

the antelope

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See pictures from
last week's St. Jude
Up 'til Dawn event
on pages 6-7

'What teaching teachers taught me'

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA
Antelope Staff

He scanned the crowd. A finger point of recognition preceded an ear-to-ear sincere smile across his face.

Making his way through the aisles of the lecture hall, he stopped to shake hands and chat with former students, colleagues and friends.

Dr. Dennis Potthoff, associate dean of the College of Education, nearly filled UNK's Copeland Hall's largest lecture room on Feb. 17 with past and present students, faculty and community members as he gave one "last lecture" as part of the "Last Lecture" series.

Potthoff took a motivational approach to bring attendees with his "Life Lessons: What Teaching Teachers Taught Me" presentation.

UNK Mortar Board, a national honor society for college seniors established in

“There has to be some level of energy and nervousness to motivate you to push and to learn.”

Dennis Potthoff

1918 on the basis of exemplary scholarship, leadership and service, invited Potthoff to speak at their annual "Last Lecture" event.

Mortar Board's "Last Lecture" series features a UNK professor who has been nominated by a member of the Mortar Board chapter. The professor is asked to provide a lecture with life lessons or tips acquired through their lives and then present them under the supposition that it is their last lecture.

Introducing his lecture, Potthoff admitted to being nervous, which led to his first tip. "Nervousness is OK... first of all, maximized learning is not going to happen in a completely relaxed state. There has to be some level of energy and nervousness

to motivate you to push and to learn," Potthoff said.

Potthoff told stories of his experiences with colleagues, students, etc. to reiterate his four life lessons – beginnings and endings, heart trumps head, the struggle and we best be for figuring it out.

His first lesson, "beginnings and endings," utilized the personal story of a previous student. Potthoff recalled the first day a student with untied sneakers, baseball cap askew and multiple tattoos walked through his door.

"I knew our first school visit was to Grand Island Senior High school, and I knew that they have a policy of no visible

As speaker for 'Last Lecture,' associate dean looks at what he learned teaching teachers



LAST LECTURE, PAGE 8

No more money, no more rides

BY AUSTIN KOELLER
News/Feature Editor

A program that allows students to use their student ID to get free "safe rides" will be temporarily suspended effective March 1. The SAFE Ride program has been sponsored by UNK Peer Health Education since July 2012 and was developed to give students "safe rides" from the bars to their residence halls or off-campus apartments from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the school year.

Ishmael Torres, advisor for UNK Peer Health Education, said that the issue right now is that more students than expected are using the program for the allocated budget.

"The problem we have now is that when we first started the program, we weren't advertising it as much," Torres said. "So we weren't seeing as many students use it, and obviously it [the cost] is based per ride."

Torres said when more students learned about and took advantage of the program, costs began to rise. "Right now, we're averaging 40-45 rides every two weeks. The more we advertise the program and the more use it has, the more expensive it becomes."

Wendy Schardt, director of UNK Counseling Care and Health Care, said that the biggest obstacle is reaching an agreement with Kearney Cab on a flat rate.

"Some of the rides were \$15, some of them were \$5," Schardt said. "Depending on where they were going, it was costing us more money."

Torres said the varying rates have made it difficult to budget. He added that his office has periodically reviewed the SAFE Ride program, so the funding shortage did not come as a surprise.

"Before there was a shortage, we actually anticipated being at a place where we weren't going to have enough money. That started early in the fall semester," Torres

said. "We began to supplement some of that through grant funding and through some private donations. But we knew that at some point in the spring semester, we would be at a point where we would have a deficit."

Schardt said that though the program is going on a temporary hiatus, that does not mean that the program will stop or lose funding forever.

Schardt said the suspension prevents going "in the red" and allows time to review options. Schardt did not say how long the review would take, but said that the SAFE Ride program could be on hiatus until fall.

"We are really disappointed that we had to do this. We did not take this decision lightly," she said. "But I hope it generates interest...It may generate some upset, but hopefully that upset will allow people to get involved and to take action."

SAFE RIDE, PAGE 8

Free college anyone?

Free community college initiative could affect all college students



BY MARIE BAUER
Antelope Staff

Whether or not you like the guy, President Obama has made some big promises during his time in the White House. On Jan. 9 at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tenn., the president announced his free community college initiative. He spoke bold words: "Today I'm announcing an ambitious new plan to bring down the cost of community college tuition in America. I want to bring it down to zero. I want to make it free."

FREE COLLEGE, PAGE 2

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Free College from page 1

College should not be any more expensive than high school. College education should be accessible “to responsible students who are willing to work for it.”

Obama said, “America thrived in the 20th century in large part because we made high school the norm,” he said. “Eventually the world caught on and the world caught up and that’s why we have to lead the world in education again.”

According to The Washington Post this most likely will be his most expensive and controversial initiative for the coming

Whoever you are, this plan is your chance to graduate ready for the new economy, without a load of debt.”

Now I don’t care to get into the politics of the statement, whether or not the Republican-led Congress would even approve such a plan, though the White House will include this in the coming budget. I just wonder if this makes good sense. Is this a practical goal? Is this even feasible?

As I write this story, Feb. 18, the federal debt is about \$18,209,293,569,000.

I find myself a bit baffled why paying community college tuition for everyone should be a priority.

Marie Bauer

year. The cost of this program would be \$60 billion over the next 10 years. And if all states participate, that would be 9 million students.

Under the White House’s plan, free tuition would be offered to all students if they attend classes at least half of the time and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher and are making steady progress toward a degree or transferring to a four-year institution. The federal government would cover up to 75 percent of the cost while states would be responsible for the remainder.

The president also believes “a college degree is the surest ticket to the middle class” and the “key to getting a good job that pays a good income.”

“Forty percent of our college students choose community college,” Obama said. “Some are young and starting out. Some are older and looking for a better job. Some are veterans and single parents trying to transition back into the job market.

That seems like a lot of money to me. I find myself a bit baffled why paying community college tuition for everyone should be a priority.

College is not a good fit for everyone. Though a good idea, some people go to college and never finish. Do I get a refund on my tax dollars if they drop out? And if people are paying little or nothing for their education, some of them will not value it. Only about 15 percent of students who start out at a community college earn a bachelor’s degree after six years.

I find this quest to level the playing field of college to be of the best intentions but foolhardy in concept. I don’t think people will be as accountable for their education if they are not paying for it in some way, but we will just have to wait and see if the proposal moves forward. If so, history will tell the story of the success or failure.

'Antelope Speaks'

Tune in or stream online to hear Nick Stevenson and Bryce Dolan talk about "The Antelope" student newspaper. Stevenson and Dolan will break down the major stories from The Antelope. You get all this and more every week on “Antelope Speaks” Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. or check it out at www.unkantelope.com in the podcast section.

Antelope Speaks: Sports

Bryce and Andrew discuss Loper sports teams this week on the “Antelope Speaks: Sports Spotlight ” including the basketball, wrestling and baseball teams’ weeks.

The two also look at what’s on tap for this week in Loper athletics and go over a quick rundown of area high school sports, including the state high school wrestling tournament.



Symphonic Band presents timeless concert Feb. 26

BY LAURIE VENTEICHER
Copy Editor

UNK's Symphonic Band will present their first concert of the spring semester on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building recital hall. They will perform six pieces that span over 100 years' worth of musical styles.

The concert will feature songs by Johannes Brahms, John Philip Sousa, Frank Perkins, Travis Cross, Morton Gould and Randall Standridge.

"Much of the repertoire is musically and technically demanding, and the students have consistently worked hard in rehearsal to truly prepare and perform this music to



Photos online @
unkantelope.com

a high level. We are very excited to present this concert to the public. There is literally something for everyone to enjoy on the concert, in addition to more contemporary works that will challenge listeners with newer sounds," said Dr. Brian Alber, director of the Symphonic Band.

New Music Series presents trio from Quince Feb. 28; selections will include piece composed by UNK's Donofrio

BY LAURIE VENTEICHER
Copy Editor

The Department of Music and Performing Arts at UNK will host the inaugural concert of the New Music Series on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building recital hall. The featured guest ensemble will be the female a cappella group Quince.

The Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble specializes in experimental repertoire that adds a new facet to the paradigm of contemporary vocal music. The group regularly commissions new works and supports the efforts of concert series and universities who strive to incorporate contemporary pieces into their programming. Quince thrives on unique musical challenges and genre-bending repertoire.

"They will be performing a piece of mine, a piece by David Lang (a very well-known contemporary composer) and closing with Morton Feldman's 'Three Voices,'" said Dr. Anthony Donofrio, Assistant Professor of Composition and Theory at UNK.

"With my piece, each performance varies from ensemble to ensemble," Dr. Donofrio said. "Parts of it are composed with written-out directions that describe what the performers are supposed to do with their voices, instead of specific notes and rhythms."

The feature piece of this Saturday's performance, however, is Feldman's "Three Voices." Due to the incredible



Amanda DeBoer Bartlett (left), Liz Pearce, Kayleigh Butcher and Carrie Henneman Shaw make up Quince. Three members will present a contemporary concert this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts recital hall. *Courtesy*

level of difficulty, this piece is rarely performed. The original form is for one singer to sing along with two recordings of herself, giving the illusion that the three voices sound identical. To achieve perfectly matched singing with three people is almost impossible because each voice has unique qualities specific to the person it belongs to.

Three-fourths of Quince's members – Liz Pearce, Kayleigh Butcher and Amanda DeBoer Bartlett – will showcase their "impeccable rhythmic concentration and shrewd attention to tuning" for Feldman's work.

This challenging and groundbreaking work, has very rarely been performed live with three singers due to its nearly impossible demands on the human voice and psyche, Butcher said. "It is based on Frank O'Hara's poem 'Wind,' which takes short extractions from the poem

including 'Who'd have thought that snow falls...' and 'nothing ever falls' and [then] proceeds to shape, twist and morph into an hour-long musical experience."

Feldman's composition is at times a struggle between activity and stasis, permanence and inevitability of change, form and formlessness, language and expression. The universality of the piece shines through in the hypnotic and mesmeric qualities of the three vocal lines that begin "soloistically" and gradually transcend into one swirling, spiraling voice.

To find out more about Quince, visit www.quince-ensemble.com. You can also contact Dr. Donofrio at donofrioaj@unk.edu with questions about the New Music Series at UNK. Additional 'new music' concerts will be held throughout the semester.

the antelope | spring 2015 staff

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Ad Staff

Terri Diffenderfer

Print, Online Adviser

Ching-Shan Jiang

Ad Adviser

Contact:

(308) 865-8488

antelopeads@unk.edu

Advertising

(308) 865-8487

antelopeads@unk.edu

The Antelope

166 Mitchell Center

UNK – Kearney, NE 68849

Pretty 'fly' for an alumni

Ensz begins as First Year Experience Assistant Director

BY MICHAELA MCCONNELL
Antelope Staff

In an office of organized chaos, Brette Ensz makes a phone call to confirm catering for an upcoming UNK Alumni event. She hangs up the phone but not five minutes later, it rings. On the other end an alum inquires about the time of an upcoming banquet.

Ensz smiles as she speaks and smiles more when he begins to tell her a story of what UNK was like when he was a student. She says this is her favorite part of the job: talking to alumni and hearing about the history of Kearney.

Michelle Widger, Assistant Director in Charge of Communications for The Alumni Association, says Ensz has a heart for service and making everyone see and appreciate UNK as much as she does.

Ensz says she once believed the only thing she was good at was singing and dancing, but UNK showed her she could do so much more than that.

Ensz came to UNK in 2002 and received her degree in music theater

performance in 2006.

She tried her hand at small town and big city theater before returning to UNK for her Masters of Science in Education and School Counseling/Student Affairs.

Ensz spent some time in UNK Admissions before moving over to the Alumni Association.

Widger says Ensz is a tremendous asset to the team. "Her creativity in solving challenges and initiative in completing tasks has added tremendously to the students and alumni we serve."

As Ensz moves to a new job, Widger says, "I honestly don't know what we are going to do without her. She will be missed and leaves tough shoes to fill at the Alumni Association. However, she will be amazing at her new position in the First-Year Program."

Q and A with Brette Ensz

What careers did you have between your undergrad and graduate school?

I first started at the North Platte



Photo by Michaela McConnell

Brette Ensz sits in her office in the Alumni House. Behind her, she has pictures of friends and family including her dog, Walter, her husband, Jeff, and an ultrasound of her first baby expected in June.

Community Playhouse and became the first general manager of the Community Playhouse. I had the opportunity to do that for two and a half years. I did anything and everything and it was a great experience.

After that, I moved to Chicago and lived there for over six months trying the music theater performance scene. I loved it but it was scary. I knew no one and I didn't have a job. I remember walking around for two solid weeks just giving my resume to every business I could find.

Then I landed an opportunity to perform in "A Chorus Line" with a theater called The Night Blue Theater. It was a ton of fun.

It was also an eye-opener to the real professional world; it made me realize that's not really what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I realized it was pretty cutthroat and not everyone was your friend. It wasn't like community theater.

So, I came back home, moved to Kearney and I worked for a while at the Minden Opera House. I helped with all kinds of things, kind of like in North Platte. I've always just had a piece of the arts with me, no matter what. I continued to perform in community theater, and I serve on the board right now at Kearney Community Theater. I can't ever let it go. It will always be a part of me. I just perform a little less now.

What sparked your interest in theater?

From a young age I just really loved acting and singing and dancing so I got involved in the community theater in North Platte and started doing shows there. I also had a really great role model in Mary Lynn Horst who was a counselor at the high school. Her daughter and I were best friends, and we sang together for years. We had a quintet called Forte, and we sang all around North Platte.

Then when I got to UNK I had a lot of really great professors tell me I could make music my career. So having that boost of confidence knowing that was something I could actually pursue professionally, I decided to go for it. I've always had a desire and love to do music and I thought it was the only thing I was good at. I found out later I had other talents too, but I was glad I focused on those in my undergraduate.

What is your favorite part of working in the Alumni House?

People that I work with are alumni; they're 22 or older, and I would say the majority of the people I work with are in the older generation.

I love that group of people. Hearing their

ENSZ, PAGE 5

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Ensz from page 4



BRETT ENSZ

stories is the greatest. I love to hear about all of the traditions that they used to have here in Kearney. Hearing the history of Kearney from them instead of reading it in a book is one of the coolest things, especially for me who didn't grow up in Kearney.

I have so much pride in this school and I just love everything UNK stands for and having that connection to the past is something not everyone gets to experience. At the Alumni Association, we get that daily. That's what I love the most about this job, connecting with the alumni and hearing their stories.

Besides work, what else are you involved in?

I'm the recruitment advisor for AOII, so right now we are doing recruitment workshops and I help with anything else they need me for. I also serve on the board at the Kearney Community Theater and I volunteer my time as much as I can there along with performing.

Last summer I got to direct my first show. I have my group on campus, the Blue Gold Brigade and we do events like the Bike Bowl and try to bring back older Kearney traditions. If I'm not at work, I'm probably at one of those places.

How do you balance everything?

Sometimes it's a challenge! At all of these places, I work with really great people so if I forget something, they have my back. It really is just

about balancing and managing your time. Sometimes I have to say no and focus on me a little bit. I have a great support system. My husband always makes sure I'm where I'm supposed to be and really takes care of me. It's also about having enthusiasm. I wouldn't do it if I didn't love it.

What does the future hold for you?

I actually just took on a new job. I'm going to be the new First Year Experience Assistant Director. This has been a really big year for me. Jeff and I are having our first little boy in June, and that's crazy for me because for a long time everyone (including me) always thought I would just be that woman who just worked.

This has been the most exciting and crazy journey already and I can't imagine what June is going to bring. I start my new job at the beginning of March, so it's a lot of life changes in 2015. Luckily I have a lot of really great support so I keep plugging along and it's going to be a great journey!

What's your best advice for students?

Just keep your options open and keep an open mind when it comes to career options. I started as a music theater performance major, and I never thought I had other talents. The organizations I was involved in like my sorority and student diplomats taught me that I am more than just a performer. There is so much out there and it's easy for us to limit ourselves to think we can only do certain things when there are so many opportunities you don't even know about because the world is constantly changing.

"Cooking 101" tutorial features ethnic dish



Photo by Alyssa Sobotka

UNK head chef Andy Decker (right) and assistant Sous Chef Alvin Mayes (left) instruct students how to make Étouffée, a New Orleans dish in honor of Mardi Gras during the "Chef Andy: Cooking 101" tutorial held Thurs. Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Market at 27th in the Nebraska Student Union.

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA
Antelope Staff

Before becoming UNK's head chef almost two years ago, Andy Decker owned two of his own restaurants and worked at others. Decker brought that culinary experience to his cooking tutorial, "Chef Andy: Cooking 101" on Thurs. Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Market @ 27th in the Nebraska Student Union.

Open to all students, faculty and staff, Decker prepares a new theme twice a semester for each cooking tutorial and allows students the opportunity to cook as well.

Tutorial themes deal with healthy or sustainable cooking, others with cooking ease, others with ethnic themes," Decker said.

Thursday's tutorial featured an ethnic dish. In honor of the beginning of Lent and in conjunction with the Mardi Gras celebration, Decker and his assistant, Sous Chef Alvin Mayes, taught students how to make Étouffée, a New Orleans Cajun style

dish consisting of a rice base with shrimp meat smothered in a spicy sauce.

One international student participated in the tutorial and tasted the cultural dish.

"It tastes spicy and has seafood flavor," said Daichi Hodoshima, freshman sports administration major from Japan. "It's better to mix with the rice."

As head chef, Decker is responsible for menu planning, ordering products, inventory and cost controls, developing recipes, providing nutritional information and catering, but shares his past culinary expertise with those wanting to learn.

"We started these two semesters ago as a way to show basic techniques that students could use to prepare meals," Decker said. "This is a way to show how to save money by eating in, as well as an opportunity to highlight and showcase some healthy options as well."

Next Cooking 101 mid-April:

Check UNK Dining upcoming events
www.dineoncampus.com/UNKearney

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Staying up for good



For St. Jude Children's Hospital, groups of students stay up to help find a cure

JESSICA NICHOLS
Antelope Staff

Through St. Jude Up 'til Dawn, a nationwide student-led philanthropic program in which college students raise funds for and awareness of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, students participate in a year of fundraising that culminates with the Up 'til Dawn all-night challenge.

In order to participate, students put together groups of six. These participants then set up a site where they can receive donations in order to participate in the all-night event. They each must raise \$100 for a total group donation of \$600.

Throughout the challenge, 16 teams competed in a variety of activities. In order, the events were: team flag decorating, an obstacle course, prom dress decorating, and finally, a prom dance with the DJ.

This year UNK raised an outstanding total of over \$30,000. This money makes sure that no family ever pays St. Jude for medical care, and it helps find cures for children who have cancer and other life threatening diseases.

The St. Jude's Up 'til Dawn program helps put the hospital on track to realize their ultimate goal that no child shall die in the dawn of life.

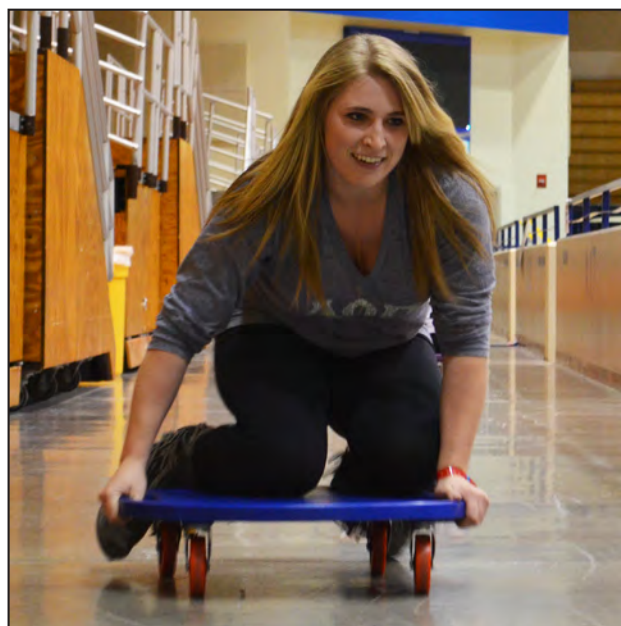
RIGHT: Alpha Omicron Pi member Margret Spencer participates in the St. Jude's Up 'til Dawn obstacle course. The course required you to spin around ten times with a noodle pressed to your forehead, to stack cups as quickly as possible, and then to scooter around the gym.

RIGHT CENTER: Junior Laura Alvarez scooters her way to the end of the obstacle course. Alvarez's favorite part of Up 'til Dawn was making prom dresses because she was their model.

FAR RIGHT: Hannah Backer, Alpha Phi member, enjoys the scooter race to its fullest. "The scooter was probably the worst part of the relay, but it was kind of fun when you got a running start and were flying through."



ABOVE: Group No. 8 gives ideas on how to create the perfect team flag. The team comprised of Laura Alvarez, Jenna Campbell, Audrey Welsh, Emily Jones and Courtney Liehrman. Several groups used their numbers to create slogans such as "3 Cheers for" and "Do it 4 the kids."





TOP LEFT: On the all Alpha Phi team, Schyler Johnson shares her excitement with Ashleigh Teten during the flag competition. The other members of the group, Danielle Milos, Marissa Miller, Taylor Brown, and Hannah Backer, work hard on creating a winning flag.

TOP RIGHT: Participants gathered in the hyper gym between activities to hang out. In the gym there were props to take photos with, snacks, drinks and lots of socializing.

CENTER: After the team flag decorating event, the leaders of each team had the opportunity to explain their flag. Here, Meg Tasler says that they were given the No. 5 so they created "sur5ors."

ABOVE: Senior Michael Griffith creates cotton candy on sticks as a treat for the participants.

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Last Lecture from page 1

tattoos on any staff member or student, and I talked to him about that,” Potthoff said. “James came to class two days later – I never saw his tattoos again.”

Potthoff learned from his student, he said. “He was an outstanding student. I was embarrassed.” Potthoff said he was reminded that sometimes first impressions are wrong. Be careful about first beginnings.

Potthoff also said not to underestimate the potential of beginnings and endings – bad beginnings and endings can’t always be overcome. You don’t always get mul-ligans.

For Potthoff’s second life lesson, “heart trumps head,” he chose the story of Denise, a woman who came into his office to tell a story she had not told anybody else.

Denise was 16. She said, “My dad and I were cleaning the garage, and I said to my dad, ‘You know what Dad, when I go to college I think I am going to study to be a teacher.’”

“No honey, you are so talented you are so bright you could do anything,” her dad said. “You don’t want to be a teacher.”

Denise told Potthoff she pursued a different career, but that day was going to follow her heart.

“I’ve been a CPA for the last ten years of my life – I’ve made pretty good money. I’m here today because I’m going to be a teacher.”

Potthoff urged the audience to listen to their hearts and encourage others to do the same. Heart responses may seem irrational, he said, but they often work.

Stella’s story provided Potthoff the scenario to exemplify his third point, “the struggle.”

Stella was an immigrant student who needed to pass the Praxis test, like all other teachers who want to be certified in the state of Nebraska.

“She was older – she hadn’t studied

math in a long time and was still learning English. She took the test three or four times and failed it,” Potthoff said.

“I told her to not take the test, but study the material. For four months she studied a minimum of four hours every day, seven days a week. She walked into my office – she’s crying – ‘I passed it.’ I started crying too.”

The sweetest victories come after the hardest struggles, he said. “The fear of failure can be crippling. Individuals will rise or sink to the level of expectations.”

Shared struggles often create lifelong bonds. Recognize the paradox, allow others to struggle, but exercise kindness to everyone because everyone is fighting a battle, he said.

Potthoff introduced his fourth point, “we best be for figuring it out,” by sharing with the audience what he tells his own students: “How much you learn in this class depends mostly on you.”

Twyla, a teaching legend in the area of science, illustrated point No. 4. It was an honor co-teaching with her, he said.

“During a science lab one of the college students raised a hand and said something like ‘Have you ever thought of trying this with this object.’”

Sitting there I was thinking, “This has got to be the stupidest question I’ve heard,” Potthoff said.

“Twyla said ‘Hmm, I’ve never thought of that.’ She then went over to the box and pulled out the materials to do the experiment.

“Afterward I said to her, ‘Twyla, come on.’”

She said to me: ‘It’s amazing what others can do when you get out of their way.’”

Potthoff concluded his “Life Lessons” lecture charging the audience to own their own becoming and not wait for others to tell you what to do. Seize the day.

“We have one shot at life – it goes fast

– and it goes faster,” Potthoff said.

Potthoff was anything but an average teacher for Fremont senior secondary education major Britt Jensen. “He came with energy all the time, and it was really refreshing.”

Jensen said, “Not that other teachers don’t have that, but his was very tangible – you just walked in a room and you knew there was something special.”

The amount of applause from the audience seemed to reinforce Jensen’s point.

Safe Ride from page 1

Our intention is not to have this go away.”

One option that Schardt and Torres are pursuing is funding through the Student Senate.

Connor Schulte, UNK student body President, said they hoped to pass a bill at their Feb. 24 meeting that would put an additional fee on the election ballot sent out to all UNK students on March 4 and 5. She said that if the bill passed, students would vote yes or no to a fee increase of 50 cents to go toward the funding of the SAFE Ride program.

The results of the vote were yet to be determined at press time.

McKenna Kral, a sophomore psychology major from Hastings is one student who currently uses the SAFE Ride program. “It’s more of a plan that you have to have in advance before you start the night,” Kral said. “SAFE Ride is a thing to fall back on, but it was always going to be there.”

Torres said that students can always call Kearney Cab at any time for a ride, but will have to pay the fee after Mar. 1. He added that students can also call a friend to pick them up, or designate a driver.

If students have any concerns about the temporary suspension of the SAFE Ride program, they can contact Schardt, Torres, or Student Senate.



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One more MIAA down, Nationals to go

BY ENRIQUE ALVAREZ
Antelope sports

Welcome to the MIAA UNK. Or more likely, welcome to Nebraska wrestling MIAA. Another year rolls by and another MIAA conference championship trophy rolls into UNK.

The 2014 National runners-up won their third straight MIAA championship with the help of a 4-1 final round. Lead by juniors Connor Bolling (125 pounds, Central City), Romero Cotton (195 pounds, Hutchinson, Kansas), Daniel DeShazer (133 pounds, Wichita, Kansas), and Chase White (157 pounds, Lincoln) the UNK wrestling team managed to get past the 13th ranked Lindenwood by 9.5 points.



CONNOR BOLLING

The Lopers had gone into the conference championships ranked ninth and no wins in the regular season dual championship, that honor going to the Lions of Lindenwood.

Connor Bolling, the junior Health and PE major, was a runner-up in the MIAA championship last year and had one win at NCAA regionals.

Although he got that MIAA championship, Bolling says that isn't his ultimate goal, "...the ultimate goal is to



make it to Nationals and win a national title."

Bolling won his final match with a pin at 4:09 over Lindenwoods ninth ranked Marco Tamayo. Even with all the success he and the team have experienced over the last three years, Bolling says that he feels disappointed that the UNK wrestling team still isn't well-known. Bolling says



ROMERO COTTON

he would really enjoy having a large crowd fill the stadium and make some noise so that the wrestlers can fuel off it.

Romero Cotton, AKA the reigning national champ at 195 pounds, repeated as the MIAA champion with a resounding major victory

over Fort Hays' Cash Drylie. Cotton also works during the fall season for the Loper football team as the starting running back.

Daniel Deshazer, also a reigning national and MIAA runner-up won this year's MIAA, championship at 133 pounds. His final match came down to the wire as he used OT and a late takedown to beat UCO's Dustin Reed 3-1.

The junior from Wichita was the national champion in his redshirt freshman year at UNK, and then decided to try football during the following fall season. Battling injuries that wrestling season, he finished second at both MIAA and National



DANIEL DESHAZER

tournaments but went undefeated at regionals, posting a 4-0 record.

Lincoln junior Chase White also added his name to Loper lore by winning 157 pounds at the MIAA tournament. White won his final match with a 5-3 decision after double OT against Derrick Weller from Lindenwood. White was also the runner-up a year ago at the same weight, and finished regionals with a 2-2 record.



CHASE WHITE

To put a stamp on the Lopers dominance over the MIAA conference the past three years, all but two weight classes featured an all-MIAA wrestler from UNK. To be named all-MIAA a wrestler must finish top 3 in his weight class. The Lopers who earned that honor are, Bolling at 125, DeShazer at 133, Keith Surber at 141 in third, Destin McCauley at 149 in second, White at 157, Devin Aguirre at 165 in third, Casey Powell at 184 in third and Cotton at 197.

In search of a third national title in four years, you can catch the Lopers in action in their regional matches in Pueblo, Colorado on Feb. 27 and 28 of and Nationals in St. Louis, Missouri on March 13 and 14.

Opposites attract?

BY STEPHANIE MOORBERG
Antelope Staff

Doubles partners, sophomore Lucas Garces and freshman Joey Richards, sit down to answer questions every tennis fan may have been wondering about.

Garces is from Zaragoza, Spain, and majors in information, networking and telecommunications (INT), while Richards is from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and is undecided in his major.

The two are almost complete opposites but have a connection when it comes to the tennis court. While on the court, Richards enjoys playing the net while Garces channels his father's words of wisdom.



Q and A with Garces and Richards

If you could be anyone in the world, who would you be?

Lucas Garces: That is an easy question. I would be my dad.

Q & A with nation's No. 2 doubles team

What is your favorite animal?

Garces: A tiger.

What is your guilty pleasure?

Garces: Chocolate.

Who is your favorite tennis player?

Garces: Roger Federer.

What do you like about your partner?

Garces: When I'm playing badly, my partner is always trying to make me keep it up and play better.

How do you feel about being ranked No. 2 in the nation?

Garces: I feel good, but that doesn't mean that we are unbeatable. Competitors can beat us, and we have to know it. We will be the ones with the pressure in our hands

when we play others, and they will have nothing to lose.

Are you superstitious?

Richards: No.

Who is your favorite superhero and power?

Richards: Dayman and the power of invisibility.

Who is your favorite tennis player?

Richards: Alexander Dolgopolov

What do you like about your partner?

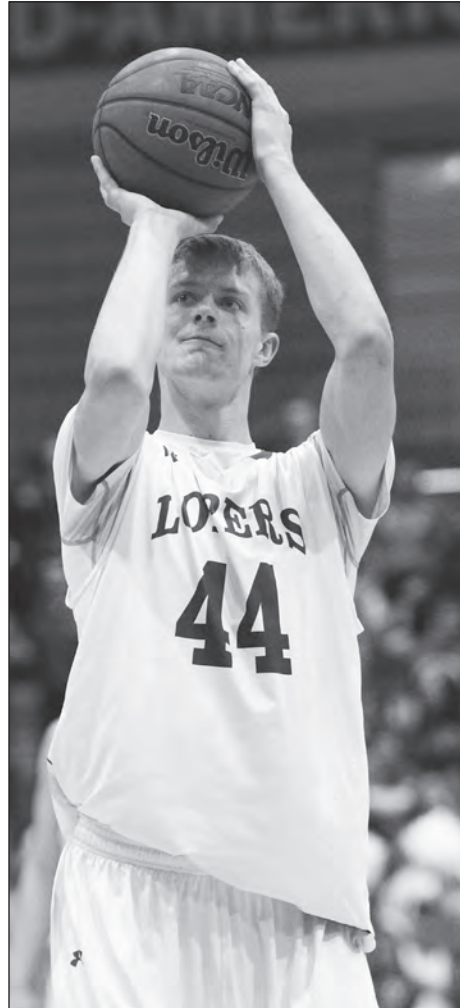
Richards: He never shows that he is nervous.

How do you feel about being ranked No. 2 in the nation?

Richards: It's cool being nationally ranked.

»» FOLLOW THE HERD

Men's and women's basketball gear up for the MIAA tournament first week of March



Photos by Hannah Backer

TOP LEFT: Playing a whole 35 minutes against Emporia State is sophomore Kevin Dineen. Originally from Omaha, Dineen is a business administration major and plays as a guard for the Loper's basketball team.

ABOVE: In an intense game against Emporia, Connor Beranek focuses on making his free throws. Beranek provided 27 points for the Lopers during this game.

LEFT: Freshman Lane Rohrich pushes his way down the court in an effort to make it to the basket against Emporia last Friday at the Health and Sport's Center.



TOP: Kelsey Fitzgerald goes in for a reverse layup against Fort Hays' defense this past Saturday at the Health and Sports Center. Fitzgerald is a sophomore from Yankton, South Dakota.

ABOVE: In an effort to make it around Fort Hays' defense, Tori Payne tries to rebound the ball after a free throw. Payne is a sophomore from Las Vegas who plays as a guard and forward for the Lopers.

LEFT: Senior Mariam Ridgwell makes her way up for a shot. The Lady Lopers did not come out with a win against Fort Hays. The final score was 81-71.

Loper Loonies lift off

Student spirit group brings lively, big-time fan power with throw-back theme and costumed spirit boosters

BY BRIAN J. HUSMANN
Antelope Staff

You could find 50 screaming students, a dozen bee keepers, two extra large wrestlers and one strange looking ostrich at any recent men's basketball game.

It sounds like anything but basketball, but the Loper's three-game home winning streak tells a different story. There is no denying that the Loper men have played anything less than superb during the last home stretch, and that may be due to the fact that they have a sixth man dubbed the "Loper Loonies" giving aid in the Health and Sports Center.

The band of hooligans that pronounce themselves the Loper Loonies are an incredibly loud and spirited student section that has recently taken the campus by storm.

First unveiling themselves at the UNK vs. Washburn men's basketball game on Feb. 7, the Loonies have also made appearances at Emporia State and Fort Hays State games.

No great idea comes without a grand architect, and the mastermind behind the Loper Loonies is none other than UNK's

own sophomore, PE K-12 major, David Squiers.

"When they played Fort Hays the first time around on the road, my friends and I thought about maybe having a theme for their next home game against Washburn where everyone can get involved," Squiers said. "Then with the help of the UNK athletic staff, such as Dr. Plinkse, we were able to create a throw-back theme for the Washburn game."

Loonies dove into ancient UNK athletic uniforms and jerseys in order to set the "old school mood." The atmosphere was unforgettable and the Loper men had themselves a thrilling 85-78 victory over Washburn.

Word of the Loper Loonies spread like wildfire throughout campus, especially on social media. Everyone wanted to be a Loonie.

"A lot of people think only athletes or students who participate in UNK athletics can be in the Loper Loonie student section because that's how it got started. But what we are trying to do is get the whole student body involved and find kids who want to do this on a consistent basis," Squiers said.

With one game of yelling and cheering



Photo by Hannah Backer

The student section, Loper Loonies, cheer on the boy's basketball team while entertaining the crowd. A select few of the Loper Loonies dressed up as bee keepers to relate to 'swatting' at Emporia's shots.

as the Loper Loonies under their belt, Squiers and company wanted more. They wanted to contribute to the game directly, and that's when the ostrich suit reared its ugly head.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the Loper Loonies and even most of the UNK men's basketball coaching staff credit Emporia State's five second-half missed free throws to the student section.

With the help of a USA chant and one intense roller coaster ride, Emporia State went three for eight from the free throw line while staring down the Loonies— five missed points that were crucial to a 69-63 victory for the Lopers.

Then again on the eve of Saturday, Feb. 21, Squiers and the Loonies cheered the men's basketball team to a dominating

79-59 win over Fort Hays State, distracting the opponent enough to miss six total free throws.

Unfortunately, Saturday was the last regular season home game for the Loper men and probably the last hoorah for the Loonies as well. But the sophomore Squiers envisions a bright future for his young ruffians.

"The ultimate goal is to get students out to most of the UNK athletics. Hopefully, we can have a consistent output at football games, volleyball matches, wrestling meets and basketball games where a student section is appropriate," Squiers said. "The Loper Loonies were a little late this year, but we are excited to see where it leads to in the years to come."

The Loper Standard – Est. 2015



BY DAVID MUELLER
Antelope Staff

There is a new sense of eagerness on campus as the Loper gridiron gang begins to prepare for the fall season under the direction of new head coach Josh Lamberson.

The Wilber native was an assistant coach for nine years with Central Missouri, Southeastern Oklahoma State and Northwest Missouri State prior to his new position in Kearney. All had successful seasons.

UNK welcomed Lamberson to the Loper family on Dec. 14 – making him the 17th head coach to take the reins of the football program.

"It's such a phenomenal opportunity – not only for me, but for my staff as well,

and for these kids to go out to and be a part of something bigger than ourselves at a really special place with a lot of special people," Lamberson said. "Being from the state of Nebraska – growing up in Wilber – it was a chance to come back home. More than anything it was a chance to be a head coach in Nebraska at a Division II school, in the best conference in the MIAA."

Upon arriving to Kearney, Lamberson said the first thing he noticed about the team was its plethora of talent.

As the Loper football squad has had its ups and downs in recent years with three consecutive 3-8 seasons, Lamberson has introduced a new philosophy known as the "Loper Standard."

For those unfamiliar with the Loper Standard, Lamberson described it as a form of accountability on multiple levels.

"It's an accountability standard in the

way that we act, the way that we dress, the way that we talk, and the way that people perceive us. We want to be bobbars, in the fact that we never want to be anchors," he said. "We want to lift people up – we want to raise other people around us up to a new level that they might not have ever been to."

Although Lamberson and his staff had a late start in the recruiting process, they were able to bring in 40 talented student-athletes to the 2015-2016 team. Of those 40 are 35 high school seniors, and five transfers.

"We got our top-end guys that we evaluated for the most part at every position. I think if you can do that in any class, much less a class you've recruited for a month, I think it's a great year," he said.

The new football staff hasn't hesitated

prepping their players, challenging them mentally and physically. Every Monday through Friday morning the team meets for grueling workouts at 6 a.m. Each day offers a new test for the squad.

"The kids have been absolutely fantastic. They've embraced every challenge we've thrown at them. They want to be pushed, they want to be stretched, they want to be led and they want to have discipline," Lamberson said "I've been really impressed with their attitudes in the transition."

Their most vital priority at the moment is building a family bond, according to Lamberson.

"I'm a firm believer in the fact that if you surround yourself with good people that have fantastic motives, you do things the right way, that the results will come," he said.

Japanese culture celebrated



ISA Festival March 4 to touch cultures

BY AKIHO SOMEYA
Antelope Staff

One of the most popular and well attended cultural events on campus, the "International Food and Culture Festival" presented by the International Student Association (ISA), is scheduled for Sunday March 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Health and Sports Center. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people have attended in past years.

This year, nine countries will participate in this festival: Bahamas, China, Colombia, India, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. Those attending can taste each country's food, enjoy performances on the stage and go to booths to experience international culture.

The ISA has planned this festival to be different than past festivals.

"This is my first time as the president of ISA, and I hope everything goes well. It is going to be different compared with last year because we will show more culture than the food. What we are doing is that each country has their own booth, and they will do activities or just show their culture to the people there," said the president of ISA, Maria Amado, sophomore industrial distribution major from Bogota, Colombia.

"I want people to enjoy everything and taste each country and also feel as if they are in Colombia, China, Japan, Korea and so on. And then after the event ends, I want them to have a great memory of this event."

In two food lines and booths categorized by six regions: Japan, South Korea, China, Middle East, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, those attending can get free food made by students. At the booths, there will be cultural presentations such as games, calligraphy, paper crafts and photo booths. International students will have stage performances including traditional performances and modern dances.

"I also want the students that are helping to have a lot of fun and be happy to show their culture. This is an amazing event and a great opportunity to show their countries. Even though we are from different countries, here in Kearney, we get so close that we start to see all people as a family," Amado said.

"Please come and get the chance to meet new people and feel like you are traveling all over the world," she said.



Photos by Donghwan Kim

TOP: A Japanese group from Lincoln called Kokyo Taiko performed in the Japanese Festival this year. Kokyo Taiko did a traditional drumline. The group also performed at the ASA (Asian Student Association) Festival last year.

MIDDLE LEFT: There were many different booths in the atrium for students to try Japanese culture. Among these was a booth for writing Japanese calligraphy. Students could also try to play traditional games.

MIDDLE RIGHT: In the Ponderosa room before the festival, they served traditional Japanese food to audience members. There were traditional dishes like Nikujaga (Japanese meat and potatoes), Shougayaki (stir pork with ginger) and Tamagoyaki (Japanese style scrambled eggs).

ABOVE: Akiho Someya, (left) a senior mass communication and journalism major and Hiroyuki Muramoto performed a duet to the Japanese song "Monochrome" This is a love song and other festival members perform a skit in the background.