Political science professor Joan Hedrick said she was proud to see the candlelight vigil celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. with newfound insight and a call to action. “I hope students will be inspired more than ever to learn more about what America should be, the continued problems we face as a country, and how they can be part of solutions to the problems if they avoid becoming part of the problem,” Blauwkamp said.

That year we drove from St. Louis, our home town, to Washington, D.C., to participate in a massive march organized by Stewie Wonder and others to pressure President Ronald Reagan to sign the legislation desegregating Dr. King’s birthday a national holiday. President Reagan signed the legislation on Nov. 2, 1983 and the law came into effect a year later.”

Amanda Terry, freshman nursing major from Atkinson said that her mother always spoke to her about King and the vast importance of his civil rights movements. Terry said she especially wanted to attend the vigil because of Obama’s inauguration despite the cold weather. The candlelight vigil ended with singing and some reluctant to leave in spite of the chill. The vigil was really beautiful, I loved it, especially the speeches,” Terry said.

The UNK band stayed in the town of Sorrento, where they held their first performance on Dec. 30. The band was given a police escort while parading through the city to where they gave a stationary performance at the town center. Schoene estimated a total of 20,000 people watched the UNK band.

The large crowd danced with the band during some timeouts and clapped after the band performed the Italian song “Va Pensiero.” “It seemed like they were having just as much fun as we want,” said Kara Dacey, a junior business marketing major from Bellevue.

UNK’s Marching Band makes history with return to Italy, the only American band to perform twice in the New Year’s Day parade.

BY NIKKI ARENZ
Anchorage Staff

Thousands listened to the enchanting music of “American Band” and “Oh! Yes!” on New Year’s Day in Rome, Italy. Thousands more were tuned in by the students following the school’s march. At the head of this large parade of music lovers was none other than UNK’s own Marching Band. On Dec. 28, 2005, 95 students, family members, and staff members left Nebraska to travel to the historic country of Italy.

This is not the first time the band has performed in Rome, Neal Schmier, director of band, and director of the UNK marching band said. “Three years ago we submitted audition materials and received an invitation to perform by Vatican officials. Due to the success of our first trip, the band again received an invitation to perform this year,” he said.

Schmier believes that every undergraduate student should experience life abroad. “Four years ago you were trips is a destination that was rich in history and culture, and I cannot think of a richer cultural experience than you can find in Italy,” he said.

The group met in Omaha on Dec. 28 and then broke into three different flight groups. While two groups flew straight to Rome, one group was fortunate to have an eight-hour layover in London. The lucky group of 30 was given a few hours to leave the airport and explore the city of Munich. “I was so excited to go to Germany,” said junior music education and German education major Kalzi Fulton, “because not only have I been there before, but I can also speak the language and it was fun to experience both with my friends.”

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