Campus grieves tragic loss

BY ELISSA MARTIN
Guest Writer

Over 100 students filled the room at the first semester group meeting of Conversation Partners Jan. 24.

Students came looking for the opportunity to get to know students from another country and take advantage of the opportunity to widen horizons, make new friends and learn about different cultures without even leaving campus.

UNK boasts close to 500 international students. The largest number of students come from Japan (216 students), but there are also students from China, Nepal, Colombia, Cote D’Ivoire, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, the Bahamas, Germany and Turkey.

In order to help these students who may find it awkward to just walk up and start talking to someone that they do not know, especially someone from a culture different than their own, the English Language Institute guided by Linda Martin started the Conversation Partners about five years ago.

Martin had heard of similar programs at other colleges and felt that the program would benefit the international students who would like to study at UNK.

The program is similar to the Conversation Table program. Students received a certain score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). This test can be taken on the computer and requires students to complete both a written portion and a portion where they have to record their speech and be understood.

For many international students, this speaking portion is especially difficult since inflection patterns of speech are very different from English studied before arriving at UNK.

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Conversation Partners draws crowd

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Conversation Partners program comes to American UNK student volunteers are paired with students at the ELI for a semester. Last semester of the 76 of the ELI 106 students participated in the Conversation Partners program.

That means that there were also 74 partnering American UNK students who volunteered to work with the program last semester. Some of the UNK students do this for fun, some to make new friends and some because their professors provide them with extra credit points for their participation.

Generally, the students from the ELI have been in the United States for at least a semester. They are often very good at reading or writing English, but many struggle with carrying on a conversation.

See Conversation Table on page 3

Campus grieves tragic loss

BY GARETT RITONYA
Antelope Photo Editor

Jan. 17 was supposed to be a day no different than others, with the sun shining and students coming back from winter break.

Little did he know that would be the last time he would lock his dorm room or see the building that he called home. Jose Martinez lost control of his car coming back from Kearney on the fourth day. Martinez was headed to Omaha to pick up Yuto Yamamoto, an international student who would lock his dorm room in University Residence Hall at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

As Chancellor Doug Kristensen said at his memorial service on Thursday, “Jose’s kindness and pure heart cannot be learned in a book; those traits you are born with.”

Over 50 friends and family attended the memorial service held in the URS cafeteria on Thursday, Jan. 24. Memorial continued on page 3. See memorial tribute to Yuto Yamamoto next week.
\textbf{Don't let the blues get you down, UNK Counseling Center}

\textit{The Office of Multicultural Affairs sponsors on-campus celebration of Martin Luther King Day}

\textit{By Kristyn Brockman}

\textit{Antelope Staff}

The University of Nebraska at Kearney observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day with solemn remembrance.

According to Roz Sheldon, the Office of Multicultural Affairs sponsored the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance with the presentation “March Today, March to the Promised Room” on Jan. 17. A group of ten students were responsible for coordinating the presentation. “It’s important to commemorate Dr. King because he was a man of virtue who took a stand for an elementary education,” Sheldon said.

Dr. Brito gave an impassioned speech about the importance of racial equality and acceptance. He feels that the most important lesson we can learn from Dr. King is to “respect differences and join hands.”

Joao de Brito is optimistic for the future. He noted that we are already seeing examples of racial change, the biggest being the diversity in the current presidential election.

We need to learn how to live together being different in order to stop the hate.

Joao de Brito
Career Counselor
UNK 2002 Graduate

“Depression is not understood,” Sheldon stated.

An office is big part in a student coming to our office,” said Sheldon. “They need someone neutral to talk to.” She also stated that with the increase in to our office, they are seeing more people making the choice to attend college, naturally there would be an increase in the number of people needing support with depression.

The lack of support plays a big part in a student coming in to our office,” said Sheldon. “They need someone neutral to talk to.”

The Counseling Center is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and takes appointments on a first-come, first-served basis. To reach a counselor after hours contact Public Safety at 627-4811.

They will connect you with a counselor on call. To contact the Counseling Center call 865-8248. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Affairs Building Room 144. They do presentations, screenings for depression, alcohol, eating disorders and general one-on-one counseling. Some group sessions are offered as well. Please contact a counselor based on interest/need.

\textbf{The Fijii Gentlemen have arrived!}

January 30, 2008

\textbf{Are you interested in leading UNK’s newest fraternity?}

Would you like a chance to earn $1,250 in scholarships?

Contact Expansion Leader Jesse Hitt at 937-261-6830 or jjhitt@phigram.org, and check us out on the web at www.phigram.org and Facebook: Fijii Unk.
It was a time to remember Martinez and how his life affected those on campus. Although he was only a student at UNK for one semester, Martinez touched many.

A majority of the attendees were Martinez’s coworkers from Onion World daycare. This is where his charm came to life. Kids were his passion.

“They kids were everything to him. He hated not being there and always looked forward to going to work,” Stacy Obinger, a freshman elementary education major from Wymore, Neb., said. “They were his life.”

Martinez will always be remembered playing board games or card games every night, always throwing in his two cents that usually resulted in a laugh that got the group in trouble during quiet hours. But that was the least of his concerns as he lived the fullest to the last day of his life that most of us don’t possess.

“I will miss everything about him, but mostly his laugh,” Obinger said. “It could make one of the worst days bearable and made everything about him light up.”

Jose “Pepe” Martinez will never be forgotten around the building where he made living them an absolute joy. The ideals which he bestowed upon us will never be taken in vain as we attempt to live like the way “Pepe” would want us to.

“What I miss the most is the little things, such as the late night games of Uno or just being able to call him to get Chinese food,” Heinzen said. “I lost a great friend, as did the rest of UNK.”
BY MIKE PENNETTA
Anaffle Staff

The University of Nebraska at Kearney offers a variety of athletic teams from football, basketball, cross country and golf. But did you know we have a swim team here on campus? The swimming and diving team have been known as the Aquafopers since their establishment in the early 1960s. They started off in the NCAA and have had five top 20 finishes in the NCAA Division II level. Since converting over to the NCAA Division II level, they have had two more championships to add to the wall.

The Aquafopers have had one swimmers and one diver earn All-American status at the NCAA level in the last two years. To earn status like this, the swimmers and divers are very dedicated to the pool. Joaun Dailey was the head coach for the Aquafopers for nearly 30 years. She put the Aquafopers on the map with her strong will and dedication to the program. Now they have two new head coaches leading the way, Teresa Omanski head swimming coach and Duane Omanski head diving coach.

This year the Aquafopers had a top five finish at the UNO Invite and placed eighth at the Grinnell Invite, a great year overall for the young team.

The team consists of one junior, three sophomores and three freshmen. Annie Moyer, a sophomore diver from Lincoln, qualified for the NCAA Division II Championship in the one-meter earlier this year.

Junior diver Jennifer Eckland, of Kearney met the provisional to compete in the national meet for the one-meter at the Aquafopers next meet, a dual with Grand Rapids.

The team being young and dedicated should be strong for years to come. The Aquafopers home swim pad is located right next to the Cushing Field house and the Health and Sports Center. The pool has a new roof and ventilation system installed during the summer of 2004. This has given the team a better training environment.

Sports
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008
The UNK wrestling team, ranked fourth in the nation during the week past No. 17 ranked Chautuaa State Jan. 24. The Lopers saw two of their own, Jeff Rutledge and Joe Ellenberger reach career milestones of 100 victories. The wrestling team faces Colorado School of Mines on Saturday at 1 p.m. and then squares off later that evening in the highly anticipated dual with No. 2 ranked UNO. The match is scheduled for 8 p.m. Be sure to be there to cheer the guys on.

On Saturday the men’s and women’s basketball teams squared off against Colorado School of Mines. The men came back in the end to win 78-75, while the women’s team played again Thursday coming away with victory over Colorado School of Mines.

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The Nebraska-Kearney track and field team had 32 top three finishes, including 10 first place efforts, at the Charlie Foster Invitational Saturday afternoon at Cushing Coliseum. Leading the Lopers were senior Ross Fellows, junior Kelli Dring and sophomore Brandon Karlin. All three were already provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships but each had season efforts Saturday to help their national standing.

Fellows won the triple jump with a leap of 48-8.40 while Dring came out on top in the long jump with a mark of 18-7.5. Finally, Karlin won the weight throw with a toss of 59-5.7.

Dring, helping the women have 10 top three finishes, was also runner up in the 5.5 hurdles and triple jump. Also having a big day was Minden sophomore Jennifer Fritson, who had four top finishes. She was second in both the 200 and long jump, while placing third in the 5.5 dash.

Finally, she ran anchor for the 4 x 400 relay team that came in second.

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He is the ultimate UNK sports fan. His enthusiasm for the game is unmatched. No matter the score, he always cheers to the end. You can find him at every game. His name is Louie the Loper.

In case you don’t know Louie, you’ll find him in the jersey of the Loper mascot. He has been cheering on the teams and pumping up the crowd for many years. But not anyone can “be” Louie. It takes a special student to bring Louie to life. Although it may look like it takes no skill to wear a costume and cheer, this is not the case.

In fact, this year the tryouts were held to select the best possible Louies. Jami Schaffnitt, UNK’s Student Activities Coordinator, supervised the tryouts. “The tryouts consisted of performing a short skit,” Schaffnitt said. “We are looking for students who are animated, energetic, passionate and enjoy performing. It is also helpful if they are knowledgeable about sports and enjoy being around kids.”

Jory Andersen, a senior social science comprehensive major from Kearney, is one of the Louies this year. Both Andersen and Loseke are new to the mascot role. Louie the Loper serves at the football, volleyball and basketball games. Being Louie has been fun for both Andersen and Loseke said. “The Chadron State football game was my favorite because the energy was so high that any move I made people just went crazy,” Andersen said. “I also like to see the little kids’ faces when they see me and run up to me. It’s really cool.” Loseke said, “I enjoy having people come up to me because everyone knows who Louie is. I also like getting the crowd into the games.”

Louie also makes appearances at university and community events. Louie has been in UNK’s homecoming parade and spirit competition. He appeared at Runza, the YMCA, Walgreen’s Halloween photo shoot, “Raise Money for Diabetes” walk and Stormy’s birthday party at the Storm hockey game.

Louie the Loper is more than just a guy in a costume. He is a symbol of the team and the school. Louie represents the spirit and pride of this university. He symbolizes how great UNK is. I think Louie could make anyone want to come to UNK,” Andersen said. “He’s so friendly.” So the next time you go to a UNK event, look for Louie the Loper. But chances are, he will find you and make sure you are cheering on the Lopers.

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over the next several weeks, I will be getting the food from eight different fast- food restaurants up against one another in a single- elimination tournament. A panel of judges will be charged with deciding the winners of each match- up and naming the overall champion. Each judge will be given a budget and the opportunity to order whatever they want from the competing restaurants. The judges will need to rank the food from each establishment based on three different qualities. These qualities are taste, variety of different foods available and the ability to get full on a $5 budget.

With the judges working with a small budget, I think it’s obvious that there will be some early favorites in the Fast-Food Bracket Challenge. That being the case, each restaurant in the Fast-Food Bracket Challenge will be seeded from one to eight, based solely on the personal opinion and no actual ranking system.

Favorites

Fast-food dynasties deserve the respect that they have earned running for the last couple of years on the Fast-Food Bracket Challenge. From the other side of the bracket we will have the three versus six match-up, McDonald vs. Burger King, the third seed, Burger King as the fourth, Sonic as the sixth and Runza in the eighth seed. The first match-ups begin next week, with the number one seed McDonald’s taking on the eighth seed, Runza. From the other side of the bracket we will have the three versus six match-up, Taco Bell against Sonic.

Feel free to fill out a bracket and start a pool. Check back next week to meet your judges and see who makes it out of the first round and into the semifinals of the Fast-Food Bracket Challenge.
Presidential Candidates speak out on issues

Hillary Clinton
Barack Obama

Mike Huckabee
John McCain

By Laura Larsen

Neb 放弃共和党或独立的民主党可以参加进程。For more information on the caucus visit the Nebraska Democratic Party website at nebraskademocrats.org.

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It’s nice to have something to listen to.

Environmental ‘Smart’ car cruises down U.S. highways

Josh Harty returns to UNK for Tunes at Noon, The Roman

Suitcase population misses real opportunities

Kearney has plenty of activities to choose from, students should take advantage

By Hillary Kruger

Antelope Staff

Driving by campus on the weekend, all you see are empty parking lots. Students choose to go home for the weekend because they think there is nothing to do in Kearney.

But Kearney has it all: recreation, theatre, parks, golf, racing, fitness, education and faith. Though tourists in 36 other countries have noted the tiny “toy-like” car since before 2000, the interest in curbing gas prices has continued to cruise the highways.

So would people around the UNK campus really drive the vehicle?

By JASON ARENS

Guest Writer

“Go Green” seems to be the slogan for this generation across the states. From massive recycling kicks to up-and-coming ethanol fuel, America is trying to conserve energy, and ultimately the environment, for the many generations to come. So what big step are Americans taking next?

Even with the mixture of skyrocketing gas prices and the green movement, gas-guzzling vehicles continue to race the highways. Auto manufacturers seized the opportunity to introduce U.S. residents to new style of driving, the “Smart” car.

This compact two-seater designed to get around 50 miles per tank has been released for sale in January. The “Smart” car, designed to get around 50 miles to the gallon was released for sale in the U.S. in January 2000.

It’s nice to have something to listen to.

Amabel Alexander

Graduate Student

“Nice to have something to listen to,” said Alexander. “It’s better than listening to sports on TV.”

JoshHarty, a folk singer and songwriter from Lincoln, Wis. has opened for artists such as B.B. King, Robert Cray, Roger McGuinn and Keb Mo.

The biography page of the site says Harty started to

tune music when he was six years old and began playing the guitar when he was 10 years old.

“Students wanted to bring Harty in because he has been here before and has great reviews,” said Tim Dunbar, co-advisor of Loper Programming and Activities Council.

Harty’s music is appreciated off campus as well, and he played a gig at the Roman on Wednesday night.

More information about Harty can be found at www.joshharty.com.