



By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## Art student takes first place, again

For the third year in a row, Amanda Marshall has won "Best of Show" at the Northwest Kansas League Art Show.

This year, she won for a mixed-media piece.

The judge liked her "exploration of non-traditional materials."

Amanda also won six blue ribbons at the show: two for her clay pots, two on her ink prints and one each for her colored-pencil drawing and a picture of a truck made with colored masking tape.

Bret Ashley also won six blue ribbons: three on her acrylics, two on mixed-media pieces and one for a clay piece.

Emma Borton won two blue ribbons with her pencil drawing and mixed-media, a cardboard sculpture.

Jude Walinder won a blue ribbon on his acrylic fish.

For the grades 5-7 division, Sabryn O'Gara won Best of Show for her yard weaving.

Shylo Shields won two blue ribbons for a yarn weaving and a batik flower painting. Kassidie Jensen won two blues for a clay vase and M&Ms acrylic. And, Ara Singleton won a pair of blue for her watercolor and M&Ms acrylic.

Also winning blues were Alexandra Waterman, yarn weaving; Kaitlynn Fisher, batik flower; Dan-

iel Lerew, yarn weaving; and Kelly Brown, black and white marker drawing.

Fifth and sixth graders who won blue ribbons were Luke Koerperich, watercolor; TyLynn Peterson, paper weaving; Lily Singleton, oil pastel; Max Diederich, paper weaving; and Cassidy Gillespie, flower tempera)

For grades kindergarten through fourth, Judith Isbell won Best of Show for her watercolor and Cori Isbell won two blue ribbons for two of her mixed media pieces.

Other fourth graders winning blue ribbons were Brittani Farr, mixed media; Alex Hayward, mixed media; Jack Mumm, mixed media; Mollie Tate, construction paper; and Madelaine Johnson, mixed media.

Third graders with blue ribbons were Kennedy Jensen, watercolor; Alissa Sporn, tempera; and Anna Carter, watercolor.

Second graders who won blue ribbons were Callista Isbell, construction paper; Jesse Isbell, tempera; and Kaitlyn Howland, construction paper.

Breckyn Jensen, first grade, won a blue ribbon for mixed media, and Franklin Smith, kindergarten, won a blue for his construction paper piece.

The students are taught by Terri Woolsey.



DAKOTA TATE TALKED with author Paul Schneider after his presentation.

— Dictator photo

## Author speaks to Oberlin students

By BRENDA BRETH

Paul Miles Schneider was destined to write a book based on "The Wizard of Oz." He grew up in Kansas, became pen pals in second grade with Margaret Hamilton -- the actress who played the Wicked Witch of the West in the movie version, played the Tin Man in a production of the "Wizard of Oz," and survived a tornado. It had to be destiny.

Mr. Schneider spoke to the student body on Friday about his book "Silver Shoes," which is a 2010 Kansas Notable Book by the Kansas Center for the Book and the State Library of Kansas.

According to his blog, the Decatur Community High presentation is one of the largest groups to date for hearing his presentation.

"Surprisingly, I didn't feel nervous about it," he said. "... just really happy and grateful to be there with them, discussing the creative process and story behind the book."

He explained that growing up, Oz was all around him. His mother read him L. Frank Baum's book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," as well as Baum's other Oz books. In Baum's book, Dorothy's shoes are silver.

Then, when he was 7, Margaret Hamilton agreed to be his pen pal during second grade. "She was the antithesis of the Wicked Witch," said Mr. Schneider, "just a very kind lady."

Then, shortly after his high school graduation, a tornado touched down just 30 feet from him and a friend. A year after that, he played the Tin

Man on stage with the Kansas Repertory Theatre.

He eventually moved to Los Angeles, where he became a successful graphic designer.

He spent ten years producing and designing DVD menus and interactive content for films and television shows, such as "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the "Star Wars" trilogy, "Fight Club," and "Sleeping with the Enemy."

His company also worked on the first commercial Blu-ray disc ever burned.

While in Los Angeles, he visited Michael Shaw, a movie memorabilia collector who owned, among many other incredible items, a pair of ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland in the 1939 film. "These are the Holy Grail for cinema collectors," said Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Schneidersaid that as he stared at the famous sequined pumps, he wondered, "What if they were real? And what if the shoes became silver again like in Baum's book and were discovered 100 years later?" That's where the idea for his book "Silver Shoes" came from.

According to his website, "In the book, Donald Gardner's parents tell him they'll be taking an exciting road trip through Kansas. He is sure it will be a boring summer vacation.

But at one of their final roadside stops on the way home, they are approached by a poor woman offering to sell a curious item -- an antique silver shoe.

While Donald's mother is initially reluctant, she is ultimately smitten with the shoe and buys it.

"Donald is skeptical that the shoe is anything more than a relic, but when the new school year starts, he brings it in for show-and-tell, attempting to impress his classmates.

His friends liken it to something out of The Wizard of Oz, and his teacher agrees the idea is not far-fetched considering author L. Frank Baum wrote about "silver shoes," not ruby slippers, which were strictly in the movie.

Yet when he accepts a dare from his two best buddies to try it on, frightening and incredible things begin to happen. Strange animals cry out in the night. Dark, shadowy shapes lurk in distant corners.

Scratching sounds are heard just outside his bedroom window. And when he meets George Clarke, a reclusive man who has been in hiding and on the run for many years, Donald finds out there is a lot more to Baum's story than he thinks."

Mr. Schneider is writing a sequel to "Silver Shoes," and he can easily imagine his first book as a movie. "At some point, it should be a movie," said Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Schneider also explained to the audience that he self-published his book, which is becoming more and more popular, thanks to the Internet.

However, he also explained that L. Frank Baum self-published the first 500 copies of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" in 1899.

It took six months to write the first draft of "Silver Shoes," but then he picked at it for two more years. He hired an editor who gave him a good suggestion -- there wasn't enough emotional journey to go with the physical journey. He worked for two years on the relationships among the characters.

After his presentation, students were able to ask Mr., Schneider questions. His blog states that "They asked a lot of questions afterward -- ranging from the history of Baum's Oz to self-publishing to my background as a motion graphics producer and how it helped in my process with promoting the book.

"Very intelligent, engaged, and thoughtful questions. I couldn't have been more pleased."

## School Menu

April 25 - 29

OBERLIN SCHOOLS

**Monday:** No school. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: Pancake, ham pattie. Lunch: Tacos, refried beans. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: Omelet, muffin. Lunch: Baked chicken legs, au gratins. **Thursday:** Breakfast:

Pancake wrap, ham pattie. Lunch: Poor man's steak, mashed potatoes/gravy **Friday:** Breakfast: French toast sticks. Lunch: Polish dog, sauerkraut.

Fruit served with all breakfasts; choice bar served with all lunches. Milk served with all meals.

## Seniors

Katie Glading

By JORI DIEDERICH

Katie Glading is the daughter of Darrin and Joan Glading.

She has two younger brothers, Matt and Ben.

After graduation in May, she plans to attend Fort Hays State University. There she will study music performance and education and wants to minor in Spanish.

In 10 years Katie hopes to be a rising musician and/or teaching music. She hopes to have a family, as well.

Her hobbies are reading, practicing her instrument, and playing Rock Band with her friends.

She is involved in KAYs, Spanish Club, Drama Club, TACT, DCHS Singers, jazz band, forensics, pep band, Chanté, and band, DCHS plays and musicals: "Anything Goes," "South Pacific," "The Wizard of Oz," "Meet the Maxwells" and "The Invisible Dragon."

Her favorite song is "Your Love"

by Brandon Heath and her favorite books are the Maximum Ride series, "Harry Potter series, Hunger Game series and any book written by Sarah Dessen.

Katie's short-term goal is to finish high school on a good note and have a great first year of college. A long-term goal she has is to be a well-accomplished musician or teacher with a good family.

What Katie will miss most about Oberlin is the small town feeling and the people.

Her advice for underclassmen is, "Don't procrastinate to get things done. It will pay off. Also have fun in high school and enjoy it while you can."



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