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Antelope Staff Writer

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The University of Nebraska - Kearney heads into the 2004 football campaign with plenty of returning players and an optimistic outlook on this upcoming season.

The Lopers have an offense capable of racking up yards and scoring plenty of points and the defense should be stronger than last year's relatively inexperienced squad. UNK hopes to rebound from this past season's 5-5 record, and they hope to do so with the help of the brand new surface on Foster Field.

The new field is the first of several phases of construction to improve Foster Field and other athletic facilities on campus. The off-season and summer months saw construction crews tearing out the old field and building what is considered to be one of the best and most durable surfaces to date.

"FIELDTurf™ is a state of the art surface, and is something that is being used around the world," said UNK athletic director Jon McBride. "It's a level playing field and it's very soft and absorbent. It brings us into a modern facility."

The modern turf is a huge step up from the old sod field. In past years, the field was used not only by UNK, but also by the Kearney High School football team. The field needed to be revampd to provide a more durable and modern playing surface.

The new surface not only provides a more level playing field, but it also absorbs more shocks and vibrations, reducing the risk of injury for players. This is a significant improvement over the old sod field, which was prone to uneven surfaces and poor drainage.

UNK's employees win excellence award. The retired physician and civic leader B.M. Stevenson and his wife, Beverly. Dr. Stevenson accepted the Ron and Carol Cope Cornerstone of Excellence Award on behalf of them both. And the biology professor, Hal Nagel. Chancellor Kristensen presented him with the Leland Holdt/Security Mutual Life Distinguished Faculty Award.

Honored for outstanding teaching, service and research was biology professor Hal Nagel. Chancellor Kristensen presented him with the Leland Holdt/Security Mutual Life Distinguished Faculty Award.

The Pratt-Heins Foundation Faculty Awards were presented by trustee Michael J. Tye.

Outstanding faculty honored

by Ken Gallagher
Antelope Guest Writer

Chancellor Douglas A. Kristensen commended UNK employees for fulfilling UNK's mission at the opening convocation for faculty and staff Friday.

Chancellor Kristensen stressed that the university emphasizes excellent teaching, scholarship and service to foster student learning. This he backed up his words in an awards ceremony featuring local dignitaries.

These decision-makers included Kearney Mayor Bruce Blankenship, who spoke about the special relationship among UNK personnel and the community, and their need to support each other.

Special recognition went to retired physician and civic leader B.M. Stevenson and his wife, Beverly. Dr. Stevenson accepted the Ron and Carol Cope Cornerstone of Excellence Award on behalf of them both, presented by Chancellor Kristensen. The award recognizes outstanding citizens who support UNK. Dr. Stevenson provided medical services to the university's athletic program for many years.

Honored for outstanding teaching, service and research was biology professor Hal Nagel. Chancellor Kristensen presented him with the Leland Holdt/Security Mutual Life Distinguished Faculty Award.

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see Foster Field renovations on page 7
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Blue & Gold Week’s picnic

Blue & Gold Welcome Week at UNK. His folks are John and Autumn Shafner of Jamestown, N.D. She, a 1985 UNK graduate, works for the YMCA, and he, 1986 UNK graduate, is a Wal-Mart manager.

Rich Brodersen, "Voice of the Lopers," is one of the good-natured UNK coaches who found he was "all wet," after being dunked at the dunking booth at the Chancellor's Picnic during Blue & Gold Welcome Week at UNK.

Aunt Ana Flores and mother Maria Flores of Grand Island make sure baby Moses, 13 months, enjoys his first animal balloon, made by David Harvey, UNL student of architecture. Maria is a sophomore majoring in elementary education. She wants to teach English as a second language. Harvey, Kearney native, learned his balloon art from a mentor while on a mission trip in Kenya in connection with the Evangelical Free Church.

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All of the Synek family youth grin and hold up the toothbrushes they picked up at the Chartwells booth at the Chancellor's Picnic during Blue & Gold Welcome Week at UNK. With them to watch the fun are, from left, Shawn Fairbanks, assistant to athletic director John McBride; Riley Ross, graduate assistant who markets and promotes the wrestling team; Chancellor Kristensen; and Bill Jorndt, Interim Dean of Fine Arts & Humanities. Riley reminds Loper fans to wear the official Loper Pride T-Shirt to UNK athletic events to be eligible for prizes and gift certificates.

CHANCELLOR Douglas Kristensen announces the spills of mostly unk athletic personnel at the dunking tank during the Chancellor's Picnic at Blue & Gold Welcome Week at UNK. With him to watch the fun are, from left, Shawn Fairbanks, assistant to athletic director John McBride; Riley Ross, graduate assistant who markets and promotes the wrestling team; Chancellor Kristensen; and Bill Jorndt, Interim Dean of Fine Arts & Humanities. Riley reminds Loper fans to wear the official Loper Pride T-Shirt to UNK athletic events to be eligible for prizes and gift certificates.

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Blue & Gold Week’s picnic

Austin Shafer, 5, came all the way from North Dakota to enjoy Blue & Gold Welcome Week at UNK. His folks are John and Autumn Shafer of Jamestown, N.D. She, a 1985 UNK graduate, works for the YMCA, and he, 1986 UNK graduate, is a Wal-Mart manager.

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“We’re huge Loper fans for years,” Elinor Hardin, who graduated from UNK in 1951, at the Blue & Gold Chancellor’s Picnic. Oren Hardin delivered the mail at UNK and ran the downs marker with “the chain gang” on the line of scrimmage for nearly a quarter of a century. His wife of 55 years, an honorary woman’s basketball coach, says, “It is hard for him to sit in the stands when the ball is bouncing.”

“Look at my grin,” said UNK defensive cornerback Dino Korecky, just one of the almost 4,000 folks who enjoyed Chancellor Douglas Kristensen’s Picnic. Elinor Hardin, who graduated from UNK in 1951, at the Blue & Gold Chancellor’s Picnic. Oren Hardin delivered the mail at UNK and ran the downs marker with “the chain gang” on the line of scrimmage for nearly a quarter of a century. His wife of 55 years, an honorary woman’s basketball coach, says, “It is hard for him to sit in the stands when the ball is bouncing.”

Amy Fletcher, along with guitar-playing Walter Fletcher, of Panama City Beach, Florida, is a founding member of the band Sterling Fletcher. It was voted APCA Best Band 2002. Their debut CD, entitled “Full Circle,” on Uncle Am Records is causing quite a stir among music circles, according to Amy, who sang during the Chancellor’s Picnic Friday.

The Pride of the Plains Marching Band Drumline is taken through its paces on campus Friday by Kris Monica at the Third Annual Drumathon. Monica is the student coordinator of the Drumathon and UNK Drumline. Proceeds from the event go toward upgrading band equipment.

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All of the Synek family youth grin and hold up the toothbrushes they picked up at the Chartwells booth during the Chancellor’s Picnic at Blue & Gold Welcome Week at UNK. With him to watch the fun are, from left, Kelly Carman, Food Court Supervisor; Renee Grueschow, Associate Director of Dining Services, who speaks with pride of the revamping of Chartwells; and Joseph, 8, and Joseph, 8, Clinton Synek; and Joseph Synek, 8. Their father is attorney Michael Synek, 1988 UNK graduate in journalism, and mother is Loree Synek, 1987 UNK graduate. Mr. Synek earned his law degree at UNL.
Senior enjoys intramurals

Senior Jay Stedman, majoring in sports administration, says intramural sports discovered a lot of people at the Blue & Gold Chancellor’s Picnic were interested in registering for 6-on-6 court volleyball. Entries are accepted until 4 p.m., Sept. 9, at Cushing Room 121. A $20 entry fee is required.

Photo by Dr. Beverly Merrick

Do you have an opinion you want to share with Antelope readers? Write a letter to the editor.
antelope@unk.edu
The new Foster Field

By Ken Gallagher

The University of Nebraska at Kearney kicked off a week-long celebration welcoming students to UNK last Friday. UNK’s Blue and Gold Welcome Week provides a mix of information sessions, social and recreational activities for UNK students and their parents.

As a cooperative effort among many student organizations, university departments and the Kearney Community, Blue and Gold Week is an opportunity for the university to assist students in their transition to life at UNK, according to Tim Danby, Associate Director of the Nebraska Student Union and one of the event’s coordinators.

The first major event of the week was the Blue and Gold Showcase, which featured exhibits from more than 100 Kearney businesses and UNK campus organizations. The showcase was designed to familiarize students with the services available in the community and with opportunities for students to get involved in campus activities outside the classroom. “The Blue and Gold Showcase creates a great link between the community and UNK,” said Jan Schlafflitz, Coordinator of Student Activities at UNK.

Friday’s events also included informational sessions for parents of UNK students and an opportunity for students to register for classes. On Friday evening more than 3,500 people attended the first Chancellor’s Picnic, at which UNK Chancellor Doug Komman welcomed students and their families to UNK. An outdoor welcome- back dance rounded out Friday’s activities.

On Saturday, students attended orientation and informational sessions. Additionally, UNK’s academic buildings were open, giving students a chance to find their classrooms before the beginning of classes and to meet the faculty of the various departments. Sunday’s events included breakfast and lunch in the commons, a sand volleyball tournament, live music at Cope Memorial Fountain, and the Chancellor’s Barbeque. Students also attended the All-Student Convocation, where they were welcomed by UNK head football coach Darrell Morris and volleyball head coach Rick Squiers. The convocation also included performances by the UNK band, the UNK Spirit Squad, and Brett Chloupek, Student Athlete of the Year.

From next week’s Antelope for the full story

UNK’s summer schedule changes for 2005
Summer term will include three four-week sessions
Summer commencement will be reinstated

Two received staff awards for excellence: Dare Larson, who works office of affirmative action and equal opportunity at the university, and Mary Smurrrs, who is Director of UNK Financial Aid.

Also speaking at the convocation were Deborah Bridges, pres- ident of the UNK Faculty Senate, and Brett Chloupek, Student Regiment and Student Body President. Names of those recognized for tenure and promotions were pre- sented by Franice M. Murray, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Student Life.

Nearly 90 new faculty and professional staff appointments were announced during the cere- monies.

Upcoming Blue and Gold Welcome Week Schedule:

**UNK employees win excellence award**

By Guadalupe Castrillon

For excellence award, page x

by trustee Michael J. Tyca by trustee Michael J. Tyca

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Drumathon kicks off with a bang

UNK professor composes opera

by Kent Lutt
Antelope Entertainment Editor

Almost everyone loves music. Uplifting songs ease the burdens in our lives, and beautiful ballads bring tears to our eyes.

To others, music goes far beyond love. For Darleen Mitchell, an assistant professor of music at UNK, said. “Music is life. Far beyond love. For Darleen Mitchell, music is life. It’s a medium that allows us to express ourselves. To embrace and share our beliefs. A Soul’s Journey: The Life of Saint Edith Stein.” The opera is meant to provide a deeper meaning of life. The Bible was of utmost importance to Stein’s life. Her writings, letters, and memos in her search for the deeper meaning of life. The Bible was of utmost importance to her writings. Many of the passages found in both her writings and the Bible were used by Mitchell to construct lyrics and ideas.

The sainthood in life

Mitchell became intrigued with Stein and researched her history extensively. This provided the necessary background for the genesis of Stein’s life on the stage. Her life, filled with hardships, sorrow, andancing, and grandeur, is suited perfectly for the stage under Mitchell’s guidance.

The first act of “A Soul’s Journey,” Mitchellimmades Stein and most of the characters to the audience. She also sets up the background through the opera’s song and dance routines, including a waltz near the beginning of the production. Mitchell uses modern classical music to give the scenes their special texture.

Stein was born in Germany on Oct. 12, 1891. Her parents, Auguste and Siegfried Stein, were both Jewish. This Jewish heritage provides tension onstage between Stein and Auguste, her mother.

After studying philosophy in Germany, Stein revoked many of her past beliefs. She was named a saint in 1998. And now Mitchell’s “A Soul’s Journey” brings an even wider appreciation for Stein’s life.

Mitchell hopes her opera impacts the audience members as much as Stein has impacted hers.

“Every time I finish performing the score, I always have tears in my eyes,” Mitchell explained.

Mitchell hopes to finish “A Soul’s Journey” in the near future. She has made plans to rehearse the score with the performers before delving into the full-fledged duty of orchestration. The opera is meant to touch everyone, whatever religion they might have. Not only does the production entertain and inform, but it teaches the audience the importance of belief. Even Stein continued to believe, as she sang the last words in the opera, taken from the Canticle of Simian in the Bible: “You may dismiss your servant, for I have seen your saving power, a revealing light to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

The life of Saint Edith Stein is a beautiful and tragic story. Mitchell has made a production to help keep Stein’s presence alive in all of our hearts.

“A Soul’s Journey: The Life of Saint Edith Stein” is bound to become a modern-day classic among concert-goers.