

Thedford Students Compete In Washington DC



THEDFORD SCHOOL PHOTO

Pictured in front of the White House in Washington, DC, is the Thedford High School Science Bowl team and their coach. Pictured, l-r: Coach Geri Smith, David Gordon, Ariel Bryant, Kalee Jepsen, Rhiannon Painter and Andrew Gordon.

Five Thedford Science students headed for Washington, DC in April to compete in the National Science Bowl.

In February, Ms. Hoopman's Science Team won the Western Nebraska Regional Science Bowl. They won a free trip to compete in the National Competition. The students flew from Omaha to Regan Airport on April 26 and returned on April 30. While on the trip they enjoyed a night tour of the monu-

ments and a day trip to visit the National Mall of Museums.

Thedford was able to score in all of their matches, which was no easy feat. The students and Science teacher are to be commended on their great effort.

The short bios written about each team member and coach follow:

Coach Geri Smith has been in education for 22 years. She has team-taught sixth and seventh

grade science for 18 years. She received her Bachelors of Science Degree from Chadron State College and her master's from Grand Canyon University. Coach Smith enjoys reading, writing, drawing, making jewelry and being with her grandchildren.

David Gordon is a freshman who is interested in particle physics, puzzles and art. His favorite classes are science, math

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FBLA Blood Drive Held In April



THEDFORD SCHOOL PHOTOS

Students helping with the Red Cross Senior Scholarship Blood Drive are, l-r: Gage Haake, Cailyn Jameson and Marlee Taylor.

The final FBLA Red Cross Senior Scholarship Blood Drive for the 2017-2018 school year was held Monday, April 23, at Thedford High School.

Forty-eight units of blood were collected and 144 lives were saved at this drive.

The Red Cross Senior Scholarship blood drives for the 2017-2018 school year met the goal of reaching 201 units in four drives and received the \$2,500 in scholarship money for graduating seniors at Thedford High School.

The FBLA chapter would like to thank all the donors who took time out of their busy schedules to come to the school to support the FBLA members, as well as donate to a good cause. Together - community members and students helped save lives.



Thedford senior, Hannah Higgins, gives the gift of life at the last FBLA Blood Drive of the 2017-2018 school year.

UNL sophomore finds hobbies in six languages & instruments

While most college students complete the bare minimum number of foreign language requirements and make time for a few hobbies on the side, University of Nebraska-Lincoln sophomore Brock Nutter exceeds all expectations.

The 20-year-old music and Spanish double major speaks six languages and plays six instruments.

According to Nutter, his love for music grew naturally. He said he remembers enjoying his older brother's jazz and band concerts while growing up. It was following in the footsteps of his older brother, who played the trombone in high school, that got Nutter interested in learning instruments in the first place.

"I was in 6th grade when I started playing the trombone," Nutter said. "My older brother played it, and I just thought it would be fun to learn."

After the trombone came the tuba, the guitar, bass, piano, the bassoon and finally, the contrabassoon, a larger version of the bassoon that reaches an octave lower.

Nutter said he is currently the only undergraduate music student who plays the bassoon which he's played since he was 12 years old.

After running into a YouTube video in which a bassoon quartet played "Super Mario Bros." music, he said he knew he wanted to play it.

From there, his interest for the bassoon only kept growing. He later decided to learn it on his own as his band director knew nothing about it.

"I wanted to play the bassoon because nobody really plays it," Nutter said. "It is kind of like an obscure instrument, and I thought it was interesting."

Nutter's interest for languages was not a love at first sight like it was with music. He said he didn't even like learning Spanish when he took the class at Norris High School.

"I didn't really like it because of the way it is taught," Nutter said. "[Teachers] focus on making students memorize things and study grammar, which is not very fun, and nobody is ever really good at it. It's not very natural how we are exposed to it."

But when Nutter met a passionate teacher who spoke Spanish and Portuguese, he said his interest for languages awoke.

"I thought that was cool," Nutter said. "It made me want to be able to speak multiple languages."

His high school Spanish classes were useful when he started to learn the language on his own. He said they gave him a solid grammar and vocabulary base to work from.

While it wasn't easy, Nutter said he was constantly working to improve his skills.

"I started listening to Radio Lobo, an Omaha Mexican radio [station]," he said. "I also started reading 'Harry Potter' in Spanish. I did grammar books and did online language exchanges."

The summer after high school, Nutter said he learned to speak Portuguese and Catalan, a Spanish dialect. He is now fluent in all three languages.

Nutter said meeting students who speak other languages and his interest in exploring cultures for made him want to learn more.

For instance, Nutter's friendship with UNL sophomore accounting major Linh Phung, who is originally from Vietnam, inspired him to learn the language.

Phung said she met Nutter at a New Year's party, where she learned he was multilingual.

Since then, Nutter and Phung have developed a friendship in which both enjoy either teaching or learning Vietnamese.

"The fact that he is interested in Vietnamese is very exciting to me. There are not many locals who can speak it, as it is a very tough language," Phung said. "I like that he tries to speak Vietnamese to me and practices it through a daily conversation. I am very happy that someone is trying too hard to learn my native language."



Brock Nutter plays the bassoon outside Westbrook Music Building on April 22, 2018, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Photo by Irwin Panguripan

As for now, Nutter said he is currently working on improving his Vietnamese and plans to start learning Russian next fall.

"I've gotten so many experiences from knowing new languages," Nutter said.

Last summer, Nutter said he had the opportunity to live with a host family for a month and a half in San Joaquin de Flores, a suburb of San Jose, Costa Rica.

Nutter said he thoroughly enjoyed the trip. He got to learn more about Latin American culture, visit national parks with sloths and go swimming with monkeys and raccoons who tried to steal his group's belongings. All the while, he improved his Spanish speaking skills.

While Nutter's passions for music and language can be seen as novel, he said his interests are just part of who he is.

"I think a lot of people like doing things to be different, to stand out," Nutter said. "But I don't do it because of that. I do it because it interests me."

Nutter said getting good at something isn't an easy path. It takes hard work and many hours, but it's worth it in the end.

"People are never going to get good at something by thinking about doing it," Nutter said.

"You will never improve if you just read how to improve. Just do it. You need to be comfortable with being bad at something before you are good at something, and just put time at it."

Brock is the son of Brad and Anne Nutter, and grandson of Wanda Nutter Mackley and the late Russell Nutter, and Sam and Kathy Ogle.