Fame electrifies

By Sam Bates
Antelope Staff

“The power blows!” These ironic first words were uttered during the Fame talent show on Thursday, March 11 and rang true for the opening act of the night.

Jordan Peterson’s microphone failed to work as he began his duet with Nate Rocke for their performance of the song “Rent” from the Broadway musical. But the duo didn’t let the technical difficulty slow them down as they powered through the song – Peterson’s voice echoing through the Ponderosa Room without the use of a microphone to a crowd of around 500. It was a powerful start to a talent-filled night.

Following Peterson and Rocke were acts that included singing, dancing, drumming, magic, harp playing and even sign language.

Megan Baker’s signed rendition of Ke$ha’s “TiK ToK” was a definite crowd pleaser. During Baker’s performance the audience bobbed their heads and laughed in all the right places. Baker’s “sing” language gave her third place in the individual performance category and $50.

“I am taking the second (sign language) level here on campus and did that song for an assignment. I thought it was a fun song because it is more like dancing and a very common song that pretty much everyone knows,” Baker said.

First place for individual performance went to Amy Kerns for her energetic Irish Riverdance. Kerns received the top individual cash prize of $200.

Ryan Hruza received $100 and second place for his heartfelt performance of “Run Away with Me” from “The Unauthorized Biography of Samantha Brown.”

FAME, PAGE 11

Drink up: GAMMA Root Beer Olympics tapped for March 26

By Ryan Larsen
Antelope Staff

Gamma is more than just the third letter of the Greek alphabet. Here at UNK, it stands for Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol, a campus organization that promotes smart, healthy living.

GAMMA helps students learn about making responsible decisions when it comes to drinking, sexual activity and tobacco use. The group does so by hosting fun, educational events throughout the year, such as a root beer kegger, the “Con-
'If you can't go through it, go above it'
Lambda Theta Nu successfully hosts Latina Youth Leadership Conference

BY KAITLIN DOTY
Antelope Staff

The members of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. were so inspired by the success of their third annual Latina Youth Leadership Conference, that plans are already underway for next year.

Mariana Cruz, a junior secondary education major from Grand Island said the best part of the conference was inspiring all the young ladies who attended the conference. Cruz said, “Middle school is definitely a difficult time and age to face. It is a time where their peers are so judgmental. That point in their life can make an entire difference in where their life takes them in high school.”

Members of the national sorority hosted this conference for over 200 seventh and eighth grade girls from schools such as, Lexington, Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings, Cozad, Columbus, Schuyler, Wood River and Gibbon. All of these young women had the opportunity to attend workshops that helped them focus on self-esteem, how to obtain a higher education, alcohol prevention and decisions that would positively or negatively affect their future.

Members of Lambda Theta Nu gather at last year's Latina Youth Conference.

“If you can't get through it, go above it!” was the Latina Youth Leadership Conference motto.

The Latina Youth Leadership Conference is the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. ’s national philanthropy. Every chapter is required to put

CONFERENGE, PAGE 11

One on one:
Listeners set alarms early for O'Rourke

BY KEVIN WHETSTONE
Antelope Staff

Chances are you have spent more time with him than you think. He has likely been in your car, your school, your home and even your bathroom. He may even be with you while you shower in the morning and prepare for your day. No, the person being referred to is not our Lord and savior above, nor is he a voyeuristic stalker who sits outside your window.

Scott O’Rourke, better known to the area as the morning voice of the Tri-Cities on Nebraska’s Hot Country Y102 (102.3 FM), has provided listeners with a reason to set their alarm clocks a little bit earlier for more than a decade. I had a chance to sit down with this sprightly host on a rare break from his busy schedule, where he talked about his love of sports, family and all things radio.

What is it that gets you going in the morning? Are you just naturally energetic all the time or do you have a routine that you follow to get your day started off right?

I do deep knee bends when I first wake up in the morning followed by some aggressive deep breathing. No, really, a big icy-cold glass of water...It invigorates me. That, and I have to remember to brush my teeth in the morning.

I hear that you caught the “radio bug” as young as five. When other kids were running around playing football, were you that kid standing on the sideline with a tree branch ‘microphone’ doing the play-by-play?

Honestly, I was. My mom still tells the story about how I used to turn her upstairs bathroom into the radio broadcast booth. We’d play games with the neighborhood kids, and I’d go up there, and I’d be the announcer. I was that dorky kid with the microphone.

So it’s safe to say that you are living out your dream then?

There is not a day that I go to work that I don’t love being there. It was always something I wanted to do growing up. I loved listening to the people’s voices and the way they entertain people, that "theatre of the mind" idea.

Speaking of your love for radio, are there any radio personalities you remember growing up that really influenced you?

My boyhood dream was to grow up and do the play-by-play for a baseball team or to be the voice of the Huskers, so Kent Pavelka, who was the voice of the Huskers in the early 90s when we were so good, was big. Another
Education majors: Act NOW

BY CHELSEA ARCHER
Antelope Staff

Attention education majors: Today is the day—the last day to register for the Educators’ Employment Fair, that is. More than 30 employers will be available to take eager and upcoming UNK graduates’ resumes and cover letters, or maybe even squeeze in an interview or two, on Tuesday, March 30, at the Nebraskan Student Union.

“This is a great opportunity for UNK education majors to meet employers, network and job search,” said Mary Daake, UNK Office of Academic and Career Services director. “Employers are from all areas of the United States including Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas.”

The fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration can be made by contacting the UNK Office of Academic and Career Services at 308-865-8501 or going to http://www.unk.edu/edfair.

“The demand for teachers is based on their degree and endorsements,” Daake said. “For example, some endorsements have a higher demand than others and depending on where the candidate wants to position themselves (live) in the United States, the region will impact the surplus/demand of their hiring potential.”

Not graduating anytime soon? No problem. The Educators’ Employment fair is looking for volunteers to greet employers, help them find their booth, set up/tear down, along with other various tasks. Those who volunteer for one hour will have the opportunity to fill out a “volunteer vitals” form to encourage networking. This form includes work experience, volunteer activities and student organizations, all important to employers for references. It never hurts to start early.

EDUCATORS’ EMPLOYMENT FAIR

Tuesday, March 30
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
student union, second floor

To register, contact the Office of Academic and Career Services at 308-865-8501

Walker Gallery features student art

Five UNK art education students display retrospectives

BY JESSICA KENYON
Antelope Staff

Five UNK seniors have their artwork on display at the Walker Gallery Exhibition senior show which opened Monday, March 22.

The exhibition explores the full range of creative works and multiple avenues of interpretation. From sculptures by Rivkah Addy and Charles Schluckebier to drawings by Lauren Trimble and Rebecca Evers and ceramics by Tracy Zelinski, the exhibition is sure to remind attendees of the rich artistic talent UNK students possess.

The exhibit will run until Tuesday, March 30, in the UNK Fine Arts Building. The Walker Gallery will be open to the public and is free. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A formal reception will be held on Sunday, March 28.

According to art and art history lecturer, John Fronczak, the exhibition combines a retrospective of works that have been created over the past three to four years, as well as new works, by each of the participating art education senior candidates.

Ceramics, drawings, prints, painting and bronze and concrete sculpture and other forms of visual expression will be displayed during the exhibition.

“The theme of this exhibition revolves around the inherent connections between the artwork on display with each student’s burgeoning and developing teaching approach/philosophy,” Fronczak said.

Aside from the art work displayed, there will also be art education and studio art classes during this week. Studio classes are hands-on art media classes: drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, glass-blowing and graphic design.

“The students work in large spaces also known as ‘labs,’ as in the drawing lab or the painting lab. In these labs, or studios, the students work on their visual under the direction of an art professor or lecturer,” Fronczak said.

Art education is associated with the department of education. This is a program of the department of art and art history dedicated to the training of art teachers, usually K through 12.
Social norm or wake up call?  
These days, teenage moms are becoming celebrities

BY KELLI WALTERS  
Antelope Staff

Shows such as “16 and Pregnant” and “Teen Mom” on MTV are taking reality television by storm.

Viewers watch as the young mothers and fathers go about the hardships of raising a baby. Juggling high school, gossip, work, finances and keeping a social life takes stress to another level for the moms on each episode.

Morgan J. Freeman, producer of “16 and Pregnant,” which aired on June 11, 2009, created a spin-off, “Teen Mom,” in December 2009 due to the high ratings. Allie Nightingale, junior elementary education major, said, “The show sums up in an hour each Tuesday of what life is like for these girls dealing with motherhood. It is interesting to see all they go through.”

Most of the episodes of both programs show that having a baby at such a young age can really take a toll on the relationship you have with your significant other. They are fighting to have a family and yet still keep their adolescence, but usually the balance is too hard to find, causing the couples to have many blowouts.

The hard part about these shows is figuring out what they are doing to our society.

Are they praising teenage girls who get pregnant by giving them their own television shows and popularity? Or do these shows scare girls into being more cautious?

“16 and Pregnant” should teach girls at least one thing: not to have sex with losers,” said Kayla Wittrock, sophomore travel and tourism major. The boys on these shows are not the best examples of having good fathering skills.

The young parents on these shows have to grow up really fast, when they are still kids themselves. At the age of 15, they are taking on roles that some people do not take until in their late 20s.

The fathers on these shows usually seems to cause conflict by walking in and out of their child’s lives at their leisure, which is frustrating to the girls and even to viewers.

Even without much help from either parent, they do what they can to make a better life for their child. For one couple that meant giving their daughter up for adoption.

This gave viewers of the show firsthand look at how tough of a decision that was. At times the guilt and sadness made the decision seem harder than raising the child themselves.

“16 and Pregnant” and “Teen Mom” give young teens everywhere a taste of what life is like, good and bad, as a result of not using proper protection.

Since teenage pregnancies are more common than ever, this show is a wake up call for everyone.

TEEN PREGNANCY STATISTICS

The most current teenage pregnancy statistics available are through 2006, thanks to the Guttmacher Institute, which released the following data in January this year. Key findings included:

- In 2006, 750,000 women younger than 20 became pregnant. The pregnancy rate was 71.5 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–19, and pregnancies occurred among about 7 percent of women in this age-group.
- In 2005, the U.S. teenage pregnancy rate reached its lowest point in more than 30 years (69.5), down 41 percent since its peak in 1990 (116.9). However, in 2006, the rate increased for the first time in more than a decade, rising 3 percent.
- California reported the highest number of teenage pregnancies (96,490), followed by Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois (with about 30,000–70,000 each). The smallest numbers of teenage pregnancies were in Vermont, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota and New Hampshire, all of which reported fewer than 1,600 pregnancies among women aged 15 to 19.
- New Mexico had the highest teenage pregnancy rate (93 per 1,000), followed by Nevada, Arizona, Texas and Mississippi. The lowest rates were in New Hampshire (33), Vermont, Maine, Minnesota and North Dakota.

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 each of the numerals 1 through 9 exactly once. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

Find answer on page 9  www.sudoku-puzzles.net
**Gold Torch Society offers mentoring to UNK's female students**

**BY HEIDI ENGLAND**

Antelope Staff

“To be born a girl is a gift we were given. To become a woman of wisdom and courage is a gift we give the world.”

This is the motto of the Gold Torch Society, an organization established by UNK in 2000 to provide mentoring and networking opportunities for UNK alumni and undergraduate women.

Stephanie Vogel, a UNK alumna, created the Gold Torch Society 11 years ago because she felt that UNK needed a strong mentoring program. She had heard that women who had mentoring were so much more successful than the women who did not.

Today, Michelle Widger, director of the Gold Torch Society and UNK alumni said being a member of the Gold Torch Society has benefits: job shadowing, introductions to people in specific fields and internships.

“I think it’s good for every woman to be a part of the Gold Torch Society, to hear real world experience from the women in their fields of study,” Widger said.

Every year between 30 and 45 women apply and only 25 are accepted. The women are chosen based on their academics, leadership skills, and campus and community activities.

Alumni members are chosen based upon their personal and professional accomplishments and their commitment to mentoring students.

“Students and mentors can be involved as much or as little as they want,” Widger said. “Sometimes they just hit it off well and meet several times throughout the year, and other times they meet at the meeting and that’s it.”

“Sometimes students and alumni develop lifelong friendships and people from 10 years ago are still talking to their mentee and helping them with career decisions.”

The 11th annual Gold Torch Society fall meeting is Oct. 22 through Oct.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications for the Gold Torch Society are due by Friday, March 26th.

23, 2010. If you are interested in the organization and want to learn more, you can contact Michelle Widger at 308-865-8474 or by e-mail at mwidger@nufoundation.org.

To apply for the Gold Torch Society and to watch a video of what the Gold Torch Society is about, go to www.unk.edu/alumni.aspx?id=1316.

---

**Scuba won't put you to sleep**

**BY NATHAN BOROWSKI**

Antelope Staff

You’re dead tired and nodding off—usually a good time to sit in the back row and catch a quick nap during a slideshow or notes. But try falling asleep when you spend two hours of class underwater.

Or look at a few different options to make academic life livelier.

UNK’s department of health, physical education, recreation and leisure studies offers a wide variety and interesting classes that the typical student would find some fun and variety: dodgeball, ballroom dance, pilates, ultimate frisbee and scuba diving.

Yes, scuba diving—Ron Johns, owner and operator of Heartland Scuba, teaches PE 210 Scuba Diving with the assistance of Warren Pennell of Grand Island.

Throughout the course of the class students learn and master the diving skills necessary to become a certified scuba divers.

Johns, who has been instructing the course at UNK since 1973, says he has been diving for more than 40 years and he still remembers what got him started—giving credit to the television series “Sea Hunt,” from the late 1950s and early 1960s.

“I was never the same again,” said Johns of his first diving experience.

The class meets on Wednesday nights at Cushing Auditorium where they spend two or more hours in the pool sharpening their diving skills. But before students are allowed in the water, they are required to complete online work and an online quiz.

“The online portion isn’t too difficult,” said Nathan Blaha, a senior organizational communications major from Kearney. “It’s just some videos and online text with a few quizzes.”

Blaha, who learned about the class from some friends, says he is enjoying his time diving with Johns. “It is a great class,” Blaha said, “I get to sit under water for two hours. That beats sitting in a classroom.”

Upon completion of the course, students receive a lifetime certification. But in order to achieve this, they have to step out of the pool and into some darker, murky water.

“In order to pass they have to complete four dives over days in a lake.” Johns said. Students are allowed to choose one weekend out of the last three weekends of class.

The lifetime certification serves as an extra perk for Blaha who was looking for a refreshing class to fill his schedule. “It’s nice that I’ll be certified for life,” Blaha said. “Now if I ever go diving when I’m on vacation or something I won’t have to worry about taking any classes or getting certified again.”

Johns will quickly point out that the lifetime certification isn’t the only things he wants students to get out of his class. He hopes students will learn to view diving as a hobby that can provide a wide variety of experiences.

“Diving is exciting because you can get what you want out of it. It can be the most relaxing thing you ever do or it can be exciting,” Johns said.

Johns said diving is an activity anyone will be able to do well into their old age. “We have a customer that just spent his 82nd birthday with us,” Johns said. “It’s a lifelong hobby.”

---

**OTHER FUN CLASSES**

PE 110-06 Bowling
PE 110-11 Cycling
PE 110-08 Country Dance
PE 112 Cond &WGT Training
PE 160 Healthful Living

---

**FOR MORE INFO ON SCUBA DIVING**

Contact Heartland Scuba at:
101 East 24th Street
Kearney, NE 68847-5433
(308) 237-7943

---

**Photo by Nathan Borowski**

Nathan Blaha, a senior organizational communication major from Kearney, takes time to adjust his mask during his PE 210 class. The class is offered during the spring semester.
Some say the path to greatness comes from traveling a road less taken. For Richie Ross, that path has sent him from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the ocean, and everywhere in-between.

Ross, a 2006 UNK graduate, recently made his debut with the Omaha Beef of the Indoor Football League, catching a touchdown pass and solidifying his position on the team. But it wasn’t that long ago Ross was donning the NFL logo on his jersey instead of the Beef logo.

During his career at UNK, Ross set multiple school records and impressed not only the coaches, but NFL scouts as well. Upon graduating, Ross entered the NFL draft, and the whirlwind that was to be his NFL future was set to begin.

“When the draft came around, I got a couple looks. In the seventh round, the Houston Texans were looking to draft a wide receiver and they were looking at myself and David Anderson from Colorado State,” Ross said. “Unfortunately, they chose him over me, but decided to sign me on as an ‘un’ drafted free agent a couple of weeks later.”

So Ross traded in his Loper gear for a Houston Texans helmet, where he eventually was signed to the team’s practice squad. The marriage between the Texans and Ross was short lived, however, as he was waived from the team halfway into the season. Despite the heartbreaking news, Ross’s NFL dream continued when the Tennessee Titans picked up his rights only a couple of weeks later.

Ross packed his bags and headed for Tennessee. Team management informed him that while he was on their top priority list, that he was to be sent to the NFL Europe for developmental and evaluation reasons.

Then all four walls came crashing down on top of Ross’s NFL aspirations.

“During training camp for Europe, I was running a vertical route against one of the cornerbacks. The pass was underthrown, so I cut off my route and jumped up to get the ball; it’s something I’ve done thousands of times in my football career. When I was up in the air, the back came forward, and his knee hit my knee and it broke my patella in two,” Ross said. “Doctors say it was truly a freak accident in the way it went down.”

So instead of heading to Europe with his Tennessee teammates, Ross was on his way to Birmingham, Ala., to take care of his broken patella. Doctors told Ross that the contraction in his quadriceps from jumping up to catch the ball, combined with the force of the contact between knees, forced the break of the bone, something that is not too common in football injuries. For the next three months Ross was on crutches watching and wondering if his team would still want him.

Once Ross was able to ditch the crutches, he began working out and rehabbing with a new metal plate that was essentially screwing his leg together. As time progressed, however, the pain didn’t subside, even though team officials thought the rehabilitation process should be going quicker than it had been.

“They kept telling me during my treatment and workouts to fight through the pain, but the pain never went away. About seven to eight months after my procedure, Ross prepares for the second half of the Omaha Beef’s exhibition game against the St. Charles Cyclones. A former Loper football star, Ross is looking to salvage his NFL dreams.

Faster than the speed of… Alissa Larsen? Coming into the 2010 women’s softball season, senior star outfielder and record setter Alissa Larsen had stolen 46 bases in a row without being tagged out. She ripped off 11 more this season before finally being caught, making her total 57 in a row, in a streak that started in 2008. Larsen has played over 150 games as a Loper and has been a consistent impact player since her freshman year. She is currently in the top 10 in the RMAC in batting average at .455. Last season Larsen was voted second team All-RMAC and was a member of the Honor Roll All-Academic team.

In your final year in school and college sports, what’s going through your head? Although this is my final year, it has yet to affect me personally. Right now this feels like any other season, but once our last home game arrives I’m sure I will be flooded with many emotions. Until then, I embrace every moment I have left with college athletics.

What are your goals for this season? Our main goal for this season is to take it one game at a time. In the past we always made long-term goals, such as making it to conference or hosting the conference tournament. This year we have a different outlook, and that starts with making short-term goals. I believe we will have a more successful season with this outlook.

What has been the highlight of your career thus far? A major highlight of my career was when I tied for second in stolen bases (32) for a single season. Also I set a new school record for consecutive stolen bases without being caught (57).

How did you get so fast? Well I have been asked this question many times throughout my athletic career, and the only thing I have to say is I was blessed with good genes.

What would you like to get out of your senior year, and what is after school and sports for you? With this being my senior year, I want to be as successful as I can and make this year unforgettable. When I am all done with school and sports, I guess I have to become a real grown up. My passion is education, so I hope to be teaching elementary wherever an opportunity arrives.

Photo by Garrett Ritonya

From the Antelope, March 24, 2010
Chubak lives college hockey dream at UNK

Storm goalie getting different student athlete experience than most

BY JENNIFER KARDELL
Antelope Staff

He may have never been to a NCAA Division I football game like most of us, but Tri-City Storm goalie Carsen Chubak will be making a name for himself in Division I hockey at Niagara University this fall.

Chubak hails from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and is experiencing life as a college hockey player in a different way than most college hockey players. Chubak attends UNK as a full-time student as well as keeping up with his duties as a goaltender for his hockey team. With a schedule as crazy as Chubak’s, it may seem like it could be hard to keep up, but the Storm netminder is enjoying every minute of it. “It can get overwhelming at times, but this is what I chose to do and most of the time I enjoy it even if it is difficult,” Chubak said.

Attending classes at UNK was not exactly his plan, but something that was chosen for him by NCAA rules. In order to continue playing for the Storm after he turns 21, which is the cut off age for the United States Hockey League, he was required to enroll. “I was actually forced to by an NCAA rule. If I was not enrolled in full classes, I would not be able to play after my 21st birthday, which will come in the playoffs. It also allows me to have a 12-credit head start when I go to college.”

His life as a college-athlete is a little different than the UNK athletes on campus. His schedule requires him to play a 60-game season that begins in September and runs through April or May, depending on playoffs. During that season Chubak and his team can travel as far as Youngstown, Ohio, which is over 1,000 miles away. Luckily for him, the teachers have been accommodating, and the campus community has been very welcoming, even though most students may not know who he is. “I believe the teachers treat me the same as they treat other UNK athletes. All the teachers have been very helpful, and I am learning a lot. As for the students, I find most of the students do not know that I play for the Storm, unless the teacher says something. I hope that my being a part of the UNK community will help bring interest to the students of UNK because we enjoy the energy of the college crowd at our games. Overall, I would say everyone has been very welcoming,” Chubak said.

“The Canada native has learned to handle the differences on the ice also. Goaltending is a much different role than that of his teammates. Being a goaltender is an important and tough job. “The role of a goaltender is to give confidence to your team in knowing that if they make a mistake you will likely save them. Also, it is important that a goaltender can lead by example and be the backbone of the team. It is different from being a player because a goaltender rarely gets to celebrate if he makes a good play. Composure is a key to goaltending, whereas players can get excited and still do their job well,” Chubak said.

This is the first and the only semester for the sports management major, but college hockey is far from over for him.

Growing up in the middle of Canada, picking up the sport of hockey was a given for Carsen Chubak. He would like to earn a degree to fall back on if his professional hockey dreams do not come true.

Let the Tiger out

BY KEVIN WHETSTONE
Senior Photographer

With the month of March quickly coming to an end, people across the country are packing away their winter wear and surveying the aisles at malls and department stores in search of the newest spring fashions.

Although I like the warmth of the sunshine and the ability to wear shorts and flip flops on a regular basis, the weather reports are not what have kept me in the habit of picking up the Kearney Hub on a daily basis and tearing open the front page like a child opening presents at Christmas-time.

What draws my attention and has me teeming with anticipation is the fact that spring not only means enjoyable weather, it also signifies the fact that golfers around the world are hitting the driving range in preparation for the Masters Tournament that will be held April 8 through 11 at Augusta.

The tournament is not only the Super Bowl of golf, but also one that will mark the return of the sport’s favorite and most controversial son, Tiger Woods.

In a press conference held last Tuesday, Woods made it known to the public that he has planned his return to the sport, which is a moment I have been looking forward to since his scandal-ridden leave of absence in mid-January.

“The Masters is where I won my first major, and I view this tournament with great respect. After a long and necessary time away from the game, I feel like I’m ready to start my season at Augusta,” Woods said during the conference.

His decision will no doubt bring forth many jeers from fans across the world, especially due to the fact that the tournament is one which requires only one thing of its participants aside from the ability to swing a club and knock a little ball into a hole: They must have a penis.

The Augusta National is an all-male tournament, meaning the Michelle Wies of the world will have to once again sit this one out.

There have already been reports of female protesters citing that Woods’s decision to return is one which suggests a continued lack of moral standing, and many have problems forgetting the fact that Woods refused to boycott the Master’s Tournament only a year ago for its refusal to allow a woman to play in the tournament, a decision made ironically to keep Woods out of the oft judgmental eyes of the controversy-hungry media.

Although this decision is one that is slowly coming back to haunt him, especially after his exploits in dalliance and infidelity,

Tiger, page 9
Alumni comment on UNK's history

BY HEIDI ENGLAND
Antelope Staff

From past to present, things always change over time, some for the good and some for the better. For UNK, changes have been for the better.

Michelle Widger, alumni assistant director and a 1990 graduate from UNK said a lot has changed on campus over the last 20 years. “But what hasn’t changed is the high quality of education from UNK.”

“A lot of the buildings are newer,” Widger said. “When I was here, it was the height of the enrollment era, and they had three students to a dorm room at times in Ludden Hall.”

Ludden Hall, then situated next to Copeland, across from Men’s Hall, was torn down two years ago to make room for the new dorm (Nester Hall) to be built.

Today all dorms are coed either by floor or hall. “When I was here CTE and CTW were female only,” Widger said. “Mantor was all men, and you couldn’t be in a men’s hall past midnight.”

One of the major differences on campus today is the fountain in the center of campus.

Tammy Haden, a 1990 graduate of UNK who now works with the UNK Alumni Association said you could drive right through campus and park in the middle.

Widger said the fountain is a nice place for Blue and Gold Week to congregate. Before the fountain was built, Widger said, “If we were congregating, we would do a lot by the bell tower and the library.”

Over the years, homecoming has become a lot bigger than it used to be. “The one difference I’ve noticed about homecoming is now the dorms tend to win,” Widger said. “When I was in college it was pretty much Greek focused.”

“I think the thing that’s remained the same is the professors are still very friendly and truly care about the students and their successes,” she said.

“I think that’s another thing too: that Kearney’s really open as far as employers to college students,” Hayden said. “I think that’s why a lot of people stay in Kearney after they graduate.”

“I really enjoyed college everyday. Everybody was so friendly, and I think that still holds true today,” Widger said.
I started developing a knot in my knee that shot pain throughout my leg.” Doctors and all of the X-rays couldn’t explain the knot or pain, Ross said. “So I continued to push through the pain, but I knew something wasn’t right.”

Eventually the pain became too much, and Ross demanded an explanation. He was told that the knot in his knee could be a bone growth, but that it shouldn’t be affecting him nor should it be painful. Doctors suggested they go back into his knee, shave the bone growth— and hopefully that would relieve him of any pressure.

This was his third procedure on his knee in just over a year. What doctors found in his knee wasn’t a bone growth, nor was it anything that Ross was doing wrong in his rehab.

“After the third surgery, the doctor came in and said to me, ’I think we finally have this thing beat.’” A stitch the surgeons had left had formed scar tissue. “It was a very simple mistake, but it cost me a year of pure playing time,” Ross said. “I was going on almost two years in this Birmingham facility, and I wanted to be back playing football.

“Tennessee looked at my progress and felt that I should be further along than where I was. They basically thought I had given up and that I had nothing left,” Ross said. “They thought I was milking the injury, so I could keep getting a paycheck from the team—which is completely untrue. Why would I go through all of these surgeries and rehab so I could make $600 a week? I wouldn’t do that.”

So the team released Ross in 2008, and he eventually left the confines of Birmingham to attempt a comeback into the sport that he had made his living for years.

Within the next year, Ross would compete in tryouts for teams in the Canadian Football League (CFL) and other leagues, but came away with nothing positive to show for his efforts.

“I was living out of my suitcase, and I was running out of options. It was then that I had to think about what I wanted to do with the rest of my career and where it would go from here. I knew I had something left, but I felt empty, like something was missing,” he said.

Ross said that he even had thoughts of coming back to the college where he re rewrote the record books, to help out with the coaching staff. But with that thought behind him, Ross made the decision to move back to Lincoln to be with his family that had been waiting for him during his NFL career.

That empty feeling, however, wouldn’t go away and left Ross wanting more as life continued to tread through murky waters.

“When I came back to Lincoln, I just wanted to find a job, to work and support my family, but everywhere I looked, the door was closed,” Ross said. “I was of no worth to anyone, including myself.”

That is when the opportunity to play for a team from up Interstate 80 came knocking on Ross’ door. The Omaha Beef were holding open tryouts and Ross, with nothing on his plate and a chip on his shoulder, wanted to prove that he could still play.

Ross made his way to Omaha and played his way onto the team’s roster for their exhibition game against the St. Charles Cyclones. Only the players who stood out in this game would be offered a spot on the team’s official 2010 roster.

On the field, Ross was easily noticeable as one of the team’s tallest wide receivers. Early in the second quarter, Ross went in motion and ran a fly pattern up the middle of the field, finding open space for an easy touchdown catch and a celebratory back flip in the end zone to cap off his first career IFL touchdown and first career touchdown celebration.

His play earned him a spot on the Beef’s 2010 roster and gave Ross a glimmer of hope that he could once again become the receiver he once was.

“Right now I am nowhere where I used to be,” Ross said. “But one thing hasn’t been lost is my ability to go up and catch the ball. I can still do that with the best of them.”

While looking back on his short-lived career with the NFL, Ross said he has no regrets with how his life has gone, but he did credit some of his downfall to a bad attitude and offered some advice to fellow Division II players with pro football dreams.

“If I could say anything to the kids coming from a small school, I would say that you need to continue to get better every day and work constantly on becoming the best player you can be,” Ross said.

“That was one of my problems when I was signed by an NFL team. I assumed that once I was in the NFL, that only the best players play in the league. So instead of working on my route running and physical conditioning, I was too worried about the players ahead of me who were getting more opportunities than I was. In the end, my bad attitude about my playing situation set the course for where I am now. Regardless of your position, you can’t let your spot in somebody else’s shadow affect who you are.”

“You can ask anybody, any quarterback I played with at UNK… I was always the first to blow up their phone in the summer trying to get them to go to the park, go to the field, to work out routes and just throw. Somewhere along the line, I lost that in myself, and I’m trying to get it back.”

The road to redemption for Ross has been filled with potholes and obstacles, but it’s nothing that he hasn’t dealt with already and he isn’t taking anything for granted.

For now, the former Lincoln High and UNK star will don the orange and black and suit up in front of 5,000 fans shaking cowbells. While it’s far from the bright lights of the NFL, something is better than nothing, no matter what league you play for.

---

**Sudoku Answer:**

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

---

**Campus Lutheran Ministries**

Worship Times: Sun. 5:03pm & Wed. 9:33pm

2715 9th Ave, Krm (308) 234-1828

---

**Platte Valley Brewery**

Big @$$ Beers

$4.50 32 oz Drawers

Thursday (all day) Saturday (after 10 pm)

17 Craft Brewed Beers on Tap!

Monday-Friday 3pm-1am  Saturday 2pm-1am
One on one:
Coolidge: Student of theatre, actress with plan

BY JESSICA KENYON
Antelope Staff

What was your recent production and what was your role?

Our performance was called “Almost, Maine.” The setting is a Friday night, during the winter season, in Maine. It follows stories of different people falling in and out of love. This show allows people to see how crazy love is and how it can affect people in so many different ways. It was directed by Janice Fronczak.

I had three different roles in this production: Ginette, the waitress and Marci. Each one is completely different and going through her own unique story of love.

When did you start acting?

My first theatrical experience was in junior high. I performed for a traveling theatre company which came to a neighboring community. I played the part of an urchin in “Pinocchio.” It was the first time I was on stage, and after that small role I knew I wanted more. I performed in all the productions during my four years of high school.

What productions have you been in?

My freshman and sophomore years (high school) I played smaller roles in “The Perils of Lulu and Puberty: The Game Show.” My junior year, I played one of the main characters in “Radio TBS.” Mary Eu-nice was the trailer park busybody, and that role was my absolute favorite. I received outstanding performance acting awards at conference, district and state competitions. Our school took that show to State One-Act in 2006, and I performed for the first time on the UNK campus in the Miriam Drake Theatre. My senior year, we performed “High School Musical.” I had a smaller role, and it was the first time I was in a musical, but I enjoyed it just the same. All four years I enjoyed the time I was on stage.

Last December, I performed the role of Christine in a 10-minute play at the Frank House. The play, “You Wouldn’t Believe,” was written by Carey Teters, the stage manager for “Almost, Maine.” It was my first collegiate acting experience.

Were you always a theatre major?

I wasn’t a theatre major when I first came to UNK, but after my first year away from the theatre I knew I needed to get back to it. I changed my major to business administration and theatre and have really enjoyed getting back to what I love.

Why do you enjoy acting and what do you do it for?

I love the theatre because you can be a completely different person on stage, and it is perfectly fine. Also, I get to use my creative side and do things I never thought I could have before. I get to sew, put on fun makeup and build sets. Learning the performing and technical sides of the theatre arts will help me toward my ultimate goal of theatre management.

Has anyone inspired you?

I can’t say I am inspired by just one person. My family and friends inspire me to work hard and be successful. My teachers and coaches have always challenged me to do the best I can. My older sister has always inspired me to strive to be the best I can be, and I thank them all for everything they have done for me.

Do you want to pursue acting after school?

After school my goals are to do more of the behind-the-scenes work for the theatre. My ultimate goal is to manage a theatre house. I do enjoy acting, and hopefully

COOLIDGE, PAGE 9

Sparks of romance fly on big screen, equal big money

BY ASHLEY LEEVER
Antelope Staff

It’s the movie every boyfriend dreads being dragged to and gaggle of girls and women head to in mobs. It’s filled with romance, passion, forbidden love, and before it came on screen it was a bestselling novel. No, it’s not “Twilight” but another film adapted from the words of Nicholas Sparks.

It’s payday for both the writer and the audience when books such as “Lord of the Rings,” the popular Harry Potter series and “Pride and Prejudice” jump from the page to the big screen. Sparks has done just that not once—but six times.

The first Sparks’s film adaptation, “Message in a Bottle,” hit the big screen in 1999. Sparks captured the hearts of 40-year-old women everywhere. But it was in 2004 with the hit film “The Notebook,” that Sparks became an international sensation.

Following “The Notebook’s” success, Sparks’s film adaptations have taken over the romance movie genre. “Ever since I saw ‘The Notebook,’ I became a huge fan of his movies. I’m a sucker for romance. I have seen all his movies since then and I’m hooked,” said Leicy Franklin, a sophomore radiography and communication disorders major from Bridgeport.

The year 2010 will be Sparks’ busiest year yet with two of his signature films, “Dear John” and “The Last Song,” hitting theaters within a month of each other. “Dear John” is still playing in some theaters and "The Last Song" is set to release on March 31.

With up-and-coming actors and actresses such as Miley Cyrus and Channing Tatum, Sparks’ films have become favorites for women—and even men—of all ages.

But what makes Nicholas Sparks’s movies so epic for women around the world?

“They are so romantic and they always have good actors in them,” said Jacie Smith, a senior social work major from Central City. Combining love, unfortunate—and often tragic—circumstances, Sparks has found the perfect recipe for romance novels and movies. Although all his stories may not radiate the eternal love of “Twilight,” it’s the reality of the situations that resonates with readers and viewers around the world.

“Each movie seems like it could happen in real life. They aren’t really far-fetched, and that’s what makes them good,” Franklin said.

It’s the real life fairy tales that keep women crying gallons of tears and men hoping she is the one who will explain Sparks’s successful work.
Fame from page 1

The winners in the group category also showcased their singing and dancing talents. The male dancing group Technologico wore multicolored “I love Dance” shirts and broke danced their way into third place and $200. The group commanded the audience’s attention as they popped and locked for a crowd screaming and clapping along to the beat.

Nate Richardson and Joel “Tiki” Montes also got the audience participating with their performance of “Wagon Wheel.” Their happy and lively guitar playing and singing was contagious, as many audience members could be seen smiling and swaying to the music. Nate and Tiki received second place and $200.

The highest cash prize of the night went to unSTOMPable, a clogging trio that clogged to the Backstreet Boys’s “Larger than Life.” The team consisted of Emily Wernhoff, Abbie Davis and Becky Berven. Their bright sequined shirts mirrored the dazzling smiles of the cloggers, unSTOMPable went home with $300 and first place.

Each act was judged on talent, showmanship, costume/staging and crowd response. Heather Wolf, coordinator of student activities, thought the event was an overall success. “Fame 2010 was great! We had a great variety of quality acts and a great turnout at the show,” Wolf said.

Conference from page 2

on this conference in order to help and support the Latino community. The conference focused on providing a safe, fun and educational environment in which young women can learn and grow. It promoted young Latina leaders and engaged the young women in workshops and discussions that empower and help them succeed in upcoming challenges in life.

The workshops were conducted by the women of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. and included keynote speakers such as Jake Jacobsen from the department of communication, Dusty Newton, the director of admissions at the university and other faculty such as Tim Davis from the college of business and technology, Jeff Lange from counseling and health care, Jeff Lange from counseling and health care and Becca Carstensen, also from counseling and health care.

This year’s conference was led by Monica Arroyo, a sophomore from Schuyler and Cristina Rodriguez, a sophomore from Grand Island. The entire chapter also contributed to the conference’s planning and success.

There will be another conference held next year. “For next year’s conference we hope to invite more ladies to participate and attend our conference. We are also hoping to continue partnering up with more UNK organizations and departments to collaborate and continue to reach and inspire more ladies,” Mariana said.

O’Rourke from page 2

guy was Vin Scully, who was the voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers. I remember he did TV too. I actually had a chance to meet him when I was in college.

Did he offer you any words of advice?

It was at a Rockies game in my junior year of college. I was actually in the media lounge with a handful of animal crackers when he walked in, so I had to put them down to shake his hand. It was basically a really brief “Hi, how ya doin’?” The animal crackers are free in the press room by the way.

When did you initially get your start in radio?

My whole senior year of high school was spent trying to get a radio job. I tried at my local radio station in North Platte, which was KODY/KXNP. It was a country station, and I didn’t really listen to country music at the time, but I really wanted to work in radio.

So they gave you the job?

I was hired to work 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. I never even had to fill out a job application, I just remember I went in and told the guy “This is something I really want to do,” and the next thing I knew I was on the air doing what I loved. It’s really the same story with Y102.

How So?

I actually applied to be a salesperson, and I failed the interview miserably. The last question of the interview was “Why do you consider yourself a good person?” Well I knew I wasn’t going to get the job so I said, “Well I’ve never killed anyone with an axe before.” She ended the interview and kicked me out of her office. A week later, the morning show job opened up, so she called the station’s owner, saying she had a smartass with radio experience. So, she called the station’s owner, saying she had a smartass with radio experience. The owner called me up and offered me the job, and I had held it since.

How long have you been working at Y102?

I started out in 1996, so it has been 14 years. I actually started out as the news director, and after working there for a year they gave me the program director job. I was the youngest program director in the state for quite a while. Y102 was basically my first child. I was working 12 hour days, doing everything I could to make the station viable. It was a small 25,000 watt station that could barely reach Shelton at the time. But eventually we were bought out by a bigger company, and they made us do what we are doing today.

Can you tell me a little bit about your current show?

(DJ Becci) and I are on from 6 to 10 every morning. We have what I consider to be the most listener-interactive morning show in the Tri-Cities, and we compete head-to-head with the nationally syndicated “Bob and Tom show.”

What is the strangest/funniest thing that has ever happened to you on the air?

One of the most ridiculous things I did was in my naïve Y102 days. To compete with Hits 106 one year on St. Patrick’s Day, I decided it would be a good idea to give away free beer, which was very much illegal. We got a local store to donate fifteen cases of beer, and we had another business donate a forklift. So, on an icy St. Patrick’s Day morning we set up to broadcast on a wooden pallet that was pretty high off the ground. When people started showing up, we didn’t know how we would get the beer to them, so my buddy just dropped a case and told them they could keep whatever cans didn’t break. Of course, right about that time, local law enforcement drove by and encouraged us to not do what we were doing.

Were there any repercussions?

My station manager got a call from OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), and they were threatening to fine me $10,000 because I was up on a crane with no straps or lanyards, but luckily they let it slide.

What is the most important thing for current students to remember when pursuing a career in broadcasting?

Figure out who you are. You have to be genuine, because listeners want to relate to you. They want to know that you have good days and bad days just like them. Be genuine, you can’t fake it because listeners will know, so find your comfort zone and settle in.
BETTER BOWLING NAME:

COBRA or LAZER?

Discuss as long as you want. Only U.S. Cellular® has Free Incoming Calls, Texts and Pix from anyone at any time. So nearly half the time on the phone is free.

getusc.com

U.S. Cellular

believe in something better™

Free Incoming claim based on combined voice, text and pix usage by typical U.S. Cellular customers. Other restrictions apply. See store for details. ©2009 U.S. Cellular.