United for Nepal

Current NESAK Board members: (Front) Grishma Ojha, Agrima Koiral and Sushrita Lamichhane (Back) Sacheet Shrestha, Krishna Gupta Rauniyar, Sanjog Pathak and Mandip Deuja put their hands together for “Namaskar,” the traditional Nepalese way of greeting people.

Organizations honor Pun, raise needed funds

BY KELLI WALTERS
Antelope Staff

The Ponderosa Room was full of Nepalese students eagerly waiting to welcome and honor their guest to an eventful night and raise money for Himanchal schools for teachers’ salaries and also to buy books and supplies.

Members of Nepalese Student Association at Kearney (NESAK) went around to the tables to greet their supporters. These dedicated students, the Himanchal Education Foundation and Kearney Rotary Club sponsored Nepal Awareness Night last Friday.

Donations of $7 or more were taken at the door, and envelopes were placed on the tables to add other donations.

“The total amount collected in donations was $2,000,” said NESAK President, Sanjog Pathak.

Nepalese members were the hosts for the night, which began with the “American National Anthem,” followed by the “Nepali National Anthem.” The words of both anthems scrolled across the screen over a digital photo of the countries’ flags.

Pathak, gave a speech about contributions Dr. Mahabir Pun not only made to his country of Nepal, but also here at UNK where Pun completed his bachelor’s degree.

Friend or Foe?

Writing Center consultants help students combat writing fears

BY ASHLEY LEEVER
Antelope Staff

It is often said that the blank page is a writer’s worst enemy. For many college students, it’s the fear of submitting that first big essay. For fledgling writers or veterans of the craft, the Writing Center is a highly sought refuge for around 1,000 writers who seek help each term.

The Writing Center currently employs 14 consultants who provide their knowledge and support to students seeking help. “We work one on one with students that bring in writing samples and provide them feedback on how they can improve their writing. They ask for our help with questions or concerns they might have, and we do our best to clear that up,” said consultant Collin Grimes, a junior political science major from Grand Island.

Many students seek out the Writing Center’s help to improve not only their papers, but to advance themselves as writers. “We try to help students become better writers, not just fix the little mistakes in their papers,” said consultant Sada Hotovy, a senior history and English major from Lincoln.

Writing alone may seem like a daunting task for many students, but for these consultants it has become more of a passion. “I applied here because I have an interest in writing and thought I was a strong writer. I enjoy English, writing and composition. I didn’t realize initially how rewarding it would be to have a hand in improving how well they do with their own personal writing,” Grimes said.
One on one:

Local librarian finds home at UNK library

BY EMILY WEMHOFF
Antelope Staff

She has traveled the world, learned new languages and found a passion for music all in one place. Tone’ Mendoza, a librarian and diversity specialist at the UNK library, was only 11 years old when she dropped out of school in order to work. After a day of labor, she would spend hours reading and learning anything she could at the local library in Kansas City, where she grew up. “Going to the library was like going to a supermarket and having anything you want for two weeks,” Mendoza said. The library soon became her new home and a place where dreamers like herself, found her calling in life.

Q: What really interested you in becoming a librarian?
A: Well, I came from a family of 16 kids. When I was 11 years old I dropped out of school to work. I spent all my extra time at the library in Kansas City. As I got older, my cousin, who never went to school a day in her life, took me to a high school and told the principal that I needed to be in school because I read too much. So I finished high school and then finished school at the University of Kansas. I could go anywhere in the world. So I naturally gravitated towards that. I got the opportunity to go to Emporia State University, the library school, on a fellowship. I guess life takes you where it takes you.

Q: What was it like being raised in such a big family?
A: I am very grateful to my parents for what they taught me and the rest of my family. There is no one in my family that is the same. I think when you have that kind of difference you learn to cooperate more, you learn to get along more and at the same time you learn how to stand up on your two feet. I don’t want people in boxes. I don’t want people who are the same all the time. It does nothing for the adventure.

Q: Was it hard for you going back to school after dropping out?
A: All my brothers and sisters were working by the time they were 11 or 12, so it wasn’t anything unusual to drop out. My first semester of college was the first time in my life that I got straight As. I was ready to pack my bags and go back to Kansas City, because I figured I had failed. Instead when I went to the different offices to

Nepal from page 1

gree.

When Pun returned to Nepal, he succeeded in connecting wireless Internet in the computer labs he had also constructed in schools. For these and other accomplishments Pun was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2007 for Community Leadership, just one of the many awards that he has received.

Speakers Dr. Paul Welter, professor emeritus, and Dr. Ron Konecny, professor of management, told their personal stories they remembered about Pun.

“Mahabir Pun had a thirst for learning. His midterm paper for my class was 14 pages long,” Welter said.

The two mentioned numerous times how honored they were to have had known him. “He was not only a student, but a friend,” Konecny said.

Following the speeches, Sacheet and Group performed a Nepali song.

Students also performed the Traditional Nepali Dance to show some of their culture to the audience.

A documentary honoring Pun made by members of NESAK was shown just before dinner was served.

“Going to the library was like going to a supermarket and having anything you want for two weeks.”
Tone’ Mendoza
UNK librarian and diversity specialist

Q: That is amazing. What made libraries so special to you?
A: The library was my home. I always felt

LIBRARIAN, PAGE 11
Get credits in China

Study abroad program offers classes at same cost as UNK

BY EMILY WEMHOFF
Antelope Staff

China, a major trading partner with the United States and now with UNK will be the destination for students studying abroad beginning in the fall of 2010.

It took months to develop the program, but the Office of International Education is proud to offer students the opportunity for a semester in China. First stop is Hebei Normal University near Beijing. While there are several study abroad programs available, this program in particular offers a unique opportunity for students at the same costs as a UNK on-campus semester.

According to Dr. Dallas Kenny, director of international education, in order to keep the program affordable, the semester offers only UNK courses, which will help make it an exciting, enriching and educational program for students. While studying abroad, students will be required to take a minimum of 12 credit hours. The UNK faculty member leading the program will teach one four-hour course and local, distinguished faculty from a partner university will teach two more academic courses. In order to meet the minimum credit hour requirement, students will also be enrolled in a Chinese language course.

Before the official semester abroad begins, all students and faculty will have a couple of weeks to travel to different places in China. These academic excursions are also included in the program fees. While it seems like an opportunity almost "too good to be true," according to Kenny, it wasn’t very difficult to get the program approved.

“A high strategic priority for UNK and the Chancellor is international education,” Kenny said. “President Milton, president of the University of Nebraska, has set clear strategic goals that he wants to see significant increase in study abroad programs, particularly longer term academically challenging programs. So UNK is working toward that goal by offering the semester abroad program to China.” The Office of International Education plans to offer the study abroad programs to other countries in the near future. They are currently in the process of arranging a program to Mexico in 2011.

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity, at a cost no more than it is to stay on campus, for students to build up their resume and knowledge on a semester abroad program,” Kenny said.

“By the time a student leaves a country after spending a semester abroad, they have done something that only less than 1 percent of all Americans get to do.” Deadline for student applications is March 12.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit the Office of International Education web site at: www.unk.edu/academics/studyabroad.aspx

No poker faces for this good cause

Alpha Phi hosts fifth annual Red Dress Poker Tournament

BY JENNIFER KARDELL
Antelope Staff

The Alpha Phi ladies are hoping for a “full house” at their fifth annual Red Dress Poker Tournament March 5 at 5 p.m. in the UNK Health and Sports Center. Registration for the tournament will begin at 4:30 p.m.

This tournament has been a popular event on campus in the last few years, and the sorority hopes to keep bringing the tournament back to give to a great cause. “All of the proceeds of our poker tournament go to the Alpha Phi Foundation, which is then distributed to the American Heart Association. Since cardiac care is the leading cause of death for women in America, each year we try to raise even more than the year before,” said Allie Nightingale, a junior elementary education major from Kearney and the president of A-Phi.

In the past, the ladies have raised as much as $10,000 for the American Heart Association. The 2010 goal is to surpass this amount and increase attendance. In order to achieve their goals, they are asking for donations and prizes that will excite the community to attend the event. “This is our major philanthropic event that we hold each spring. It’s the one event that really allows us to give to our foundation each year. It’s so great to see all of our hard work pay off and getting the college campus as well as the Kearney community involved in an event that contributes to such a great cause,” Nightingale said.

If you have never been to the tournament, you may wonder what exactly happens?

“The Red Dress Poker Tournament is pretty much just as it sounds. All of the Alpha Phi women dress up in red dresses while the people involved play poker. We have tons of prizes that are either donated by businesses of Kearney or that we put together ourselves. The event lasts a few hours until there is a final table, and then finally a winner. We provide snacks and beverages and everyone usually has a great time.” Nightingale said.

The Alpha Phi is hosting the annual event for its fifth year and has always been prided themselves on this event as well as their work as a sorority on campus.

Anyone interested in more information on the event or those who are interested in attending the event can purchase tickets from any member of Alpha Phi for $12 or tickets can be purchased at the door for $15. Some of the prizes include a trip to Las Vegas, Husker tickets and free rounds of golf at the Country Club.

Individuals can also purchase tickets in the student union March 1-4 from 5 to 7 p.m.

TICKETS AND PRIZE INFORMATION
Tickets: $12.00
At the door: $15.00
Purchase tickets from any Alpha Phi member
Tickets can also be purchased in the Student Union between March 1-4 from 5pm to 7pm

Prizes include:
Trip to Las Vegas
Husker tickets
Free round of golf
Iran, Russia, North Korea, China: The next gathering storm?

Winston Churchill's message still relevant, but what would he say today?

BY DEANN REED
Antelope Staff

He was an odd man. His skin chaffed easily, his disposition moody, but his uncanny prophetic nature still to this day captivates historians. Winston Churchill was a man for the past, present and future.

He was the voice in the wilderness when all of Europe was under the heavy darkness of totalitarianism. He was hated, despised, called a warmonger, and even Lady Astor, an American woman who was the first to sit as a member of the House of Parliament in the British House of Commons, was known for the following comment: “Winston, if you were my husband, I’d poison your tea.” Churchill: “Nancy, if I were your husband, I’d drink it.”

An insidious enemy had invaded the hearts and minds of people all over Europe and America—anti-Semitism. Famous Americans, like Henry Ford, adored the man who was invading and pilaging Churchill’s country—Hitler. Ford had a picture of the German dictator hanging in his office. Anti-Semitism was growing all over the world and people like Joseph Kennedy and Lady Astor saw Hitler’s views as the solution to the “world’s problems.”

We seem so removed from that time, but are we?

In the opening pages of Churchill’s book, “The Gathering Storm,” he uses this theme in his historical account of two world wars and the state of the world when Germany, Italy and Japan chose to dominate it, “How the English-speaking Peoples Through Their Unwisdom, Carelessness, and Good Nature Allowed the Wicked to Rearm.”

Churchill, a self-taught man in many ways, had a clear understanding of the countries that lay at his nation’s borders. He saw Germany rearming, reorganizing and ripe for a dictator. As the German economy struggled to get back up on its feet after WWI, America with what Churchill called a prejudice toward monarchies, refused to support the then Weimar Republic. Churchill believed the U.S. should have helped to stabilize the German government after WWI, “Instead, a gaping void was open in the national life of the German people,” writes Churchill. With the U.S. unwilling to support the Weimar Republic, the stage would be set for Germany to embrace a charismatic leader who would fill their broken and economically depressed people with hope.

At the time, Churchill had written this book much of what we would now read in historical accounts of the war had passed. Churchill understood the German arms build-up long before the world would even take notice because he had seen it happen before.


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.

What are YOU sacrificing for Lent this year?

“Sweets, because I eat too many and I think it will be a good challenge.”
Abby Royle
Freshman from Pleasanton

“Thai Food. It gives me really bad stomach aches but it tastes so good!”
James Shearer
Senior biology major from Omaha

“I’m giving up nothing. I don’t like eating fish so I don’t do the Lent thing.”
Lance Eastman
Freshman from Chappell

“I’m giving up drinking pop, because I have been working out so I can get into shape for Spring Break!”
Kyle Vergith
Sophomore education major from Lincoln

“Chocolate, because I am a big chocolate hog!”
Patrick Neal
Freshman history major from Sidney

BY KEVIN WHETSTONE
Senior Photographer
Pull over, then pull out your cell phone

BY SAM BATES
Antelope Staff

“OMG this car in front of me is going sooooo slow.”

Does this text message look familiar? My guess is yes. To the millions of drivers who buckle up, start the ignition and immediately pull out the cell phone, it’s time to change this increasingly dangerous bad habit.

If you’re still reading this, thank you for taking an interest in the growing problem of texting while driving. Or maybe you still think this doesn’t apply to you, but you want to see what this editorial is all about. Either way, keep your mind open.

A recent episode of “Oprah” brought the issue of texting while driving to my attention, as well as to that of many Americans. (And don’t judge me for watching “Oprah.” I just happened to come across the episode while channel surfing.)

During the show, an expert on the subject mentioned that sending and receiving texts while behind the wheel makes the driver eight times more likely to be in an accident. That’s twice as much than if the driver was intoxicated. As dangerous as driving is already, why put yourself in any position where your head and hands aren’t focused on the road?

USA Today reported 16 percent of all highway fatalities in 2008 were caused by distracted driving, according to the Department of Transportation.

I know what you’re probably thinking: “That won’t happen to me. I’m a great multitasker. I can handle it.” I have three words for you: No. You. Can’t.

President Obama agrees. In September he banned texting while behind the wheel of a government vehicle or with a government phone by any federal employee. Obviously it’s a big enough deal that the president even has to issue an executive order.

While Nebraska is not one of the 19 states that prohibits texting while driving, it is one of the 23 that will be debating legislation in 2010 to ban texting while driving for all drivers. But who needs a law telling them what to do? Instead you should just STOP NOW. Everyone knows that just because a law says it’s so, doesn’t mean people, especially those in high school and college, are going to follow that law. Why not just resolve to end your traveling texting now? Then you can say you stopped on your own accord, not just because of a law.

So the next time you hear that familiar buzzing coming from your purse or pocket while you’re behind the wheel, pull the car over and respond back that you G2G.

Roadblocks on path to higher education

No 'good life' for undocumented immigrants who may soon be required to pay out-of-state tuition

BY ALEX MORALES
Antelope Staff

Nebraska—the good life: its people recognized for their manners once they venture to the outskirts of the Midwest and beyond, a place where it is common to wave at a perfect stranger and not rare to extend that wave as a lending hand to that very stranger. At the heart of the nation Nebraska pulsates its unique values throughout the land and to its citizens. But folks, we have a heart murmur, and it jeopardizes those values for which this state beats for.

Earlier this year Sen. Charlie Janssen of Fremont introduced an amendment to repeal a law that allows Nebraska high school graduates who aren’t U.S. citizens or legal residents to attend a Nebraska public college or university at in-state tuition rates.

As it stands, the present law requires that students must have lived in the state for at least three years and must be pursuing or promise to pursue legal status. As of mid-December, only 35 such students were enrolled in the state university system, according to figures compiled by Janssen’s office. That includes 15 at UNK. State colleges reported none, and community college officials didn’t immediately respond to a request for the information.

Lawmakers’ premise to repeal is that Nebraska’s law violates a 1996 federal law that prohibits higher education institutions from giving benefits to illegal immigrants without offering the same break to U.S. citizens.

What is earned is not a benefit much less a break. Of all people, Nebraskans know this. Hard work is one of the hallmarks of this state, and these students have lived up to those standards. We must remember, these students are not in this situation as a consequence of their own decisions. However, their efforts have qualified them to pursue a higher education.

Now let’s set aside both preconceptions of the issue, step back and see the big picture. In the long run, bending the federal law would be insignificant. It is only a matter of time before immigration reform will take place. First on the list to be on the path to legal status will be those with an academic background. If a better future is what we all strive for, we must acknowledge that these students are the future of Nebraska—just as much as their citizen counterparts. There is no need to block their path to higher education.

On the other hand, if the federal law stands, Nebraska will join the ranks with Georgia, Oklahoma, Colorado and Arizona as states that do not allow undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition rates. All of these states also have lower high school graduation rates than Nebraska. Numbers don’t always represent realities, but patterns do tend to repeat themselves.

Who is to say these students aren’t Nebraskans anyhow? Yes, their roots are buried in another land, but they blossomed underneath the same sun that Nebraska-born individuals blossomed under. They understand the significance of harvest in the fall. They know the passion behind Husker football. They’ve dodged a tornado, and perhaps even wandered through country roads with a beer in hand. They are Nebraskans. They should not have to pay out-of-state tuition. They are part of the good life.
Well-traveled Australian finds new home at UNK

Mitchelhill follows childhood dream through baseball

BY RYAN SEEFUS
Antelope Staff

With a unique accent and an occasional submarine throw (releasing the ball below the waist) from second base, Jordan Mitchelhill is making one of his dreams come true. “I have wanted to play baseball in the United States since I was a little kid,” Mitchelhill said.

So far, he’s been doing more than just playing. The junior from Melbourne, Australia, has compiled a batting average of .548 and an on-base percentage of .641 through nine starts this year.

While cricket is the most popular sport in Australia, Mitchelhill’s sight has been set on a sport with a different type of bat and ball. “Baseball is a smaller sport in Australia. Many of the teams play at a high level, but there are a limited number of teams to play on,” Mitchelhill said.

He managed just fine.

Although the second baseman’s high
You want choices. You like choices. We do too. We’re choosing to help make living on campus better. One choice you can make is to live on campus next year. Choose your room, building and even your roommate!

The Fall 2010 Residential & Greek Housing sign up starts the week of March 1.

This year’s sign up will take place right in your own hall which will help make choosing to live on campus easier. See your hall director for details.

That’s not all. There are other things that we’ll share in the coming months that we think you’ll like as well.

Current students, sign up by March 9 and get a FREE 2010 / 2011 Parking Permit.
Spring break: plan, play, be safe

BY JUSTINE AGALOOS
Antelope Staff

As midterms creep around the corner and more piles of homework stack up on top of our desks, students and faculty members are looking for that dream getaway for spring break.

Whether you are staying in the area or traveling outside of the country, it’s always important to remember to stay safe.

Staying in contact with a buddy helps ensure a safer trip and can reassure family. If you plan on going to an area with nightclubs or if alcohol is present, remember to use your common sense to prevent any harm to yourself.

Barbara Amundson, senior lecturer in the department of travel and tourism, advises students to be cautious about the inevitable drinking during some spring break trips.

“When going out to bars or clubs, always keep your eyes and your hands on your drink. Do not accept a drink from someone you do not know. If you feel your drink may have been tampered with, notify a manager or law authority. It is advisable to designate one person who will not drink and be responsible for keeping track of everyone in the party and making sure everyone leaves together. Do not leave your friends alone at the bar assuming they will find their way home,” Amundson said.

Remember to always be aware of your surroundings. Whether you are going to a beach or a club, always check where you are and how safe it is. You never know if you will come down with a medical condition or an accident will occur. Knowing if there is a local hospital nearby or grocery store if you need to buy products, and observing your surroundings can come in handy.

Communication is key while traveling on spring break or wherever you go. Keeping in touch with friends and family members will help reassure them you are safe and having fun on your trip. Keeping your cell phone at all times will help you remain in contact, so your important numbers should be programmed into your cell phone.

If you’re going with your friends, remember to stay together in a group and always use the buddy system.

Plan your spring break trip ahead of time and double check your schedule. If you have an itinerary, confirm the places you want to visit and reserve your hotel and airfare in advance. Remember to confirm your airplane ticket and check your reservations at your hotel before you leave. If you are on a budget, keep a notebook to write down how much you spend that day.

While traveling, it is always nice to meet new people and learn about their culture. Just remember to use common sense while traveling so you can avoid pitfalls and have a great time.
Churchill from page 4

Partnership That Saved the World.” Churchill wrote: “The balance of probability is that by the 20th day the French armies will be driven from the line of the Meuse (River) and will be falling back on Paris and the South.”

Humes writes that in that same memorandum Churchill would foretell, “the exact day that the German Army would reach its farthest penetration point, where the two armies would entrench themselves.”

Of course, Churchill’s document was considered “ridiculous and fantastic,” but his prediction would come true. Three years later the German army did exactly as Churchill predicted. Three years later the German army did exactly as Churchill predicted.

The question then is—what would he say today? Would he look at the world’s depressed economy, the arms build up of China, Russia, North Korea and Iran and once again warn a nation who seems to slumber just as we did right before WWII? Lech Walensa, the man who started the anti-communist group in Poland called the Solidarity Movement, was in Chicago this past month. Walensa gave a warning that sounds much like Churchill’s. “The United States is only one superpower. Today they lead the world. Nobody has doubts about it. Militarily. They also lead economically, but they’re getting weak. But they don’t lead morally and politically anymore. The world has no leadership. The United States was always the last resort and hope for all other nations. There was the hope, whenever something was going wrong, one could count on the United States. Today, we lost that hope.”

The world stage is being set, and Churchill’s voice still speaks. Will we through our, “unwisdom, carelessness and good nature allow the wicked to rearm?”

Sudoku answer: Upside down, from page 4

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'Shutter Island' puzzles, excites, entertains

BY RYAN LARSEN
Antelope Staff

Martin Scorsese, a legend in American filmmaking, delivers a twisting, exciting thriller in his latest film, "Shutter Island."

Scorsese takes us on a journey to Ashecliff Hospital for the Criminally Insane, located off the shore of Boston Harbor on a remote island. It’s 1954, and U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his partner, Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo) are assigned to investigate the disappearance of a patient. When he finds out he’s being deceived by the hospital’s chief administrator Dr. John Cawley (Ben Kingsley), Daniels finds the determination to uncover the dark mysteries of the island.

Along the way hallucinations, haunting dreams and a hurricane hinder the investigation. Those hindrances, as well as the threat of human experimentation and Nazi influence, cause Daniels himself to drive toward the edge of insanity.

Scorsese and his team hit the mark in capturing the audience in suspense and not letting go. The chilling mood of the film, from the music to the cinematography, demands attention. Strong performances are also a driving force behind the film. DiCaprio is solid in what could be his most complex role yet. Ruffalo, Kingsley, Jackie Earle Haley as Noyce and Patricia Clarkson as the second Rachel all have standout roles in the supporting cast.

The film is a psychological mindbender that will keep you pondering until the climactic finale. Just don’t expect your head to stop spinning. The plot has many twists and turns, and some may feel a second viewing is necessary in order to piece it together.

Ultimately, "Shutter Island" provides an entertaining and thrilling experience. It serves as Scorsese’s grand return to the suspense genre, and a great follow-up to his Oscar-winning crime drama, “The Departed.” While some may see the plot as too fast or complex, the performances and atmosphere of the film are what make it a must-see.
The Writing Center gives both the students and consultants an opportunity to simply focus on their writing and how to make it better. “I really like that we have really short, in-depth consults about a student’s writing. It is a special opportunity to just really focus on the writing. It helps students to slow down and just look at the writing itself and what can be done to improve it,” Hotovy said.

The consultants also do their best to make the Writing Center a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. “We work one-on-one with students, and it’s very personable—not forced or awkward by any means,” Grimes said.

With a record of helping over 1,000 students every semester since 2003, the Writing Center has also helped the consultants with their own personal writing and goals. “When I write papers now, I stop to think if I’m making my point clear or if I’m being too wordy. I hope that through seeing other people’s papers that it helps me find my own habitual problems,” Hotovy said.

Beyond just improving writing, the Writing Center has helped consultants like Grimes find their niche in the word. “When I applied here as a freshman, I didn’t really have a vision in terms of what I wanted to do, but quickly once I started working here I realized I really like writing. I really like instructing and teaching and working with people. I decided I would like to teach at a university someday,” Grimes said.

Writing is a passion the consultants have cultivated in themselves and hope to have other students embrace as well. “I really enjoy writing and want to continue writing and researching in my own subject. I want to continue to have a hand in helping students improve their writing abilities,” Grimes said.

Librarian from page 2

Q: How did you stay focused and motivated to continue?
A: I’ve been blessed with people that have extended their knowledge and their spirit and themselves in ways to get me back into school. One thing they taught me is to share with others in helping them in any way you can. That’s the way librarianship is. When people come through the door, we share whatever we know. The sources are unlimited. All you have to do is come through those library doors and say “I need some help.”

Q: I guess we kind of take libraries for granted.
A: We are on this earth for maybe 70, 80 or 90 years. We don’t last very long. With what we can do from the time of our birth to our death is unlimited. In the library you have access to philosophy, music, art, mathematics. You can take these things and make them your own. You can come up with your own ideas and contribute to the world.

Q: How does the library keep up with the changes in the world and the advances in technology?
A: Well, as a liaison, I act as a bridge between the library and different departments on campus. What we do is allocate different funds so that we can purchase materials related to different areas. This includes all kind of materials, such as DVDs, videos, children’s books and all kinds of posters, not just books. At the same time, we are purchasing more and more subscriptions to databases online. The world is changing, and we need to support our students to help them become familiar and literate in those changes. We too have to change with the times.

Q: What makes this library so unique?
A: I work with other librarians who are scholars, athletes, comics or cutouts. Librarianship is not what people think it is. Librarians know what they are talking about when they talk about resources and how their resources can be used to benefit a purpose. It’s a damn good profession to get into.

Q: What is one thing that you think would get more students into libraries?
A: This is part of my personal journey, but for me, the library is a place for dreamers. It’s where you can take anything you are interested in and explore it. It can teach you so many subtleties about life and about yourself. But you have to have your spirit open to you. You can’t buy into everything so seriously, but if you keep open, it can bring anything in your life you desire.
ABOVE: Dr. Mena-Werth and John LaRosa, a salesman of Seiler Instrument planetarium division, stand in front of the Zeiss star projector which provides students and visitors with an indoor Universe where the sky is never cloudy. Mena-Werth gave tours of the new addition throughout the day.

LEFT: UNK Chancellor Doug Kristensen was one of the keynote speakers for the opening of the new 60-seat planetarium was Feb. 19. The new planetarium at Bruner Hall of Science replaced an older planetarium that was in the basement of the building. The new addition was part of the $14.5 million renovation of the building.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Holding the ribbon, Dr. Jose Mena-Werth, physics and physical science professor, is the new planetarium director. Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson cuts the ribbon while Naomi Hastings a physics education major from Oxford stands by to assist.

Sen. Ben Nelson takes the scissors

Photos by Lyndsey Luxford

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March 5: Planetarium on Parade
March 12: Planetarium on Parade
April 2: Star Stories
April 9: Star Stories
May 7: Planetarium on Parade
May 14: Planetarium on Parade

All shows at at 7 p.m.