SURVEY SAYS...

Blackboard study shows that instructors aren't using service to full potential

BY ADAM KONRUFF
Antelope Staff

A large percentage of UNK students want to see their teachers use the Blackboard more, but not the one in the classroom.

Last semester the UNK Student Government, co-sponsored by the Faculty Senate, emailed a survey to the 7,199 undergraduates enrolled at the university, asking about usage of the Blackboard online learning service and if they felt teachers were utilizing it to full advantage.

According to the results, of the 1,097 students who participated, only 49 percent of students strongly agreed or agreed their professors post important course content to Blackboard. The same percentage agreed that grades were updated often enough.

The results are not being taken lightly by the student government. “It’s a very big deal,” said Cam Deter, student body president in his final semester here at UNK.

“The largest percentage disagrees or is just indifferent. It’s something we need to take a look at.”

Blackboard serves as an educational hub, giving professors more options for presenting class materials and promoting a further connection among students and teachers through interactive discussions, timely course updates and announcements and other online content.

“We often hear feedback about students not having any idea what his or her grade is because they can’t find it online,” said Deter, a senior industrial distribution major from Red Oak, Iowa. “Especially for distance education students, this can be frustrating; to never see a professor and also never see a grade until the end of the class.”

The results suggest that students are making good use of the service when their teachers are doing the same. “With 84 percent of students saying they check Blackboard four times a week,” said Deter, “there’s serious potential for this tool to be a great mode of communication between students and professors.”

Dr. Tami Moore, co-chair of the Student Success Council, a board concerned with determining and promoting practices to further enrich higher education here at UNK, suggests that a technology gap may be part of the problem.

“Students today have gotten used to immediate feedback, with the Internet and smartphones,” said Dr. Moore, a former Faculty Senate president and family studies professor. “It may be a generation shift, but not all professors feel the need to give feedback until the last final is done.”

The survey results will be presented to the Faculty Senate at their February meeting, who will ultimately decide what to do with this information. “I would hope that the faculty campus-wide will embrace the survey results,” said Dr. Moore. “I’d be disappointed if they didn’t.”

“We’ll try to get an idea of where the Faculty Senate would like to see this go, or if they want more information first,” Deter said. “There’s probably a good chance another round of surveys will go out to find the best way to serve the students.”

“Faculty use of Blackboard can’t be mandated, because they have the freedom to decide how they want to teach class and interact with their students,” said Dr. Moore. “But these students pay a substantial part of the cost of the [Blackboard] service, and as consumers, they expect to get what they pay for.”

Flu shots in high demand

Photo by Woorim Cho
With media predicting a nasty flu season, students have flocked to protect themselves with vaccinations. Until Jan. 15, students had been able to receive flu shots at the UNK health center. Unfortunately they could not keep up with the high demand, and have run out of flu shots. Students concerned about catching the flu can still receive shots at other places in Kearney.

iPad correction from Jan. 16

The Jan. 16 story “iPad’s For Everyone” contained inaccurate information, which caused problems for Information Technology Solutions and confusion for students.

Although the headline reads “iPads for Everyone,” not every student is eligible to receive an iPad. The student must be registered in an iPad enhanced class to receive the technology.

The article also said that at the end of the term the students will have an opportunity to buy the iPad at a discounted price. This is false.

Students must return the iPads to ITS or renew it for the following semesters. Buying the iPad through the program is not an option.

The story reported that some students waited in line “in some cases for hours” to receive their iPads. The longest wait any student endured was around 15 minutes. Although lines were long, the IT department did an outstanding job of helping every student quickly and effectively.

The actual number of iPads distributed this semester was listed as over 1,800 in the article. The actual number sits at roughly 1,400 iPads distributed across campus.

We apologize for the confusion and misleading information that this article provided.
Don't have a major? Don't panic.

Ask Amy

Dear Amy,
Help! I’m almost at the end of my freshman year and I don’t have a major! What am I going to DO? How am I supposed to know what I want to do for the rest of my life? I can’t even decide what shoes to wear these days, much less pick what I want to be when I ‘grow up’!

—Confused in Cairo

Dear Confused,
Hey, you’re not alone! I’m way old and I still don’t know what I want to ‘be’ when I grow up. Hence my staunch refusal to actually grow up. But seriously, there are tons of things you can do to pick a major.

First, you will take some pressure off of yourself by realizing that what you do today does not necessarily mean what you will do when you graduate. That can take some of the pressure off, which is one major obstacle to choosing a major.

Second, take advantage of the resources (you’re going to hear that whole ‘take advantage of the resources’ thing from me a lot – I’ll just warn you). You can visit with department chairs of programs you are interested in, you can talk to instructors of classes that have caught your fancy, you can meet with a deciding adviser in the Academic and Career Services Office and they can help you with the process.

Third, use the Undergraduate Catalog (there is a link on the UNK homepage) – shop that puppy like it’s the Toys ‘R’ Us catalog at Christmas!

Eliminate the majors you know you do not want (half the battle), then pick your top 3 majors – visit those departments and learn more about the programs. Questions to ask: Where have past grads in that major gotten jobs? How about internships: required? Allowed? Recommended? What are the courses like? We can all read the brief descriptions found at the end of the catalog (found under…. drum roll please…course descriptions!), but that doesn’t tell you much. So talking to someone in the department – someone who teaches those classes – can give you much feel for the program.

Again – don’t freak out! But if you do, hey, there is always the counseling center (right next door to our office – a very handy location!)

Send your academic questions to:
AskAmy@unk.edu

Banning guns not the answer

BY COURTNEY WAGNER
Antelope Staff

The massacre at Sandy Hook elementary in Newtown, Conn., the shooting at the movie theater in Aurora, Colo., and the tragedy in 2011 at the mall in Tucson, Ariz. Such events have brought the long standing gun control debate to center stage.

It doesn’t matter if the victims are kindergarteners, federal judges, mothers or even Batman fans. If a person has the intention to kill, they’re going to kill.

The government has made many attempts to solve this issue. However, none of them have succeeded. There isn’t much hope that they will, either.

Passing more legislation about “assault weapons” isn’t going to help anything. Truth is, “assault weapons” are anything politicians say they are. Automatic weapons have been banned for many years. What most people use today are semi-automatic weapons.

This means that there is only one bullet fired per trigger pull. The weapons that politicians want to ban and the ones they don’t are almost identical. The only differences are cosmetic.

Making guns completely illegal is going to do absolutely nothing for the country. Marijuana is illegal, but there are plenty of people that still do that. Two states have passed legislation that makes the drug legal in their states.

Drinking under the age of 21 is illegal, yet just under 10,000 minors were arrested for MIPs in our state’s largest counties in 2005, according to a survey reported by drinking and driving.org.

If something is made illegal, it only makes that thing more appealing. People break laws. Most shootings are done in gun-free zones. Banning them would have no effect.

Guns aren’t only used for evil. In fact, many people use them for their favorite hobby — hunting. How is it fair that just because of a few delinquents, these innocent people lose their right to enjoy hunting? It’s not. This is a free country; people should be able to hunt if they would like to do so.

Just a few days before the Newtown massacre, there was a shooting at a mall in Clackamas, Ore. That shooting was overshadowed by the Newtown massacre. However, it is still significant. A man killed two people and severely injured one. He was fumbling with his weapon when an ex-security guard with a concealed weapon pointed his gun at the shooter.

The shooter then shot himself instead of another victim. This is a great example of when weapons have done some good. The only thing that the media focuses on is the bad that is done with guns. Many people in the U.S. probably don’t even know about this incident. This may change some people’s minds on gun control.

Obviously, every teacher shouldn’t be armed, but perhaps, if there was an armed security guard at schools, that would deter shooters. Even a school police officer may help. There also should be tighter restrictions on owning weapons, but guns should not be banned.
Top 10 movies to see in 2013

Superheroes prevail along with hopeful return of anti-hero Nick Adams from 'The Great Gatsby' and more 'Anchorman'

No. 4: “Iron Man 3”
After “Marvel: Phase One” ended with the superhero team up of a lifetime in “The Avengers,” it was only right that the stories of each member of the team keep blossoming.

“Volatile, self-obsessed and I don’t play well with others.”

The one thing we thought we knew about Tony Stark, is the one aspect of this character that took a turn for the better at the end of “The Avengers.” If you haven’t seen the film, Stark took the fate of the island of Manhattan in his hands, and instead of thinking solely of himself, he put his life in danger.

In “Iron Man 3,” the seventh installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, we are going to see a whole new Tony Stark.

Directed by Shane Black, the movie takes place after Loki’s attack on New York, and Tony Stark will face a very powerful enemy that destroys his private world.

Not being released until April 25, I’m already nervous for the safety to the people close to Stark!

The first in “Marvel: Phase Two,” I’m sure we’ll also see new clues as to what we’ll see next in the Marvel Universe.

No. 3: “Thor: The Dark World”
When we met him in his first film, Thor was cast out of the realm of Asgard and sent to live among humans on Earth.

Thor, left without his powers and hammer, was hit with a huge dose of reality on Earth. He had to overcome his evil step-brother, Loki, and in the end, left as one of Earth’s mightiest heroes.

Thor comes back in “The Avengers” to help Nick Fury and his team of superheroes to defeat his brother, Loki, and his army.

“Thor: The Dark World,” set to be released Nov. 8, 2013, is set after “The Avengers.” Unlike the other members of “The Avengers,” Thor is tasked, not only to save Earth, but also all the Nine Realms from enemy, Malekith, older than the universe itself and his army of dark elves.

“Thor: The Dark World” will take the Marvel Universe to the next level, bringing in characters from Stan Lee’s beloved comic books into a new light.

No. 2: “The Great Gatsby”
One of the greatest American novels will be brought to the big screen again. I haven’t even seen it yet, and I already know the greatest thing about this movie.

In this day and age, when a movie comes out and it was originally a novel, today’s generation will rush to the bookstore or the store on a Kindle or iPad and buy said novel, so that they can read it before the movie comes out.

Since this story is being done by some of Hollywood’s best known actors, this novel which so many Americans have not read, will once again actually be read by the masses.

In the original story written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the story takes place in 1922, in a disillusioned post World War I United States. Nick Carraway, a Yale graduate and WWI veteran, takes a job in New York and rents a small house next to a mansion owned by Jay Gatsby.

Set to be released in May 2013 and directed by Baz Luhrmann, director of films such as “Moulin Rouge!,” “Australia” and “Romeo + Juliet,” Gatsby is played by Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire plays Carraway in what looks like a completely spectacular, visually stunning and exciting movie.

I have to give props to the geniuses in Hollywood that inspire people all around the world to immerse themselves in something other than guns, car chases and clichés.


No. 1: “Anchorman: The Legend Continues”
I’ve definitely saved the best for last. It’s been eight years since “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy” came out.

In 2004, I was in the eighth grade. The second Bush was elected to office, Usher was the king of popular music, and the Channel 4 news team was quoted in every classroom in America.

For “The Legend Continues,” the news team, comprised of Will Ferrell as Ron Burgandy, Paul Rudd as Brian Fantana, David Koechner as Champ Kid and Steve Carell as Brick Tamland, is back on air.

Not much has been released about the plot of the movie, besides a few hints as to the time, the turning point in the history of TV news, and something about “bowling for dollars” and a “custody battle.”

This team of actors has gone on from the first “Anchorman” to be the most hilarious guys in Hollywood, and it’ll be interesting to see how they and the writer and director, Adam McKay, have grown in the past eight years.

“It’s going to be a fun movie,” or so the teaser trailer has told us.

Which of Tarin’s Top 5 movies are you most excited to see?

Vote online at unkantelope.com
UNK senior Erin Bailey is all fired up about teaching people to shake it and have fun while burning the calories. This spring semester she was invited to help teach the exciting and fairly new Zumba class.

Zumba is an intense dance class designed for people of all ages. The dances come in a wide variety and includes everything from the salsa to the shimmy. Every dance is designed to make you sweat and burn calories, while allowing you to have fun and enjoy the dances.

“Sanae Shea, (Zumba’s main instructor) is who really got me interested in Zumba,” says Bailey. “She became my Zumba mom. I have been taking her classes for years, and finally Sanae and another lady talked to me about becoming an instructor and going to the training in Omaha.”

Zumba continues to grow across the area because it is fun, Bailey said. “Now I really enjoy teaching and its fun because I teach classes at the YMCA and in Gibbon, and they are fairly small classes. The class I teach here at UNK is very large and it is so much more fun because people get really involved and are not afraid to get into the dances.”

Zumba is offered to everyone and can be taken for college credit or for the price of $45 per term. Everyone is encouraged to come and see how much fun it can be to mix the art of dancing and the hassle of working out.

UNK’s Thursday night Zumba class starts off their workouts by stretching and warming up their muscles. UNK’s Zumba class is offered at many different times during the week and is a great way to workout while having fun.

### Sudoku

**How to play:**

Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

```
5  4  9  1
3  8  9  7
8  2  7  3
5  7  1
6  9  3  2  4  5
3  5  8  4  3
2  1  3
4  7  2  9
```

Find answer on page 10  www.sudoku-puzzles.net

**Campus Crime Log**

**Jan. 15:** Fire truck 33 responded to trash can fire north of the College of Education. A lit cigarette was listed as the possible cause.

**Jan. 15:** Centennial Towers East resident cited for Possession of Marijuana (less than one ounce) and Possession of Paraphernalia, after a suspicious odor was reported.

**Jan. 17:** Five subjects cited for Minor in Possession outside of CTE after a noise complaint was called in.

**Jan. 19:** Two subjects cited for MIP and another for procuring, after a suspicious odor was reported inside of CTE.

**Jan. 19:** Two females cited for MIP inside of Mantor Hall.

**Jan. 20:** Male arrested and jailed for terrorist threats, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief, after a female called 911 from the CTE area in reference to a man with a knife.

**Jan. 21:** Male reported theft of Jimmy John’s light off top of his car outside of Nester Hall North.

**Jan. 25:** Report of a possible disturbance at University Heights resulted in separation of two parties over a gambling dispute.

**Jan. 25:** Two separate vehicles were pulled over near campus and issued defect cards for inoperable headlights.

**Jan. 26:** Male cited near campus for careless driving.

**Jan. 26:** A vehicle was pulled over near campus and issued a defect card for an inoperable headlight.
**LOPER ACTION**

Wrestling, track and field find winning ways

**BY AARON URBANSKI**
Antelope Staff

**Track and Field**

The indoor track and field team won 12 events over the weekend at the Concordia Classic in Seward. For the men, senior distance runner Tanner Fruit dominated the mile for the Lopers while freshman Mark Seeba set a second straight NCAA provisional height in the pole vault.

Senior Colton Venteicher also brought home a victory in the 800 meters with a time of 1:57.64.

For the women, junior standout Marissa Bongers continues to shine with another school record posted over the weekend in the 1000 meters with a time of 2:57.02.

The record marks her third this season in addition to her previous marks set last week in the 600 and 800 meters respectively.

The Lopers will host the Charlie Foster Classic this weekend with multi-events beginning Friday Feb. 1 at 4 pm in the Health and Sports Center.

**Wrestling**

The Loper grapplers have been plagued by injuries and bad luck on their recent tumble from atop the rankings to their current 13th-overall position in the most recent Division II polls.

But hope has not been lost after rallying to win the Midwest Duals Tournament and matchups against Maryville University and Chadron State College over the weekend.

With the wins, the Lopers improve to 9-3 on the season and should expect to see a swift climb back into the top-ten of both Division II polls.

Against Chadron, the Lopers out-classed the Eagles to a 34-9 victory in which UNK posted victories in seven of their eight matchups.

Redshirt freshman Chase White continued to dominate the mat for the Lopers after picking up his 25th victory scoring 22 points in an eventual tech fall of former Loper Bruce Zurek.

The Lopers will take on MIAA rival Truman State Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Health and Sports Center.

**Loper of the Week**

**Shields makes most of Loper experience**

**BY KENT KEHLER**
Antelope Staff

After tearing up the hardwood as a Kearney High Bearcat, Tyler Shields, a sophomore finance major and member of the Loper basketball team, said it was an easy choice for him to go to school at UNK. “I really liked the coaches when I came here. I was also offered a scholarship so it was a really easy choice for me to come to UNK. It was close to home and a place I liked.”

So far in 2013, Shields is averaging 9.1 points per game to go along with his 6.9 rebounds. While starting every game this season, Shields averages 28.4 minutes a game and is a sharp shooter for the Lopers while shooting just under 40 percent from behind the arc.

The Antelope caught up with Shields for a Q-and-A session highlighting his newest achievement: Loper of the Week.

**Antelope:** In high school, you set records at Kearney High for scoring average with 18.7 points per game, 601 rebounds, and made 300 free-throws. Currently you are second in career points with 1287 and also second in points in a season with 467. But you were not just a basketball player either. You were selected to the all-state team in football, basketball, and track while setting records for receiving in football and a personal best of 6’7” in the high jump. Why did you decide to play basketball in college over some of the other sports?

**Shields:** Being a four sport athlete always kept me busy. I wasn’t sure what sport I wanted to pursue but then when I hurt my shoulder it made it obvious I couldn’t play baseball anymore, so that’s when I knew I wanted to play basketball.

**Antelope:** You ended last season on a hot streak after earning more minutes due to injuries of other Loper players. How did you feel about that success coming into the 2013 season?

**Shields:** The end of last year stays in last year. Each year starts new. It all depends on what you do during the offseason. You have to be willing to get better because everyone else is going to get better.

**Antelope:** How has your family helped you get to where you are today? Were there any family rivalries? I know your older brother is a pitcher at Northwestern College in Iowa.

**Shields:** There was definitely a sibling rivalry growing up with my older brother. He was always pushing me to compete harder. He used to kill me in sports, but that made me stronger.

**Antelope:** What has been your favorite experience as a Loper? Most embarrassing?

**Shields:** My favorite moment throughout my Loper basketball career has to be the first shot I took as a Loper. I was so nervous. I air-balled a shot about five feet over the hoop.”

**FROM THE BENCH LOOKING OUT**

UNK wrestling head coach Marc Bauer watches his team dominate the War Eagles Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Health and Sports Center. The Lopers won seven of their eight matches with a combined score of 34-9.

**Photo by Aaron Urbanski**

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Layout by Marie Bauer

January 30, 2013
'Freak Athlete' stuns nation, leads 49ers to Super Bowl

The journey of Colin Kaepernick, starting quarterback for San Francisco 49ers, was uncommon, like the player himself.

BY NIKKI THOMPSON
Antelope Staff


Different things come to mind when the name Colin Kaepernick is mentioned, and rightfully so. This “freak athlete” is tremendously athletic and an immense competitor — not to mention the starting quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers in the upcoming Super Bowl. He has taken San Francisco, Cali., and even the whole country by storm, but where did he come from? How did this “stud” come to be the amazing athlete he is today?

Kaepernick isn’t a common household name in the NFL like other “football families” have come to be. He was adopted by Rick and Teresa Kaepernick in Wisconsin and was the youngest of three children. They moved to Turlock, Cali., when Kaepernick was only four. Even at age four, he dreamed of playing for the San Francisco 49ers.

As a three-sport athlete in high school, his natural athletic ability shined in basketball, baseball and football. He caught the eyes of scouts for his outstanding pitching ability in baseball, and Kaepernick was drafted in the 43rd round by the Chicago Cubs in the 2009 Major League Baseball Draft.

Kaepernick decided not to sign and even turned down other scholarship offers to play baseball and chose to continue to play football in college, deciding to play football at the University of Nevada. He redshirted his first year there, but soon shined once again. Entering into his senior season, Kaepernick was ranked first among active college football players in rushing touchdowns. He was ranked second in yards per carry, total offense per game and even touchdowns scored. Kaepernick made an outstanding impression on the NFL scouts with his appearance in the 2011 Senior Bowl, an all-star game of sorts for NFL draft hopefuls in college.

His rise to fame in the Senior Bowl got the attention of many NFL teams who were looking for a quarterback. Kaepernick faced one big problem with the draft, a concern about the utilization of a Pistol Offense by Nevada, an offense that wouldn’t likely transfer well into the NFL. However the San Francisco 49ers took that chance, and after a trade with the Denver Broncos they selected Colin Kaepernick as the fourth pick in the second round, 36th pick overall, in the 2011 NFL Draft.

After a decent 2011 season as backup quarterback to starter Alex Smith the 49ers went 13-3, but their season was cut short by a loss in the NFC championship against the New York Giants. Then in the 2012 season, Kaepernick got his first NFL start, as Alex Smith was injured and still recovering. In that Monday Night Football game against the Chicago Bears, Kaepernick shined once again going 16 of 23 for 246 yards scoring two touchdowns and no interceptions to win 32-7. After this game, a quarterback controversy began.

After Smith was cleared to play, head coach Jim Harbaugh chose to start Kaepernick stating he was more dynamic. This is when the frenzy truly began. Since then, he has gone 7-2 as a starter through playoff victories over the Green Bay Packers and the Atlanta Falcons. He has a combined 105.9 passer rating, having 33 of 52 passes for 496 yards scoring three touchdowns and only one interception.

Kaepernick’s ability to execute the big plays allowed the 49ers offense to equal its defense. That is a main reason that they are favored over the Baltimore Ravens in the Super Bowl. This incredible competitor is beginning to look the part as “freak athlete” and earning his place among the greats such as Joe Montana and Steve Young in San Francisco.
Ray Lewis: defining moments

In the early hours of Feb. 3, 2000, Ray Lewis was involved in an incident resulting in the death of two men outside an Atlanta nightclub and was later arrested on two counts of murder and one count of obstructing justice. There is no doubt Lewis played a role in the stabbing and fled the scene with two accomplices shortly after the incident. What isn’t clear is the logic behind the position he’s in today.

Its been almost 13 years since Lewis’ run-in with the law and controversial plea deal that kept him out of jail and on the field for an illustrious NFL career that includes multiple Pro-bowl selections, two Defensive Player of the Year awards, a Super Bowl ring and an MVP trophy to boot. Lewis also racked up countless hours of community activism, a slew of endorsements, and an opportunity to play a major role on ESPN’s widely-popular “Monday Night Countdown” upon retiring at the end of the season.

Although there are many mysteries that shroud the legacy of the Baltimore Raven’s daunting leader, many tend to forget about Lewis’ past.

Lewis murky past is almost hidden by the glamour of NFL stardom and a spotless rehabilitation effort that has transformed a troubled young man into one of the most charitable, respected individuals amongst his NFL brethren, a defining moment in the eyes of many.

“(He’s) a special guy and obviously a tremendous football player,” said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in a recent interview with ESPN concerning the future of Lewis as a consultant for the league. "You're saddened to have someone so special to the game of football leave the field, but I know that he's the kind of guy who will stay involved and who, one way or another, will continue to make a contribution back to the game of football.”

Goodell’s words sound like vindication from a man who publicly denounced the future Hall of Famer for his actions a little over a decade ago. His reaction to the incident in 2000 was one of many similar feelings experienced by NFL fans that remember Lewis’ troubles. Still to this day, it is not uncommon to hear Lewis’ name associated in the conversational realms of murderers and convicts. Nonetheless, time seemed to heal the once damaged reputation of the 12-time pro-bowler to the point of exponential popularity.

But is it enough to warrant the forgiveness of the death of two men he unknowingly helped beat to death? How many redemptive actions does it take to rectify the loss of human life? Furthermore, what did Ray Lewis lose?

Yes, hindsight is 20/20 in regards to looking back at the events surrounding Ray Lewis since 2000. More so these questions are beyond the point of providing an impactful resolution to a dying issue, but they raise the question of how NFL fans should view Lewis moving forward. For some, his charitable work and leadership on and off the field has led to the overall forgiveness and acceptance Lewis. For others, his actions remain far from atonable.

Regardless, as the 37 year-old Ravens linebacker prepares for his final game in Super Bowl XLVII, win or lose, expect the NFL and major media outlets to paint Lewis’ image as one of greatness and admirable leadership.

Merited or unwarranted, Super Bowl XLVII will be another defining moment for the legacy of number 52.
Different spin on college fun

CSF students fiesta late into the night

BY JOEL CEDAR
Antelope Staff

Last Friday, Jan. 25, the Christian Student Fellowship held a fiesta-themed dance party at the CSF campus house in order to meet new students and provide a fun event that counteracted the stereotype of the typical college party.

The fiesta had all the key elements to a successful party: good food, great people and a lot of dancing. With more than 100 people in attendance, the evening began with a taco bar, homemade guacamole, fried ice cream and alcohol-free margaritas. After dinner, the tables were pushed aside, the lights were dimmed and the music was turned up. People spent the rest of the night dancing, laughing, drumming, playing games and partying late into the night.

CSF leadership said they had a number of reasons they believed this event was an exciting opportunity. Kelli Stoetzel, a junior social work major, said, “We really wanted to get our community together. We also wanted to have a party that was really non-threatening for people to come, people who aren’t necessarily Christians or who aren’t necessarily going to show up at a CSF meeting.”

Stoetzel said that a lot of people think Christians don’t know how to have a good time. She thought that the fiesta helped show that college students can have fun at a party by dancing, eating well, and just enjoying each other’s company, without needing alcohol or altering their state of minds.

“There are people that had never been in a room with Christians, and they are just like these people are Christians? They just have no idea that they are normal I guess, and that you can have fun without the alcohol too,” Rachel Sanderson, a CSF campus minister, said.

CSF leadership decided that high attendance was not the main objective. Even though they admitted that a large crowd creates more energy, the “party planning committee” agreed that the fiesta would have been a success if 15 people were having fun.

Stoetzel said the social activities are primarily an opportunity to connect. “We meet a lot of new people and make a lot more connections. Because, to be honest, if somebody never comes to CSF or never walks in a church door I am OK with that as long as we meet them and get connected with them.”

CSF hopes to do an event like this at least once a month every semester. Other ideas that they have planned for the spring semester of 2013 include a fancy dinner, a house party/rave and the CSF Olympics. They also do a number of smaller events every month, in case students cannot attend the larger event.

Photos by Joel Cedar

ABOVE: David Garetson, a recent graduate from UNK, serves up some alcohol-free margaritas at the Fiesta.

RIGHT: In the midst of dancing, students take a moment and pause their dancing for a picture.
FALCONER TO DIRECT HONORS PROGRAM

In a new position after 13 years at UNK, new director hopes to guide participants to increased options, benefits from the program

BY JESSICA ALBIN
Antelope Staff

Not only did the New Year bring about new classes and resolutions for many students, but it also welcomed Dr. John Falconer as the new director of the Honors Program.

Dr. Falconer has been at UNK since 1999 in a few key positions on campus.

Associate Director of the Honors Program, Jane Christensen, is excited to have Dr. Falconer as the new director. “I appreciate the fact that he’s been here (at UNK) for 13 years. He has acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience already.”

That wealth of knowledge and experience will come in handy when making the changes to the Honors Program he hopes to bring about. Dr. Falconer said he hopes to increase options for the program, “Honors students have a natural appetite for learning. What we want to do is to increase the amount of options on the buffet.”

Honors students have a natural appetite for learning. What we want to do is to increase the amount of options on the buffet

“Contrary to students’ natural fears, this does not mean more requirements will be added to the program. Instead, Falconer said more opportunities will be provided for students including undergraduate research, study abroad, service learning, internships and leadership development.

Dr. Falconer gave an example using a national statistic saying approximately 370,000 business majors will graduate in May. About 10 percent of the graduates are Honors students. The opportunities those students took advantage of while in college are going to set them apart and give them that head start over the other students who just got a degree. This same idea applies to all majors and areas of study.

“The key is to give the honors students the opportunity to get as much out of their education as they can. It’s about an education, not a degree. Filling requirements doesn’t help people who have more potential.”

Christensen agrees with Dr. Falconer and said she is excited for these opportunities to continue unfolding. In addition to helping build their resumes for after college, these opportunities would also boost honor student activity on campus.

“The honors student population really enhances all of UNK. Not only academically, but leadership roles across campus.”

Originally from the Kearney area, Dr. Falconer received his bachelor’s degree from UNK in political science and sociology before obtaining his master’s degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia and his Ph.D. in higher education from UNL.

Before he came to UNK, Dr. Falconer spent time in Washington working on environmental issues. He also spent time in the Ukraine doing democratic development work.

Dr. Falconer has been with UNK as the Director of Sponsored Programs since 1999 and became the Director of Undergrad Research in 2009.

Even though his first few weeks on the job have been pretty hectic, Dr. Falconer said he is enjoying his new office space in the Honors Office in the Student Affairs building. “It’s a fun office, a fun, exciting place to work, and I really enjoy having contact with the students who come through.”

Honors director shares plans with students

Photo by Lacey McPhillips
Dr. John Falconer shares his vision for the future Honors Program with a group of honors students and a few faculty members at a meet and greet in the Nebraska Student Union Tuesday, Jan. 22. His ideas for change are based on the idea that Honors students shouldn’t just be fulfilling requirements to graduate. He wants to make other opportunities, such as undergraduate research and study abroad, more accessible for honors students.

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Sudoku answer:
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The sound drifts up into first floor of the Fine Arts Building. Leslie Abegglen is teaching classes and choreographing for the spring dance concert.

The third time’s the charm as Abegglen prepares for UNK’s annual “Evening of Concert Dance” in March. “This is the third time I’ve been involved with the dance concert, and it’s really starting to have a different look. I’ve really tried to put some pieces in the program that show what a more classical dance would look like, more structure to it. I’ve really tried to have pieces that educate the audience on what dance is all about.”

Abegglen said she is beyond excited about range of the concert March 1 and 2 with original and live music and a variety of styles of dance.

“We have a nice variety of pieces, and most of the concert is choreographed by students. We have some solo pieces, some group pieces, and they’re all different genres”, she said. “We have everything from hip-hop to classical to contemporary. We have a brand new piece that Dr. Darleen Mitchell has composed, which will be played by the UNK Flute Choir, and I’ll be choreographing a piece to go along with that. Live music will be something new to this year’s dance concert.”

Abegglen, from Lincoln, started dance classes at age five. As an adult, she performed with the Omaha Ballet for five years, in classical works like “Swan Lake” and “The Nutcracker,” along with other contemporary pieces. Then, in 2006, Abegglen and her two sons moved to Kearney to be with her husband Jon, who has lived in Kearney for over 30 years.

During the fall 2010 semester, dance professor Gary Schaaf had a heart attack, and Abegglen was asked to oversee his classes until he regained his health. “Dr. Valerie Cisler called me and asked if I would step in for a while.” Abegglen said. “When Gary regained his health, I stayed on and taught the movement classes while he resumed teaching the lecture class [Dance Appreciation].”

Abegglen stayed with the dance program for the following year and, when Schaaf retired after 28 years at UNK, Abegglen was asked to stay as the interim director of the department this year.

The thing I’ve enjoyed most about this is working with the students, hopefully giving them skills they can take with them into their adult lives,” Abegglen said. “An interest in pursuing any type of movement – whether that be yoga or dance – can be an outlet for creativity for students that they can use for the rest of their lives.”

Creativity, that, Abegglen says, isn’t seen enough in our part of the state. “It would be great to create more interest in dance in central Nebraska. I think as you go toward the eastern part of the state – Omaha, and Lincoln – they have really great dance communities. If you go west to Denver, you find it too.” But that’s not to say that the interest isn’t growing. “There are very strong dance studios in Kearney that serve the younger population,” Abegglen adds, “but as far as adults and college age students that want to pursue dance – whether it’s on a professional level or just for their enjoyment – it would be nice to build a community where we could offer dance for young women and men who want to do that.”

Students at UNK are already putting that creativity to work. This year’s dance concert boasts eight student choreographers – creating art that includes all types of music and all types of dance. Junior Elizabeth Liebermann, a musical theater major from Burwell who is choreographing a rock opera by the band Ludo. “A lot of hard work goes into this form of expression and it is incredible to see the talent that our peers and professors have.”

Tickets to the Dance Concert are free for students with a UNK ID. They can be picked up at the box office located in the Fine Arts Building, or by calling the Box Office at 308-865-8417.
“Impermanence,” a photography piece by Derrick Burbul, associate professor of art and art history, is on display in the Walker Art Gallery as part of faculty exhibition until Feb. 8. Burbul encourages communication between artists and observers, and invites viewers to actually take a photo from his collection with the donation of one dollar, thus changing the art. Burbul writes on the information card: “Art is a dialogue. These images are my dialogue with our landscapes past, by hunting for representations of buffalo. I would like to extend this conversation to include you.”

Cornell Leffler of Lincoln and Michael Perez-Chavez of Omaha participated in the Office of Multicultural Affairs Winter Retreat Minute to Win It games. In this game they had one minute to stack and balance six die on a popsicle stick for three seconds.

Dan Frizane from Minden, a volunteer at Pioneer Village, talks about the early years of trolleys in Kearney area on Jan. 26, at the Frank House. “The song ‘Clang, Clang, Clang Went the Trolley’ is authentic,” Frizane said. Trolleys ran in downtown Kearney in late 1888 when Kearney boasted the first electric streetcar system west of the Mississippi. The current two trolley cars were purchased in 1998 and can be chartered for special events.
As the event began, the quiet crowd of approximately 20 people held flameless candles to illuminate the Nebraskan Student Union for the candlelight vigil honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m.

Leaders from the Black Student Association opened with a song, “This Little Light,” popular and inspiring during the Civil Rights Movement. The BSA put on readings and a skit, showcasing the arrest, triumph and eventual assassination of Dr. King.

“We wanted to make it different and more appealing,” said Cornell Leffler, who added that the association was aiming to get a lot of interaction from the audience. Audience members did gasp as the shot rang out unexpectedly, and Leffler, acting the part of King, fell to the floor.

Members of the BSA shared personal stories about how Dr. King still inspires them, including Leffler, a psychology major from Lincoln, who was adopted into a white family as a baby.

Leffler, the BSA president, said, “Obviously if Martin Luther King hadn’t done the things he did, my life would be very different.”

Dr. Claude Louishomme, an associate professor in political science, spoke near the conclusion, and a few members of the audience then shared their own stories of how Dr. King, his wife Coretta and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, changed or affected their lives.

Earlier in the day, the BSA conducted a spoken word flash mob in which Leffler recited Dr. King’s speech on the main stairs of the union.

“It’s really humbling and a blessing to pay respects to a man like Dr. Martin Luther King,” Leffler said. “Looking at people in history, it is hard to realize and see how events affect you because you weren’t there, but inequality and injustice still exist. His dream still lives on. If we are collectively and actively striving to move forward and make a difference, his dream lives on.”

The BSA will be hosting more events throughout the month of February, Black History Month, including movie nights, trivia and a poet on Tuesday, Feb. 5.