Comedian Eric O’Shea came to campus thanks to LPAC and brought the laughs, a veteran performer at 1,200 colleges and universities.

University of Nebraska at Kearney student Amber Frerichs died in a vehicle accident early last Saturday morning northwest of Amherst.

Frerichs was a junior from Bassett majoring in exercise science. She was studying to become an athletic trainer and worked and a prominent leader in Campus Recreation.

“Amber Frerichs was an active participant in student life and activities at UNK, particularly in Campus Recreation and our Wellness Center. Many knew her and will miss her. It’s devastating for us, but more so for her family and friends, who our hearts go out to,” said university spokesperson Dr. Gilbert Hinga.

Frerichs graduated from Rock County High School in Bassett, Nebraska. Representatives from UNK Student Health and Counseling are available to individuals who would like to talk.

The university has received confirmation of visitation and funeral information:

- Visitation will be on Friday, Feb. 10, at 4 to 7 p.m. at the Hoch Funeral Home: 211 Clark St., Bassett, Nebraska 68714-0368.
- Funeral services will be on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the Rock County High School Gymnasium. The address is E. Hwy 20/POB 448
- Flowers can be sent to the Hoch Funeral Home.
- Following is a link with the information: http://hosting-25635.tributes.com/mobile/services/104433972

Gotta love a laugh after protests, marches, weeks of tension
Fight over religion never ends

To write about something as important to individuals’ lives as religion is a very difficult thing to do, mainly because it is such a sensitive subject. It is almost impossible to even mention the word religion or the title of a religion without people forming an opinion or bias as they read or hear that word. However, something as volatile and relevant as religion needs to be discussed and it is worth potentially offending a few individuals, intentionally or not. This discussion is a tightrope that needs to be walked regardless of the consequences if you stumble.

That being said, Trump’s first few weeks have shown the real double standard when it comes to religion in this country. From the immigrant bans on countries Trump considers Muslim majority, to blatantly saying Christians from those nations will be given preferential treatment to stating that torture works, the hypocrisy is as palatable as it is bitter. The fact that he won only by an archaic rule must eat away at him every day, and this is one way to compensate.

This would be the time when most would quote the actual teachings of Jesus about helping the less fortunate or the true lessons of Islam in aiding the world’s weary. However, when you look at all of this, the current problems are not caused by faith; rather, it is throwing a bone to those who claim to be the heads of religion, specifically the evangelical religious right.

Turn on your radio or TV and after tuning to the right channel you will encounter one of these modern day demagogues who wear the vestments of a pastor, a term I use very loosely.

These individuals use religion as a way to justify their demands, be it donating money to fund a private $5 million jet (Clefo Dollar) or buying food buckets for the end times happening soon (too many to count). Because of their charisma and the pull of religion, they get their followers to go against their own interests or risk offending the prophet.

Trump used dog-whistle language while on the campaign trail specifically calling on white, evangelical conservatives. From “minorities are bad,” to the classic “Islam is a murder cult,” it was almost a Mad Libs book of promises to a certain group. Now that he is in power and his positive ratings are leaving him faster than his mistresses and ex-wives, his recent tactics are clearly appealing to that bloc of voters and the leaders of those churches do nothing but extol him. Some say that the protesters are clearly possessed by demons, others say Trump’s hotel is like an image of heaven while still others say that God clearly loves America because he placed Trump in the Oval Office.

But at the end of the day, this is not a call to the evangelicals to make a godly America; rather, the president is sucking them in using their bigoted, hate-fueled philosophy. He would do this to any group whose support he could easily win. If America had a powerful voting group that identified as Scientologists I would not doubt for a moment Trump would use the same tactics he did to win the evangelical vote. That isn’t the sign of a prophet of any religion, it is the dead giveaway of a con-man.

Ultimately religion is being used as the reason for these actions, but is not the motivation. Religious hatred and distrust is nothing new to this world, but more often than not there are underlying reasons using religion as an excuse to justify.

The First Crusade (1095—1099) is often brought up as the reason Christianity must fight Islam even to this day.

However, the crusade started as a way for the Byzantine Empire to regain some territory and save face with the world (hoping to get an elite group of pious warriors) when the Pope decided to solidify his rule and unite Christendom against a single enemy few ever saw. That is how that whole bloody affair started. It was war that used religion as a way to get recruitment numbers up, overshadowing the true reason why the war started. Also, that whole scenario seems remarkably similar to the current US-Israel relationship, where Israel wants more land but is asking for weapons and political clout to get it without ramifications.

America and religious prejudice go hand in hand. In the 1830s and 1840s, there were extreme cases of anti-Catholic and anti-Mormon dialogue and violence. The perfect image is a cartoon drawn by Tomas Nass, showing cardinals of the Catholic Church looking like alligators and anti-Mormon dialogue and violence. The true reason why the war started. Also, that whole scenario seems remarkably similar to the current US-Israel relationship, where Israel wants more land but is asking for weapons and political clout to get it without ramifications.

Donald Trump and these evangelical pastors are as Christian as ISIS is the true representation of Islam. They are simply con-men, using the power faith has over individuals to further agendas that have nothing to do with the lessons of the Bible or the Quran.

This is nothing more than a thumbs up from one unpopular person to a group of influential individuals, asking for a reward from a trained animal. Faith is a beautiful and powerful thing, and it should be used for the betterment of all mankind.

It should not be used to tear down people who are different than you in any way, shape or form.

The American River Ganges cartoon by Thomas Nast was first published by Harper’s Weekly, September, 1871. Four years later, the original image of Nast’s most famous anti-Catholic image was updated. Tweed was safely out of the picture, literally and figuratively when the image was republished on 8 May, 1875 along with other minor modifications.

The image is a tour de force of imagination and caricature technique. Nast dehumanized the Catholic bishops by turning them into reptiles. They emerge from the water toward the New York shoreline. Two clergy in the foreground had stereotypic Irish faces.

The First Crusade (1095—1099) is often brought up as the reason Christianity must fight Islam even to this day.

However, the crusade started as a way for the Byzantine Empire to regain some territory and save face with the world (hoping to get an elite group of pious warriors) when the Pope decided to solidify his rule and unite Christendom against a single enemy few ever saw. That is how that whole bloody affair started. It was war that used religion as a way to get recruitment numbers up, overshadowing the true reason why the war started. Also, that whole scenario seems remarkably similar to the current US-Israel relationship, where Israel wants more land but is asking for weapons and political clout to get it without ramifications.

America and religious prejudice go hand in hand. In the 1830s and 1840s, there were extreme cases of anti-Catholic and anti-Mormon dialogue and violence. The perfect image is a cartoon drawn by Tomas Nass, showing cardinals of the Catholic Church looking like alligators and anti-Mormon dialogue and violence. The true reason why the war started. Also, that whole scenario seems remarkably similar to the current US-Israel relationship, where Israel wants more land but is asking for weapons and political clout to get it without ramifications.

Donald Trump and these evangelical pastors are as Christian as ISIS is the true representation of Islam. They are simply con-men, using the power faith has over individuals to further agendas that have nothing to do with the lessons of the Bible or the Quran.

This is nothing more than a thumbs up from one unpopular person to a group of influential individuals, asking for a reward from a trained animal. Faith is a beautiful and powerful thing, and it should be used for the betterment of all mankind.

It should not be used to tear down people who are different than you in any way, shape or form.
A seven-year photography hobby not only became junior Katie Cokers’ minor, but also has now became her motivation to start a photography group on campus.

“The main goal of the group is to bring like-minded people together, who enjoy photography in all of its forms,” Coker said.

Previously a similar group was established on campus; however, the group faded away as the majority of members graduated. Coker then decided to begin a new photography group.

Coker, a photography major from Birmingham, Alabama, said she was motivated to bring the photography group back to give students a chance to expand their interests in photography. This group will allow students to connect with others who may share the hobby of photography, regardless if their major pertains to the art department or not.

“There is already a great support on campus from the photography department,” Coker said.

The Art department offers a variety of photography courses which allow students to learn Photoshop skills and printing techniques as well as other useful classes to expand their knowledge in the photography world. Derrick Burbul, the adviser for Coker’s new Photography Club, teaches photography classes in this building.

Coker said, “I hope to create a group that helps one another learn and grow as artists. If someone wants to learn a skill or trick, I want it to be easy to access the different kinds of knowledge we all possess and share it with as many people as possible.”

Coker hopes members learn from one another, or even decide if this hobby of photography could turn into a minor.

Currently with only a handful of members, Coker said she would like to focus on the group growing larger.

Coker plans to hold a meeting on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building room 302 to see where the interest lies for each group. In the future, there are plans to hold a photography workshop. Coker says, “Please don’t be shy about your skill level. Everyone is welcome!”

PAID ANTELOPE STAFF POSITIONS

Sports writers, sports photographers, News and feature writers, Event, entertainment-photographer

Contact: Madeline Maloley @ maloleymr@lopers.unk.edu and Diff @ diffenderftm@unk.edu
Hof revives campus safe haven

Women's Center aims to be a 'one-stop-shop' for students looking for support from university

By Rachael Fangmeier

Though called the Women's Center, advocates within provide services to male, female and non-binary students alike, coordinating services for all in need.

Recently the Women's Center has been focusing on getting information to the students about the services the office provides to eliminate any negative stigma about visiting the Women's Center said Associate Director of Counseling Care and the Women's Center Kiphany Hof.

“This year we have really worked on getting our name out there so people know they can come here,” Hof said.

“Our job is to look at gender equality. Historically women have not been equal to men, so that is why it is called the Women's Center, because we really advocate for women's rights,” Hof said.

Hof is fairly new as the director, but is already making strides developing programming that will make the UNK Women's Center an even more successful place on campus.

Hof started at UNK Counseling Care three and a half years ago. She was promoted one year ago to Counseling Care Associate Director, which made her head of the Women's Center.

Recent changes in funding had threatened the Women's Center's viability. “The director came to me and said the big grant for the Women's Center was going away, which funded all of the positions at the Women's Center. With that going away, there wasn't going to be any money to run the Women's Center anymore. The director at the time wanted to keep the Women's Center going, and asked me what I thought about running it,” Hof said.

“My background is in counseling, so

I never thought purposefully about being in a Women's Center,” Hof said. “It's been a new adventure for me and I'm so excited that I did it because I see such a positive impact and the change that we can make and be supportive of people no matter what they're going through. It's a new passion that I stumbled upon.”

Hof said her job is to oversee the graduate assistant and other interns who come up with ideas about how to reach out to students about gender equality, sexual assault and gender violence.

“The thing that is so unique and wonderful about Kiphany is that even if she's not directly involved with something you're doing, she's very supportive and willing to help in any way she can,” said Bailey Bond, the Women's Center graduate assistant.

The Women's Center's biggest effort is programming. On Feb. 15, the Women's Center is hosting Sex in the Dark, a sexual health education event.

The Women's Center is also introducing the first Men's Project, which is an 11-week project that brings men from the campus together to work on gender violence issues.

“I'm really excited to do the Men's Project, which focuses on men's leadership, and men becoming allies as far as trying to stop gender violence,” Hof said.

The Women's Center is also a safe haven for students to seek refuge and find help when dealing with sexual assault, rape, harassment, stalking, gender violence, and hate crimes.

“We want to be a place where people feel safe enough to talk to us. We can provide links to other places on campus, whether that is Counseling Care, Title IX, police, or with a S.A.F.E. Center advocate. We want to be that one-stop-shop for questions for students who don't know how they can be supported by the university,” Hof said.

Hof said she finds meaning in her work connecting people with useful resources that are meaningful to help them with their recovery.

“From individual, to system-wide, to campus-wide, prevention, “post-vention,” getting people to think critically, it makes my job meaningful to me,

“Working with people who are so enthusiastic and passionate about the Women's Center is my favorite part about this job. I love how contagious that enthusiasm is and it makes me excited about it too,” Hof said.

Hof recognizes that the Counseling Care and Women's Center offer similar services and said that there is a lot of crossover between the two offices.

“Sometimes we have students who reach out to the Women's Center and they tell us bits and pieces about their story or they might tell us how this has affected them, and we'll always recommend that they see counseling, whether that's on campus or off campus, just because they could use some extra support,” Hof said.

“A lot of times people will go and sit with a counselor and they start telling them about some things that happened to them and the counselors don't know all of the resources on campus so they would refer the student to the Women's Center.

“It's not scary, it's just a place you can go and ask any question, and you won't be judged by it. We're normal people, too. We are here to help you, not here to see you in any negative light. It's not only for people who have problems or have been raped; we do lots of other things here,” Hof said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 15
Sex in the Dark
Cedar Room NSU

March
Body Positivity Month

April
Sexual Assault Awareness Week

Photos by Rachael Arehart
While at the 49th annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Jan. 22, 12 students and three UNK faculty broadened their horizons attending workshops and networking.

“Seeing productions and seeing what’s going on in the outside world actually makes us better theatre artists, because then we’re more aware of how the world works outside of our little bubble. For our students, it’s a wonderful opportunity for networking, job hunting, and experiencing things that we as faculty might not have time to teach. It’s supplemental learning and an excellent opportunity for students,” said Sara Ice, UNK theatre faculty and Vice Chair of Design, Technology, and Management of Region 5 for KCACTF.

Students and faculty attended workshops with topics ranging from where to go with a theatre degree after college, to lighting and set design workshops, playwriting, dance and even theatre’s place in today’s society. These workshops were led by students and faculty from around the region, and some were even led by UNK faculty themselves.

“Here at UNK, we are geographically challenged, and don’t have access to a lot of resources in the arts, and that’s why this festival is so important for students,” Ice said.

This year’s festival showcased the fine arts scene in Des Moines and participants visited some of the venues in the city, such as the Kum & Go Theater located in a renovated firehouse downtown, and the historic Hoyt Sherman theatre built in 1923.

KCACTF Region 5 is an annual event that brings together hundreds of college theatre students and faculty from around the Midwest region to encourage and celebrate the work that university and college theatre programs do across the region and provide opportunities for students to further develop their skills.

During the year prior to the festival, judges associated with the organization travel to college productions and select students to compete in acting competitions at the festival.

Students also submit technical or design projects to bring and display. This year, four UNK students and their acting partners competed in the Irene Ryan Scholarship Auditions, an acting competition where the winners go on to compete in the national competition at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC.

Students were also able to register to audition for professional theatre companies around the region, in hopes of getting a summer job doing professional work and building their resumes.

Throughout the week, participants attend various college theatre productions invited to come perform at the festival. Productions touched on different topical themes such as sexual assault in schools, women’s empowerment, water conservation and environmentalism, to name a few.
The Nebraska-Kearney wrestling team recorded 16 takedowns and had 28 near fall points in a 38-3 win over Central Missouri Friday night at the Health & Sports Center.

The Lopers improve to 15-6 (3-1) while the unranked Mules fall to 5-9 (1-4).

Despite nationally-ranked juniors Calvin Ochs (2nd/165 lbs.) and Bryce Shoemaker (3rd/133 lbs.) sitting out, UNK had little trouble defeating UCM for a 13th straight time.

Replacing Shoemaker in the lineup, sophomore JD Rader (Jewell, Ia.) tallied a four point near fall to start the third period in a 7-2 win over John Feeney. At 141 pounds, true freshman and 11th-ranked Jacob Wasser (Kintnersville, Pa.) managed three takedowns and eight near fall points to record a second period tech fall, 15-0.

Two-time All-American Keith Surber (Sparta, Ill.) one-upped Wasser as he needed just 1:10 to tech fall Zach Schridde, 18-0, at 149 pounds. Surber managed 16 near fall points in 42 seconds to quickly end things.

Next, Alaskan sophomore Isaac Deaton worked off the cobwebs to major Cole Kemna, 14-4, at 174 pounds. UNK’s new starter at this class, Deaton hadn’t wrestled since mid-December due to injury. His night included three takedowns in the first period.

Finally, pin machines Destin McCauley (157 lbs.) and Kevin Barrett (285 lbs.) were at it again. McCauley got his in 1:08 with Barrett needing just 42 seconds to record his team-leading 15th fall of the season.

The Lopers finish the dual season next Thursday night when 16th-ranked Fort Hays State comes to down. That dual will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be held in Cushing Coliseum.

@Lopers.com
The Nebraska-Kearney track & field team had 33 top four finishes at its own indoor invitational and recorded some more top times at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational Saturday in Lincoln.

A rare scored home meet, both the men (137 points) and women (161 points) “won” the UNK Indoor Invitational. Other schools with student-athletes in attendance were Fort Hays State, Hastings College, Pratt C.C. (Kan.), Northwest Tech (Kan.) and Nebraska Wesleyan.

To start the day, California senior Bevan Wemhoff won the heptathlon by scoring 4,907 points. Provisionally qualifying Friday night in the high jump (6-8.25), this career-high point total also places him on the national list.

Next, Texas senior Preston Foley won the 60 meter dash in a career-low 6.93, which ties him for sixth on Brooke Frederick UNK’s all-time list. Right behind him was graduate assistant coach Quinton Harley (6.99) and Bellevue senior Enrique Alvarez (7.01).

Also winning on the men’s side was Fairfield junior Bailey Stapleman in the pole vault (15-9.25), Scottsbluff senior Tayler James in the 800 (2:05.07) and Omaha junior Thomas Stopak in the long jump (22-5.25). Not surprisingly, current assistant coach and eight-time All-American Dane Tobey led the pack in the shot put (53-5).

Finally, Elm Creek sophomore Jacob Bartling tossed the shot 51-7.75 to place second, one of four Lopers to do so on the day.

Crofton senior Dani Riesberg was a double winner as she turned in a 26.89 in the 200 meter dash and ran anchor for the winning 4x4 relay team (4:10.35). Competing unattached, Utica junior Mackenzie Crowder led the way in the shot (46-4.25).

The other women’s winners were Hershey senior Brooke Frederick in the pole vault (12-4.75), O’Neill junior Emily Everitt in the high jump (5-4.50) and Holdrege junior Julianna Burr in the 60 hurdles (9.37). Frederick’s effort was just shy of her school record (12-4.75) and places her in the top 10 nationally at the moment.

Also, Kansas junior Abagayle Spilinex provisional qualified in the weight throw with a career-best toss of 54-2, good for a runner up finish. The heave also ranks eighth best in UNK lore.

At UNL, three Lopers ran in the men’s 3,000, led by Rushville senior Cole Wellnitz (5th/8:22.83) and Fremont Trevor Wiegert (21st/8:34.11). Wellnitz’s time is second fastest in school history and provisionally qualifies him while Wiegert moves up to eighth on the UNK top 10.

Finally, Kearney senior Cody Wirth ran a season-low 1:54.23 to finish 10th in the 800 meter run.

UNK heads to South Dakota State next weekend.

@Lopers.com

by Haley Pierce
Film series overcomes racial boundaries

World Theatre brings global awareness to Kearney

From Guatemala to Bosnia, the UNK@TheWORLD Film Series hopes to bring new international perspectives to Kearney.

This season, the movies are connected by common topics: Race, ethnicity and their effects on society.

Michelle Warren, assistant professor of Spanish, hopes the films will show the people of Kearney a side of the world they might not ever get to see otherwise, and that by viewing these films, people will come to see and understand the similarities that connect us as human beings.

"Even though we seem to be different from people in different places, we are all ultimately human beings, dealing with the human condition." -- Michelle Warren

Warren helped launch UNK@TheWORLD four years ago and remains at its helm today. The series will be showing three movies over the next three months beginning Feb. 7.

The first movie, "Ixcanul," shows on Feb. 7. Doors of the World Theatre open at 6:30 p.m., and the movie will begin at 7:30.

The audience will be treated to free food from Komal before the movie, and a discussion about the movie with Michelle Warren follows the film. "Ixcanul," which translates to volcano, was filmed in a language of indigenous peoples of rural Guatemala. The fact that it was filmed completely in the indigenous language is also fascinating to me—it’s like a salute to a very under-recognized culture.”

The second movie “Chloe and Theo” which will show at the World Theatre March 7. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 7:30 p.m. "Chloe and Theo" is the tale of an Inuit from the Arctic, traveling to New York City to warn world leaders about the catastrophic impact of global warming on the planet.

After the movie, Dr. Nate Bickford, associate professor of biology, and Dr. Sonja Bickford, lecturer of industrial technology, will be speaking about key points addressed in the film.

The third and final film of the festival is "The Whistleblower" and will have three showings of the movie at the World Theatre: April 7 - 8 at 7:30 pm and a matinee on Sunday Feb. 9 starting at 2:00 p.m.

"The Whistleblower" is a US production about Bosnia and human trafficking. The story follows a former Nebraska police officer in her fight against human trafficking in Bosnia. Following the movie, Jace Heuser from UNK’s International Justice Mission will speak.

The film comes at the end of International Justice Mission’s Justice Awareness Week, capping off the events. During the showings of “The Whistleblower,” an art installation by NYC artist Molly Gochman for the Red Sand Project will be present and audience members are encouraged to take a bag of red sand and sprinkle the sand into the cracks of the streets and sidewalks as a reminder of the people who have been “lost in the cracks” through human trafficking.

The UNK@TheWORLD has been funded by The Office of the Dean of Natural and Social Sciences, The Office of the Dean of Fine Arts and Humanities, Organization of International Studies, Humanities Nebraska and in Cooperation with the World Theater.
Blake Smith and Andrew Denman live on the same floor of Centennial Towers West (CTW) and go to breakfast in the union every morning. Although they have completely different backgrounds, they enjoy each other's company.

This goes to show, traditional and non-traditional students can all get a great college experience by living in the dorms to meet new people. A traditional student usually starts college right after graduating high school, but there is no exact definition for a non-traditional student.

Blake Smith, a freshman business administration major from Papillion, is a non-traditional student in that he started college after six years of being in the U.S. Air Force.

He is currently living in CTW to get the full freshman experience of college life.

Smith was security forces in the Air Force, the military police for the respective branch in which he served. "I did a lot of security and a lot of law enforcement, so coming into college as an ex-military cop is kind of ironic when you think about it," Smith said.

Smith said the biggest difficulty in transition from a military background to college is really the culture shock. He said the college culture is significantly different in almost every way from the military culture.

"For me, that was probably the hardest part...just the extreme differences of the civilian college student and active duty military," Smith said. Still, he wanted to live in the dorm to get the full college experience and said community is good to have when moving somewhere new.

Smith said he doesn't regret starting college after the military because he has a lot of leadership experience under his belt, making a lot of his schoolwork more manageable. "I'm really glad that I have something on my resume before I finish college because it's not just the degree I'm working with. I'm working with experience and for a degree so I think it should pay off in the long run."

On the traditional student side of things, Andrew Denman, a sophomore social work major, said his freshman year was as typical as it could have been. "I always knew I was going to go to college. I thought about military, and I interviewed people for jobs to try and work first but it never really panned out, so I was like 'might as well do college.'"

Denman lived in URS Pod B his freshman year because he signed with the Fraternity Phi Gamma Delta and lived in the house with his fraternity brothers. Although he met Greek students living in the house, he wanted to meet more non-Greek students so he decided to become a resident assistant (RA) his sophomore year. "I wanted to meet new people and I wanted to try the normal freshman experience," Denman said.

Denman had seriously considered the military and still continues to keep the option in the back of his mind. "I talked to my parents about it, but I don't have a traditional household, I guess. I have two moms, and have never met my dad. One of them was extremely against it, and the other didn't really have an opinion. She's like 'Do whatever you want; it's your life.'"

Denman said, "Since my other mom didn't want me to join, that kind of steered me away a little bit, but the recruiter said 'That's understandable, but think about being a part of reserves, or going after you graduate 'cause you could become an officer right away.'"

So I've always had that in my mind like, that's always an option," Denman said. That's an option he can always discuss with Smith.

"The biggest thing you have trouble transitioning toward from a military background is the culture shock because the college culture is significantly different in almost every way than the military culture is," Blake Smith says.
It was Benjamin Franklin who said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

Greek life places a high importance on academics. The all-Greek Grade Point Average has been consistently higher than that of the general student population and this year was no different.

The annual Greek Scholarship Banquet was held Monday, Jan. 30, to gather and to celebrate the emphasis on academics and those that were academically successful in the previous semester.

“It’s nights like these that show just how great it is to be part of the Greek community,” said guest speaker John Gibbs, former UNK Greek and now academic counselor for the university. “It’s nights like this that I am proud to be a Greek alum in this institution.”

Gibbs said he is cognizant of negative perception about Greek Life, “This scholarship honors night is breaking down those negative stereotypes surrounding our Greek organizations.”

Gibbs was eager to praise his time here as a member of a fraternity, “My time on campus as a student and in this Greek community as a brother has been ripe with lessons of hard work, of diligence, of care, and of persistence. These are the lessons that will carry me and carry you all to great successes both now and for the rest of your lives.”

The numbers verified Gibbs’ statements. Both the fraternity and sorority average GPAs were higher than that of their non-affiliated male and female students.

Students who attained a GPA between a 3.5 and a 3.99 the previous semester were recognized and names were read aloud from each sorority and fraternity. Many students in attendance achieved 4.0 GPA and they were rewarded with a cookie with “4.0” written in icing on it.

A big part of the night is the competition for fraternities’ and sororities’ highest chapter GPAs.

Cassidy Bruns, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major and Vice President of Scholarship for the Panhellenic Council, was hosting the event. “GPAs are a big thing for all of them; they kind of compete against each other to get the highest GPA. It’s a big deal.” Bruns believes there are academic advantages to students who choose Greek Life. She said, “In the chapters, everyone is holding each other accountable, so everyone is more aware of their grades.”

Ivy Prater, president of the Alpha Phi sorority, accepted the award for the highest GPA among sororities.

“Greek Life can push you into good study habits,” says Luke Grossnicklaus, a junior business education major and also president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, which took home the Nester Cup for the highest GPA among fraternities at UNK. “Nights like these bring out the good in Greek life and we can celebrate nights like these.”

The night ended with a fun raffle with the fraternities and sororities providing the items being raffled off. Hoops and hollers of excitement roared as gift cards, shirts and foam fingers were handed off.

The banquet showcased the successes of the Greek community in the field of academics and the importance of which they treat that success. Gibbs said that the night “shows just how dedicated each chapter is to academics. It shows how accountable the members have to be of that education and how supportive we have to be in each other’s successes.”

Fact Box:

All student average GPA – 3.04
All Greek average GPA – 3.34
All men average GPA – 2.81
All sorority average GPA – 3.42
All women average GPA – 3.18
All fraternity average GPA – 3.20

1. Greek members who achieved a 4.0 GPA in the fall semester of 2016 show off their cookies.
2. Luke Grossnicklaus, a junior business education major and president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity shows the Nester Cup given to the fraternity with the highest GPA.
3. Ivy Prater, president of the Alpha Phi sorority, holds with the award given to the sorority for having the highest GPA among sororities.
4. Cady Coy, a senior education major from Norfolk, holds up the shirt she won in the raffle.
Festival to bring sneak peak of Japanese culture

The annual festival of the Japanese Association at Kearney will be full of color, tantalizing smells, tastes and beautiful sounds because the enthusiastic students put so much into the preparations.

The students have been planning this event since September 2016 for prizes, live Facebook videos, raffles, dancing, free food and karate.

The event, in the Ponderosa Room of the Nebraskan Student Union will open the doors Feb. 18, with the event starting at 6:30.

Almost 90 students involved in the festival all hope to share their culture with the students of UNK and anyone in the community.

The delicious foods available to taste will include a traditional entree with rice and an array of toppings. The food will be free, with four sides to choose from along with the dessert.

Along with the food, students have put their talent to work for high energy dancing. The students have been working day and night to perfect the moves. Three different groups will each perform a different variation of Japanese dance.

Deadline approaches for Milan summer study abroad

If you want to build your language skills and improve your knowledge of the world in general, study abroad. Ann Marie Park, the Assistant Director of International Partnerships and Study Abroad at UNK, says studying abroad is the fastest way to learn a language and a culture.

"English is so commonly spoken around the world as a second language that it’s hard to find little communities where they don’t speak English," Park said. "One must really make a concerted effort to not speak English because it’s so much easier. If you make that effort it will really pay off."

Many first-time students can be scared off by going to a country where they know no one and the challenge of speaking an unfamiliar language. "I can’t tell you how many students are afraid to try study abroad. We used to have a Peru program. Kids would go down there; they would be all scared and for the first couple weeks they wouldn’t even talk, but as soon as they started talking, they got the hang of it. Speaking a foreign language, it just builds your confidence and you learn," Park said.

The easiest way to begin speaking a new language is to think about language differently. It’s like you are adding a new vocabulary word or a new phrase to your knowledge. You learn to respond to things quicker, instead of hearing words and translating them, which is time consuming.

Park said she studied abroad as a student. "I felt like it was so pivotal in my growth and in my maturity. My outlook toward everything in the world. I feel it is so important that everybody does it," Park said.

Park thinks all students should look at the opportunities UNK offers. "I don’t want students to graduate and later look back and think ‘huh, I never knew about study abroad.’ That’s my goal; make sure everybody knows that if they want to, they can."

Even if you are not bilingual there are opportunities for students to study abroad. No language is required for the new Milan program. The program this summer is open to everybody at UNK. An info meeting will be held on Feb. 7, 8, 10 from 4-5 p.m. in Copeland Hall 142. Deadline for application is due Feb. 17.

In place of the Peru program last year, students can now travel to Spain. The program is a semester long and 12 credit hours. It counts as language credit in the spring, or students participate in the English program offered in the fall.
Megan Jaeger, a junior communication disorders major from Kearney studied abroad in the Czech Republic through UNK in the spring of 2016. You can read more about her adventures in the Czech Republic on her blog at czechyourbags.blogspot.com.

She decided to study abroad through UNK after catching the “travel bug” from Africa. "I promised myself that I would continue to escape the ordinary while filling my passport and checking off my bucket list that seemingly continues to grow," she said.

She chose the Czech Republic for three reasons. "My major is communication disorders so it is important from not only the counseling side to understand other cultures, but also the phonetics aspect. I love to write and I hope to one day use my career and experience with all of this to publish a book to help other speech-language pathologists be able to better treat their clients."

Was this your first time to leave the country/live abroad?

This was not my first time leaving the country or living abroad. I have been blessed with the opportunity to be apart of the BoldLeaders program based out of Colorado. The program allowed 19 students and me, from around the United States, to travel to Uganda. We lived with host families while exploring their infrastructure, culture, and the beautiful country while getting to know the people.

Did you experience any culture shock moving into a new country?

Oh yes! Daily life in the Czech Republic is definitely a culture shock in itself from what I was use to in home sweet Nebraska.

This really didn't hit me until the second night we were there and went out to dinner. We were greeted in Czech and smiled back, then were seated. The menus were Czech, of course, so we just pointed to something that sounded good. Don't ask why we thought some strange word sounded good, but we went with it!

When our waiter came back and he soon realized that we could not understand him. We pointed to the items on the menu while trying to pronounce them and having him laugh at us struggle, while also correctly pronouncing them.

Our mysterious meals arrived, I had ordered duck and somehow we managed to pay, and find our way back home on the trams!

How long was the program you chose? Did you go early or stay later?

The Czech program was about two and a half months long. I went early and also stayed late. Kass and I went early to explore Prague together before the program started and to get to know each other.

After the program we spent one week in Croatia and the next in Scotland. After, we split up in the Prague airport for the first time in almost three months to travel solo to different destinations for two weeks.

What was your favorite moment while you were abroad?

This is probably the hardest question to answer! The trip itself cannot be broken down to one single moment for me, everything that happened just kept adding to one grand adventure.

Now, a year later, the people that I studied abroad with are some of my closest friends. The girl who sat next to me at the very first meeting, Kassidy McConville, became not only one of my best friends, but still to this day my roommate! Many of us came as strangers, but we left as great friends. Each of them has impacted me for the better and because of them, through the opportunity UNK gave me, my heart has grown.