Put on your thinking caps

UNK places fifth over 25 other teams in Battle of the Brains

BY REBECCA MCMICKELL
Antelope Staff

Most students don’t spend their Saturdays deciphering complex computer programming challenges, but that’s exactly what three UNK students were doing Nov. 6 when the Deve-Lopers beat out 25 other teams from Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Minnesota in a regional competition.

The IBM-sponsored Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest, also known as Battle of the Brains, took place in Lincoln with 30 teams from universities across the Midwest. Under the immense pressure of a five-hour deadline, three UNK students were able to keep their cool and program their way to fifth place.

Kelsey Bard, a junior applied computer science major from Wakefield said the completion was intense. “The whole day involved getting acquainted with the software we would be using to submit problems, a brief meeting to start the competition off and then the five hour programming session,” she said. “Each team was given a packet of 10 problems. These problems were split up among members, and naturally we looked for the ones we thought would be quickest to solve, as the competition was based first on how many problems were completed correctly, then on how quickly they were submitted.”

Bard was also on the team last year along with fellow applied computer science major Brian Flannery, a senior from Atkinson. Both said that the team did not do as well last year, but it gave them a chance to become more familiar with the competition.

Flannery said he enjoyed the challenge of this year’s contest. “The best part was that it gave me a chance to stretch my brain. I enjoyed the challenging problems and the process of solving them with my team.”

The competition is held annually, but 2009 was the first year UNK had students compete. They found out about it through Dr. Xuli Liu, computer science professor. Bard said she is considering compet-

"It’s a fun experience and looks good on a resume. Even if you don’t think you’re mentally ready for it, just try."

Brian Flannery

BRAINS, PAGE 11

MLK Day

2011

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An evening to honor MLK Day
More MLK Day events will take place that week

Jan. 17 2011
STOP stressing over those finals; use campus resources for HELP

BY ASHLEY LEEVER
Antelope Staff

It’s that time of year again. The temperatures drop below freezing, Christmas lights light up the whole town, and relatives you haven’t seen in years invade your homes. But for college students, the beginning of December has a much different meaning: finals.

After Thanksgiving and Black Friday, the whirlwind of impending finals week often hits college students hard. “I’m nervous for finals just because I really don’t know what to expect and what are the best ways to prepare,” said Tess Hughes, a freshman pre-nursing major from Broadwater.

Keri Pearson, Academic Success’s tutoring and assessment coordinator, suggests that there are a variety of ways to help students prepare for finals. “There are resources on campus like tutors that are available during dead week. Students can register for Writing Center appointments online. They will be available Dec. 12-15. Students should utilize their classmates and study sessions as well. Study with your classmates. Verbalizing the material can really help the studying process.”

Keri Pearson
Tutoring coordinator

“If we have an ensemble that we will be performing next semester, which I am really looking forward to. I hope that performance goes as well as ours did today,” Gates said.

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BY BETHANY SHINN
Antelope Staff

The setting was just right. With lights and Christmas trees in every corner, the Frank House was ready to hold the semi annual flute Studio Class Recital for students at UNK. The building was filled with anticipating friends and family as the students were introduced for the mixture of solos and duets totaling 17 performances by 12 students. Ranging from traditional Christmas carols to Bach, there was something for all ages.

Julie Gates, a sophomore art education major from McCook said, “The concert is put on once a semester for a class that most music majors and minors must take. By the time the show nears, we have practiced so much that we are excited to perform.”

Gates performed both a solo and a duet during the recital, playing both with grace and ease.

“I play because I love to do it. I think that learning this music and being able to perform it will benefit me for the rest of my life.”

Gates plans on going on to pursue her degree in art education, but will cherish her flute talents for years to come.

“We have an ensemble that we will be performing next semester, which I am really looking forward to. I hope that performance goes as well as ours did today,” Gates said.

*Once the show gets here, we are just excited to perform. We worked really hard on these pieces,* said sophomore flutist Julie Gates. The recital was in the entry foyer of the Frank House, with three rooms full of spectators present.
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We helped University of Nebraska Kearney students save more than $88,000 this fall through Rent-A-Text!
This Christmas, cheer comes with a little lesson in Kearney’s history.
The Friends of the Frank House will be hosting the annual Christmas Walk at the Frank House Monday – Saturday, Dec. 13 – 18.
During this week, the Frank House museum will be open extended hours, from 2 – 7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, the Friends of the Frank House will host a Holiday Tea and Tour from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tea and sweets will be available for guests, as well as guided tours through the museum.
The Tea and Tour days will have a $5 admission. The money raised from this event will support efforts to restore and sustain the Frank House.
“Prior to the 19th century, Christmas was primarily a religious observance only. Today, we observe the religious aspects of the Holiday, but also consider it a time of family togetherness at home.”
Sarah Jones
Frank House Director
Jones says that Victorian Americans started many of the Christmas traditions we observe today.
“Prior to the 19th century, Christmas was primarily a religious observance only. Today, we observe the religious aspects of the holiday, but also consider it a time of family togetherness at home,” Jones said.
The Friends of the Frank House have held this event since the group’s formation 10 years ago. “In 2009, attendance was over 200 people during the five-day event,” Jones said.
Dec. 18 will be the last day the Frank House is open before the holiday break.
What's your favorite Christmas memory?

BY HOPE MERRICK
Antelope Staff

“My favorite thing about Christmas is going to church on Christmas Eve. Then we would drive around and look at all the lights and displays in people’s yards. The next day we would go to my grandmas and open presents.”

Jessica Ferguson
Sophomore
Music education
Lexington

“We drove down to Vail, Colo., to go skiing one year for Christmas. My mother hung all of our stockings on the fireplace, and we unwrapped all of our gifts in the lobby. It’s probably my favorite Christmas memory because it was so random and different.”

Shad Cooney
Junior
Construction management
Ogallala

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Sudoku answer:
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This winter, eight senior visual communications and design majors showcased their work at the Walker Art Gallery in the “An explosion of good taste” exhibit from Nov. 22 to Dec. 6.

The Walker Art Gallery devotes over half of its exhibition season to the display of student work. Justin Geiselman, a senior visual communications and design major from Kearney said he realized early on that jobs in this field can be highly competitive wanted to be ready. “I chose a graphic design degree to become well rounded instead of focusing on one specific skill,” Geiselman said. “I knew it would broaden my horizons and open up many different opportunities and possibilities for jobs. Though I am selling myself as an illustrator, I want to prove I can do more than just draw, including design projects like layouts, web design and packaging.”

Senior visual communications and design major, Sarah Miller designed a line of “persona” perfume which was displayed at the Walker Art Gallery.

Senior visual communications and design major, Manami Nakai’s egao cha exhibit featured a Japanese tea set and Japanese sweets that would be sold in Japan and America. “Egao” means smile and “cha” means tea.

Kentaro Kawamatsu, a senior visual communications and design major designed his “apicius spice” exhibit with the tagline “Make taste more harmonious.”

Photos by Debbie Epping
'9500 LIBERTY' EXPLORES IMMIGRATIONS ISSUES

Dec. 2 Joey Lemus, a graduate student gives a synopsis of the film "9500 Liberty" a documentary about America's explosive battle over immigration policies.

The film based on the law passed in Prince William County, Va. was shown in conjunction with UNL and UNO campuses.

"We want people to be knowledgeable about what is going on and what this law is really doing to people in our country," Lemus said. After the film in the Communications building, there was a discussion and a satellite conversation with the film's director, Eric Byler.
Musty Culture
Mold an unwelcome guest at apartments

BY ERIK DODGE
Senior Reporter

Lisa Kent paid to live alone at University Heights, but shared her apartment with an unwelcome guest—mold. Kent eventually moved out, but the mold stayed.

Kent lived in Room 109-B for more than a year and says she experienced frequent mold exposure. The political science major made more than a half dozen visits to her doctor and suffered from a variety of symptoms that got worse over time. Major outbreaks of symptoms she associated with mold led her to move out during the 2010 spring semester.

“My allergies flared up so bad I decided to move out. They gave me over spring break to move out and said they would give me a refund, and I’m like ‘I’ll take it,’” she said.

The 27-year-old suffered from allergies before, but never indoor allergies. Her allergies were mild at first but got much worse over time. When she moved in she was taking one allergy medicine; when she moved out she was on three and taking weekly shots. Mold gave her headaches, but that was only the beginning.

“When I went near mold, my heart rate increased. My ears were ringing really bad, and my skin was itchy. My nose clogged and my sinuses flared,” she said.

Mold spores are everywhere, and are usually harmless. But if spores are in a high enough concentration they can cause a variety of health effects including nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing or wheezing, eye irritation, or, in some cases, skin irritation according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). People with mold allergies can have more severe symptoms.

Humid areas such as bathrooms, kitchens and windows are the most common places for mold because it needs water to grow. Kent’s apartment had mold in the shower and on the windows. She says she was warned that the shower could get moldy and was told to leave the door open to limit the humidity. The mold on her windows gave her the most trouble because it was next to her bed.

“That wasn’t a good thing, but there was no place else to move my bed because any place you put your bed in a studio apartment will be pretty close to a window,” the senior said.

Someone from maintenance did respond to a work request she filed. She said there was no mold then because she had just cleaned, and she was told to handle the mold herself with a mixture of bleach and water. This advice is also given on the CDC website for mold on hard surfaces.

Interim Director of Residential and Greek Life Dr. Gail Zeller said Kent’s situation was not ordinary, but was handled correctly. She was familiar with Kent’s story and believed the correct procedure had been followed.

There is a new resident in Kent’s old room, which was cleaned before anyone moved in according to Zeller. The new resident could not be reached for comment.

Viridiana Almanza moved into University Heights in August. The history major noticed a musty smell in her bathroom. She guessed the smell came from her toilet, even though she cleans it more than once a week. The Grand Island native also believed there was mold on her window.

Zeller said she believes the windows at University Heights are single pane, which is in line with regulations when the apartments were built. Single pane windows are more likely to accumulate moisture and offer less insulation than double pane windows, which are required on all newly constructed buildings. Buildings are required to meet the code in place at the time of construction.

Almanza has experienced cold symptoms, but is not sure if they are related to mold. The 21-year-old said some of her friends who live at University Heights have mold but deal with it because rent is cheap.

“I talked to three or four people who said they had problems with mold. I asked them why they put up with it, and they said University Heights is the cheapest place around town,” Almanza said.

University Heights is located approximately one mile north of campus and rent is listed at $320 or $390 a month on the UNK website. Rent would cost between $1,280 and $1,560 over a four-month semester compared to other campus housing, which ranges from $1,820 to $2,431.

University Heights was built in 1960 for $1,009,600 and would cost $5,108,782 to replace, according to the UNK facilities management and planning website.

Mold can cause problems any time of year, but is especially likely to grow on windows in the winter.

Cold windows pull moisture out of the air and give mold the water it needs to grow.

“That’s why windows are a problem; they’re always going to have moisture on them. The best thing you can do is wipe them down once a week with Clorox Wipes. That’s going to be an ongoing thing all winter,” said Devin Munroe, owner and operator of Heartland Cleaning and Restoration.

Mold can grow anywhere there is water and a food source. Common places for it to grow are the kitchen, bathroom, laundry rooms and on windows. If mold is not a taken care of it can cause a variety of health effects from congestion to itchy skin according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The most important way to deal with mold is prevention—do not let areas get wet, and do not provide a food source.

“The biggest deal is prevention. Once you see it you need to figure out why it’s there and then solve that problem. You’ll keep on growing mold if it keeps getting wet. You need to cure that problem and then get rid of the mold,” said Munroe, who is certified by the institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration.

Dust, soap buildup or even the fillers in paint can be a food source for mold.

On hard surfaces mold can be wiped off with products like Clorox Wipes or a combination of bleach and water. Such a mixture should not contain more than one cup of bleach per gallon of water, and bleach should never be mixed with other cleaning products because the combination can create toxic fumes.

Munroe also offered tips to prevent mold buildup. Bathrooms should be cleaned regularly because soap or calcium buildup in showers and toilets can serve as a food source for mold. Proper ventilation is key to keeping the area dry, so the door should be left open after a shower. Shower curtains can be another problem spot for mold.

“A lot of people just slide the curtain, and it will be all bunched up. It’s not going to dry fast, so it’s a perfect place for mold to grow. We put a fan blowing on the shower curtain so it dries fast,” said Munroe.

Children and the elderly are most likely to be affected by mold, but it can affect anyone. Any immune system problem can make someone more susceptible—even a cold. Over time, mold can become more advanced and continued exposure can cause more problems.

“The more advanced the culture, the more likely people will get sick. Bad mold takes longer to grow. If you’ve had mold growing for two months the chances are better that you’re going to have bad mold there,” Munroe said.

The longer someone is exposed, the more damaging the effects will be. When he started doing mold remediation, Munroe said he did not have any mold allergies, but 23 years on the job have made him much more sensitive. Mold exposure is cumulative, he said.

What can you do to prevent, control pesky MOLD?

BY ERIK DODGE
Senior Reporter

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Bella Casa makes a 'beautiful home' in place of Bicos

New restaurant offers authentic Italian classics and rich desserts that set it apart from any other place in town

BY MEGAN BLUME
Antelope News Staff

The smell of pizza and pasta wafts through the air at the new Italian restaurant Bella Casa, which opened Oct. 16.

Bella Casa, which means “beautiful home” in Italian, takes the place of Bico’s on West Highway 30. Bella Casa has an inviting feel with an open layout of tables and a fireplace in the back. They serve up a variety of authentic Italian foods: pizza, fettuccine, eggplant parmesan, seafood and desserts.

Lunch specials are served daily, and include a dinner-sized portion and a house salad for $1 less than the dinner price. They also serve house specials that change daily, and all items are served with fresh bread.

“My roommate ordered the eggplant parmesan, and it came with a large side of spaghetti,” said Zach Tracy, a senior telecommunications major from Lexington. “We had plenty of leftovers to take home.”

According to Danielle Einspahr, restaurant manager, Bella Casa does not have a liquor license, but they are working toward one. “When our liquor license is approved, we will have a full list of wine and other beverages,” she said.

The desserts at Bella Casa set it apart from other places in town. They offer cannoli and tiramisu, which are both classic Italian desserts.

“This was the first time I’ve had tiramisu,” said Josh Kendrick, a junior information technology major from Stromsburg. “I took a bite, and it had a strong coffee flavor, but my taste buds adjusted and it was delicious.”

“We offer Italian desserts that you can’t get anywhere else in town,” Einspahr said, “like cannoli with cream and tiramisu.”

Tiramisu, one of the most popular Italian desserts, is made of layers of coffee soaked sponge cake. Cannoli are Italian pastry desserts, which consist of fried pastry tubes filled with cream or custard.

“With the desserts, I didn’t feel like I got enough for what I paid, but it tasted good,” Kendrick said.

Joe Terzio, owner of Bella Casa, is originally from southeastern Italy. Italian restaurants have been in his family for six generations, and they own 34 locations in Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. Bella Casa is the only location in Nebraska.

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Fujinawa takes on America

BY ERIK SWAZO
JMC 215

UNK international student and junior wrestler Kazuhiro Fujinawa came from Japan and made his way to UNK to pursue his aspiration to continue his wrestling career.

Funny thing is, this wasn’t his first time coming to Kearney. Fujinawa first came over to America in 2005 to check out Kearney, stayed for four months, ended up liking it and then made the decision to stay in Kearney and enroll in school.

Making the transition for any international student is always difficult, but for Fujinawa, being a part of the UNK wrestling team made his transition a bit easier than normal.

“Having teammates older than me helped me out because they helped with some translations when someone was talking to me and I didn’t understand what they were saying,” Fujinawa said. Another thing that Fujinawa has had to deal with is the culture. He said dealing with some of the different cultures has been hard to get used to. “People here are more outgoing compared to where I am originally from. They speak their mind about a lot of things, and I just sit back and observe,” Fujinawa said.

As an international student, he hasn’t quite had all the same experiences as a normal student would have. He hasn’t lived in the dorms and managed the full college experience. “My first house was a rental where I lived by myself, but now I have moved to another rental near campus,” Fujinawa said. The process for gaining a roommate at his second house could be compared to a dorm selection. He filled out the application and was randomly put with another international student who now lives with him.

Wrestling kept Fujinawa very busy while attending school. “Most of the time I am concentrating on my schoolwork, and I also have to balance wrestling with the homework as well,” Fujinawa said.

Fujinawa and the wrestling team helped out with a haunted house this year and are partnering with the YRTC here in Kearney. “Team activities are always something that I enjoy taking part in,” Fujinawa said.

Fujinawa doesn’t know when he will make it back home to Japan, partly because it is a 15-hour trip. He plans on staying here and focusing on finishing up his last two years. “The one thing that I miss most is my mom’s home cooked meals; she is a great cook,” Fujinawa said.

Brains from page 1

ing again next year, and Flannery said that while he will not be eligible to compete next year, he plans on watching for similar competitions after he graduates.

He also encourages other students to get involved.

“It’s a fun experience and looks good on a resume. Even if you don’t think you’re mentally ready for it, just try,” he said. “It’s a good way to evaluate your strengths and weaknesses and a way to show that you can work in a team.”

Bard agrees and said the competition is a great way to practice classroom skills hands on. “The competition is a great opener and gives you a chance to face real world problems. The problems you’re given require logical thinking and put a lot of classroom experience into action, which is an important thing for future classes.”

The contest is designed for students in the computer science field. Anyone interested can contact Dr. Liu at liux1@unk.edu.

“Oh yeah, and be sure to practice,” Flannery said.

Finals from page 2

up in the spirit of the season and put off studying for finals. “Finals are now, Christmas is after. Everyone has different schedules, but be honest with yourself about what you can and can’t accomplish,” said Pearson, “Keep your priorities in perspective.”

For students who have faced finals week many times before, one of the best strategies to prepare is to start early. “I try to start before dead week just so I am on top of things. I have had to cram right before a test before, and it’s not a way to prepare for a final,” said Leicy Franklin, a junior radiography major from Bridgeport.

Eating right, getting plenty of sleep and exercising are a few of the best things you can do when entering finals week.

“Just try to keep as normal a schedule as possible in order to avoid stress,” Pearson said.
Building with sweets

Gingerbread competition draws out creativity, ingenuity, spirit of the season

"Christmas at the Campsite" won first place at the competition. The design was created by Sam Bates, a junior journalism major from Ogallala; Kari Connot, a junior business administration major from Ogallala; Tomas England, a junior elementary education major from Ogallala; and Katiana Meyer, a senior criminal justice major from Sutherland. The teams had to make sure that all of the components of their "houses" were edible.

The second place prize went to Rachel Vogel, a senior studio art major from Howells; Brian Flannery, a senior computer science major from Atkinson; and Laura Slaymaker, a senior chemistry major from Atkinson. Their design was Pride Rock from "The Lion King" and included animal crackers and milk chocolate rocks.

Third place went to Dani Donovan, a sophomore graphic design major from Omaha; Julie Gates, a sophomore art education major from McCook; and Shelby Krause, a sophomore art and English education major from Lincoln for their castle design. UNK provided the graham crackers and frosting, but it was up to the teams to bring the supplies needed to complete their gingerbread creation.

Photos by Skylar Leatherman
Samantha Bohi, a senior biology and Spanish major from Crete and Brandi Homolka, a senior nursing major from Genoa keep their building from toppling over. Bohi and Homolka created the Nebraska State Capitol building. "We were going to make Antelope and Nester but we couldn't figure out how to do the view, so this was the next best thing," Homolka said.

Senior social work major from Aichi, Japan, Risa Ito, and Daisuke Yamaguchi, a junior studio art major from Ehime, Japan, put the finishing touches on their house in the forest during the gingerbread house competition Dec. 2 in the Ponderosa room. Twenty-two teams were given 30 minutes to create their gingerbread house. A clock showing the remaining time was projected onto a screen at the front of the room so teams knew how much time they had left to build.