Stranded 24 hours in Pennsylvania storm

UNK organization Students for Life stuck on trip to Washington, D.C.

MOLLY ANSON Antelope Staff

“If given choice, I would choose to attend the March for Life in a heartbeat. It’s an incomparable experience and publicly demonstrating our pro-life position in the nation’s capital is so important,” Kearney sophomore Marilyn Synk said.

The March was only part of the adventure for the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., a demonstration held on the National Mall at the Washington Monument.

About 500,000 people were expected at the largest pro-life event in the nation according to lifenews.com.

The annual event is an opportunity for pro-lifers to peacefully oppose the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion in Roe vs. Wade. January is the national Sanctity of Life month, which is why many pro-life events are held this month. This is one of many events that UNK Students for Life sponsors throughout the semester.

The group of 10 students from UNK and 70 students from UNL left Washington D.C. Friday, Jan. 22 right after the March in an effort to beat winter storm Jonas.

However, after several hours on the road, they were stopped on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and told there was an accident ahead. Several hours turned into almost 24 hours stuck inside their bus. Finally at around 9:30 p.m. Saturday night, volunteer firemen dug out the bus.

However, they were sent in the wrong direction and drove to Bedford, Pennsylvania, where they spent the night at an elementary school. They finally arrived safely in Kearney around 3 a.m. Monday.

“A Work in Progress” finalist for prestigious award

Hosts Andrew Hanson and Nick Stevenson headed to NYC for Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Awards ceremony, hoping to bring home the award for Best Sports Talk Program

CHRISTIAN SCHWARZ Antelope Staff

When he first heard that he would be going to New York for an award ceremony, Nick Stevenson could not believe it.

“It took me a while to digest,” Stevenson said.

Stevenson and Andrew Hanson, who host the weekly radio show “A Work in Progress” on 91.1 FM KLPR, are finalists for the Best Sports Talk Program category for the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Awards in New York City on March 4-6.

Ultimately, it was a clip edited by Stevenson, a senior journalism major, for the category that earned them a place in the ceremony. They also sent in an interview for a different category, which led to some confusion.

“I was actually freaking out because I didn’t see our name in there at first,” said Hanson, a junior sports management major.

“We thought ‘Oh, the interview is going to make it,” Stevenson said. “So we looked for the interview, it wasn’t there, he [Hanson] was freaking out, but then we

MLK Vigil Jan. 18 time of reflection

ANTHONY HUNKE Antelope Staff

They say that our first ancestors were incredibly short people. According to anthro.palomar.edu, one particular branch of ancestry known as the Australopithecus genus, grew to only be about three to four feet tall. To us, that seems pretty diminutive. With time and evolution, we have become taller on average. Imagine, if you will, a second dimension to this quality of “height.” Yes, we, as a species, have acquired height, but, perhaps, this has not come about merely due to an evolutionary advantage.

As a communication major, I have studied cultures and theories about how each culture has its own reservoir of knowledge and resources. With each generation, this pool of knowledge is being added to and accessed by its constituents.

Imagine a human ladder, and with each generation, we stand upon the shoulders of the previous men and women who have committed their lives to this metaphor. In this light, perhaps, we are taller because we are standing upon the shoulders of great men and women, and it is our duty to become the next members of this community of greatness, to add to the pool or ladder.

When you complete a simple task, do you stop and think why it is you can do that? How often do you give thanks to the men and women who put their lives on the line so that you may experience the simple freedoms of this great nation? In 2016, will you utilize your God-given right as an American citizen to cast your vote? Will you seek further education

MLK, PAGE 11

OPINION, PAGE 3: Is this the year that Leonardo DiCaprio finally wins his Oscar?
The Thompson Scholars Learning Community program wishes to recognize the following Thompson Scholar students for outstanding academic achievement at UNK during the Fall 2015 term. These Thompson Scholars earned at least a 3.5 GPA while being enrolled full-time.

**Fall 2015**

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Listening to your favorite sports broadcaster can be fun. Being that sports broadcaster, however, is a whole different ballgame. Students in Ford Clark’s Sports Radio Workshop class are getting the chance to be the broadcasters at live home sporting events such as basketball and baseball.

For each UNK Loper game played at home, two students will be there broadcasting the game live on 91.1 FM KLPR. One student will be the play-by-play, who describes the action, and the color, who adds commentary to the broadcast.

A third student will be at the KLPR studios to run the board and make sure the broadcast goes along smoothly.

Some students in class already have experience, while others do not.

“I’ve done a couple of basketball games, did some color commentary,” said Andrew Hanson, a student in the class. “I really like doing basketball.”

“I haven’t done it yet,” classmate Nick Stevenson said, “I’m going to tell him I’ll do color.”

Catch each Loper home women’s basketball, men’s basketball and baseball games live on 91.1 FM KLPR.
The search for gold: DiCaprio's story

With his sixth nomination, will Leonardo DiCaprio finally get his Oscar?

NATHANIEL ABEGGLEN
Antelope Staff

I don’t think too many people would argue that Leonardo DiCaprio is a very talented actor. He is revered in the industry and adored by viewers. Yet, DiCaprio is still missing something that has long marked those of acting greatness. The Oscar.

DiCaprio has another chance for a win on Feb. 28 for his performance in “The Revenant,” for which he has been nominated for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role.

Like previous performances, DiCaprio has received a lot of recognition for the extremes he takes to fully embody his character. I mean, he even ate raw bison liver during one pivotal scene in the movie.

There has also been speculation by a fellow star that this is the year Leo wins the big one. Former co-star Kate Winslet has said that she believes and hopes that DiCaprio will win it this year. What this means? It could be just a hopeful opinion, but someone with the status of Winslet pulling for you never hurts.

Turning away from Hollywood, I asked a student at UNK his opinion. Calen Johnson, a junior construction management major, said, “It’s difficult, but I believe he will [win]. He is a great actor and has had an impressive record of performances. He’s due.”

While I believe there is an overwhelming sense of opinion that DiCaprio is indeed due for an Oscar, I can’t say I have a strong opinion on whether he will win or not.

There are very impressive performances by many actors up for the award this year and the Oscars have not been kind to DiCaprio in the past.

With that being said, I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t pulling for him this year. With an actor of DiCaprio’s caliber still excluded from the Oscar winners (along with others but that’s another story), many would be disappointed with another year of no gold. After all, he’s due.

1) A still of DiCaprio in “The Revenant.” There’s been a large amount of buzz in the media saying this might be DiCaprio’s year.

2) A still of DiCaprio in “What’s Eating Gilbert Grape.” This was the first movie DiCaprio received an Oscar nomination for. He acted in this movie at the age of 19.

3) DiCaprio is currently nominated for Best Actor in “The Revenant.”

by Michaela McConnell
Homeward bound anxiety

No one can prepare for the struggle of transitioning home after a semester abroad

This past semester was anything but “just another semester” during my college career. I had the experience of a lifetime, but at the expense of a geographic and mental change.

In early August, I crossed the Atlantic, seven time zones and moved some 4,000 miles away from home to Bergen, Norway. People warned me the move would require me to adapt and assimilate into another culture, lifestyle, language, etc.

However, what no one could prepare me for was the semester’s end, when it came time to transition back home. I began to get anxious as the time to return home neared and I wondered: How could I possibly just hop on a plane and return to life back home after my four-month absence? Those who have known for years have never experienced such a transition cannot understand the challenges it poses.

It is the reality that no one can truly prepare you for.

IDENTITY CHANGE TERROR

There is something both exciting and terrifying about moving to another country where you know almost no one. You have no long-time friend groups, no clubs or extracurricular activities you belong to and no “place” in a social group. The terror of that fact is obvious, but the excitement outweighed that terror.

It is a bit thrilling to have no reputation following you around. I have never felt less worried about what anyone thought of me – I could just be me. I had no one’s expectations to live up to because there was not a soul who knew me.

Surprisingly, I felt more anxiety and fear returning home to those I love and have known for years. Four months is a short period of time, but when you are accustomed to seeing certain people constantly it seems like a lifetime apart. I was excited to return, but I had this wave of fear and began wondering if the person I was getting off the plane would not be the same person who had left them four months ago. Would I be the same physically, emotionally, personally, spiritually? I was afraid I would not live up to the character I was before I left.

ACADEMIC DIFFERENCES

The area that required the most adjustment from my typical life was the academics in Norway.

Getting accustomed to typical class hours and meeting times was definitely tricky, but nowhere near the shock I had when I learned that I never had written, hand-in assignments throughout the semester. This made for a seemingly relaxed semester, until about three weeks before finals. Students spent countless hours in the library trying to catch up on the whole semester’s readings they had neglected to keep up with – something that could have been avoided had homework been assigned regularly throughout the semester.

I became accustomed to being expected to take responsibility for my own education and be self-motivated. However, that is easier said than done. I have enjoyed every homework assignment during the first two weeks back at UNK, as I learned that having the comprehensive final account for 100 percent of a student’s grade is not the best reflection of what he/she has learned from the class.

I am also enjoying the transition back to a normal academic routine where I write my name on my work and am graded by the professor who teaches the class. In Norway, anonymity is very important: students indicate only their candidate number. To further ensure removing the potential of bias grading, the exams are sent to another university in the country to a professor who teaches a similar course. They are the ultimate determiner of the student’s grade.

GROCERY AISLES LIMITED

I imagined that if there ever came a day that I actually enjoyed going to the grocery store it surely must mean all hell froze over. That moment arrived when I walked into a Hy-Vee for the first time in over four months.

The whole aisle reserved for a variety of cereals – healthy and unhealthy, took me aback, whereas in Norway, I had the option of about eight. Not only did I have an endless selection of items to pick and choose from, but I could also read the labels to be confident that I was not accidently putting cilantro in my pasta sauce.

Nearly every recipe I wanted to prepare from back home either had some minor substitutions of ingredients, or I could not make due to the differences in food culture. At certain stores I could
The sound of amp feedback, guitar scales and practice drumbeats are just part of the behind-the-scene ambiance that can be heard during the warm up before a show for local band For The Birds.

The bassist and vocalist of the band, Zach Chrastil, describes For The Birds as a “jam band.” “We’re not the cleanest players, we’re not the most technical players, but we really just like to jam and make music and have a good time,” Chrastil said.

The band is made up of four members: Jesse Dassinger on guitar, piano and vocals; Holden Zubrod on the drums and vocals; Cole Zubrod on guitar and vocals; and Chrastil who plays bass guitar and also does some vocals.

“We all have very different musical influences and we all like a lot of different bands,” Chrastil said. “We have diverse musical tastes, and we each kind of bring what we want to the table.”

Brothers Cole and Holden Zubrod are from the same town as Dassinger. The trio grew up together in Roseland, Nebraska, and began playing music as a group from a young age. Chrastil joined the group about a year and half ago after being introduced to the crew at several different shows in Kearney.

The band has done about 15 shows all together in the area; most of those shows in Roseland and others in Kearney.

After being out of the game for nearly half a year, For The Birds had their most recent show two weeks ago at Gillie’s bar in Kearney and has upcoming shows in Axtell Feb. 3 and another show at Gillie’s bar on Feb. 25. The band also hopes to go on a mini tour over spring break, playing venues in bigger cities such as Lincoln, Omaha, Kansas City, Denver and Rapid City.

The short-term goal for the band is to start playing bigger venues, like Lincoln and Omaha, more often. As for long-term goals, “We don’t really have any,” said Chrastil. “We’re just enjoying the time we get to play, just having fun with it.”

We have diverse musical tastes, and we each kind of bring what we want to the table.

— Zach Chrastil
Lopers hit the road Jan. 21 for three straight away games in a five-day stretch midway through the season. UNK (10-8) is playing well at home, posting a 6-2 record thus far. However, road games have impacted the University of Nebraska-Kearney differently, as they are 3-6.

Six of their losses this season have been close down the stretch, losing by 10 points or less.

The Loper squad went 1-1 over the weekend, facing off against Northwest Missouri State (13-5) and Missouri Western State (6-13). UNK closed their long road stretch against Wayne State (4-15) on Tuesday.

The game against Wayne State was scheduled to be played back in late November but was postponed due to inclement weather. Ravenna native Connor Beranek, named MIAA Men’s Basketball Athlete of the week earlier in January, will look to make up some ground in the conference.

“We're preparing for these road games by sharpening up our offense since we have been sort of struggling with offense the last few games,” said Beranek. “Also, just focus on coming out with the energy when you go on the road and not coming out of the gates slow.”

Beranek is carrying a heavy load, leading the Lopers in several categories. Including: points (25.3), rebounds (8.3) and minutes (36.4). He is also first in blocks, tallying 21 and first in assists with 54.

Trey Lansman is close behind in points, averaging 16.3 per contest. The sharp shooting sophomore from Harlan, Iowa, is averaging .507 from 3-point range.

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Upon the long stretch on the road, the Lopers will host three consecutive MIAA games at the Health and Sports Center.

“We would like to finish in the top four in the league. With that being said, we are going to have to win some games on the road to accomplish that goal,” Beranek said. “So it all starts on the next three game road swing.”

The Lopers currently sit seventh in the MIAA.

Lopers fall to UCO before sweeping the Silverhawks

The Lady Lopers took on University of Central Oklahoma last Thursday trailing each period, with an ending score of 73-65. This makes it the third straight time UCO has beat UNK.

Lopers struggled at the line only making 7 of 9 total free throw attempts. UCO made 28 of 31.

Laramey Becker, a senior exercise science fitness and wellness major from Trenton, was the high-scoring player with 16 points.

McKenzie Brown, a sophomore business administration major from Grand Island trailed behind Becker with 12 points.

“The game I feel wasn’t our best game. But I think while it wasn’t our best game we still competed. We just have to learn from the games that aren’t the best,” said Tori Payne, a junior business administration major from North Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Lopers came back out on the Buckle court strong in the third period, scoring 13 points to OCU’s nine. The ladies pushed through the fourth period pressuring OCU but just could not find the hoop to come out on top. UNK fell to the Bronchos 73-65.

Following the loss at home, on the road the Lady Lopers pulled an upset sweeping the Silverhawks. See lopers.com for story.

Lopers will take on Fort Hays State University Saturday, Jan. 30 at 5:30 p.m. in Kearney.
After a respectable 29-21 record and a run in the conference tournament last season, the Lopers will look to cause havoc in the competitive MIAA yet again.

Although there are new faces, UNK will possess the firepower to remain elite.

Returning to the Loper squad as a senior, Kearney native Anthony Pacheco has his sights on another successful season.

“I’ve been working on being stronger mentally and learning how to overcome difficult situations,” Pacheco said.

This season, Pacheco cares most about being a tough team and competing in every game.

Pacheco was named to the All-Region team for the second year in a row last spring. The left fielder started all 50 games and batted .330. As an expert at the plate, Pacheco finished second on the team in home runs (11) and extra base hits (28).

Junior Trey Ertmer will return to the mound this spring, in hopes of dominating the conference.

“Everyone wants to always think big picture and about winning a national title but we know that we need to take care of business in our conference for any of that to be possible,” Ertmer said. “So winning our conference and taking care of conference play is item No. 1 on the list for things to accomplish.”

The right-handed pitcher from Elizabeth, Illinois, transferred last season from Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Ertmer accumulated 63 strikeouts in 97.2 innings at Ellsworth.

The Loper track and field teams traveled to the Nebraska capital city and Crete to set their season into full swing. They competed in the Holiday Inn Invitational at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and in the Scott Nisely Memorial meet held at Doane on Jan. 15 and 16.

While it’s tough to hit the track following a long holiday break, graduate assistant coach Dillon Schrodt said, “As a coach we expect our athletes to perform well under any circumstance but we are also realistic about the likelihood of average marks at the first meet back.”

The Lopers had several athletes hit personal bests and even landed themselves on the national lists.

On Friday, Rushville junior Cole Wellnitz broke into the record books, by breaking a two-year old school record in the 1,000 meter run. He finished second of 25 other runners (2:25.36).

The following day, Loper men’s distance medley team placed second as well, ahead of five Division I schools. The team consisted of Holdrege senior Jerod Schoneman, Seward senior J.P. Rech, Grand Island sophomore Machol Chol and Cole Welnitz who ran anchor for the relay.

The Lopers also had great efforts in the field at both meets. Fairfield sophomore Bailey Stapleman won the men’s pole vault with a jump of 15-11.25, which ranks him seventh nationally.

Sophomore jumper Emily Everitt also found herself on the national list after winning the high jump at Doane with a jump of 5-7.

Everitt says, “After the long break I was excited to get back on the track and start competing again. I wanted to come out and jump well to start the season off on a good note.”

The Lopers will jump right into full swing with meets approaching weekly until conference competition. For more information visit Lopers.com.

SEE MORE TRACK ON PAGE 8
Over 60 celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy

ANA SALAZAR
Antelope Staff

"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by their content of their character."
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday Jan. 18, UNK hosted the annual Martin Luther King Jr. candlelight vigil at the Nebraskan Student Union. Between prayers, songs and moving speeches, over 60 people celebrated the accomplishments and the legacy left behind by King.

"I think it’s important that we celebrate his legacy because we need to bring awareness to the civil rights movement, and its great UNK has this event every year,” said Tori Denise Payne, a business administration major who attended the vigil and introduced the main night speaker UNK’s Chancellor Douglas Kristensen.

Chancellor Kristensen began his speech with his personal experience about the tragic day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He told the memory of how it was such a shock to everyone and how that impacted his future.

Chancellor Kristensen also reminded the audience why education had been an amazing weapon in Dr. King Jr.’s fight for civil rights, how King’s education had been key because that way he learned to stand in front of people who loathed him and not be afraid. King learned to have the courage to do something that was different and that went against the rules. His education is what made the difference and that goes to show everyone then and now how important education really is, the Chancellor said.

“We are here because somebody else gave us the opportunity,” said Kristensen, "because of people like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and a thousand others had the courage to fight for equal rights.”

He said we should give thanks to all those civil rights fighters for equal opportunities to obtain a college education or the dream to attend a college.

But everything wasn’t just sad memories, or cold hard facts of all the people who had to suffer and die for others to have the chance to obtain an education. There were some jokes about how the event has changed since it started back in 2005. How the weather always seems to be against the event, but how the Ethnic Studies Program continued to host the event that reminds us all how important this fight for integration was.

“The first time, there might have been 10 students there, it was cold and it was bitter… but we kept doing it,” said Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Claude A. Louishomme, director of the Ethnic Studies program.

This event, Louishomme said, is really important because the avoidance toward the subject of discrimination and racism that exists is dangerous. People have different experiences good or bad or no experiences at all, and that needs to be addressed, he said.

“We are really happy about tonight, because not only did Chancellor Kristensen gave an amazing speech, but we had a great turnout, we had a lot of students and nonstudents who also brought their kids. It was a great night,” said Louishomme.

So now ask yourself, “What are you doing to help others? How is your education going to help?” remember that “the time is always right to do what is right, as Martin Luther King Jr. once said.

Becker Foundation continues with 11th annual banquet

KIRSTY DUNBAR
Antelope Staff

After 11 years the Todd Becker Foundation’s influence has spread across the Midwest to 11 different states, over 350 high schools and over 50,000 students. In contrast to these large numbers, the organization is run by a small number of people located in the Barney Insurance basement.

The founder, Keith Becker, started the organization back in 2005 after his brother Todd died in a drunk driving accident. Becker encourages students to lead alcohol-free lives so that they can avoid the tragedy that he and his family have gone through.

“We also want people to know it’s not too late to change their path. If alcoholism or something else is affecting their lives, we want people to know we are there to help them,” said Todd Jess, the outreach coordinator for the organization.

Every year since the Todd Becker Foundation was formed, an annual banquet at the Younes Conference Center has helped fund their work.

“The first few years it was just our organization speaking to the people in attendance,” Jess said. As the banquet’s attendance continued to grow, the foundation offered speakers such as Tom Osborne and Mike Huckabee.

“It was only around 400 people or so when we first had the banquet, but just this last year we had over 1,800 at the banquet, and we needed to use one of the extra rooms,” Jess said.

If the numbers continue to stay this high, they will look to for a bigger place to hold the event. Matt Sell, lead singer for the group CHYE, said, “We already have over 1000 people registered to attend this year’s event.”

The banquet this year will be held on Monday Feb. 1. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and there will be a silent auction at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.

“This year we have between 70 and 80 items for the auction,” Sell said. “They range from baked goods to a $1,200 sauna that was donated,” Jess added.

Janet Parshall, an award-winning radio host, and Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson will also speak at the banquet.

Tickets are $50 each, and reservations for tables of 10 or more get a $50 discount.

“We are grateful for all of the help we’ve gotten. It enables us to continue to do this,” Jess said.

Photo by Kirsty Dunbar

Matt Sells (LEFT) and Todd Jess both work with the Todd Becker Foundation. The organization’s annual banquet will be held this coming Monday, Feb. 1.
January is a month of awareness for the ones who have been through it, for the ones going through it, and for the ones who don’t know they are in it. January is national stalking awareness month.

UNK brought awareness of the month on Jan. 21 in the Cedar Room at the Nebraskan Student Union, with their annual stalking awareness panel.

Ellie Heath, a graduate assistant in the Women’s Center/Office Multicultural Affairs at the University of Nebraska Kearney, said the panel was a way to enlighten students.

She said problems involved with stalking can be overlooked sometimes, “because you get sexual assault, domestic violence and things like this, that kind of overshadows it, but stalking should be taken very seriously; it should not be joked about.”

UNK has had a stalking awareness panel for three years now as a way to enlighten students on the dangers of being stalked and the reasons they should come forward if they feel they are being stalked.

This year the panel focused on how social media has changed stalking. Ted Eichholz from UNK Police and Parking Services said, “It makes stalking that much easier, posting exactly where you are and what you’re going to do. It’s taking stalking to a whole new level.”

Eichholz said, “When I first became an officer, once you left an area you were unreachable, now it is so much different… You check in at every location, whether it be Facebook or whatever else you post on, and everyone knows where you are.” This is the case along with all the other technology involved.

Kiphany Hof, UNK counseling Associate Director, agreed saying, “There’s cyberstalking, but technology has also brought in all sorts of ways to track a person, maybe by their phone, or their car’s GPS. All of this can happen to anyone.”

“This panel encourages people to come forward and tell what is happening to you. It can be overlooked, but it shouldn’t be. It is easier to dismiss it in technology, mainly because you can’t see them, but what else we are saying when we say stalking awareness is we want it to be easier for you to say you’re being stalked,” Hoff said. “You should be able to come to someone and say it is happening even if it is just a feeling.”

Technology has become a major way victims are tracked, and because of this it can lead to being stalked. Be careful what you post, because you never know who is watching you, said Michael Gilmour, from Buffalo County Attorney’s Office.

Gilmour said, “Most of what we put out there is designed to be friendly fun, but to some people it is another way to track you.”

If you, or anyone you know, is being stalked, or you have questions, contact the Women’s Center at (308) 865-8248, the SAFE Center at (308) 237-2599, UNKPd at (308) 627-4811, or call 911 in the case of an emergency.
Baseball

Although the winter weather has been harsh for practice conditions, both players have not been hindered in preparing for the season.

“The weather hasn’t exactly been cooperating as we would like, but nonetheless, we have been working hard in the mornings getting our work done indoors,” said Ertmer. “At this point it is more of a mental aspect, knowing how well we have prepared that when come game time, we can fall back on our routines and trust in our preparation to be able to get things done until we have more of an opportunity to get outside.”

Ertmer said his focus is on putting his team in position to win ball games this season.

With a plethora of new athletes, both players identified consistency as an area that will need to be sharpened this season.

“One of the challenges we will face is consistency from the guys. Having a team full of new players, it’s difficult to know how each guy will react when things aren’t going the way we want them to. So being consistent will probably be the toughest thing for us as a whole,” Pacheco said.

“With so many new faces we haven’t had many opportunities to play together with coaches trying different guys out at different positions. We haven’t had a chance to get used to a set lineup. It will be interesting to see how well guys fight through the ups and downs of the season,” Ertmer said.

However, the Loper pitching staff will look strong as ever.

The Lopers return five senior pitchers and seven juniors. Of those include senior Joe Smidt of North Platte. As a reliever, Smidt finished last spring with a 3.86 ERA, and tallied nine saves.

“Our pitching staff is loaded with veteran pitchers in the bullpen. If our starters can hand the ball off to the bullpen in the later innings with the lead, I believe this team will be very hard to beat,” Ertmer said.

The Lopers open up the season in Denver, Colorado, on Feb. 5 against Metropolitan State University.

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Kearney Community Supports Loper Baseball

At the 9th Annual UNK Upper Deck Club Banquet, baseball team raises money for upcoming season

SEAN LAUGHLIN
Antelope Staff

Atop a steep hill just 0.3 miles from campus, the Loper Baseball team plays at the historic Memorial Field and resides in the Joba Chamberlain Indoor and Hitting Facility.

These amazing facilities are accessible because of boosters and the amazing people of Kearney.

“We are so humbled and blessed that the Kearney community would support the University of Nebraska at Kearney but also Memorial Field, the city of Kearney and baseball in general,” UNK head baseball coach Damon Day said.

Supporters across Kearney were in attendance on Jan. 16 at the Youses Center for the UNK Upper Deck Club Banquet.

There is history. “The banquet started back in 2007 as a celebration for the program’s first Division II conference championship when we were a part of the RMAC… and now it has turned into our top fundraiser for our program,” Day said.

All money raised goes directly toward Memorial Field along with hotel, food, and apparel fees throughout this spring season.

During this eventful night, a silent auction continued throughout the evening, along with a live auction, which was the fundraising side of the night.

Then the program thanked the supporters and recognized the previous year’s seniors for their remarkable career.

When asked who is behind the scenes making the night possible, Coach Day was quick to answer.

“My wife. She does 95 percent of the work, I go out and shake a few hands and thank some people, but she is the driving force to the whole night.”

It was a great night for the city of Kearney and the baseball program; now it is time for first pitch. The Lopers begin their season on Feb. 5 in Denver, Colorado, against Metropolitan State University.

Homeward

found an imported products section, and I remember purchasing a jar of Jiff peanut butter for about $10.

Stores were small, cramped and closed Sundays, the complete opposite from grocery store culture in America.

Driving vs. Public Transportation

I was honestly a bit nervous to get behind the wheel of my car again when I returned home. I had relied solely on city transit, national transportation systems and my own two feet, to get from point A to point B for months.

In European countries, where public transportation systems are much greater than here in the United States (especially in the Midwest), the lack of a personal automobile is not problematic for the average person. The cities were constructed long before the automobile had been invented, so they are structured for foot traffic. This often means a business district consisting of small buildings, cramped cobblestone streets and sidewalks and very compact areas.

Here in Nebraska, if you do not own a car it is nearly impossible to go more than twenty miles.

After my anxiety of driving once again subsided, I enjoyed once again the limitless freedom owning my own vehicle grants, something that is easily taken for granted.
beyond undergraduate work?

Opportunities open to us today were not always so. From the early to mid-1900s, many people were prevented from accessing these basic rights that you and I often take for granted. 1929 saw the birth of one of the most prominent and influential men of this nation and 1968 would be the year of that man’s tragic end. The man I speak of is none other than Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On the evening of Jan. 18, 2016, the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday was recognized in the Atrium of the Student Union. Personally, I had never been to something like this, and thus, I did not know what to expect. By the time the event began, there were not enough chairs to seat those who showed up. It impressed me that so many desired to forgo other events of the night to come learn about our history, about a man who touched the hearts of many and about a time that, to many, seems quite foreign.

Dr. Claude Louishomme, the Director for the Ethnic Studies Program at UNK, stood up to address the large turnout. He began with a humble introduction. While the turnout was impressive, he said that we should all reflect on how we got here. He said without the selfless efforts of Dr. King, we might not have been present to address us all.

The efforts of the past shape the future for each person.

STRANDED from page 1

morning after spending a total of 74 hours in a bus and only 18 in Washington D.C.

The UNK students on the trip include: President Caitlyn Schmidt of Lincoln, Treasurer Marilyn Synek, Secretary Megan Humlicek of Columbus, Jessica Blum of Wahoo, Laura Hawk of Ewing, Collin Bond of Kearney, Emily Speiker of Petersburg, Kendall Schumacher of Lindsay, Claire Swantek of Genoa and Allison Blum of Wahoo.

Students for Life has 900 branches nationwide. Students for Life of America at UNK (SFLAUNK) was founded in the summer of 2014 with the past and current presidents, treasurer, secretary and vice president as the founding members. Schmidt, Synek, Matthew Perrion, and Humlicek came together and wrote the constitution for the organization. The group then presented the constitution to UNK Student Government for acceptance as an official student organization.

SFLAUNK had meetings on campus with 10-15 students in regular attendance in fall 2014. The organization meets every other Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the NSU Sandhills Room on the second floor of the Nebraskan Student Union.

Since becoming an organization, SFLAUNK has sponsored and hosted many events each semester on campus. In the fall semester, the national Students for Life has a chalk day where organizations write pro-life messages in public places on campus. SFLAUNK has participated in this event by writing messages around the fountain.

SFLAUNK president, Caitlyn Schmidt, said, “We haven’t had a lot of negative feedback on the tables we have in the Union; however, we have had some negative comments on social media about the chalk writing we did in the fall.”

This semester along with the national March for Life, SFLAUNK are also participating in the Nebraska March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 30 in Lincoln.

In February the group will have a table downstairs in the Union promoting a “Love them Both” campaign encouraging students to love both the mom and unborn baby around Valentine’s Day. A free babysitting night will also be available for mothers needing a night off. These events are part of the “Pregnant on Campus” initiative sponsored by the national Students for Life organization.

In March, they will observe the national Day of Silence for unborn children by having another booth downstairs in the Union. In the past, SFLAUNK hosted a pro-life movie at the world theatre and plan on doing that again in March.

From all the events they host to the new Pregnant on Campus initiative, Kearney Students for Life have been impacting campus in a major way. According to president Caitlyn Schmidt, “Our approach for this year is to show support for pregnant mothers through the Pregnant on Campus initiative through Students for Life.”
Over 300 people attended LPAC’s 27th annual hypnotist Jim Wand Show last Thursday, Jan. 21 at the Nebraskan Student Union Ponderosa Room. Dr. Wand is known for his engaging and humorous performances at UNK, and this year was no different.

Wand held two shows, one at 7 p.m. and another at 8:45 p.m. Each was filled with students, faculty members and many others.

Wand brought volunteers from the audience on stage to be hypnotized. Before starting the hypnotizing process, he welcomed the audience to take part. This required focusing on an object and listening to directions. Wand entertained the audience by having the volunteers do a number of different tasks and answer questions. The hypnotist show included a muscle competition, impressions, dancing and a lip sync performance. The show was filled with constant laughter and entertainment.

Dr. Wand puts on anywhere from 175 to 200 shows each year and has traveled to 14 other countries to perform. He employs over 100 other hypnotists to do shows also. Wand says that his favorite part about performing is helping others laugh and forget about any other worries while they are watching or taking part.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney has always stood out to him. “LPAC is one of the most organized student organizations I have ever worked with. UNK is filled with people that are both appreciative and friendly. I have always enjoyed performing here,” he said. After 27 years he said he has come to have a great relationship here that he plans to continue.

Photos by Damares Campos

1) Hypnotist Jim Wand has the audience do an exercise to test whether they are able to be hypnotized or not.

2) Volunteers for the hypnotist Jim Wand wait for the beat to drop to start the dance competition. Wand tells them that there is a huge cash prize for the winner, who must not only dance but also do facial expressions. Dancing includes the stanky leg, the twist and single ladies. One volunteer did the worm.

3) Hypnotist Jim Wand makes all his female volunteers stand in a line and be macho men. The ladies have been instructed by Wand to strike a “very manly” pose. All of them pose like bodybuilders.

“It feels like a dream. I don’t really remember much but strangely what I do remember is when I took off my shirt.”
— Brent Anderson, sophomore industrial distribution major from Kearney

“The event is always super fun, the audience is involved, it is relevant to current events and overall it is interesting.”
— Miranda Ketteler, sophomore social work major from Petersburg

“It was hilarious because one of my buddies (Brent Anderson) was in it.”
— David Erickson, sophomore advertising and public relations major from Kearney