Knight To Remember Slated Dec. 16
Concert Will Honor Memory Of NWACC Professor

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Dec. 8, 2011) – A Knight to Remember, a benefit concert, is planned for Friday, Dec. 16, in the Walmart Auditorium of Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies.

The concert will benefit the John Story Memorial Scholarship in remembrance of John Story, honored professor at NorthWest Arkansas Community College. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. There is not a charge for the concert, but those attending will have the opportunity to contribute toward the scholarship. “The White Knight” was the instructor’s nickname within the science department at NWACC.

Featured performances will be by:
* Jonathan Story – concert pianist and son of John Story
* John Garst – tenor and member of NWACC’s Music Department.

Fayetteville native Jonathan Story received his master’s degree in piano performance from the University of Arkansas, where he studied with Professor Jura Margulis. Dubbed “Fayetteville’s Piano Man” by the Northwest Arkansas Times, Story is known for his versatility on both piano and organ. He has served as organist at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville since 2001, and serves as pianist for the Singing Men of Arkansas. He has accompanied such diverse ensembles as Schola Cantorum at the University of Arkansas, the Mashburn Singers, and the Gospel Echoes Quartet. He has collaborated with the Arkansas Philharmonic, the University of Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, and the North Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. His most recent performance, "Concert on the Lawn," raised more than $12,000 for Habitat for Humanity of Washington County.

Story is also noted for his work on behalf of historic preservation. At age 12, he led the effort to save Fayetteville’s Ozark Theater from demolition. At 14 he served as co-chairman of the Committee to Save Carnall Hall, and in 2008 he gave a series of benefit concerts to raise money for the restoration of St. James United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. In recognition of these efforts, he has received the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award, an Award of Excellence from the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, and the President’s Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Story is president of the Barbara Mashburn Scholarship Foundation, and has led that organization’s successful fundraising effort for its trip to sing at the White House on Dec. 13. He is a member of the Fayetteville Rotary Club, which named him a Paul Harris Fellow in 2009. He is a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Harris McHaney & Faucette Real Estate in Fayetteville.
Tenor John Garst has received critical acclaim for his portrayal of many important operatic roles. Among those are Radames, Cavaradossi, Calaf, Don Jose, Alfredo, Canio, Duca, Tamino, Belmonte, Froh, and Max in Der Freischutz. In Germany, the Mainzer Tagblatt said of his Don Jose in “Carmen,” – “A voice of passionate power and brilliance.” He has been seen in the Florida Grand Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Natchez Opera Festival, Utah Festival Opera, Hungarian State Opera(Budapest), Kaiserslautern Opera, Darmstadt State Opera, Opera Gelsenkirchen, Opera Nordhausen, and the Bad Hersfeld Opera Festival among many others.

Some of this tenor’s concert appearances include “The Messiah,” “Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Verdi’s “Requiem,” The Creation,” “In terra pax” by Martin, and “Misa Criolla” by Ramirez. While at home in Germany, Garst performed for the opening of the new German Chancellor’s Office in its return to Berlin in 2001. Parts of that concert were seen on television. In 2008, he performed the challenging and pivotal role of Reverend Dimmsdale in the world premiere of “The Scarlet Letter,” by gifted composer, Lori Laitman.

Upcoming performances include Mahler’s “Das Lied von der Erde” in Conway, with the UCA Chamber Symphony.

Recently returning from Europe, Garst is currently teaching at NWACC and also enjoys serving as worship leader at Village Bible Evangelical Free Church. He lives in Northwest Arkansas with his wife and three children.

Photos: Jonathan Story, the late John Story, and tenor John Garst

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves and strengthens the community through learning for living. NWACC’s service area is defined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as Benton and Washington counties in extreme northwest Arkansas. The commitment of NWACC to life-long learning can be seen in the quality of instruction it offers, and the variety of programs it has designed to move students into the job market in a minimum amount of time, enrich people's lives, and prepare them to further their education. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.