homeland security training. This was offered to any organization that fell within certain guidelines, and an academic institute was one of the organizations within these guidelines. The requirements were that the organization put together a proposal of some type of homeland security training that was not already in place; they were trying to fill the gaps in training.

Photograph by Jim Hall

Homeland Security staff, from left, Serena Pressman, Bob Hammonds, Ashley Gray, Director Bryan Renfro, Angela Calix, Gene Schneider, Jacqueline Pauley and Clint Scrivner.

NWACC's Criminal Justice Department, under the guidance of Bryan Renfro, now Director of the Institute of Corporate and Public Safety, as well as the administration and faculty, undertook the job of writing the grant. They conducted a series of focus groups that involved NWACC faculty from the First Responder program that included the following departments: Criminal Justice, Fire Science, EMT, Aviation, and Hazardous Materials Safety, as well as members of each department's advisory boards. Professionals from the private sector were also valued.

The decision was to focus on interaction between the private sector and public safety. The conclusion was that public safety workers certainly know what to do in a disaster, but public and private never had the opportunity to work together. Also of concern was that large corpora-

See **GRANT** on Page 3

NWACC student receives Gold Addy for Design

Photograph by Mattie Watson

Travis Williams, NWACC design major, won the Golden Addy Award by the AAF for a magazine advertisement he created as part of a 'brand development' project in a Graphic Design III class.

By Jeni Thomas
Marketing Specialist

Careers in graphic design are being taken more seriously.

Amidst the myriad of marketing messages consumers receive every day, astute leaders recognize the need to deliver a consistent look and identity with every message they put out-from local newspaper ads to global marketing through the World Wide Web. Gone are the days you can run a single ad and expect real results. Like other big business, the business of image and design is rapidly becoming part of the overall strategic plan of any successful organization.

This was the message received by Travis Williams, a graphic design student at the NorthWest Arkansas Community College. And his translation of that message came across loud and clear at the recent Addy Awards competition held at the James At The Mill restaurant in Johnson. Williams took the Gold Award for his student entry for a magazine advertisement he created that was part of a larger project focusing on 'brand development.' This is the third Addy award received by a design student at NWACC.

"It's kind of like validation of the education I've received," said Williams about his award. "(The instructors) can be very critical, but it really helps you

See **ADDY** on Page 3

Year end message from the President of NWACC

A Letter from the President

With spring break behind us, we find ourselves moving rapidly toward the celebrations connected with the end of another successful academic year, and planning for future semesters at NorthWest Arkansas Community College.

This is a great time to be a student, a faculty member or part of the great support staff we have in place at NWACC.

Some of the year-end activities we are looking forward to include Commencement, Honors Convocation, Adult Education Graduation, the Nursing Pinning and other program ceremonies.

I look forward to sharing these celebrations with our graduates.

Among our greatest hopes for those graduating and/or moving on in their educational careers are that you have found your educational experience with us to be a worthwhile endeavor, an investment that rewards you with great dividends in the future.

Whether you will continue to be an active member of the NWACC community, or leaving at the end of the academic year for life beyond NWACC, I encourage you to stay in touch.

We always enjoy hearing about student's experiences at NWACC and beyond. Please share your success stories with us!

For those students who will be back

See **LETTER** on Page 3

Life is a Cabaret

By Erin Hawks
SAAB Member

These talented, young voices are more than just a select group of choir members. They prove to be exceptional actors, dancers, singers, and comedians during their twice a year dinner theater performance, The Flying Tomato Cabaret.

Each semester the Chamber Singers practice two hours a day, twice a week for four to five weeks in preparation for this fun event. That may sound like a lot of time, but when broken down, these folks spend less than 20 hours rehearsing for the big show. Little time seems to have no effect on these professionals.

The Flying Tomato Cabaret is a solid two hour show in which the singers also act as waiters and waitresses serving each table salad, spaghetti, and breadsticks followed by cheesecake and coffee for dessert. The evening is jam packed with recognizable songs from various musicals including solos, duets, and group numbers. The spring semester Cabaret featured songs from "Kiss Me Kate", "Phantom of the Opera", "My Fair Lady", and "Pirates and Penzants."

You are likely to find their fearless leader, Dr. Steve Cooper on the piano throughout the six nights accompanying the singers through each song.

"Dr. Cooper is the glue that holds the group together," said Karissa Henry, one of the Chamber Singers. Cooper is the lead faculty for the music department at NWACC.

"It's a lot of work, but so much fun, it's worth it," said Michael Baker Brown, also a member of the group.

The Flying Tomato Cabaret is a fundraiser for the Chamber Singers that pays for their Spring tour each year. This Spring the Chamber Singers will perform various small concerts at several community colleges in Missouri and in the St. Louis area. Next year the choir will be on tour in Europe. If you are interested in auditioning for the Chamber Singers, please contact Steve Cooper at 619-4261 or stop by the music department on the east side, 2nd floor of Burns Hall.

Even though it is too late to catch the Flying Tomato Cabaret this semester, you can still catch the Chamber Singers at their Spring concert in the Shewmaker Center on April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Photograph by Rachel Oliver

NWACC Chamber Singers at the recent 'Flying Tomato Caberet' include (back row, left to right): Matt Lewis, A.J. Minardi, Michael "Baker" Brown, John Fitzgerald and Shawn Sonnier. (Middle row, left to right): Dr. Steve Cooper, Jessa Purdy, Kayla Barron, Karissa Henry, Rachel Carter, Kelley Rideout and Ashley Anderson. (Front row, left to right): Rex Peters and Erin Hawks.

Staff Spotlight - Dale Montgomery

By Rachel D. Oliver
SAAB Member

Personal Counseling. Academic Advising. Admissions for International students. As a member of the Learner Development Center (LDC), Dale Montgomery can handle it all. Her actual title is Director of International Student Services. This means that she works with students who do not have United States citizenship, which is a very complicated process that requires up to date knowledge.

Starting her career as a junior high math instructor, Dale returned to college to earn a masters degree in Educational Psychology. In 1996, NWACC hired Dale and she has not looked back since. When asked what she loves about NWACC, Dale was full of answers. She likes everything from talking to the students to working with her fellow employees. Her enthusiasm for her job can be heard loud and clear in her voice.

Dale enjoys the cultural aspects of her job. She works with students from many different countries on a daily basis.

"The more I learn about other countries the more I learn about my own country and culture," Dale said.

In addition to assisting international students, which she "…consider(s) to be a privilege," she also participates in International Education Week and the Cultural Exchange Club.

Montgomery

Family is also important to Dale. She has been married to her husband Bob for four years and has two step children. Her step-daughter Katy is 18 and a student at NWACC. Her step-son Kory is 16 and a very talented musician. Her parents recently moved to Northwest Arkansas. She also has two brothers in the area.

Now you know a little more about Dale Montgomery and if you ever need to talk to someone or need help with academic planning, go by the LDC and ask for her – Dale Montgomery always loves meeting new people!

Faculty Spotlight - Melissa Michael

By Tara Quinn
SAAB Member

This native Arkansan was born and raised in Siloam Springs. After finishing high school, Melissa Michael moved to Fayetteville where she attended the University of Arkansas as a math major. Wanting to apply her skills of math to the business world, Michael had no interest in teaching. Fortunately, while working on her masters Michael became a graduate assistant where she began teaching undergraduate math courses at the University of Arkansas. These experiences led her to the decision that teaching was the career path for her.

In the summer of 1996, Michael came to Northwest Arkansas Community College. NWACC was not hiring any new academic skills faculty for that summer, so Michael was hired as a tutor in the learning lab. The following fall, Michael was hired as a part-time instructor at both the University of Arkansas and NWACC. After completing her masters in 1999, Michael became a full time faculty member at the Community College.

Since 1999, Michael has taught a variety of math courses at NWACC including Structures I and II, Survey of Calculus, traditional and distance learning finite, as well as computer assisted distance learning and traditional college algebra.

Michael

On the personal side, Michael still resides in Siloam Springs where she lives with her husband of 11 years and former high school sweetheart, Manville Michael. She has two children Megan, 7, and Laura, who just turned 6. When not working or grading papers, Michael enjoys spending time with her family. Some of their favorite family activities include camping and hiking. She also enjoys bike riding and recently participated in a 50 mile bike ride.

S.A.A.B.

Student Ambassador and Activities Board is looking for new members!

What does SAAB do?
SAAB is a student leadership organization at NWACC. Members plan campus events and help the staff at the Learner Development Center (LDC). Most importantly, they serve as NWACC ambassadors for the campus and surrounding community, where they are exposed to business leaders for future job contacts.

Benefits for members:
- Provides YOU With a 12-Hour In-District Scholarship
- Gives YOU Opportunity to Network in the Surrounding Community
- Builds YOUR Resume
- Provides a chance for YOU to Represent YOUR Student Body
- Gives YOU a Place to Build YOUR Leadership Skills

Qualifications:
- Must be able to attend Friday morning meetings
- Must be able to assist with new student registration
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA

We invite you to learn more about the leadership opportunities with SAAB. Stop by the Learner Development Center for an application and more information.

NOTE: APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 20 by 4:30 p.m.

ADDY
Continued from Page 1

prepare for the real world. I've been really impressed with the education I've received at NWACC."

Like most of the instructors at North-West Arkansas Community College, Williams' mentors are real-world practitioners themselves. Leading the way at NWACCs design department is Victor Chalfant, a recent recipient of the Governor's Fellowship Award from the Arkansas Arts Council for his continued work in photography.

Williams designed his award-winning graphic in Graphic Design III under Roy Cordell, who has been with the design department at UA University Relations for 12 years and teaches on an adjunct basis at NWACC. Cordell has been recognized by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the Admissions Marketing Report, and the American Advertising Federation for his own design work.

"I try to conduct the Graphic Design III class as an extended session in real-world print production using all of the skills the students have learned up to that point," said Cordell. "We put an emphasis on looking at design solutions that are appropriate for the audience, and turning those solutions into pre-press ready files."

Chalfant and Cordell worked together at the UofA and share similar philosophies about providing students assignments that will challenge both their creativity and their technical skills, while exposing them to "real-world" design problems.

"We try to keep our students up to date with the latest technology and skills required in today's design field," Chalfant said. "We make sure to expose them to important designs, designers, and artists throughout history to hopefully inspire them to follow in their footsteps."

In fact, NWACC adheres to the same philosophy with its own new internal marketing campaign. College President Becky Paneitz set forth a strategic plan last Spring that includes its own brand identification throughout every brochure, schedule, program and advertisement they College puts out. The College's new look was created by Maloney Marketing Group in Cave Springs, winners of 3 Addy awards on February 26.

"When you only have so many funds and your message is among a thousand others that day, you have to stand out… maximize your investment," said Jim Hall, Executive Director for PR & Marketing for the College. "We're proud of our new look and message, and already realize the positive effects of it."

As a student soon to enter the real world, Travis is excited about what lies ahead. Already his options are expanding, as he has been approached by two organizations to discuss internships. But he realizes it won't be an easy career to survive. Graphic designers are expected to churn out creative new looks every day, against strenuous deadlines and immense pressure. Not exactly an atmosphere that one thinks an artist would look forward to but in this day and age, it's become the norm.

"I strongly believe that you get out of the (design) program what you put into it," said Williams. "It's the same way for any profession. You can't expect to become a good graphic designer if you don't put time in on the side. I really think that's the key."

Chalfant said that Travis had been in several of his classes and is always an outstanding student. "He wants to be a great designer, and he is willing to go the extra mile to make his work stand out," added Chalfant.

GRANT
Continued from Page 1

tions have a plan in place in case of disaster or terrorist attack, but responders would show up with no idea of the plan.

With this in mind, NWACC approached Tyson, Wal-Mart, and JB Hunt with a partnership proposal. The Institute of Corporate and Public Safety (ICPS), which combines Criminal Justice, Fire Science, EMT, Aviation, Environmental & Regulatory Science, Nursing, and Corporate and Continuing Education with Tyson, Wal-Mart, and JB Hunt was formed. Together, they proposed a grant that stated NWACC's ICPS would develop a series of training courses designed to bridge the private sector, public safety training gap. The grant was then submitted as one of 217 applications submitted nationwide. Out of the 217applicants, only 14 received an award, with NWACC being one of them.

With this grant, NWACC will become a national training center for the Department of Homeland Security. ICPS is in the process of writing the curriculum; once this is complete faculty from NWACC will go out into the field and train others nationwide. NWACC is one of only twenty-two training centers in the U.S. Of the other training centers, only one other is a community college. This is an impressive achievement for NWACC.

As part of this grant, the College will offer an Associate of Science degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. According to Renfro, they are in the process of writing the curriculum, which will then go for state approval. He hopes to begin classes in the spring 2006. This degree will involve all of the departments of the ICPS. The ICPS will also work with corporations to teach them how to implement a continuity program, which is a program on how to continue to operate a corporation after a mass disaster.

Even though they are all down the road a few months, we can see that the programs initiated by the grant will open many more doors for NWACC, as well as its students. Congratulations to all whose dedication and hard work brought this outstanding opportunity to NWACC.

LETTER
Continued from Page 1

with us next fall, you will see a number of improvements and enhancements at the College.

We plan to make new technologies available to you that will better connect you with your instructors and to the college community, enhancing your learning experiences.

Look for construction to begin this summer on an 80,000+ square foot student center, bookstore, food court and library. This new building will go up just north of the College Commons. The completion date is fall 2006.

We plan to relocate the College Bookstore from the East Classroom Center to the main campus after the start of the fall 2005 semester. It will be housed temporarily next to the Physical Plant building near the railroad tracks.

Fall 2005 plans also include expanding by two classrooms our Washington County Center in Springdale by moving into the area next door currently occupied by Sylvan Learning.

Finally, the best of all news:

You may have read or heard about the second annual NWACC Foundation Gala that was held March 17. Almost 500 community leaders – along with our hard-working SAAB leaders – attended as we presented "Quality of Life Awards" to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shewmaker, Mr. Bob Cheyne and to Tyson Foods.

A total of $93,846.48 was raised at the Gala. Of that amount, $80,846.48 will be used by our students for scholarships! Mr. and Mrs. Shewmaker donated $35,000 to that total the night of the Gala. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club Foundation paid the expenses of the Gala, enabling the proceeds to benefit our students.

These are exciting times at North-West Arkansas Community College. We're proud you're a part of it!

Good luck on final exams!

Sincerely,

Becky Paneitz

NWACC student shares her writing talent

A Long Time Coming

By Autumn W. Ekman

How many types of Spring are there, I wonder? Of course, there are the blue-skied, daffodil-ed Springs that we all love. And there are Springs for falling in love, and watching fat puppies roll in the grass, and getting dirt under our nails in the garden. Yet, sometimes there are Springs that are not like a storybook at all. Sometimes Spring arrives on the calendar without ever arriving in the region of the heart.

The letter was dated April 22, 1969. The typewriter had fiercely punched the message into the fragile onion skin paper, and it almost felt like Braille to my untrained fingertips. My dad would have been 23 when he wrote this first letter home from Viet Nam, younger than I am now. This Spring seemed foreign, on foreign soil. Instead of cool breezes, endless heat stifled the new arrivals. Instead of mud puddles to step around, unavoidable dust covered them. Instead of the hope of new life, the grim reality of death faced the soldiers. This was Spring.

The newspaper was dated April 20, 1995. The columns told of horror exploding from a Ryder truck, ripping a hole in the heart of Oklahoma City. The pictures showed a baby shoe and teddy bear lying in the rubble, and it ripped a hole in the hearts of us all. Later pictures would show flowers left at the site for a memorial. Fresh flowers were not hard to find; after all, this was Spring.

The gravestone was dated April 6, 2002. The tiny stone needed only one date; the date of birth and the date of death were the same. My friend knelt and traced her finger along the cold marble. Losing a baby puts a lonesome chill in a woman's heart that even the warmth of Spring cannot thaw. I looked into her eyes and saw the reflection of dark clouds, although blue skies stretched above us. Where was Spring this year?

Yes, there are times when Spring dances with daisy chains in her hair, and we throw open the windows to let her in. We shake out the rugs, sweep off the steps, and gladly toss aside the winter sweaters. And yet, there are other times when the beauty of Spring is a long time coming.

Random Student Spotlights

Kyle Foster is a transfer student from Southern Missouri State University. This is his first semester at NWACC.

At only 19 years old, Kyle already knows he wants to be a Business Management major. His favorite class at NWACC is Business Law. If Kyle could do anything in life, he says that he would like to open an amusement park in Northwest Arkansas. That is exactly what this area needs! Good Luck Kyle!

Foster

Lisa Baker is a happily married mother of a two-year old and a three-year old. How she finds time for both her family and school is a mystery, but apparently she has found a way. She transferred to NWACC from the Har-Ber School of Nursing and is in her third semester here. She intends to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Nursing in the near future. Lisa loves her microbiology class and her anatomy & physiology classes.

Baker

Lisa's dream is to someday visit Australia. With her dedication to her family and classes, she certainly deserves a vacation.