Raspberry Pi class offers unique computer learning

Be among the first to use the tiny, powerful, affordable computer! Enroll in the class now.

The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card-sized computer that runs a version of Linux operating system at a processor speed of 700 mhz to 1gb and boots to an SD card. The unit costs only $35, plus some cable (that you may already have) and can output HD TV at 1080p. It has a network port and two USB ports for keyboard and mouse input, and can do just about anything a big computer running Linux can do.

“We will use the internet as our book and research how to do the things on the internet,” said Earl Bales, instructor. “The first class will be mostly learning how to connect and make things run. The second class will continue some of the same, but we will be introduced to python programming language mostly for small devices like phones and raspberry Pi. The third class will be learning more advanced tricks for the Pi, along with some java programming. These classes should be a lot of fun!”

All students are welcome, and no pre-requisites are required.

Classes meet as follows:
Tue.-Thurs. 9:30-10:50 AM
Mar 28 – Apr 30: “Advanced Programming the Raspberry Pi”

From Wicked Wednesday . . .

Winners enjoy cash prizes

By Carissa Greene

It was a beautiful Wednesday afternoon this Halloween as we gathered at the gymnasium to welcome the month of November and have a fantastic ending to October. There were fun games to play, lots of candy, music to dance to, and some amazing decorating done (Continued on page 10)

PIE EATING CONTEST. Snorting, coughing and gobbling pie are (from left) Kathleen Hamilton, Bret Cox, and Alicia Moglia. Bret had the blood and guts to win 1st place!
By Kristin Archer

SWOSU will be closed for Thanksgiving Break on Wednesday, November 21 through Friday, November 23. Classes will continue back on Monday, November 26.

To set the mood, here is a delightful poem by an unknown author:

**Twas The Night Of Thanksgiving**

’Twas the night of Thanksgiving, but I just couldn’t sleep,
I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep.
The leftovers beckoned - the dark meat and white,
But I fought off the temptation with all of my might.

I tossed and I turned with sweet anticipation,
As the thought of a snack became infatuation.
So I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door
And gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.
I gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.
I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
Til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.
I crashed through the ceiling, floating into the sky
With a mouthful of pudding and a handful of pie.
But I managed to yell as I soared past the trees . . .
“Happy eating to all! Pass the cranberries, please!
May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump,
May your potatoes & gravy have nary a lump,
May your yams be delicious, may your pies take the prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs.”

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May your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs.”

By Julie Olson

For most students, November conjures up the Thanksgiving Holiday filled with family gathered around tables of delicious food while counting the many blessings that life has sent. Yet for one Southwestern student, gratitude holds special meaning. Every day he is not confined to a hospital bed, he is thankful to be alive.

Allow me to introduce you to Brandon Denton. Born with a rare congenital kidney defect, he has withstood over 70 different medical procedures, including 2 kidney transplants, femur and hip reconstruction, gastrostomy tube placements, central line placements, and 9 months of dialysis before receiving his last transplant. Hospital stays have been a constant in his life, yet to speak with him you would never know this.

During his 12 years at Elk City Public Schools, his teachers were instrumental in maintaining his ability to remain in his grade level despite his illness. In first grade, Brandon received a kidney from his mother. After almost thirteen years, this transplant began to fail. In his junior year of high school, he traveled to OKC three times per week to receive dialysis at Children’s Hospital of Oklahoma. After junior year, a new kidney became available and he was able to attend senior year with his graduating class.

In his first semester of college, he had some adjusting to do, yet as of this interview he is doing quite well. His positive outlook and ability to see the good in all situations is a key element to his happiness. “Any day I am not in the hospital, I am very grateful. Being trapped in a dialysis unit is no fun. Looking back, just being able to have the energy to go to class was hard to find. Today is a good day. I have my health, my family, friends and I really enjoy learning. Every day I remind myself that if I stay grateful, it can be a good day. If I choose to focus on the positive, every day can be a good day.

The gratitude for life itself, the simplest of things of just being close to the ones you love is a year-round way of life for this student. Being able to overcome all hurdles gives him a deeper sense of appreciation, and he encourages us all to “find the blessing.”
Meet Laura Hawkins — New Counselor

By Carissa Greene

Our new counselor at SWOSU-Sayre is Laura Hawkins. She lives in Hammon and was happy as an English teacher at Hammon High School, but couldn’t resist that chance to come to the university. She has a son who is in the 8th grade. It is now his first year going to school alone, and that made it a little hard for her to take the job here in Sayre. I asked her what made her choose to come to Sayre and she said, “When a door opens, you should walk through it.”

She said that she had helped the high school kids in Hammon with their college papers, and that if there were a job like that, it would be her dream job. When the college opening was described to her, she realized that there is a job like that, and she took it. This is her first time with the actual title of a counselor, and she loves it so far. She went to Cheyenne High School. She then got her degree at SWOSU, so she is familiar with the student side of the university. She then furthered her education, going to OU for 3 years. She has a boyfriend that she has been with for 7 years, and it seems like she has a nice family life with her son, Lane. Lane is 13 and likes to play baseball, basketball, and he also shows sheep! In Laura’s free time she enjoys crocheting and doing artsy things, but most of all she enjoys reading and doing activities with her son. She seems like a very sweet lady, so if you ever need help with anything or just need someone to talk to, make your way to the Counselor’s Office at the west end of Alexander and see Laura.

New degree forms will be on-line

At the end of the Summer 2012 Semester, the Registrar’s Office introduced a new online degree check request form.

This web based form has helped the Registrar’s Office capture all of the necessary information required to process degree checks and also provided a solution to the problem of continuously relying on handwriting, which can often be challenging to read.

In light of the new online degree request form working well, the Registrar’s Office has phased out the paper-based degree check request cards that were previously utilized in the office.

Therefore, students that need a degree check may be referred by their advisors to SWOSU’s website and asked to sign up.

Students will find a link to the online degree check at this address: http://www.swosu.edu/administration/registrar/degree-check.asp

Calendar of Events

Nov 12-16 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Kappa Phi will be collecting new and gently used coats to be distributed to those in need through the Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. Drop off boxes are located in Stafford Center Lobby and the Memorial Student Center Lobby.

Nov 13, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Speaker Dr. Jared Edwards, Psychology - Weatherford Campus STF - Gen. Thomas P. Stafford Center - 104 - capacity 145

Not sure what you want to be when you grow up? Do you want to know how to land your dream job? Join Dr. Edwards to discover your future career opportunities.

Nov 15-17
SWOSU Theatre Production - Charlotte’s Web. Performances will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday and Friday with a 2 PM show on Saturday afternoon.

Nov 21-23
Thanksgiving Break!!

Dec. 11-13.
Dead Days. No new assignments, tests or presentations can be scheduled.

Finals.
By Carissa Greene

Our new Student Government Association (SGA) officers have been very active this semester. I am sure we are all excited to see what they have in store for the remaining 2012/2013 academic year.

Kayleigh Reed, a freshman from Elk City, is our President. Jordan Roberts, a sophomore from Erick, is our Vice President. A freshman from Elk City, Rebecca Ruiz is our Secretary, Sandra Turner and Colton Yates are the Sophomore Representatives, Alexis Fanshier and Macey McNaught are the Freshmen Reps.

For their first project, the S.G.A. sponsored a Renaissance Fair in September. They provided a dress-up booth, seven or eight games and a table full of prizes. They even judged a jousting contest. Kayleigh bought panty hose for the “Men in Tights” race, and provided three toy mice for the “Streets of London Rat Toss.” Other games had been previously purchased by the SGA, like the Plinko board. Prizes ranged from tiny jars of bubbles to hardback Harry Potter books and nice SWOSU waterproof jackets! “The SGA students showed up early, set up tables in the cool morning air, then moved the event inside the gym when it never warmed up,” stated Mrs. Terry Ford, who helped plan the event. “I thought they did a wonderful job. Some, like Rebecca, even dressed for the part!”

Following quickly on the heels of the Fair came Wicked Wednesday, held Oct. 31st, with more games, prizes, and cash give-a-ways. (See page 1 for the story, and page 10 for photos.)

I think we have put together a good team, and I believe they are going to put some events together to make sure this is an unforgettable year! SGA can always use volunteers and more members. It is fun and looks great on your resume. If you want to meet people and get involved, SGA is the way to go. See Ron Kistler or Nancy Sanders to join.
Fiesta and Field Trip bring Spanish to life

By Ashley Brewer

Mrs. Judy Haught’s Spanish class had an exciting, activity-filled week. First they were holding a fiesta, bringing Mexican food, putting together donations for the Western Oklahoma Learning Center, and making Spanish Christmas cards for English language learners. The Western Oklahoma Learning Center is located in Elk City and offers free English classes on Monday nights to Spanish-speaking people.

Next, the class took a field trip to Norman and Oklahoma City for a day of cultural stimulation. The Spanish club had an amazing day out with Spanish class instructor, Mrs. Judy Haught. We traveled back in time at the Sam Noble Museum of Oklahoma History. With something exciting and informative around every corner. We learned about the early Indians while admiring greatly their beautiful craftsmanship. We saw how far we have come from the early mechanics and technology, and watched as the film industry captivated with some of our favorite moments and people of the past—just to turn yet another corner to see all the new and exciting things the film industry can now do to provoke the mind and put imagination to the test.

Then we went to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, where we got to see how different people’s artistic views are. There was, without a doubt, a story behind every exhibit, and every exhibit left an impression on each and every one of us that were lucky enough to go. It was definitely inspiring. We pondered the ideas and stories behind each painting, and afterward, we were mesmerized by the brilliant and vibrant colors and shapes of the carefully and poetically designed blown glass sculptures. Then we all enjoyed our lunch at Chelino’s in Bricktown. It was a day of learning, inspiration, and appreciations that undoubtedly touched each and every one of us. See photos on pages 8 and 9.

Career Day brings lots of visitors

By Carissa Greene

We had so much fun as we had high school students, homeschooled students and Western Tech students over for a career day.

Those registering totaled 148, and we had high school students from right here in Sayre to as far as Vici to come visit for a day filled with information about different studies. Hopefully, we helped a lot of kids figure out which field of study interested them more, and gave them enough encouragement to get out there and come to college for a job that they can enjoy in life. A big thanks to all of the staff that helped out the faculty who gave speeches to our future students. Kim Seymour, Registrar and coordinator for Career Day, also thanked the SWOSU radiology students, who volunteered as tour guides.

Donuts, milk and coffee greeted the guests, and prizes were given away, plus each visitor received a goody bag. Schools attending were Cheyenne, Erick, Sayre, Arnett, Elk City public and homeschool students, Merritt, Reydon, Sweetwater, and Vici.

“ar D’Alessandro with Hospitality Mgmt.

Rachael Ryan and Jaci Alford display the Christmas gifts for the Learning Center.

Ruth Boyd with the Dept. of Education

Students fill the gym for food and prizes.

Chris Stufflebean of the Rad Tech Program
Undergrads: Apply for Killam Fellowship

The 2013-2014 competition for the Killam Fellowships Program for undergraduate students is now open. The Killam Fellowships Program is an opportunity for Americans to spend either one semester or a full academic year studying at a university in Canada.

The award carries a value of US $5,000 per semester, and includes a health coverage allowance. Added benefits include two three-day enrichment seminars held in Ottawa, ON and Washington, DC. There is also an opportunity to apply for our Cultural Awareness Program which provides funding to travel within Canada for an additional cultural experience. The best and brightest undergraduate students may apply by visiting the website. Please note that the application deadline for the Open Competition is January 31st, 2013.

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Emond, Program Officer for the Fulbright Canada, 2015-350 rue Albert Street Ottawa, ON, Canada K1R1A4 t. 613.688.5513; f. 613.237.2029;
Apply at www.killamfellowships.com or www.fulbright.ca.

Public Speaking class gets creative for demonstration speech

By Terry Ford

One never knows what to expect on the day of demonstration speeches. Will the students bring mouthwatering fudge, Better-than-Sex cake, hand-rolled tortillas, or dad’s secret recipe hot sauce? It’s not hard to see why this is an instructor’s favorite day in Intro to Public Speaking.

Will they ask if they can bring a gun for cleaning or a sword for sharpening or their horse for saddling? While lively demonstrations could be made, the answer is no.

Even with all the creativity of past semesters, this semester has been unique so far. Tonya Waggoner showed us how to diaper a dog—and why we would need to do it. Dennis Smith taught us how to safely perform a backflip, and then demonstrated in front of the class. Lareda Weldon extolled the benefits of buying, selling, and grooming of your virtual horse on an online stable game, where she is top scorer in the country. Hey, it beats shooting zombies.

I can’t wait to see what my night class brings.

Red Carpet Theatre raffles an Apple IPad-3

By Kelsi Land and Zoey

Tonya Waggoner demonstrates diapering her dog, with an assist from Kelsi Land and Zoey.

SWOSU student, Katie Currell is working hard for one of her favorite causes—the Red Carpet Theatre. She is currently selling raffle tickets for $10 a piece to benefit the theatre’s Junior Actor’s Guild, a special organization for youths 10-18.

The winner of the raffle gets a new Apple I-Pad 3rd Generation.

Contact Terry Ford in SMH 101 to purchase a raffle ticket from Katie.

Katie comes from a family of performers and theatre supporters. One of her sisters, Tiffany, currently directs, acts, and actively promotes the Red Carpet Theatre.

The next play has a Christmas theme: The Littlest Angel. The winner will be drawn on the last day of the play’s performances, which is Saturday, December 8th, 2012.
By Terry Ford

Here at The WatchDawg, we like to publish news of our graduates who are doing great things, and our own former instructor and SWOSU grad student Mrs. Deborah Carpenter has gone on to do some impressive things—including landing a 5 million dollar grant! Mrs. Carpenter was a computer science instructor on campus for five years, but when the ocean breeze came calling, she and her husband answered, and are now living the life of a Jimmy Buffett song in sunny South Padre Island, Texas.

But it’s not all swinging in hammocks; Mrs. Carpenter began a new career as the Transit Coordinator for the City of South Padre Island’s The WAVE. The WAVE is a rural transit system operated by the City that serves the lower Rio Grande Valley area. She immediately became involved in researching, writing, and submitting a grant for a new Multi-Modal Project that includes the construction of a new facility to serve as a transfer station, administrative offices, and as a park-and-ride site for motorists that wish to park their vehicles and take advantage of public transportation to visit and tour the island. The total cost of the proposed project and the amount requested was just over $5 million.

The WAVE has received verbal approval of the project by the Federal Transportation Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation. The funding will be ongoing from several different grant funds and not all at once or from only one source. The first payments of grant funds for this project have been received by The WAVE and the project is moving forward. To prepare for the challenging procurement and contract administration involved, Carpenter has been training in Chicago and will travel to San Diego this month. Her position as Transit Coordinator requires writing and submitting 6-7 continuing grants each year for the system to maintain and operate. This particular grant was not a continuation and was competitive among all other Texas state systems. It was also the first grant she has ever written.

South Padre Island lies on the southernmost tip of Texas and is situated on the south end of Padre Island, the longest Barrier Island in the world and the largest stretch of undeveloped ocean beach in North America. It sits just 30 miles north of Mexico and is linked to the mainland by a two and a half mile long bridge, the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway. The City of South Padre Island is home to an estimated 5,000 people, and according to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, over one million people visit the Island every year. It is a hotspot for retirees from northern regions to stay throughout the winter months. These residents are known throughout the Rio Grande Valley as "Winter Texans." The WAVE provided free transportation for almost 600,000 riders for FY2011-2012.

Carpenter left SWOSU before the 2011 fall semester was over and finished her classes via the web, because her new position required the project deadline that was crucial to both the transit system and the city. We here at SWOSU are thrilled to hear that an Okie is raking in that Texas grant money and proving to be so important to the operation of the city’s transportation!

SWOSU grad Debbie Carpenter points to the architect sketches of the $5 million dollar Multi-modal project, which will serve Padre Island’s free public transit system, the WAVE.

Thought for the Day

‘Tis the season for thoughtfulness:

A man placed two identical jars on the table, both filled with a gold-colored liquid. These jars came from the same factory, were made of the same materials, and could hold the same amount. “But they are different,” he explained. Then he upset one and out oozed honey. He turned over the other, and vinegar spilled out. “When a jar is upset, whatever is in it comes out.” Until the jars were upset, they looked exactly alike. The difference lay within and could not be seen. When they were upset, their contents were revealed. Until we are upset, we put on a good front. But when we are upset, we reveal our innermost thoughts and attitudes, for “Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45).

What if someone tipped you over today? What would flow out? Would you reveal the “honey” of self-control and patience, or the “vinegar” of anger and sarcasm?

"Above all things, have intense love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8).
Above, the “Dorothy” prop (copied from the real-life TOTO) from the movie *Twister* and the actual car driven by the Joads in *Grapes of Wrath* were two displays from famous films at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History.

*Photos by Ashley Brewer*

At left, SWOSU’s crew: Ashley Brewer, Judy Haught, Kayley Riley, Jaci Alford, and Rachael Ryan pose by in front of the museum. (*Photo by driver, Judge Doug Haught.*)
“The Spanish Club had an amazing day out with Mrs. Haught. We traveled back in time at the Oklahoma history museum. With something exciting and informative around every corner, we learned about the early Indians while admiring greatly their beautiful craftsmanship, early mechanics and technology, and watched as the film industry captivated us with some of our favorite moments and people of the past.” — Ashley Brewer, SWOSU student

Enjoying blown glass art in downtown Oklahoma City is Rachael Ryan, Instructor Judy Haught, Jaci Alford, and Kayley Riley. Photos by Ashley Brewer.

This display on films in the History Museum at Norman showed props from the X-Files. Below, this artwork is actually flat, but jumps off the canvas right before your eyes. Photos by Ashley Brewer.
Scenes from Wiicked Wednesday

Brett Cox was the 1st place winner dressed as Lt. Jim Dangle from _Reno 911_.

Holly Perkins as a mermaid won 3rd.

Kris Sandusky won 2nd as a Roman soldier.

by some awesome students in SGA. Some cash was taken home by some students, too, namely Bret Cox, freshman from Sayre, who won $50 in the pie eating contest, and also won 1st place in the costume contest. Earning him fame and $200 were his booty shorts and baton of Lt. Jim Dangle of _Reno 911_. Kris Sandusky showed a little leg in his Roman solider skirt for $100 and 2nd place honors. Holly Perkins’ flowing strawberry blonde locks and Mermaid suit garnered 3rd place and $50. SGA President Kayleigh Reed expressed thanks all of those who participated in contests and who came to see the work put into our Wicked Wednesday. Enjoyed was the balloon popping, candy corn guessing, face painting, free food, beverages, and one crazy pie eating contest!