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## Professors, students get grant for 'Kearney Goes to War' project

BY AUSTIN KOELLER  
News/Feature Editor

Two University of Nebraska at Kearney professors have been awarded a grant to conduct a digital history project documenting Kearney during World War II.

Associate Professor of History Jeff Wells and Jacob Rosdail, Associate Professor of communications, are examining the history of Kearney Army Air Field and Kearney community through the digitization of items from the Buffalo County Historical Society Trails and Rails Museum.

UNK Associate Professor of History Jeff Wells is examining the history of Kearney Army Air Field through the digitization of photos, audio and more than 3,000 pages of government documents. The project, called "Kearney Goes to War," will include a new website.

The items consist of photographs and

more than 3,000 pages of official Army Air Field government documents. "We are digitizing photographs assembled by personnel who were stationed at the air field and from community volunteers who have scrapbooks for us to digitize," Wells said.

The project also includes transcribing and digitizing audio files from a reunion at the air field in 1988, when Buffalo County Historical Society volunteers conducted interviews with veterans.

"We're going to add the [website] domain, and our domain is going to allow us to pursue a variety of digital history projects in the future," said Wells.

The project is being funded through a \$16,833 grant from the UNK Research Services Council and includes assistance from student workers. Digital archiving work is expected to be finished in April, and the new website will go live later this spring or summer.

Rosdail's portion of the project – a



JEFF WELLS

documentary film – includes interviewing students involved as well as community members and others with connections to the Army Air Field.

"The current plan is to have a half hour

WAR, PAGE 8

## State ban on same-sex marriage on hold

*District court opens door for gay couples, but 'emergency stay' puts issue back in court*

ANTELOPE EDITORIAL  
Antelope Staff

Opposition to same-sex marriage has been a hot issue in the news the past few years, and with other states ending the ban on same-sex marriage, Nebraska finally took the leap to do the same.

Last week U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Bataillon struck down Nebraska's constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

Judge Bataillon ruled to lift Nebraska's same-sex marriage ban following an ACLU-backed lawsuit against the state. Judge Bataillon ruled: "It is ordered that all relevant state officials are ordered to treat same-sex couples the same as different-sex couples in the context of processing a marriage license or determining the rights, protections, obligations or benefits of marriage."

Let's be real, this has been a long time coming. It was so exciting to hear the big step Nebraska made.

Immediately, Gov. Pete Ricketts commented on the decision as overstepping Nebraska state law and said he and the state will continue to oppose the ruling set to go into effect March 9.

"Today, a judge took steps to overturn a constitutional amendment approved by 70 percent of Nebraskans that defines marriage as between one man and one woman," said Gov. Pete Ricketts. "The definition of marriage is an issue for the people of Nebraska, and an activist judge should not substitute

MARRIAGE BAN, PAGE 11

## Students must vote again by noon Thursday



*Tight election between Calhoun/Stevenson and Angulo/Suzuki makes history in runoff*

Because neither candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff election will be held until Thursday at noon between Evan Calhoun and Nick Stevenson; and Natasha Angulo and Ryo Suzuki. "This is an awesome part of UNK history to be part of a runoff election," Stevenson said. "I thank everyone who voted and encourage them to vote again in the runoff election."



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# Hallowed history

*Phi Alpha Theta and Women's Studies plan event for Women's History Month featuring women in character*

BY DAMARES CAMPOS  
JMC 215

Well-known author Mary Shelley is coming to UNK to participate in a panel in Copeland Hall 131 on March 16 at 7 p.m. Shelly and other historical women in character will give opinions on a variety of topics including women in the workplace and women's suffrage.

Members of Phi Alpha Theta will represent the different historical women ranging in different time eras.

PAT is planning the event for Women's History Month and Women's Studies will provide refreshments. The women, all PAT members, will give quick biographies and then discuss different areas and answer questions from audience members. A panel will follow after moderator Dr. Van Ingen, chair of the Women's Studies department, gives a quick survey of women's history.



**Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was the daughter of two very influential people, feminist Mary Wollstonecraft and philosopher William Godwin. She married poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and was an author and editor of her husband's poems and prose, but she is best known as the author of "Frankenstein," or "The Modern Prometheus."**

## Step It Up for Autism Speaks



*News & photo by Samantha Shaw*

**Many runners ran the 5K but we can't forget about the lovely walkers and their dogs that helped participate for Autism Speaks.**

The weather couldn't have been more beautiful to get outside for a great

cause. Alpha XI Delta held the Step it Up 5K Run/Walk for Autism Speaks at the Archway. Autism Speaks is the nation's leading autism advocacy organization and Alpha XI Delta's national philanthropy partner. It was a beautiful morning filled with participants of all ages, even their dogs.

# Slam poet makes emotional return to UNK

*Katie Wirsing's poetry mirrors her life: spontaneous and without a perfect rhyme scheme*

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA  
Antelope Staff

Katie Wirsing was full of mixed emotions when asked to return to perform at University of Nebraska Kearney. The 13th ranked female poet in the world said her 2012 show at UNK was one of her best and favorite performances.

About three years later on Thursday, March 5, one seat in the audience was noticeably empty.

"My dad passed away last week, so it is kind of hard to be here today," Wirsing said.

Wirsing felt the pain of the recent loss of her father, as her previous show at UNK was the only one he had attended.

"For that reason, it feels so special that he was here [in 2012]. I was really nervous coming back for this show, that having been the case," Wirsing said.

Wirsing, a bisexual spoken-word poet, admits to never getting along with her father growing up. She says her father's cancer diagnosis was the best thing that happened for their relationship, as they got closer than she could have ever imagined.

On the day of Gay Pride, Wirsing received a text from her father, asking what she was doing. She did not suspect her father knew the significance of the day,

but he proved her wrong.

"I figure since I'm still walking I should come out and support you and your people," Wirsing's father texted her half-heartedly.

To that Wirsing responded, "Sounds awesome, but you have to bring glitter and wear ass-less pants."

To Wirsing's surprise, at the corner of one Denver street, stood her father, waving a rainbow flag and looking like a character from the television show "Duck Dynasty," complete with a mullet, trucker hat and big beard. To top it off, he also had hot pink camouflage pants with the ass cut out.

"I could not have loved him more at any moment. He was the hit of the day," Wirsing said. "He took more photos than any of the drag queens there. The whole day I got to say, 'That's my dad, that's my dad.'"

Wirsing's complicated relationship with her father is a key contribution to the passion and fire behind her words, but her life experiences stem far beyond her father. Wirsing, a Denver representative at the Women of the World Poetry Slam and member of the National Poetry Slam Championship team, shared with audience members passionate poems on gender, love, sexuality and spirituality.

Tiff Weekley, UNK Queer Straight



Photo by Alyssa Sobotka

**Thirteenth ranked female poet Katie Wirsing brings emotion, fire and passion behind her words as she revisits what it was like to be a lesbian teenager, inspiring much of her well-recognized poetry.**

Alliance president, spoke on behalf of the organization responsible for bringing Wirsing to campus.

"We appreciate the subtle way [Wirsing] raises awareness and brings personal insight to issues that are not often publicly touched on; this is especially important on a college campus where the students are very diverse and come from different experiences," Weekley said.

Wirsing is very comfortable with who she is, but did not create any illusions as to how difficult being bisexual proved in her adolescent years. She has looked back on her adolescence and how others treated her because of her sexual orientation, noting how she was affected then and how she is continuously affected from those experiences today.

Because of Wirsing's experiences

growing up, she has been sharing her poetry and working with youth.

"For a lot of us [ages 13 through 17] is the hardest time we go through in our lives. So often we're not given any kind of tools or resources or anything to work through that in any way," said Wirsing. "So anytime I'm doing a workshop with youth that's always what I'm doing: Trying to make space for them to tell their story and be heard."

For those difficult adolescent years, there are poems. In one heartfelt poem, Wirsing recounts one of her best friends and all the typical teenage girl activities they did, until her friend decided to kill their friendship.

"You slapped me away and called me a fag," Wirsing animated in a poem. "Five

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Meet the seniors...

# Emery, Weems finish up Loper tennis careers

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
STEPHANIE MOORBERG**  
Antelope Staff

Kari Emery will end her four years of eligibility this May with the second most singles win with 22-5.

Emery will graduate following the fall 2015 semester with a degree in psychology. She plans to attend graduate school in her home state of Arizona and hopes to find her calling to help and counsel mentally ill individuals or those in rehab.

Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Emery was offered a scholarship to play tennis for UNK, but spent her first two years of college at Pima Community College in her hometown. She then transferred to UNK when she heard her offer was still available.

Emery says, "Now that I've been here for two years, I wish I would have played all four of my years of eligibility here because I love it here!"

Kristin Weems is from Arlington, Texas, but over her four years at UNK, she has made Nebraska her home. Weems

will graduate this May with a degree in business administration-finance and plans to move to Lincoln for her job as an auditor for Ameritrust.

UNK has been a place for Weems to grow and live in a new culture. Texas born and raised, she says, "I felt I would come to school in Nebraska and then go back to Texas after I graduated, but that has changed." She said the school size and impressive tennis program made her decision to come to Kearney that much easier.

One memory Weems will take with her from playing four years of tennis for UNK is watching her teammate beat RMAC rival Western New Mexico University to get the team to Nationals during her freshman year.

Like every great sports program, the coaching staff plays a huge role in the success. The women's tennis team has Coach Jake Saulsbury leading the way, Assistant Coach Scott Shafer and Graduate Assistant John Steinke.

Emery said she knows how proud her coaches are of her and her teammates and finds comfort in knowing that they will



**Kristin Weems, a business administration-finance major from Arlington, Texas, gets ready to return a serve.**

always believe in her.

Weems attributes her success of 90 wins and other conference titles to the coaching staff. To her, they are more like friends than coaches that are nice and funny. These two seniors will be greatly



**Kari Emery, a psychology major from Tucson, Arizona, eyes the ball before it is served.**

missed, but the Lopers are proud to have had these two great athletes represent UNK Women's tennis over the years.

## Antelope Speaks & Sports Spotlight



Tune in or stream online to hear the weekly podcast when KLPR hosts Nick Stevenson and Bryce Dolan air "Antelope Speaks." Stevenson and Dolan will break down the major stories from The Antelope each week.

Listen live on Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. or check out the podcast at [www.unkantelope.com](http://www.unkantelope.com) in the podcast section.

"Antelope Speaks: Sports Spotlight" will look at Loper sports and the Nebraska high school state basketball tournament. Bryce Dolan and Andrew Hanson recap the MIAA conference basketball tournament and the UNK baseball team's recent series against Fort Hays State. Dolan and Hanson also preview the NCAA



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Division II wrestling championship, where the Lopers are sending seven wrestlers to compete.

Listen on 91.1 KLPR-FM every Monday from 4:30-5:00 p.m. or listen to the podcast online at [www.unkantelope.com](http://www.unkantelope.com) in the podcast section to hear "Antelope Speaks: Sports Spotlight."



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# Hof uses personal experiences to help others

BY AUSTIN KOELLER  
News/Feature Editor

For 18 long months, Kiphany Hof endured a personal nightmare. While a graduate student majoring in counseling, Hof found herself a victim of stalking at the hands of a former lover.

As a result of her experiences, Hof, a licensed mental health practitioner at UNK Counseling Care, knows what it is like for those who have gone through the same things. This past January, Hof was awarded the Outstanding Stalking Advocate award by the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. This award is given in conjunction with stalking awareness month. She was nominated by Robin Phipps, Education and Prevention Coordinator for the S.A.F.E. Center, and Nikki Gausman, Executive Director of the S.A.F.E. Center.

## Q & A with Kiphany Hof

### How does it feel to win this award?

First of all, I was surprised. I had no idea. I didn't even know that this award existed, so it's cool that they even do such a thing. I was humbled. I was pretty honored that somebody who doesn't even know me very well would nominate me.

But it seems pretty clear that I'm very passionate about ending stalking, changing it and speaking out. That felt really great. I think also what was meaningful to me was that I shared more of my personal testimonies, as I was stalked for 18 months. That's what I usually talk about when I do things such as Stalking Awareness Panel. I share a little bit of my story when I do some training and presentations. I suppose having some of that personal aspect is

recognized. Being awarded was even more meaningful than if I was just advocating for something I had never been through personally.

### How have your personal experiences helped you in your work as a stalking awareness advocate?

When I experienced it, I was in graduate school to be a counselor. I guess I kind of knew that that had happened, and I had seen some of my friends who had been stalked, but I didn't really understand how scary it could be. I didn't understand how crazy and confusing it can feel—especially to be stalked by somebody that I had had a previous relationship with. I think having that experience and knowing that you really don't know what it is like until you go through it made me want to speak out a little bit more about it.

Plus, it's just getting to be such a big issue, particularly stalking over social networking. There are a lot of advances in technology that make stalking much easier to do. I think sometimes victims of stalking are actually embarrassed and ashamed to admit they are being stalked. A lot of times, it's by somebody they know. For me, it's just telling people it's okay to talk about it. It's not a reflection of you choosing to know somebody or be in a relationship with somebody who is doing this. It's not about you.

### How will this award allow you to better help UNK students going forward?

In this particular profession, sometimes we don't see a lot of change. It may be out there but we don't see it, or it seems like it's actually getting worse. So, actually getting awarded for this is meaningful and



Photo by Austin Koeller

**Kiphany Hof, a licensed health practitioner at the UNK Counseling Center, (right) is presented the award for Outstanding Stalking Advocate by Robin Phipps, Education and Prevention Coordinator for the S.A.F.E. Center (left). Phipps nominated Hof for the award which was given by the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.**

inspires me to keep doing it, knowing that sharing some of my personal story can be helpful.

Stalking is never going to go away either. It's misunderstood and a lot of people don't even know that they're being stalked. I think it's important that we – the people who talk about it – keep sharing that and educating the community. The award makes me feel like I am making a difference for people.

**What advice would you offer to people**

**who may have been or are victims of stalking?**

I would tell them to talk about it. There's nothing to be ashamed of if you've gone through it. It is a traumatic thing to have to through, so don't do it alone.

Phipps also talked about why she nominated Hof and the work that went into the nomination.

HOF, PAGE 8

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# Loper baseball

*Team rallies, defeats  
Fort Hays State, **wins**  
MIAA series*



**ABOVE:** Junior Shane Sharkey steps up to the home plate to bat. During the 7th inning Sharkey singled to left field, which resulted in the Lopers gaining two points.



**RIGHT:** Aaron Smith pitched second at Saturday's game at Memorial Field against Fort Hays State. Smith is a senior here at unk and majoring in elementary education K-6.

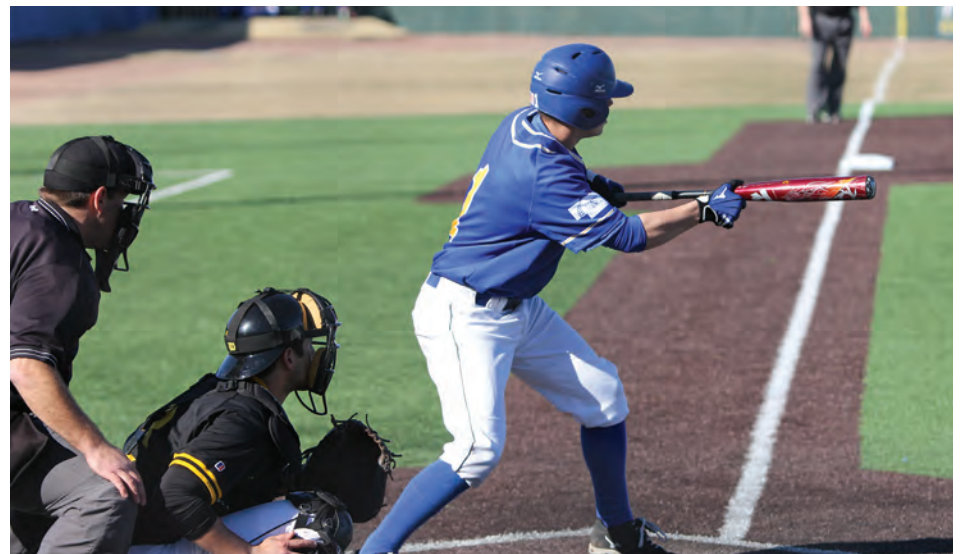


*Photos by Hannah Backer*

One of the Loper's left handed batters, Dillon Schroeder, lined out to right field with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third, which advanced Anthony Pacheco to third, and set up score for Danny Droll.



The team gathers together at the pitcher's mound to give encouragement to No. 22, Jacob Dittman, who was pitching at the time. The Lopers came out with a win in the second round on Saturday with a score of 16-15.



Preparing to bunt the ball against Fort Hays State is sophomore Brent Kirsch. Kirsch is originally from Papillion and is currently majoring in Business Administration here at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.



# Learning on, off golf course

*"...Doing something that I love is the greatest accomplishment I can ask for," says lone senior golfer.*

**BY DAVID MUELLER**  
Antelope Staff

Golf – some people's hobby, other people's passion.

UNK senior Alec Anania's father introduced golf to him around first grade. It wasn't until middle school that he realized his knack for the sport.

Flash forward, he says playing golf at UNK has done more than just increase his skill level in the game – it also has helped the student-athlete develop important life skills.

"In season it is definitely tough. It can be a struggle to miss class and try to catch up on the notes. It's taught me to get organized, not procrastinate and to get stuff done ahead of time," Anania said.

As he goes through his final season with the Lopers, Anania said his fondest

brought him on board to the Loper family in 2011.

"Chad Lydiatt was the coach then and was actually my swing coach in high school. He was the one who kind of recruited me in. Also, UNK is close to home, being from Grand Island," Anania said. "It's a great school. I knew a couple of kids on the team when I was coming here, and it just seemed like the right fit for me."

With a fourth best stroke average for the Lopers, and a second best team finish at the NCAA Super Regional competition, his freshman year promised a bright future.

His sophomore season was highlighted by an opportunity to compete in the Nebraska Match Play Championships at Omaha's Elks C.C. Anania finished the contest with an even par, placing him tied for ninth place.



***"There is always someone out there that is better than you. Any team on a given day can beat you – that's just the nature of the sport. I've learned it takes hard work, and a good work ethic. It's an imperfect sport – you always have something to get better."***

**—Alec Anania**

memory playing golf at UNK came last season, winning the Drury Inn Central Invite by eight strokes.

Anania said his ties to UNK men's golf coach Wes Bernt go back to high school.

In his high school career at Grand Island Senior High, Anania was one of his team's top competitors, successfully qualifying for the Class A State Tournament in all four years. His best finishes came in his junior season at fourth, and his senior year at 11th.

"Alec had been working with Chad Lydiatt so I was able to first notice Alec his senior year of high school. He was a little inconsistent, but had a few phenomenal rounds that showed he had talent and potential," Bernt said.

UNK recognized Anania's talent and

As a junior Anania averaged slightly above 76 strokes in over 16 rounds of play – finishing third in stroke average and fifth in rounds for the Lopers.

Bernt said Anania's maturity has developed the most in his college career, and overall he has become mentally stronger.

"His ball striking is about the best that I have ever been around. He has a tremendous amount of club head speed and can pull off shots that most wouldn't consider trying," Bernt said. "It has been very rewarding working with Alec. He is a hard worker and very respectful."

Anania plans on pursuing his business administration degree after college by entering into the business/finance workforce.



## BUY OR BUST?

*Rumors surround former Husker Suh often tagged 'dirtiest player in NFL,' on the market*

**BY BRIAN J. HUSMANN**  
Antelope Staff

Most Nebraska Cornhusker football fans know all sorts of different facts about their favorite players to come through Lincoln, especially one as decorated as Ndamukong Suh.

For example, most Husker fans know that Suh didn't even start playing football until he was a freshman in high school and that his favorite sport was soccer. Most fans know that he was a 2009 Heisman Trophy finalist and also was the recipient of many other prestigious collegiate awards.

But die-hard Nebraska football fans like to follow their players once they enter the National Football League as well, so they probably know that through his five years of playing for the Detroit Lions, Suh has accumulated \$420,669 in fines for seven different player safety violations. That could also be the reason he and the Lions haven't come to an agreement on a contract for the 2015 season.

Suh became an unrestricted free agent after the Lions' playoff loss in January and the organization did not put a franchise tag on the ex-Husker.

As explained on sportingcharts.com, a franchise tag is a contractual tool in the NFL that allows teams to keep a pending, unrestricted free agent on the team for an additional year.

"Teams are allowed to place

a franchise tag on only one player per year, which provides the player with a guaranteed contract similar to the salaries of the top five in the NFL for that position. The purpose of the franchise tag is to allow teams to protect their most important assets from simply leaving the team upon free agency, which is beneficial for small market teams who often see big-name players move to big city franchises."

Suh, a four time pro-bowler, is often referred to as one of the dirtiest players in the NFL. Could this play a factor in the Lions hesitating to tag him? Although it would have cost \$8.4 million to franchise tag a defensive tackle, many other teams around the league are offering much more than that to sign him.

As of Saturday, March 7 four organizations are gunning for Suh's attention: the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Miami Dolphins, the Chicago Bears and the Detroit Lions.

Even though his sportsmanship is under high scrutiny, Miami may have just the right amount of money to land Suh. The Dolphins also have another all-pro defensive lineman in Cameron Wake who can team up with Suh to wreak havoc on opponents.

"I'm told the Dolphins are confident they're going to put a great offer on the table for Suh. They are confident they can get him. They are not certain because, obviously, this is still a competition,"

**SUH, PAGE 11**



## War from page 1

documentary and several shorter films that will exist on the website using (old photos and audio interviews) to tell the story of Kearney Army Air Field," Rosdail said.

Wells and Rosdail became partners on the "Kearney Goes to War" project after meeting at a campus orientation for

*Courtesy*  
**RIGHT: Hundreds of photos from the Buffalo County Historical Society Trails and Rails Museum are among items being digitized by history students and faculty at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for a new project called "Kearney Goes to War."**



***"The current plan is to have a half hour documentary and several shorter films that will exist on the website ... using (old photos and audio interviews) to tell the story of Kearney Army Air Field."***

***—Jacob Rosdail***

new faculty last semester.

"We talked about projects, and he was talking about how he was interested in looking for a community-oriented project for a documentary film. I was looking for a digital history project," Wells said. "So we talked about what kinds of projects members of the community wanted and also how we could collaborate and work together."

Wells further developed the idea for specifics of the project by working with Jennifer Murrish, executive director of the Trails and Rails Museum.

One of four UNK students involved, history major Jacob McGinley of Bruning, became interested in helping with the digital history project after learning about it at a UNK career fair.

"I love to help with this stuff because it gets my foot into the door into getting into seeing these archives," McGinley said. "If you don't have experience in this type of field, it's hard just to jump

in. It definitely helps me in my career."

Wells said that each student worker is assigned to work on one component of the digitization effort. One student deals with the government documents, one with audio and another with photographs.

In addition to McGinley, UNK students helping with the project include: Aaron Ray of Gretna, Zach Waller of Kearney and Connor Dudley of Hickman. Wells said additional students in his digital history, online digital history and seminar in history courses are also involved.

Once "Kearney Goes to War" is complete, Wells said it will allow others to become involved and create a resource that will be useful for future research projects.

"The good thing about this is it's laying the foundation for future digital history projects at UNK," Wells said. "We are going to be able to start with this and then grow from here."



## Hof from page 5

### Q & A with Robin Phipps

#### **Why did you choose to nominate Kiphany for this award?**

After I heard about the award and that they were seeking nominations, immediately, Kiphany came to mind. I feel like she's gone above and beyond in her work for stalking awareness and prevention.

And not just a one time deal. We see a lot of individuals that will participate in something like that on a one time

thing. But Kiphany's involvement spans over several years. I think it speaks highly of her commitment to the students and to educating and raising awareness to stalking. It's a subject a lot of people don't talk a lot about, aren't knowledgeable about. Kiphany brings a wealth of knowledge to that. So it was an easy choice.

#### **How did you come to know about her work?**

We first met about three years ago at UNK in January and we served on a Stalking Awareness Panel, a discussion awareness group. That's the first time I had really heard her story and heard her open up to the students and share about her experiences as a stalking victim and later survivor.

*For individuals who may be a victim of stalking, Hof and Phipps both said individuals can contact the Women's Center, UNK Counseling Care, UNK Healthcare or the Buffalo County Victim/Witness Unit.*



By: L. A. Bonté

For more comics and animations visit [FilbertCartoons.com](http://FilbertCartoons.com)



# Spending St. Patty's in O'Neill never gets old

## TOP 10 REASONS to celebrate in Irish Capital



BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA  
Antelope Staff

For many, St. Patrick's Day is a celebration that comes and goes without so much as a bat of the eye. Not in O'Neill,

Nebraska, whose Irish roots grow deeper than potatoes. The northeastern city of nearly 4,000 prides itself on being 'Nebraska's Irish Capital.'

The celebration is not just for people residing in O'Neill. People come from near and far to partake in the weekend events, doubling the city's population. So what exactly is the big hype? From someone who has spent twenty years celebrating in the Nebraska Irish Capital, I have composed the "Top Ten Reasons to Celebrate St. Patty's Day with O'Neill."

### 1. Shamrock Street

Where else can you go with a Shamrock painted on the middle of a busy intersection? Nowhere with one as big. O'Neill currently holds the largest permanent shamrock. The shamrock was constructed in 2000 and is made of colored concrete.

### 2. Irish Dancers

When the clock strikes noon, girls in green Irish dresses take the stage – I mean shamrock. It is a tradition for girls to dance on the Shamrock in the center of the street. Many community members look forward to the girls sharing Irish dance and song.

### 3. The Parade on Main

If you're not in the parade, you're watching it. A colored assortment of candy on the sidewalks, political campaigns, antique cars, marching bands and a green horse are just a few of all that can be seen at the parade on Douglas Street, O'Neill's



Courtesy

**The renowned green horse makes his anticipated appearance at the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in O'Neill. His rider is just as festive, decked out in all green.**

main street. The sidewalks are lined with people standing, lawn chairs and baby strollers, as O'Neill hosts its only parade of the year.

Making an appearance on the CNN homepage in 2011, the green horse can be expected at every parade, every year. This horse spends 364 days of the year

### 4. The Infamous Green Horse

ST. PATTY'S DAY, PAGE 11

## Does love trump labels

### 'Cassanova Was A Woman' pushes boundaries

BY LAURIE VENTEICHER  
Copy Editor

Straight. Lesbian. Gay. Bisexual. Pan-sexual. All of these labels have become much more prominent in society over the last decade or so. If you are like me, you may not know exactly what all of them mean, but you have heard enough in the news, legislature or from family and friends to have a rough idea of the meanings.

I never would have thought that a movie about "sexually fluid" relationships would ever be shown in the incredibly conservative state of Nebraska. But that is exactly what happened on Tuesday, March 3, at the World Theatre in Kearney.

"Cassanova Was A Woman" was the second of three movies in the International Film Series coordinated by UNK @ The World.

Jezabel Montero, writer, producer and lead actress and co-star Margo Singaliese (Lola) made a guest appearance



at the World Theatre to introduce their romantic comedy. They stayed after the screening to answer questions from the audience. On March 4 Montero and Singaliese – a real-life couple of 16 years – visited Dr. Susan Honeyman's Queer Literature class for an additional Q&A session.

I attended the film for extra credit from my Spanish class. At first glance, the premise is based on two Latina women and their racy, passionate relationship. The lead character, Cassanova Canto, realizes one day that she no longer loves her husband of 10 years. She wants a divorce because she has fallen for Lola, a much older woman with whom Cassanova had spent many auditions and small theater performances. She wants out, not feeling "physically compatible" with her husband anymore.

The scene where Cassanova leaves her loving husband brought tears to my eyes. I understand that people change – in this case, Cassanova switches sexual orientation – but in all honesty, I cried because of how love was presented: as a mere physical attraction.

Photo by Laurie Venteicher

**LEFT: Lead actress Jezabel Montero (left) and co-star Margo Singaliese (right) visited Dr. Susan Honeyman's Queer Literature class on March 4. The students were invited to ask questions about the film or the actress' lives, or to share their reactions to the film.**

Today's society has slammed us with images of love being purely physical – "Fifty Shades of Grey," anyone? – and nothing more than objectification of someone's body. Maybe it's my religious views, maybe it's my upbringing, but I personally believe that love is so much more than what society has dumbed it down to.

To top it off, after she splits from her husband, Cassanova fantasizes an imaginary naked man. He is the exact "type" of man she has always dreamed of being with: muscular, tall, dark and handsome. He 'pops up' (with a comical 'pop' sound effect) every time she is in an intimate situation with Lola. He acts as her conscience and provides snarky commentary on the progression of her love life. Her biggest concern? – How can a person be bisexual and remain monogamous in a relationship?

I'm not sure monogamy is possible for Cassanova after she discovers her bisexuality. According to merriam-webster.com, monogamy means "the state or practice of having only one sexual partner during a period of time." If she is attracted to both genders, what's stopping her from having relations with one man and one woman simultaneously? That's not monogamy.

I am not trying to judge or condemn anyone who has differing views of sexuality. And I apologize if I have.

CASSANOVA, PAGE 11



# Taking the pageant circuit by storm

*Anita Lotacox makes history in her first competition*

BY ANDREA MARTIN  
JMC 315

The music starts. The crowd goes silent. "Look at me/ I will never pass for a perfect bride/ Or a perfect daughter/ Can it be/ I'm not meant to play this part?"

Thus Anita Lotacox begins the talent portion of "Miss Fire and Brimstone 2014" with much uncertainty, sweaty palms and a huge smile.

Lotacox was new to the new Nebraska hosted and midwest regional drag queen pageant circuit in 2014. Completing the talent portion, she was most of the way through her first competition.

She never expected to win; others never expected her to win.

"Now I see/ That if I were truly to be myself/ I would break my family's heart. / Who is that girl I see staring straight back at me?" She continued her song and dance.

This was her time to shine, spinning around under the stage lights, putting passion and soul into every step.

After competing in interview, presentation, lingerie, evening gown, talent and question and answer events, Anita Lotacox was crowned "Miss Fire and Brimstone 2104," an impressive feat for anyone, especially someone who had never been in a formal competition.

"Miss Fire and Brimstone" reigns in the Nebraska area for one year, and it was a busy year for Lotacox. Included in her queenly responsibilities: hosting three benefit shows for which she was responsible for picking the theme, finding the venue, booking the entertainment and sitting on the judging panel for the "Mr. Fire and Brimstone" pageant to crown her male counterpart.

Throughout the year Lotacox worked hard to fulfill all of her duties, not all sunshine and roses. For starters, she works from 4 to 8 hours for each performance.

Lotacox sometimes tries two or three different faces before she settles on 'paint' for her face. "No one taught me. I watch a lot of YouTube videos. It's

really just trial and error," she said.

Then there's the hair, the outfit, the shoes, the music and the dance.

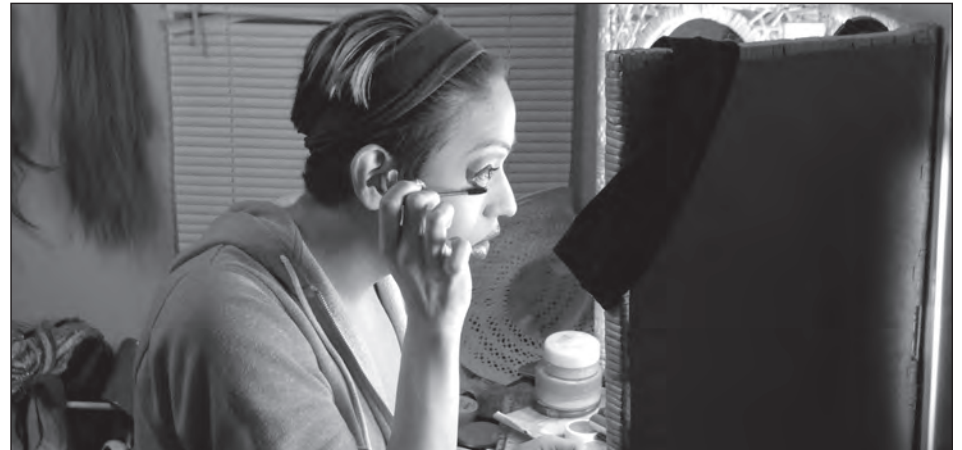
The performance isn't always smooth either. "Unfortunately I have fallen a few times, but eventually I got good at falling and now people usually just think it's part of the routine," she said. There is also the occasional rivalry, of course, when you pack five or six beautiful women in a one dressing room sharing three mirrors there is bound to be a little tension, she said.

What could motivate someone to go through this time and time again? "It's fun. I love the attention. And getting to be pretty!" Do what you love and the money will follow. While Lotacox does get some compensation for her performances, for now it's all about the glory. "I literally cannot go anywhere without being recognized," she said. "My fans are really supportive. So is my family. If I'm happy, they're happy."

While Lotacox says she is unclear where her drag career will go from here she knows now to go for her dream. "I really wasn't ready, or at least I didn't think I was, but my friends talked me into it and now I really can't wait for the next pageant so I can try again," she said.

She credits one of her main supporters and best friend, Humberto Tornel, who also performs in local drag shows, for boosting her confidence and convincing her to enter her first pageant.

"She had been performing in smaller shows around the area for a few months. We all thought she was simply breathtaking. I knew she would do well in competition so I told her so. After repeatedly telling her how great she was and how well she would do, eventually she caved and entered the pageant. In weeks leading



*Photos by Andrea Martin*

**Lotacox expertly 'paints' her face. To prepare for a show Lotacox says it could take up to 8 hours on make-up alone.**

up to it I could tell she was nervous, I just kept trying to reinforce what I knew: she was amazing. She really blew me away the night of the competition and I could tell that she mesmerized the audience," Tornel said.

## Q and A with Anita Lotacox

**You have a closet any girl would be jealous of, where do you shop?**

Everywhere I can! And I do mean everywhere, Goodwill, the mall, online, garage sales.

**Do you have a signature move when you're on stage?**

I wouldn't really call it a 'signature' move, but I love to spin.

**Have you ever performed on the UNK campus?**

Yes I have. Twice actually. They love me there.

**While you paint a great picture of glamor and excitement, there is a lot of compassion and heart in what you and your fellow performers do. Who do your benefit shows help the most?**

Everyone in the circuit has their own cause. I have completed two of my three benefit shows so far. My first show, the proceeds went to the Nebraska AIDS Project. My second show was to benefit children with Down syndrome. The show with the

children was my favorite benefit show I have been in. The kids were so much fun, they loved every song and dance. During one performance at the end of the show, we had the kids on stage singing and dancing with us. They really stole the show.

Lotacox will continue her reign until August 2015 when a new queen will be crowned. For her fans, friends and family, 2014 will be a year to never forget. The year Anita Lotacox decided to enter her first drag queen pageant and won.

## QSA show April 8

Anyone looking for a safe and positive atmosphere to express themselves creatively and play dress-up in fabulous clothes should consider the QSA annual amateur drag show in the Ponderosa Room in the Nebraskan on Wednesday, April 8.

This show is hosted by Pepper Mint and emceed by the returning Mr. Fire and Brimstone, Ashton Mead-Principle.

This show promises to be full of excitement and creativity, enjoyable to nearly all on campus. The audience is encouraged to wear costumes and bring guests. Dollar bills for the performers are also suggested.

If you want perform in the show, contact Grant Pearce, the vice president of UNK QSA with two song choices, your legal name and your stage name: pearcegp@lopers.unk.edu.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/unkqsa>.





## Marriage Ban from page 1 —

will of the people. I will continue to work with Attorney General Doug Peterson to uphold Nebraska's Constitution and the will of the people of our great state."

Days later, the ban was put on hold. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals granted the state's request for an emergency stay, and Nebraska won't be seeing same-sex marriage any time soon. Nebraska will now have to wait for a decision from the Supreme Court which has decided to settle the issue of whether or not states have the right to same-sex marriage in a case to begin May 12 in Omaha.

Governor Ricketts apparently does not realize that this vote was taken 15 years ago. The opinions of Nebraskans on gay marriage are not the same as they were then. In fact, polls after the news came out showed that Nebraskans were in favor of overturning the ban. In a poll conducted by Omaha's KETV, 77 percent of those surveyed supported the ruling. In another poll by 10/11 News, 62 percent surveyed supported the ruling. These polls that Nebraskans' opinions on the issue has changed drastically in 15 years when over 70 percent supported a ban on same-sex marriage.

Governor Ricketts apparently thinks our state should live in the past. He's even spending tax dollar money to stay in the past.

Legalizing same-sex marriage was a huge win for Nebraska, and now we are back to square one. This is 2015, we cannot allow ourselves to be so simple-minded. We also cannot keep letting religion interfere with government issues. One group's religion is not supposed to have a place in our legal system, so why are we letting it? Marriage should not be determined based on your sex, just as the right to vote shouldn't be based on your race. We made the choice to end racial discrimination long ago, now it is time to end this discrimination.

## St.Patty's Day from page 9 —

white and one important day green. While other horses spend their lives working and around cattle, it would not surprise me if this horse's only job is to show up and behave for two hours once every year - he is that important to the folks of O'Neill.

### 5. O'Neill High School Marching Band

Each and every year the O'Neill High School Marching Band and Jr. High Chirping Eaglets bring some noise to the streets of O'Neill. Praying to be placed ahead of the horses in the lineup, the band provides catchy Irish tunes. The band stops momentarily on the shamrock to blast away with Irish Pride, an O'Neill band tradition.

### 6. Dodgeball

Think you've got a tough arm? You're only as good as your duck, dip, dive and dodging skills. The competition gets real serious really fast when it comes to the dodgeball tournament. Dodgeball is the first big event to officially kick off St. Patty's weekend on Friday night in O'Neill. Teams consist of all ages and go well into the night.

### 7. Donkeys Make the Best Basketball Players

Think you've read that wrong? Think again. O'Neill has often times brought senior Husker football players for an event called Husker Hoops. The Huskers would compete against O'Neill community members in a family-friendly basketball competition. However, Donkey basketball has been increasingly popular. The game is about as you'd imagine it, players riding donkeys, complete chaos and the occasional donkey dropping on the gymnasium floor. Players will consist of the O'Neill Champion Wrestling team, O'Neill St. Mary's Champion volleyball team, O'Neill FFA chapter, and other organizations. This is a fantastic way to recognize the community's youth accomplishments and efforts.

### 8. Running is Actually Fun

I never expected it to be true. For quite some time O'Neill has been hosting a fun run. Participants can sign up for a 5K or 2.5K run/walk. You won't see typical running gear here. Some participants will be there for the run, but an overwhelming amount will show up just to strut their creative St. Patty's fashion.

### 9. Green Eggs and Ham

How does the O'Neill Public Library get children hungry for literature? With green eggs and ham, of course. A reading of Dr. Suess' "Green Eggs and Ham" followed by the yummy, St. Patty's appropriate breakfast satisfies their hunger.

## Suh from page 7 —

said Armando Salguero, a reporter for the Miami Herald.

However, many analysts believe that the Lions will fight hard to keep Suh's talents in Detroit. After being drafted second overall in the 2010 NFL draft, he has performed on an exceptionally high level, recording 36 sacks, which is in the top five over the past five years in that particular category. Needless to say, he has had an exceptional start to his career in Detroit and may be able to continue it there.

Jacksonville and Chicago are not as appealing in Suh's eyes. After crying in a press conference following their last loss of the season in 2015, he explained that he wants to be a part of a winning program and with the Jaguars only winning three total games last season,

it would not seem logical for Suh to fit in there.

Meanwhile, the Bears recently fired their head coach and are in the middle of rebuilding a defense that has been everything less than spectacular in recent years: both being variables that are not very enticing to the 2010 Defensive Rookie of the Year.

"I expect the Dolphins and Lions to struggle to sign Suh, and for the Chicago Bears and Jacksonville Jaguars to throw in their bids as well," said Marc Sessler of nfl.com.

Either way, with all these rumors floating around the league, most Husker fans will be eager to see which team is able to land Suh and whether or not it will be worth it.

## 10. Nightlife

One can find green beers, cheap shots and a good time in a downtown O'Neill bar. Packed to the max, the bars accommodate for the night scene after all the kid-friendly daytime activities have subsided. Those who are underage aren't completely out of luck. Sobriety becomes particularly important for those needing to get somewhere, so much they're willing to pay for you to help them out.

These events and many more occur on the most important weekend of the year in O'Neill. For an O'Neilleian, the end of the St. Patrick's celebration is like that to other's end of Christmas or birthday: a countdown until next year's celebration.

## Poet from page 3 —

years later when you posted on Myspace and said I was a 'big fat dyke, I am certain you did not think of the consequences that could have for a teenaged girl in a brand new town, I had just moved way from that sucker punch."

The night was full of passion, laughter, and even tears. The recent loss of her father made the performance difficult, but despite the pain when talking about some of the darkest moments of her life, Wirsing remained upbeat and positive: a great model for any person, regardless of gender, age or sexual orientation.

"Not only is Wirsing a spectacular poet, but she is also a wonderful woman with a great personality and a warm heart," Weekley said. "We asked Wirsing to come back because it's hard to find a performer that can bring all of those things to our campus, and we think our student body deserves the best."

## Cassanova from page 9 —

Some mindsets are difficult to move away from. Basically, I grew up as a "Miriam." (For those who did not see the movie, Miriam was Cassanova's sister who had issues with the idea that Cassanova could be either lesbian or bisexual.)

I was always the person who frowned upon anything other than heterosexuality and did not even want to associate with anyone who thought otherwise. After moving to college and being exposed to more diversity, I began expanding my mindset. One of my closest friends is homosexual. So, while I do not condone every action done by those who are not heterosexual, I will not judge you. I believe that everyone deserves a chance to love and be loved. No matter what, God loves you.

"I didn't want a happy-happy tied-in-a-bow ending, what you would call a 'Hollywood ending.' As a society, we get caught up in labels," Jezebel Montero, writer, producer and lead actress, said.

By the end of the movie, Cassanova still has not figured out which gender she is attracted to, leaving the audience - or at least, me - confused about her choices. Although she has broken up with Lola, Cassanova still loves her but has a new boyfriend, none other than the naked 'fantasy man.'

Does love transcend labels? Do we need labels to make sense of love? That's up to you to determine on your own.



More photos online @  
**unkantelope.com**



*Greek of the Week*

# It's a wrap after months of planning

*After quite a bit of help from her friends, Lehmkuhler reflects on another successful Red Dress Poker Tournament*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JESSICA NICHOLS

Antelope Staff

**F**or the past 10 years Alpha Phi has hosted the Red Dress Poker tournament to raise money for their foundation charity, raising between \$5,000 and \$7,000 each year. This year, Bailey Lehmkuhler, the new Director of Philanthropy, organized the event.

"We have done a poker tournament for the past 10 years, and it's been very successful in the past," Lehmkuhler said. "We choose to do a poker tournament because it attracts a variety of people on and off campus." The money from the event goes to the Alpha Phi Foundation, which supports women's cardiac care.

The sophomore exercise science, pre-physical therapy major started strategizing the event over Christmas break. She organized committees and delegated different tasks to her sorority sisters. After break they had a donation dash and collected donations and prizes for the tournament.

When they weren't fundraising or promoting, they were busy organizing the



**BAILEY LEHMKUHLER**

Even though the event is over Lehmkuhler still has things to do. "The job doesn't really end, and that can be stressful," she said.

Lehmkuhler, from North Platte, attributes her success of this event to her sorority. "Living in a house with so many other girls has made me realize that I wasn't alone in this position." She said, "Planning this event was a huge undertaking, and I couldn't have done it without help from my committee heads and friends." Lehmkuhler says their help was invaluable and she will be forever grateful for their kind hearts and hard work.

During December of next semester, Lehmkuhler will have to hand over her position to her successor. "I hope that by the time I give my position to the next person in line, girls in my sorority will have a better idea of what our philanthropy is about and why we raise money for our cause."

*Planning this event was a huge undertaking, and I couldn't have done it without help from my committee heads and friends.*

*—Bailey Lehmkuhler*

poker chips, counting cards and ordering food and tables. "I always had a list on my computer of things I had to do, places I had to go, and people I had to call," Lehmkuhler said. "It was overwhelming sometimes, but things always had a way of working out and getting done."

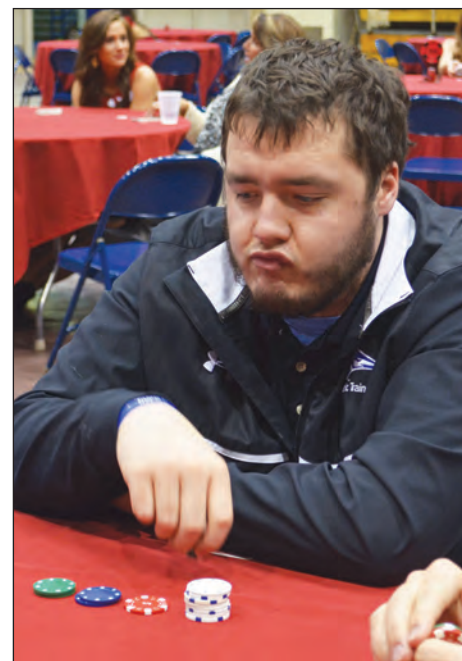
In the United States, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, and Lehmkuhler wants to work to make these statistics nonexistent in the future. "I also hope to educate the UNK community on the importance of heart disease and what they can do to help our cause."



Junior Jordanna Glock (left) and sophomores Ellen Carey (middle) and Kelsey Haywood greeted the players as they came in and directed them to the downstairs entrance of the Health and Sports Center. They got the players excited by jumping out from behind the sign and yelling welcome.



**Dawson Johnson**, a sophomore molecular biology major, collects his winnings from a successful round of poker.



**Dylan Warford**, an exercise science major, channels his inner duck face in order to fool his opponents.



**Carly Wollman**, a senior communication disorders major, gets her table started by laying out the cards. At every table there was an Alpha Phi member, like Wollman, who dealt to the players and kept the game running.