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# the antelope

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## Spring into the great outdoors

Enjoy nature, outdoor activities in local parks. Pick a place: hike, climb, ride, play

BY ADAM KONRUFF  
Antelope Staff

Spring came to Kearney this weekend, with rolling thunderstorms and 60-degree temperatures that had everyone clamoring to get outside and enjoy our little slice of heaven.

Holing ourselves up during the winter months can make us forget all of the great ways to spend an afternoon out and about the Kearney community.

The parks are a great place to start. There are several ordinary parks in town, including Harvey Park, Nina Hammer Park and Collins Park. Harmon Park and Centennial Parks have great playgrounds and pools. But the real beauty lies in the town's two main parks: Yanney Heritage and Cottonmill parks

Yanney features a small lake for fishing, several playgrounds including the "splashground," a playground/waterpark for kids of all ages. An intricate system of tracks allows walkers and bikers to explore the park, with its community gardens and concert amphitheater.

Yanney's uniqueness truly lies in its tower, which can be seen from many places in the city. The tower offers a large observatory deck at the top of six flights of stairs. The view of the park and Kearney from atop the tower is something to see.

Cottonmill Park was built around a staging reservoir that is part of the Kearney Canal system. This park offers a fishing lake and, in the summer, a swimming pond. The fishing pond here is much bigger than the one at Yanney, allowing for boaters and kayakers.

There are over 10 miles of hiking and biking trails in Kearney, starting out at Cottonmill with the dirt-bike trail. This trail is difficult to find, and perhaps even more difficult to ride. Expert cyclists can find this dirt track off a road in the northeast corner of the park. A small path of wood chips leads to an area filled with hills and valleys that will challenge even seasoned riders.

The actual hike/ bike trail is one of the highlights of this town, following the

SPRINGTIME, PAGE 11



Photo by Adam Konruff

Communications professors Jake Jacobson (front) and Dr. Keith Terry ride out of Cottonmill Park on the Cottonmill to Fort Kearney Trail Sunday, when temperatures hit the high 60s. The trail runs from Cottonmill to the Archway Monument, a total of 8.9 miles. Additional trails in the area make a total of over 17 miles of hiking and biking trails.

## Undergraduate researchers show and tell

BY JOENE CROCKER  
Antelope Staff

The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is the academic national equivalent to March Madness in basketball for student research, and UNK will be in that game with an elite team of 21.

Those 21 UNK students will present, or "show-n-tell" their research projects through oral or poster presentations at NCUR, April 11-13, at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.

"We are very pleased this year. Twenty-one students applied, and 21 got accepted," said John Falconer, director of the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity and Honors programs on campus.



JOHN  
FALCONER

"Nationally, 60 percent get accepted."

UNK promotes and offers opportunities for students to do research through the Summer Student Research Program (SSRP), the Undergraduate Research Fellows (URF), and in-class or outside-class projects.

"And a lot of research goes on that we don't know about, which is great," said Falconer.

"In the mid-90s the campus started supporting independent and collaborative research. But if you look at some departments, there is actually a lot of history of research," he said. Chemistry and psychology are examples of fields involving re-

### Interested in research?

Check out UNK's Student Research Day **Thursday, April 4**, in the Nebraskan Student Union, Ponderosa Room.

See schedule and program online at <http://www.unk.edu/academics/gradstudies.aspx?id=38702>

search over many years.

"The important thing is that students realize that when you do research, the idea is to advance your discipline. You can't help your field move forward if you don't

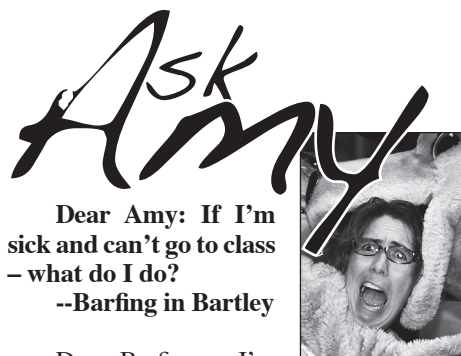
tell people what you learned," he said.

At the national conference, students will have the choice to present orally or with a poster. Both require an audience and conversation. The oral presentation will be shared in front of a group of approximately 30 people in a 10-minute period. "If giving a talk, they will often have a power-point presentation," Falconer said.

The student is present with his or her poster for several hours while scholars attending the conference walk by, stop, engage in a one-on-one conversation about the topic, and ask questions.

"Communicating the results is very important, it's like putting the period at the end of the sentence," said Falconer.

SHOW AND TELL, PAGE 11



**Dear Amy: If I'm sick and can't go to class – what do I do?**

**--Barfing in Bartley**

Dear Barfing – I'm sorry you're under the weather, and if it's bad enough you can't go to class I would strongly recommend visiting with Student Health (308.865.8218). They can do a few things for you – there might be medicine you could take to cure what ails you, and they can get a prescription for you. They can also refer you to the clinic if your illness requires further medical attention, and if they refer you there is no office visit charge (that right there saves you some \$\$\$!).

If you need to be out of class for several days, they can also notify your teachers for you officially. You are still obligated to make up any work you missed while you're out, but it is good to have someone take care of the notification for you, and it's very nice for the instructor to have the "official" notice.

Something to consider when you're sick is if you are SO sick that you absolutely can't go to class. Certainly if you are erupting at either end (or both...), you should definitely NOT go to class. That's gross, and nobody wants to be around you.

But if you're only cold-sick, think about what you might be missing in class and what the attendance policy is for each of your classes that day. Some teachers are very lenient about absences— and others, well others maybe not so much. That information should be on your course syllabus. But if you have a test that day and the teacher says that missed tests can't be

## Sick and have to miss class?

made up unless they receive notification 24 hours in advance, you might want to try and drag your hiney to class.

After all, if you're not desperately sick it's not THAT hard to sit in class, listen, and take notes for 50-75 minutes, is it? Granted, it's not quite as easy as chilling in a recliner watching The Price is Right, but it's not like you have to look GOOD for class. Your classmates might choose to shun you and opt to sit on the far side of the room to avoid your germs, but hey – getting the notes for yourself is always better than trying to decipher your buddy's chicken scratch, right?

Whatever happens, when you are sick and need to miss class (unless you're working with Student Health and they have indicated they're going to take care of this part for you), you MUST let your teachers know. For that matter, any time you miss class you should let your teacher know! If you just don't show up they have no way of knowing why you aren't there and they might very well assume you're just blowing off class and don't give a hoot. Even if their attendance policy is relaxed, let them know why you're gone!

And for crying out loud – whatever you do – PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE don't ask them the most reviled question to any teacher "Did I miss anything important in class today?" Um, DUH? Of COURSE you did! Everything they share in class is important or they wouldn't be teaching you about it, right?

*Have a question for Amy? Rumor has it she's a real know-it-all...email questions to AskAmy@unk.edu.*

## CAMPUS CRIME LOG

**March 24:** Report of a verbal disturbance at University Heights Apartments resulted in separation of the involved parties. The male subject was taken to a friend's house by Kearney Police Department.

**March 26:** Subject reported a student's mail was stolen sometime between March 8 and March 13. Case remains open.

**March 26:** Mantor R.A. reported

odor of burnt marijuana coming from a room. The occupants of the room refused a room search and showed no signs of intoxication. No further action was taken.

**March 29:** Female subject cited for defective headlight off campus.

**March 29:** Female subject issued a written warning for going the wrong way in a one-way in what used to be Lot 9.



## AT ISSUE: THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

BY COURTNEY WAGNER  
Antelope Staff

The Catholic Church has been in the news consistently since Feb. 28 when Pope Benedict XVI resigned and more since March 13, when a new pope, Pope Francis, was elected.

Pope Francis is known for bringing back the disenfranchised. He wants to make the church more inclusive. He definitely let his message of individual service shine through for his first Easter.

On Thursday, March 28, Holy Thursday in the Catholic Church, Pope Francis travelled to Casa del Marmo, a youth prison in Rome. There he washed and kissed the feet of 12 inmates. For the first time, women and Muslims were included in the ritual.

Pope Francis told them "Washing your feet means I am at your service."

This is the first time that women have ever been included in the ceremony. It has definitely caused a stir internationally.

Some definitely think it's a new era, and the changes he made are acceptable. However, there are others who believe the church should stay true to how it has always been.

There are a lot of different sides to the story, and it definitely depends on personal opinion. Changes around the world today include gay marriage, legalized marijuana and even religious ceremonies are being changed. People are asking, "Is this a new, modern era, or is there something we should be worried about?"

The world is changing, there's no

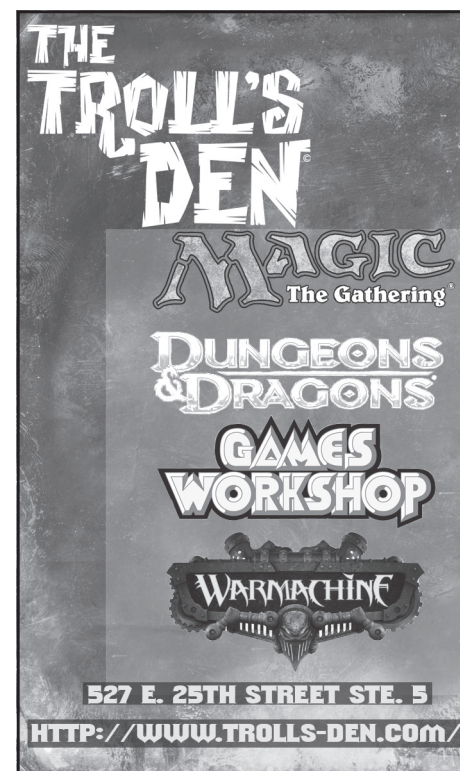
getting around that. People are changing, technology is becoming more advanced, and the world is generally getting more liberal about various issues. I personally, do not believe that there is anything to be worried about.

It's time for people to come to their senses and think about these issues. Time is changing; it's the modern world now, not the 19th century.

There are some things that I think should remain the way they've always been: The Pledge of Allegiance, The Constitution and The Declaration of Independence. However, I think there is a time and place for change. While the world has been changing for some time now, people just haven't necessarily been keeping up with the changes.

Whether that's because they don't know the changes are happening, or refuse to accept them, I think a lot of the changes that are happening are a positive thing. They need to be recognized and accepted.

Things that used to be taboo are done with little thought at all anymore. Polls indicate people are becoming a lot more liberal on issues embracing different sides of the story. No matter what a person believes, they need to reconsider the current issues with the mindset that the world is a lot more modern now.



## OF COURSE YOU CAN LAUGH DURING THE CONCERT



*Photo by Jisoo Shim*

Mark Messner and Alex Rudolph of Ogallala, who both play tuba, perform "Star Variations" by Oystein Baadsvik and "Duets for Tuba #10" by Vaclav Nelhybel, in the Low Brass Chamber Recital at the UNK Fine Arts Recital Hall at 7:30 on Thursday, March 28. "This performance will be in two parts," said Dr. Fletcher, UNK senior lecturer of music and performing arts. "The second half being our first-ever 'Mock-cital,' a series of less-than-serious joke performances with the musicians performing silly pieces and/or on instruments that they don't really know how to play."

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# Pianist lends talents to music, theater departments

*From performances with Nevada Opera to singing for the Queen, Curry is now playing on the campus near you*

**BY CODIE MILFORD**  
 Antelope Staff

Nancy Curry opens a weekly schedule on her iPhone, which allows very little free time these days.

Keeping herself extremely busy within the music department as an accompanist to students (both vocal and instrumental), professors, four choirs, the upcoming musical, and so on, Curry still finds a few minutes to sit down with her usual coffee and talk between rehearsals and lessons.

Curry’s family was very much into music in Edmonton, in the Alberta province in Canada. “My family bought a piano when I was five years old, but my mom sent me to preschool music classes when I was 4,” Curry said. “I had already started to learn how to read, and my mother – being the teacher that she is – figured I would need something else to occupy myself with at school.”

What started as “something to occupy herself with” quickly grew into a deep passion for music. Curry says she landed her first job as a teenager. “When I was 14, a friend of mine who was a really good singer got a gig at a curling lounge where players would go after their games (Curry smiles and refers to the sport of curling as “bowling on ice”). They agreed to pay him \$25 every Saturday night. My father thought that was absolutely hilarious. I was also playing for the choir in high school, as well as singing in it.”

Naturally, music was the degree to pursue in college, and royal opportunities arose – including a rare opportunity to perform for the Queen of England.

“When I was a sophomore in college, I was invited to sing with a Christmas caroling quartet that called themselves The Charles Dickens Singers,” Curry said. “After a busy Christmas season we were contacted by a local musician who had been asked to organize a program to entertain Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip when they visited our city the following summer for the Commonwealth Games. We joined lots of other groups and performers at the main theatre downtown, sang our hearts out for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, lined up with everyone else to see her up close as she greeted the performers on her way through the lobby to the door, and then partied with the invited audience at a swanky reception afterward,” she said.

When her husband’s job brought her family to Nebraska, friends told her about the university seeking an accompanist. Her husband had been teaching at Central Community College in Columbus over 10 years, her home since 2001. “After doing various different short-term jobs, including the opera companies, I was at loose ends when I



NANCY CURRY

***“The opportunities to play have grown for me with every year that I’ve been here, and this year I’m playing for all vocal and choral ensembles, several voice recitals and some instrumental recitals.”***

got two calls from two different friends in one week telling me to contact UNK,” Curry said.

She started to work with an opera workshop and some studio lessons.

“The opportunities to play have grown for me with every year that I’ve been here, and this year I’m playing for all vocal and choral ensembles, several voice recitals and some instrumental recitals,” she said.

And it’s not just her piano skills that are needed in choir rehearsals – Curry’s education in Canada has been useful for the UNK Choraleers’ practice for music in 12 different languages for a performance with the Kearney Area Symphony Orchestra later this month.

“Growing up in Canada means that you have the opportunity to learn French and other languages from elementary school on up. I started French class in Grade 5, and kept it up until university, with a field trip to Paris and Nice in Grade 12,” Curry said. “Of course, it helped that my mother was a French teacher at the local elementary school, and that my family spent a summer in Europe the year I finished high school.

“Once in university, I took a year of French, a year of introductory German, and a year of introductory Italian. I also studied lyric diction in my graduate degree, and learned more about phonetics. I’ve always been interested in linguistics, and would love to learn more about the history and development of European languages.”

Students value Curry’s varied talents as well. “Nancy is a very skilled accompanist – her talent at the piano is certainly a gift to those who get to work with her,” said junior Sydney Clifton, a vocal performance major with a dance minor from Grand Island. “As a student, I have a great appreciation for her extensive knowledge regarding the music pieces that I have worked on in over the three years I’ve worked with her. She’s a rather invaluable resource.”

She’s busy with events nearly every day in April until school ends the first week in May – but she excitedly mentions things on her bucket list as a performer, ranging from accompanying the Ahrens-Flaherty musical “Lucky Stiff to publishing her own works.” ...I just think ‘Lucky Stiff’ is very clever and resonates with my sense of humor,” she said.

She wants to write music curriculum: “My colleague at a summer enrichment program I work at has been after me to write up my course outlines and lesson plans for the various classes I’ve taught over the years, as a resource for teachers in gifted enrichment classrooms. Over the next couple of summers I hope to put that book together and eventually get it published,” she adds.

She wants to produce an opera performed with a specific audience in mind. “I want to produce Menotti’s chamber one-act opera “The Medium,” which is about a charlatan medium and her two youthful charges, one of

whom is deaf, with a deaf actor portraying Toby,” she said. She can see it all in her mind: “produce it in a space that is super resonant, put the seats on hollow wooden boxes that would vibrate with the sound, hire sign language interpreters for the characters as well as running supertitles, and invite an audience from the deaf community. Opera for the deaf.”

## Curry's Upcoming Performances

**April 17 – 21**

"Urinetown: the Musical" in the Miriam Drake Theater

**April 23**

Kearney Area Symphony Orchestra’s performance of “Calling All Dawns” with the UNK Choraleers

## Sudoku ★☆☆☆☆

**How to play:** Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

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

Find answer on page 9

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

# Willing to put their faith forward

*Through Navigators Christian ministry, students will immerse themselves in Japanese culture during summer in Shizuoka building friendships*

BY JOEL CEDAR  
Antelope Staff

Before the end of May, a group from UNK will immerse themselves in a life unlike what they have known in the U.S. A team of students and staff are adventuring to Japan for the 2013 summer with a desire to help others, experience self-growth and spread the message of Jesus.

On May 26, the team consisting of four UNK students, two UNK Navigators staff members and a number of people from Kansas University are departing for Shizuoka, Japan. The trip is sponsored by the global Navigators Christian ministry organization. The UNK group will be working with the B.E.S.T. Club (Bible, English, Sports, and Travel), which is a Navigators' related organization at local universities.

The group will be living with local stu-



Photo by  
Joel Cedar

**Beau Andrews and Sarah Armatys are two of the members of the group adventuring to Japan for a summer of helping others and personal growth. The group will depart in late May and will be gone for eight weeks. Armatys said, "I hope to carry on those friendships for a lifetime."**

## Join the Nav Night

Thursday nights at 8 p.m. in  
Bruner 177.

Nav Night is a weekly time of  
worship, teaching from God's  
Word and fun.

### Learn more about Navigators:

- <http://www.navigators.org/us/ministries>
- <http://unk.campusnavs.org>

dents and will immerse themselves in the Japanese culture. The UNK team is going there to build friendships, help Japanese students with their English, learn about Japan, and if the chance arises, explain their faith in Jesus.

Beau Andrews, a sophomore, pre-law political science major and a member of the team, said "We will help them with their English, and they will teach us Japanese, which will be really cool. If they have any questions, we will be able to answer them,

but we are not there to set up Bible studies or anything like that, unless the opportunity arises."

Sarah Armatys, a sophomore from Central City, said, "Just to learn their way of life and be exposed to a different culture will be a fantastic thing as well as being able to expose them to the most important aspect of my life, which is my faith."

The trip will also present the team members with a number of exciting ways for personal growth. Members will have the chance to explore Japan, learn a new culture and deepen their own personal relationships with God. Every week, the group will individually spend the entire day strengthening their relationship with Jesus. "I cannot tell you how excited I am for the opportunity to spend an entire day distraction-free alone with God," Armatys said.

To prepare for the trip, the team has had orientation and training sessions in Kansas City and Kearney, devotions, a lot of prayer and fundraising. The UNK Navigators staff has also put in the work to help get the team ready for the summer. Andrews said, "We have been blessed to

have an awesome Navigators staff here at UNK. We are really blessed."

Armatys said she hopes the trip will enrich her life positively. "I am going to make long-term friendships. I want to go over and meet students. Even though we are only there for eight weeks, I hope to

carry on those friendships for a lifetime."

Both Andrews and Armatys said that they would love to talk to anyone who would like to hear more about their trip, and that the team would appreciate any support.

## The beach is waiting.

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# Two worlds, one family

BY COURTNEY JONES  
Antelope Staff

Daniel Gibbs said it is difficult to remember how he found out he was adopted because he knew when he was little that he always looked a little different than his parents and the children at school.

"I was the only Asian in my class up until elementary school, when there were a whopping total of six of us in the entire school," said the UNK junior in the Fine Arts Building to talk about his adoption and his life as a Korean in the American culture.

"I was four months old when I was adopted from Korea and brought to Arizona where my new parents lived. It wasn't long till we moved here to Kearney, and this is where I have been ever since."

"I think part of the adoption process for the parents-to-be, is learning how to tell your child about being adopted when they get older, because for some children it takes a really big toll on them mentally and psychologically, and they are not able to handle it. Luckily for me I always just kind of knew, and it never really bothered me all that much because I love my parents and am so blessed to have been adopted into their family."

Still he says he never really understood why some kids would look at him and say "Oh look, there's an Asian."

"I never realized I was so different be-

cause I have pretty much been here all my life. But yes, I used to get made fun of in school, and most of the time I really didn't know why. And it almost lasted up until high school, but in the end I was just like whatever, it doesn't matter."

Even though his family brought him up in the American culture, they were always very interested in the Korean culture and way of life as well. They never wanted him to forget his roots and where he came from, so they made it a priority to stay invested in the Korean culture.

"We try and celebrate Korean holidays and cook traditional Korean dishes. We have been a host family for many of the Japanese and Korean students who go to UNK, and have been doing this since I was about nine. We also have a lot of family friends that have adopted Korean children, so we stay really close to them."

Along with actually going to Korea once with his family, Daniel has attended Korean Heritage Camp every summer in Colorado for almost 16 years.

Now in his third year at UNK, Gibbs is majoring in music education, composition, and food science, his three favorite things.

*Gibbs' American family made an effort to integrate Korean culture; still, he says he never really understood why some kids would say, "Oh, look. There's an Asian."*

"My love of music started when I was really young. My mom would play piano all the time, and I was jealous because my sister started taking piano lessons and then she could do something I couldn't and that was not alright with me. Now I play clarinet, flute, piccolo, violin, cello and I sing."

He learned to love cooking by watching my grandparents and mom cook, and they would let him help, Gibbs said. "Eventually I started making breakfast in bed for my mom and dad. Even if it was just toast and cereal, they loved it, and then my skills just progressed from there."

Although Gibbs is not sure how he is going to mix a major in music and food, he is taking suggestions. "One of my friends suggested that I start my own restaurant and compose my own music and bring in live bands to play it while people enjoy their food."



Photo by Courtney Jones

**Music Education major, Daniel Gibbs, plays a tune on his flute. Flute is just one of the many instruments Daniel can play.**

Gibbs got involved on campus and now works in the Fine Arts Building as a student worker to the secretary of the music department. He is also involved with the Undergraduate Research Council and Fellowship programs where he has been conducting research on ethnic and non-western music under Dr. Darleen Mitchell. Gibbs has also been involved with the UNK Pride of the Plains Marching Band as a section leader, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Choraleers, Men's Chorus and Flute Choir. He is also a music mentor and has arranged music for the UNK Wind Ensemble to perform as well as Pomp and Circumstance for the bell tower here on campus.

He says his life is exciting as ever and very fast-paced as he continues to blend his American and Korean culture.

# A good mix makes a true family

BY JOENE CROCKER  
Antelope Staff

When looking at Leffler family photographs, there is no question that Cornell Leffler's family is both black and white. The snapshots clearly reveal the black and white diversity that began with a transracial adoption when he was young. The African-American infant was placed into a Caucasian family's care in Fairfax, Virg. at nine days old after his birth mom internally struggled about whether she could raise another child.

It was a closed adoption and did not allow any identifying information or communication before or after placement of the child.

For 18 years neither he nor his birth mother moved to bridge the gap between them.

His new parents, Kurt and Jennifer Leffler, opened their arms and hearts to a child that required special attention. "I had a lot of medical and developmental problems, and doctors thought that while my birth mom was pregnant with me she used drugs," Leffler said.

Leffler's new caretakers comfortably embraced being an atypical family. He was eagerly accepted by members of his new family; dad, mom, big brother Kurt and sister Heather. Heather, five years older, took guardianship of Leffler and had his back from the beginning. "Because I was slower, she watched out for me. I always felt welcomed and loved, even with grandparents," he said, "but especially by Heather."

However, not everyone felt that way. Two years later his family had to battle to legally adopt him. "They had to fight to even make it possible, but now I see the concerns," Leffler said. "Maybe a white family wouldn't be able to give an African-American kid what he needed."

Leffler had gradual improvements in his cognitive development and a strong bond with his mom in his new environment. "My family told me that I didn't even smile until I was 4 or 5 years old, but doctors thought it would be too detrimental to go to another family willing to adopt me, and they were African-American," Leffler said.

His family grew in numbers with the addition of two adopted younger sisters when he was 7 and then the birth of baby David, a biological child to his parents.

"I knew at a very young age that I was obviously different. So when they were



Courtesy Photo

**Cornell Leffler, seated on his mother's lap, joined Kurt and Jennifer Leffler's family at nine days old when he was placed in foster care. They officially adopted him when he was two. As foster parents, many children were part of the Leffler family and their family size increased because of more adoptions and biological children.**

*"I pray that the hands that birthed me rest at ease knowing that the hands that raised me gave me everything I need to be successful in this world."*

having talks with me about being adopted, it wasn't one of those situations where they waited until I was older and then were like, 'Oh hey, by the way, you are adopted.' I always knew that other members were white," Leffler said.

Looking back, he recalls difficult times growing up in a white family and sometimes unwelcoming culture. "I got called Oreo, Zebra, and Cracker. Some would say, 'You are the whitest black guy I've ever met' ...all the way up through high school. That stuff bothered me because I'm not white just because I was raised by white people. I am black. I struggled with trying to find myself," Leffler said.

However, a grey area hovered over Leffler. He thought he had no one to identify with. In science class, he remembers the bewilderment felt when the teacher talked about genes and asked, "How many of you have your father's eyes, or your mother's hands?" because he had no idea who he came from. The questions tugged at his heart.

His father got accepted into law school at UNL and the family moved to Lincoln



Photo by Joene Crocker

**Leffler's fulfills his determination to connect through his involvement on the UNK track team. Ross Fellows, assistant track and field coach, said Leffler is a team leader, motivator and hard worker. "He's able to do well in spite of stuff going on in his life" Fellows said.**

when he was eight. His parents again opened their hearts and home and welcomed three African-American boys near his age into the family.

"We were exactly what we needed for each other. They taught me how to be black and introduced me to African-American culture," Leffler said. "When they came, it really helped me, and I think that's part of the reason I grew so close with them, particular-

ly Robert and Lindsey, because I identified with them. They are my brothers. People get nit-picky and say, 'Well, are they your real brothers?' That is the closest thing I have to someone who looks like me."

Leffler gives much credit to his parents. "I am not like what media portrays an African-American: baggy pants, wearing oversized T-shirts and speaking differently," Leffler said, "and my parents drilled into my head I needed to be educated, act properly, use manners and take care of what I need to take care of." In middle and high school, he was in honors classes.

Influenced by his parents, Leffler came to UNK in pursuit of a psychology major and marketing and management minor degree. His freshman year opened up doors of opportunity, not only in his education but in his personal life as well.

The sense of urgency to locate his natural relatives began one day sitting in his dorm when, within minutes of each other, he received numerous texts, emails and Facebook messages from friends asking if he was on TV. He turned to the channel and saw someone who resembled him. He thought, "What if that's my brother, and I don't even know him."

Leffler, then 18, began the search for his biological family. "It was a long process. I contacted the adoption agency in Fairfax," he said. "The coordinator, Beverly George, was very good about conveying it takes time, and she started me out slow," Leffler said.

He was eventually given 20 pages of redacted material about his case where all of the personal information had been deleted. He read it over several times to absorb as much history involving him as possible.

His mother's only hobby listed was music. "I love music," Leffler said, "which makes me think about nature vs. nurture."

"She was a very educated woman, graduating cum laude. I don't know what was going on at that point in her life," Leffler said, "but before she made her final decision she said, 'Whoever gets this child is getting a very special child.'"

He said, "Then I decided I wanted to go further and try to locate her."

As recorded in the paperwork, legal notices had been placed in newspapers trying to locate his birth father but there were no responses. "There was a void that I felt like I needed to fill," Leffler said. He learned that he and a half-brother share the same mother,

LEFFLER, PAGE 11

# Getting into the swing of things, eh?

*Freshman golfer from Canada impacts team, adjusts to life in the U.S.*

**BY JOSH SMITH**  
Antelope Staff

In any level of sports, a common factor of success is veteran leadership. The importance of a group of senior leaders on a team is huge. Refer to some of the best teams in any college sport for proof.

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish was stacked with seniors, including captain and All-American Manti Teo. But would they have visited the National Championship without freshman quarterback Everett Golson? Unlikely.



**BRAD HOLMES**

The Kansas Jayhawks basketball squad started four seniors, but would they have won their ninth consecutive Big 12 title without freshman phenom, Ben McLemore? Doubtful. As crucial as senior leadership is, freshman star power is equally as essential for success.

Loper golf fans can shine a spotlight on one freshman who has impacted his team right out of high school, with the help of senior leaders he is quick to say.

Brad Holmes, from Toronto, Canada, has been playing golf since he was 12 years of age. At age 17, he began researching universities in the United States, with the desire to continue his golfing career. The Lopers were lucky to find him, and Holmes boarded a plane in August of 2012 with a scholarship to play for UNK.

When Holmes arrived in Kearney, he immediately noticed changes in the climate and conditions that would affect his play. Without hesitation, Holmes worked on his game non-stop, trying to get accustomed to a new team, a new course, and a new home. Holmes says that his motivation and excitement to improve is due to the satisfaction of playing with incredible teammates, and for top-of-the-line coaches.

Holmes is unique in the fact that he is the only international student on the golf roster, but he is not the only freshman. The UNK golf team currently has nine freshmen on the roster, though only three have made an appearance in tournament

play this year.

Holmes, one of those three, has played in three tournaments this year, which he is happy about, but he says he will not settle there. "I want to continue to improve and consistently make the top five, but more than that, my goal is to make it to nationals as a team."

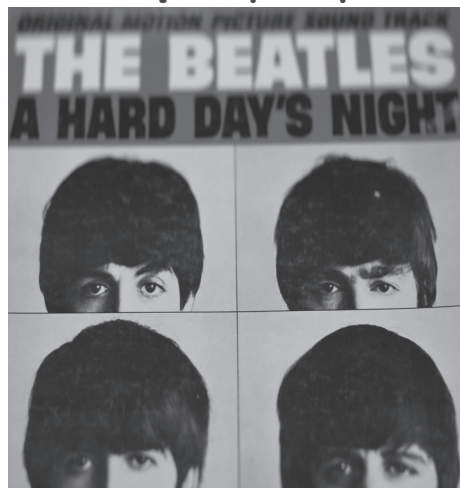
Though golf is an individual sport, Holmes tends to focus on the team aspect, which he says is instinct from playing club hockey in Canada for five years. "The team's success always comes first, I want to play well to contribute to that," Brad said after teeing off at the driving range of Kearney Country Club.

His contributions have been noticeable, as the team has been victorious in all three tournaments in which Holmes has participated.

"It's fun," Holmes said, referring to the competitive nature of the sport. "I will never stop playing and improving until it isn't fun anymore, and I don't see that happening anytime soon." Brad attributes his success and improvement to hard work, but also to senior leadership on the team. Without the leadership, role modeling, and experience of the seniors, Holmes said he does not know where he would be. Holmes, and the Loper golf team tee off for the MIAA Championships April 22, as they try to extend their season into May.

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# Loper Action

**BY KENT KELLER**  
Antelope Staff

## Softball

Lady Lopers drop double header to Lindenwood.

The Lopers weren't able to catch up with Lindenwoods pitchers Friday in Missouri. The only run the Lopers scored on the trip came off of a RBI double by catcher Jen Kramer. The Lions were led by Senior Kristen Felker, who threw a complete game five-hitter in game one.

Kramer, from North Platte, went 2 for 3 from the plate. The Lions had 13 hits. They scored runs in the first, third and fourth inning. The Lions leadoff hitter Courtney Kitson went 3 for 4 at the plate.

In game two, the only run came in the bottom of the third after Alyssa Esperum led off with a single and Kitson hit a one out triple. Kendall Ryndak struck out seven and walked only one for the Lions. Brittne Kreiser, Council Bluffs, Iowa, did the pitching for UNK. Kreiser gave up five hits and a walk in six innings. Mallory Noakes, Lincoln, led the Lopers at the plate going 2 for 4. UNK dropped the second game 1-0.

UNK began game one of a double header at Truman State in Missouri Saturday. The game was suspended in the top of the fourth inning of game one because of heavy rain. Both games were rescheduled for Tuesday, April 16. The first game will start where it left off. The Lopers were trailing 6-0 in the fourth.

Papillion senior Becky Dunn, who has been sidelined with injuries, gave some insight about the delays. Dunn

said, "With the unpredictable weather and injuries, our year has not been boring. We have had some ups and downs, but we are learning and growing." The weather has been a major factor in rearranging game locations and times, which has kept all of us on our toes. Also since we have not had the nicest weather, the cold has been a disadvantage for our injured players in their healing process," Dunn said.

The Lopers will be off until Saturday, April 6, when they take on Missouri Western State at Dryden Park.

## Soccer

Lady Lopers pick up win in first spring game.

The UNK girls' soccer team picked up a win against Doane Saturday in Crete. The Lopers took the game with a score of 3-1. Freshman Montanna Hosterman, Papillion, scored one of the team's three goals. Hosterman's goal found its way to the net between the legs of Doane's goalie.

Hosterman said, "The team looked good for the first game of the off season. We had good movement starting with the keeper all the way to the attackers. We are starting to learn each other's strengths and create opportunities based off that. This is the first of many wins in our off season."

Hosterman won the teams awards for freshman of the year, and also took home the Golden Boot award (most points).

The Lopers play Hastings College on Saturday, April 6, in Hastings.

The Lady Lopers will have a Blue/Gold match at Cope Stadium on Wednesday, April 17.

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# Loper baseball falls short against Hornets

BY AARON URBANSKI  
Antelope Staff

It has been an odd year for the Loper baseball team after switching from the RMAC to the MIAA. Due to scheduling issues and a snowy spring, the Lopers have played 19 of their last 25 games on the road with three of their six home games during that stretch coming this past weekend against the Emporia State Hornets where the Lopers went 1-2 despite a good showing offensively at the plate.

In game one on Friday, the Hornets jumped out to an early lead with the help of two Loper errors in the field and never looked back. Emporia pitcher Dakota McKaskie threw a complete game that left the Lopers scrambling for runs despite giving up seven hits throughout the game. The Hornets would take game one by a score of 6-2.

In the night cap the Loper bats came alive while posting 14 hits as a team including a three hit, three RBI performance from sophomore Danny Droll. UNK got out to an early two-run lead when Droll scored on a Emporia State error. Junior DH Jayke Brock (3 for 5) capped off the inning with an RBI single.

The Lopers put game-two away with a five-run inning in the fourth thanks to a pair of doubles off the bats of leadoff man Max Ayoub and Droll.

Senior first-basemen Brian Wuest and junior shortstop Scott Jameson each had a pair of hits for the Lopers as well helping the Lopers win game-two 13-4.

Despite grabbing an early 1-0 lead in game three Saturday afternoon at Memorial Field off the bat of Kearney-native

Brandon Pacheco (2 for 4, RBI), the Lopers would strand five base-runners in the fourth and fifth innings and struggle defensively from the field with seven errors that led to six unearned ESU runs.

While down 9-4 heading into the bottom of the seventh, the lopers cut the lead to four off an RBI- double from sophomore Brandon Landanger (3 for 4) but were held scoreless in the eighth and ninth allowing the Hornets to take the series 2-1 with a 9-5 win.

For the Lopers, junior DH Jayke Brock added to an already impressive weekend at the plate while going 3 for 5 and pitcher Chayse Gulzow threw 2.2 innings in relief allowing no hits and posting two strikeouts.

Following the weekend, The Antelope caught up with senior Brian Wuest for a question and answer session on what to expect from the Lopers the rest of the season.

**Antelope:** With the team 4-2 over the last six games, what is the team's mindset going forward? Do you think the team could get on a good streak heading into the second half of the season?

**Wuest:** Our mind set is to keep working on the things we need to improve on. I think we can get on a good streak going in to the second half of the season. We have shown spurts of what we can do throughout the first half and we are a great team when we do what we need to do to win.

**Antelope:** What are some of the things the team is doing well right now?

**Wuest:** Our team is pitching fairly well right now. Over the past few games we have been getting great efforts from our pitchers, and that is great to see. Offensively, it seems that we are just catching some bad breaks, such as hitting the ball hard right at people. A prime example would be Reed Carter. He struck the ball very well this past weekend, but didn't have much to show for it. But that is just baseball.

**Antelope:** Is there anyone in particular that playing out of their mind?

**Wuest:** Some of the guys that are playing very well right now are, Anthony Pacheco, Carlos Palomo, Alex Sosa, and Joe Schmidt. Anthony has had a great season at the plate thus far. He's had some key hits for us, and is swinging it well especially for a true freshman. Pitching-wise, every start that Carlos gives us is a competitive one,



Photos by Adam Buerer

**Top:** Junior short stop Scott Jameson of Lovell, Wyo., takes the throw at second in Friday's game at Memorial Field in Kearney.



**Left:** Junior pitcher Carlos Paloma fields a line drive in Friday's game. UNK split with Emporia State University losing the first game 2-6 and then came back to win the second game 13-4.

## Sudoku answer:

Upside down, from page 4

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

and he always gives us a chance to win. Alex has pitched very well in his last few starts, and is doing a good job at keeping opposing offenses at bay. Joe has been absolutely lights-out from the mound too this season. Every time he comes in the game he shuts the other team down completely.

**Antelope:** Your next two games are in Fort Hays, Kansas. In your opinion, what are some of the things the tigers do well and what are some of the things you guys will need to do to come home with two solid road wins?

**Wuest:** Fort Hays is a crafty team. From what I saw in our last meeting, they play small ball very well. We just need to do what we are capable of doing. Pitch well, play good defense, and come up in the clutch when hitting. If we do that we're pretty tough to beat.

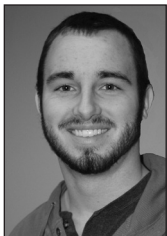
**Antelope:** You specifically have been swinging the bat pretty well this season. What are your thoughts about your season so far and do you have any personal goals looking ahead towards the rest of the season?

**Wuest:** I have just been trying to do whatever it is I need to do to help our team win. My only personal goals for the rest of the season are the same as they have been all season, to help this team win. We're capable of playing at a high level and I'm going to try to do whatever I can to keep us playing well.

The Lopers will battle the Tigers in a four-game series April 2-3 before returning home for a six game stretch against Upper Iowa and MIAA-foe Missouri Western State April 6-9.

# March Madness

*Cinderella shockers, major upsets, gruesome injuries. Has the madness ever been madder?*



**BYJOSH SMITH**  
Antelope Staff

March Madness is always filled with buzzer beaters, Cinderella stories, and upsets. This year, though, March has seen madness that it has never seen before. Florida Gulf Coast University, a 15 seed, faced and beat a No. 2-seeded Georgetown creating a Cinderella buzz for a team previously unknown to the tournament.

Such an upset has only occurred six times in the history of the tournament.

The magic did not end for them after one round though, as the Eagles of Florida Gulf Coast reached the Sweet 16, the first-ever 15th seed to reach that mark. The Cinderella run ended last Friday against the No. 3 ranked Gators from Florida. Coach Billy Donovan and the Gators sent the message that they were the best team in Florida with a 12-point victory to reach the Elite 8.

The country was stunned by the inspiring story of Florida Gulf Coast. Andy Enfield, who presided over the previously unrecognized Florida team, is suddenly the hottest young coach in the country. Sportscasters had made the young coach and his model wife part of the frenzy surrounding the NCAA tournament.

Enfield was put in an elite group of coaches that have taken a Cinderella team to the Sweet 16. Coaches like Shaka Smart (VCU), Brad Stevens (Butler) and Jim Larranaga (George Mason) have moved on to have incredibly successful careers and programs.

One college basketball enthusiast at UNK says this tournament is unlike any other tournament he has seen. Ryan MacDonald, a freshman major from Lincoln, is a devoted fan of college basketball. MacDonald said it is the lack of star power makes this tournament different. "Gonzaga, Indiana and Kansas were No. 1 seeds, and not one of them made the Elite Eight. That hasn't happened in years," he said.

This tournament has opened a lot of eyes on the closing gap of competition. In

years past, top seeds dominated the tournament, and seeing a No. 4 seeded team in the Final Four was a shocker. This year, two No. 4 seeds, Syracuse and Michigan, reached that mark. The real story in the Final Four is the emergence of the Shockers of Wichita State University, a No. 9 seed "at large bid," which means they were not guaranteed a spot in the field. The Shockers were the third-best team in the state of Kansas, yet they stand alone in the Final Four, being the only team from a non-power conference to make the Final Four.

The Final Four is complete. Top seeded Louisville will face off against the Cinderella team from Wichita State. This matchup is intriguing to college basketball fans around the country because the greatest equalizer for an underdog is the ability to shoot the three balls. Wichita State leads the tournament in three-point efficiency; so do not count them out come Saturday.

Emotions will also run high for Louisville following the horrific injury of Kevin Ware with 6:33 left in the first half of the Sunday afternoon game. Ware, who has played a key role in Louisville's 14-game winning streak, jumped to block Tyler Thornton's 3-point shot and landed so forcefully his right leg snapped in two places midway between his ankle and knee. His teammates, first shaken by the injury so graphic that television blurred the video replays, rallied with the crowd chanting Ware's name.

As the clock ran down, Chane Behanan put on Ware's jersey and stood cheering while Cardinals fans chanted "Kevin Ware! Kevin Ware!"

"We won this for him," coach Rick Pitino said. The other matchup in the national semifinal is Syracuse taking on Michigan.

"Michigan is the hottest team in the nation, but the 2-3 zone that Syracuse runs is the toughest defense to score against, so this game promises to be good," MacDonald said. Jim Boheim, the coach at Syracuse, is seeking his first championship since 2003, with Carmelo Anthony. Though this roster lacks a superstar player, the overall athleticism of the Orangemen is what separates them from the pack.

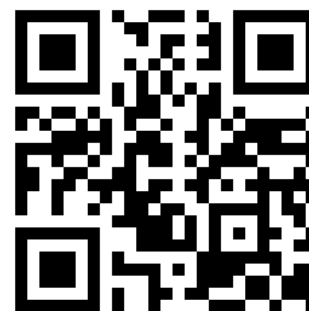
This year's madness is wrapping up, but make sure to stay tuned for the Final Four games on Saturday, and the National Championship game Monday night on CBS.

## WOMEN'S GOLF TEAM TAKES 1ST



*Courtesy Photo*

In the team's first win since the 2008 season, the women took first place by 23 strokes beating St. Cloud State. From left to right: junior Stephanie Moorberg, freshman Kate Haschke, freshman Ana Summers, freshman Sonny Scheer, freshman Danielle Dorans and Coach Brett Mayo embrace their first place victory at the Wayne Invite over this past Easter weekend.



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## Show and tell from page 1

"One of the regular things we hear from students who do research is the valuable experience gained from public speaking," he said. "Public speaking abilities translate to almost any job."

Brandon Drozd, a junior organizational communication major from Genoa, will be attending NCUR and present his topic "Collegiate Greek Leadership Influence on Professional Success" in poster form. "My writing skills and presentations skills have increased dramatically," said Drozd.

Dr. Amber Messersmith mentored Drozd during his summer 2012 research project. It was her first opportunity at UNK to partner with a student on this kind of project.

"Brandon approached me a few

semesters ago and asked if I would be willing to mentor him in the program," she said. "I was honored to be asked and while I know he learned a lot, I learned a great deal as well."

"UNK faculty members are very willing to work with students," said Falconer. Dr. Messersmith set aside time each week attending group SSRP meetings and individual project consultations with Drozd as well.

Different kinds of success come out of research projects, according to Falconer, and quite a few of these students go on to graduate school or professional school. The process gives them an advantage to assistantships and graduate school, providing valuable experience beyond the classroom important to all colleges

seeking graduate students.

"A lot do a research project that leads to other research on campus," he said. "We've had several students selected to present in Washington at Capitol Hill, and it's very prestigious for us."

"If you're on the fence, so to speak, about whether or not to pursue a research project, I'd encourage you to go for it," said Dr. Messersmith. "It will provide you a unique opportunity many undergrads never have the chance to experience."

"It has been a great learning experience I can't get from inside a classroom," said Drozd. "Working one on one with a professor gives you a new perspective on what you have to learn in life."



**BRANDON DROZD**



**AMBER MESSERSMITH**



Photo by Joene Crocker

**Brandon Drozd had the opportunity to work one-on-one with Dr. Amber Messersmith in the 2012 Summer Student Research Program. She was his mentor during the course of his research project.**

## Springtime from page 1

Kearney Canal from start to finish. Starting at Cottonmill, the track heads into town and winds through campus before heading south into Yanney Park.

There, riders can detour into the park and ride its trails before hopping back on the trail and riding over a bridge out of the park. The final leg of the trail leads out to the Archway, where it ends at the bridge.

Biking and hiking are one of the many options for exercise here in town. Baseball fields and basketball courts can be found in more than half of the town's 14 parks. There are three separate groupings of soccer fields, and more than 15 tennis courts open for public use. Golfers have their choice of two courses in town, Meadowlark and Kearney Country Club, and there are at least

five other courses in a 30-mile radius.

Cottonmill has the only 18-hole disc golf course in town. The course has hosted national competitions, due to its difficulty, with narrow corridors through trees and six of its holes being played near or over the lake. There are other courses in Kearney, at Centennial and at the high school, but Cottonmill is the place to go to get good quick.

Another main attraction in Kearney is the local business district, Downtown Ke-

arney The Bricks. The Bricks offers local shops and eateries and a good place for a walk, with historic scenery and smiling faces to make you feel at home.

This list is just a start. There are so many things to do in Kearney when the weather is right. If you haven't had time to get out and explore, do it now before another freak snow storm makes you wish you had.

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## Leffler from page 7

and a caseworker went to work to locate two.

"I just wanted to look at her face to face, see her eyes, see her face. Then I could see my eyes, my nose, my smile—where I came from," he said.

It was a very personal process. For nearly a year, he kept his adoptive family out of the loop. "Once they found out, they were really, really supportive of me," Leffler said.

About one year ago, the caseworker finally had word from his birth mom. He still recalls where he was at and what he was doing when the phone call came. "I was in the union, right inside the Loper Express," Leffler said.

"She said, 'We kind of have some bad news for you. We've been sending your birth mom letters, trying to call, and sending mail to your older brother and didn't get any response until today. Your birth mom answered the phone and said there's a

reason she hasn't been answering the mail and phone calls. She doesn't want anything to do with you,'" he said.

The coordinator attempted to convince the woman to change her mind telling her how smart Leffler is, how well he's doing in college and in track. "Her response was, 'Of course, he's my son,'" Leffler said.

"I never met her, but she still expects great things from me," he said, "and when I heard that, I couldn't handle it." Leffler said he tried to keep it together at that point through a variety of emotions. "It was an experience I had to learn and grow from."

While the pursuit didn't end the way Leffler had hoped, his deepest intentions are written in a tattoo across his ribs. It reads, "I pray that the hands that birthed me rest at ease knowing that the hands that raised me gave me everything I need to be successful in this world."

# Roll out the red carpet

HSA, Sister to Sister created telenovela to teach others about different cultures

**BY ADRIANNA TARIN**  
Antelope Staff

From the beginning he could see it all in his mind: the dramatic story line, the red carpet, the lights and the crowds.

The ideas became reality when students as part of the Hispanic Student Association and Sister to Sister wrote, directed and starred in a UNK telenovela.

Just like a real-world movie director would, Andy Becerra, an education major from Lexington and public relations officer for the Hispanic Student Association, ran the show on Monday, March 25, at the red carpet premiere “OMAgosh.”

Because the mission of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is to provide a space where students from diverse backgrounds can come together to plan events and raise cultural awareness on campus, the members of the Hispanic Student Association and Sister to Sister wanted to bring more fun to teaching others about other cultures.

The solution? Make a telenovela.

Telenovelas, which are similar to soap

operas, are very popular in Latin countries and populations and run five or six days a week. They typically tend to add romance, comedy, drama and thrill to the plot lines. While the actors rolled in on the red carpet before the premiere, we got all the drama from Becerra, who had a major role in planning and directing this film.

**Tarin:** What started the idea of making a telenovela?

**Becerra:** It really came from my past of watching “novellas.” I always wanted to make one of mine own. We used the month of February to record, but we started planning it in December. Before February we held auditions for the characters.

As a kid, I wanted to become famous like Usher with music, but I also loved acting, and wanted a career out of it. In reality, I knew that would never happen. I acted

in high school, and was in music, but it was my childhood dream.

**Tarin:** How did you come up with a story line?

**Becerra:** I put the most common problems we see today into it, and also got ideas from others. Mostly Alex Pinedo and Daniel Alarcon. We started to mess around, and it became something!

**Tarin:** What did you want the outcome to be?

**Becerra:** I wanted a premiere that would look like an MTV movie award theme, and to make it huge. We had a great turnout to our premiere.

**Tarin:** Without giving any spoilers, what is

the story actually about?

**Becerra:** Isabella is a girl who is all into her studies. She never had any time for love, but then she meets the bad boy, Eduardo, and falls in love with him. However, Jacobo wants to date Isabella, and Alejandra wants to date Eduardo, so they plan to break them up.

Jacobo falls in love with Isabella’s roommate, Teresa, and ends up getting her pregnant. Alejandra gets mad and tries to ruin him as well by introducing Teresa to a new man. However, the new man is the father of the child. If you don’t think that is drama, it gets event crazier.

We hope to show it again this semester and maybe make a sequel next year.



Alex Pinedo of Lexington and Angie Salazar of Columbus played the leading roles in OMAgosh and walked the red carpet last Tuesday.



Monica Mueller, assistant director of OMA, and Elida Diaz of Lexington walk the red carpet during the OMAgosh premiere. Both starred in the telenovela and received awards for their work.



Photos by Adrianna Tarin

More than 30 students attend the OMAgosh premiere on Tuesday in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. HSA and Sister to Sister put this event together for those who wanted to watch the telenovela and even provided copies of the script for those who did not know Spanish.