Director Benes creates magic on stage

Senior theatre major directs final show of season

LARS JOHNSON
Antelope Staff

Standing in the audience and looking at the empty Miriam Drake Theatre stage, director Matt Benes envisions a huge cave, complete with sparkling crystals, magic symbols and a glowing ambiance. A common saying in the world of theatre is that an empty stage is at its highest potential; to a director this statement is never more real than during the first few rehearsals.

Benes, a senior theatre major, is directing the Alpha Psi Omega show, the last of the UNK Theatre productions this school year. APO is an honorary theatre society that supports collegiate actors, designers and directors while promoting all things theatre in the college world.

“Once a year, a single member of the UNK chapter is chosen to direct a show, a high honor in a smaller department. This year, that privilege fell onto Benes. “I was super excited when I found out I had been chosen,” he said. “I had had the script for four or five months, so I was pretty excited to be able to go forward with it from there.” Back in the spring of 2016, senior theatre majors who met the requirements were able to apply to direct this show, and Benes was chosen.

However, this won’t be Benes’s first experience directing. “My senior year of high school, me and a buddy of mine wrote and co-directed a one-act,” he said, sitting in the theatre design lab in the basement of the Fine Arts Building. “Now that I’ve been here, I’ve taken Theatre 480, the directing class, where I directed a cutting from a full-length play and then a one-act.”

Benes has had experience in all aspects of theatre, going all the way back to high school. From being an actor on stage to doing technical work backstage, he had the benefit of different experiences in the field. That alone wasn’t enough to make him decide he wanted to make a career of it, though.

“After graduating high school and starting college in Lincoln not pursuing theatre, I was just taking gen eds, working on this other degree, and it was sort of tearing at me that I wasn’t still doing theatre stuff. That’s when I realized my other pursuits weren’t really my thing anymore,” he said. “I started looking for a school to pursue theatre and a bunch of people from back home steered me toward Kearney, so I came out here.”

For this show, “The Illusion,” the entire design team is made up of students, meaning everything including set design, lighting and costumes is student-created.

When asked what it’s like to work with a design team consisting of his peers, Benes said it’s nice to work with fresh ideas and people who are really willing to work. “When I say I need a fountain that just appears out of nowhere, they say, ‘Yeah, I have a plan, let’s do it.’”

“I will say that from the beginning of meeting the design team on this show, I told them that I was gonna ask the world from them,” he said, chuckling. “In the meetings that followed that initial interaction, they have definitely provided the world, I guess. They’ve met my expectations and more. There’s gonna be some nifty stuff. My scenic and lighting designers are coordinating pretty close to make magic happen.”

Magic is what Benes’ whole show is about. “The show follows (a man named) Pridament in his quest to find his estranged son. He seeks out the sorcerer Alcandre, who proceeds to then conjure three separate illusions of his son’s life in hopes to help him understand where his son is and potentially reconnect with him,” said Benes. “Whether or not he succeeds or fails is kind of left open to your interpretation.”

After four years of learning and growing in this field, as a senior Benes feels optimistic about a whole new group of students coming into the department. “Theatre’s not just being the lead in a show on Broadway or the person who designs things. There’s so many tiers in the middle, so many other opportunities that you can do,” he said.

“I think that if it’s something someone’s considering theatre at the very least they should come down and talk to some of the students or professors. Come out and see a show. Just get into the area, start talking to people, and you’ll know pretty early whether or not it’s the right path for you.”

“Come see the show, it’s going to be super awesome,” he finished, hinting at all the ideas he has in his mind that will all...
Student Research Day

Tuesday, April 11th | 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The 19th annual Student Research Day features undergraduate and graduate research projects. Held in the NSU Ponderosa Room. Awards Ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m. Contact the URCA Office at 865-8702 or unk.edu/ugr for further details.

Oral Presentations | Posters | Music

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Wednesday
April 5

American Red Cross Blood Drive
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
NSU Podersosa Room A&B

Thursday
April 6

Justice Week 24-Hour Stand
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cope Fountain

Friday
April 7

UNK Presents The Whistleblower film
7:30-9:30 p.m.
The World Theatre

Saturday
April 8

The Big Event
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Kearney Community

Sunday
April 9

Cello Recital
5-6:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Recital Hall

Monday
April 10

Trans-Nebraska Players Concert
7:30-9 p.m.
Fine Arts Recital Hall

Tuesday
April 11

Foam Party
8-11 p.m.
Lawn by URS

Catch Antelope Speaks with host Christian Schwarz Thursdays at 6 p.m. or go to unkantelope.com for the weekly podcast.

Both writers and photographers will join as guests with Schwarz discussing their stories featured in print that issue. Catch the action live or on podcast!
You may have recently heard that Tomi Lahren was fired from The Blaze for her liberal beliefs. That’s right – snowflake-bashing, gun-toting, liberal-mocking Tomi was found to be too far to the left. Why, you may well ask?

She identified herself as pro-choice.

To be exact, she said that, just as she wants the government to stay out of her gun safe, she wants them out of her body. Even though the argument may be made that bodily autonomy is a greater inalienable right than that to bear arms, the logic behind her statement is evident.

The problem with this situation is not Tomi Lahren or what she believes or doesn’t believe. The problem is one-note politics and the ever-widening schism between right and left.

It is impossible to be respected as a Republican if you believe in climate change or support some form of universal health care or voice a concern about the excessive number of gun-assisted suicides in this country. You can’t voice criticism, no matter how measured or deserved, of Trump or Ryan or Pence without being labeled a socialist.

Similarly, a Democrat must give their full-throated support to every talking point. You can’t argue against including abortion or birth control in a universal health care program. You can’t say, “Hey, Hilary Clinton isn’t actually that great. She lost to Obama in 2008. Maybe we should find someone else,” without being ostracized.

After Aaron Burr popularized the idea of campaigning for president, political campaigns have been an integral part of our government. Your entire life had to be completely spotless before embarking on one of these suicide missions. At least, it has a more nuanced view of gay marriage than the GOP party line, their campaign will, most likely, not succeed. Marco Rubio, one of the most promising of the 600 Republicans who ran in the primary election, was derailed by a slightly more liberal-leaning immigration policy.

After the popularity of Bernie Sanders in the primary election, Clinton found herself having to swing further and further left to attract his supporters. This resulted in a presidential election pitting socialist ideas against Trump’s isolationist and nationalist agenda.

The spectrum of politics is not a straight line, stretching eternally in either direction. Instead, it is a horseshoe shape, with the extreme elements of both being closer to each other than they are the middle. Socialism and fascism are but two sides of the same coin.

Instead of closing our ears to any ideas different than those we espouse, we should allow for dissent and debate within the ranks of each party. Failing to do so will only deepen the gulf between the two extremes.

It’s completely possible that this whole scandal is a headline-grabbing way for Tomi to garner some buzz before her eventual shift to Fox News. While many may rejoice at the absence of one incredibly-angry blonde from their Facebook news feed, the action taken by The Blaze is a concerning commitment to the dangerous practice of one-note politics.
Let’s Party!

Looking for some creative fun with friends? Come to The Rustic Patch for a private party where you can craft and have a great time. The Rustic Patch is a place to create fun and unique decor projects from scratch. Each event you will be instructed and guided through the entire creative process, from a raw material to your final project. Visit our website to set up a date and time. Hope to craft with you soon.

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Create. Love. Inspire.

The '17 Greeks of summer

7 of 8 New Student Enrollment Leaders are members of a Greek organization

For the women: Katie Benner, Central City, of Alpha Omicron Pi; Laura Hawk, Ewing, who is actively involved at the UNK Newman Center; Elena Leininger, Aurora, of Alpha Phi; Ahnika Lutz, Omaha, of Alpha Xi Delta; For the men: Luke Grossnicklaus, Aurora, of Sigma Phi Epsilon; Alex Hart, Lynch, of Sigma Tau Gamma; Logan Krejdl, Aurora, of Pi Kappa Alpha; and Jachob Wiedenburg, Sidney, of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

RYAN BOYD
Antelope Staff

Congratulations are in order for the newly selected New Student Enrollment Leaders as the work for the summer of 2017 starts right away.

The first look and final decision for potential Lopers originates from the admissions office with New Student Enrollment. Faculty and staff could not bring thousands of students through in a one-month span on their own.

Instead, they look to current students who step up to key leadership positions by welcoming in new freshmen.

Among those who interview students every semester for NSE are Assistant Director of First Year Program Brette Ensz, and the Associate Director of Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions, Brad Green.

These two help conduct interviews every semester for NSE Leader positions as well as Student Diplomats, who take high school juniors and seniors on campus tours to give them a better idea of what college at UNK is like.

This past semester was especially tough for the selection committee as an incident on campus occurred the same night of a social that would help give Ensz and Green better ideas about who would be a good fit for NSE. A suspicious bag in the Fine Arts and Humanities building on November 29th caused all classes and activities on campus to be cancelled.

“The incident definitely created a bind for us considering we had roughly 70 applicants apply for all leadership positions, and almost 55 of those students were trying to become NSE Leaders as well,” Ensz said.

“The social helps us see who meshes well together in group settings and show whose personalities work better with certain people,” Green said. Classes resumed the following day, but the social had to be cut from the schedule.

Ensz and Green had attended a conference prior to the 2016-2017 academic year and had decided to go with a new approach for the selection process. “For the first time this year we decided not to allow returners. We potentially would have had up to five returners and we thought we would go with a clean slate to allow more students to gain experience and exposure,” Green said.

After a tough process over Christmas break, the interviewing group decided on a team that features leaders from the fraternity and sorority community.
Tattoos have poignant origins

Abbie Rohr
Antelope Staff

Now that the weather is getting warmer you may start to see a little more skin from fellow classmates. Along with the extra skin comes the works of art that some students have put on their bodies.

I wanted to hear from students who have made their bodies canvases. During my talks with three students sporting tattoos, I found hardships that they have come across because of their decisions to get tattoos, got a good laugh when hearing the story of the measures one girl took to hide her tattoo from her parents and also learned why students who appreciate art love the tattoos they wear on their skin, as well as some of the deeper meaning behind the art.

Trisha Miller said she currently has three tattoos. “The first one, on my shoulder, is the word ‘HOPE’ but the ‘O’ is a dandelion, that I got when I was 16. The second, on my forearm, are the initials of four … friends I have lost to suicide and cancer, that I got when I was 18. And the third, on my outer thigh, is what I call my ‘theatre’ tattoo, it is a skull half way covered by a mask, meant as an homage to Hamlet and the traditional style of Greek theatre done in masks,” said Miller, a sophomore theater major from Lincoln.

Miller gets a lot of questions about the tattoo on her arm dedicated to her friends parents of the friends she had lost. “The tattoo on my leg has a lot to do with finding the beauty and good in a bad situation,” Miller said.

Missouri, has a quarter sleeve tattoo of an astronaut, an anatomical heart with flowers on her forearm and a camera light meter on her wrist.

“My anatomical heart tattoo is based off of my favorite novel, ‘The Bell Jar’ by Sylvia Plath. The heart represents the want or need to survive, and the flowers symbolize that inner beauty always comes to the surface,” she said.

However, not all of Donahue’s tattoos have a deep-seated meaning. “Things like suicide and cancer are things that need to be talked about, and if others won’t talk about it, I will,” Miller said. “I have a daily reminder to keep pushing on through life, no matter how hard it gets.”

Bridgette Donahue, a sophomore English writing major from Springfield, Missouri, has a quarter sleeve tattoo of an astronaut, an anatomical heart with flowers on her forearm and a camera light meter on her wrist.

“Two out of the three tattoos I have just because I like them and I feel like they help me express myself. I don’t think that every tattoo needs to have an emotional intention behind it,” she said.

Donahue believes that society is warming up to the idea of having tattoos. “I have gotten many compliments on my tattoos and very few negative comments. However, when I go to a job interview, I still feel like I need to keep them covered because they might have a negative professional effect,” she said.

Donahue plans to further her career as a writer/photographer, so she doesn’t believe her tattoos will affect her. Her Plan B is to become a teacher, where she said she may experience some difficulty in regard to her tattoos.

Lauren Wagner, a senior sports management major from North Platte, has one tattoo of an anchor. “My tattoo artist was very judgmental and tried to convince me to get something else,” she said, “He actually called me a basic white girl for getting an anchor and I almost walked out.”

Wagner’s tattoo symbolizes her favorite Bible verse: “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,” found in Hebrews 6:19. “To me, that means never lose hope, no matter what happens, no matter where life takes you, never lose your hope,” she said.

Wagner got her anchor tattoo on her 18th birthday without telling her parents. “They absolutely despised tattoos,” she said, “My sister has one too, and when we were dress shopping for her wedding my mom saw her tattoo. Later in our hotel room my mom told my dad about it and he pulled the classic ‘we’re not mad we’re just disappointed’ which everyone knows is worse.”

Wagner said about five minutes later her dad looked at me and asked, “If the
CODY MOSLANDER
Antelope Staff

Kearney is hungry for a good time and that fact was evident Wednesday, March 29, at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds. The extension center was full of community members who came to get a good meal while supporting a good cause. The women of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority were there to serve them.

“Our job as Greek members is to give back to those around us. We pride ourselves on the philanthropic work we do, and many other people and organizations rely on that from us,” says Tatum Eskra, a senior from Beatrice who is the current public relations chair for Gamma Phi Beta.

The proceeds for the event went toward the non-profit organization Girls On the Run. Gamma women say this organization inspires girls to take charge of their lives and define the future on their terms. A percentage of their proceeds were also donated to the Buffalo County Community Partners.

Eskra says the members of the sorority “believe that it is important to give back to our Kearney community.”

Those who attended were waited on by the members of the sorority and treated to a meal of pancakes, eggs and sausage.

“We have always had a decent turnout, but this year was so much more than we could have anticipated,” Eskra said.

What looked like hard work for the ladies just meant that there were a lot of generous people out in the community ready to donate and enjoy a good meal.

People left with a belly full of food and the knowledge that they did a good deed.

And how did the sorority feel about all of this? As Eskra says, “Overall, this year the pancake feed surpassed our goals by a number that we could never have imagined. We are so thankful to everyone for coming out and supporting us!”
Newly sprouted grass and tree leaves have beautified the grounds of campus in a few weeks, and early Saturday morning on April 1 participants of LPAC’s Fun 5K Run/Walk enjoyed the scenery of the first signs of spring during the event.

The event also served as a learning experience for students in health majors as exercise science professor Greg Brown said, “With the area of study, they are probably going to have to operate a 5K sometime in their life. So, it is a learning experience, in addition, it’s kind of fun, right?”

The race started at 9 a.m. in chilly air as runners and walkers followed the route by a guided bicyclist, starting in the parking lot by Randall and Mantor Halls.

Participants took a right onto the sidewalk of University Drive by the CTE and CTW towers to 9th Ave by the University View, completing one short lap.

Then, participants turned onto U.S. Highway 30, until turning right by the Health Science Education Complex, returning to University Drive.

Close to victory, the first runner, JP Rech ran under the University View to the finish line with a flat time of 17 minutes.

In the UNK men’s division he was followed by Andrew Riesenberg, completing at 19:43 in second place. Jeremy Cissel came in third place, finishing strong within 20:45.

In the UNK women’s division, Micah Lucas came in first place with a time of 24:27. Second place, Madison Sloup, finished only 12 seconds after Lucas, timing 24:39. Kelsey Sloup came in third place with a time of 25:09.

The positive effect of the run/walk on mood and health left students and community members springing off on the right foot that day. After catching their breath, participants enjoyed a breakfast of bananas and orange slices.
Tell us about your career path at UNK: “I came to Kearney State College in 1978. I applied for a position in the copy center, which nobody probably knows what that is anymore. It had a copier, but we also did all of the mimeographing of tests for faculty.

The building was called the Administration Building and sat west of what now is Founders Hall. Before I came here it had a theater-type auditorium on the back of it. When they tore it down, the ticket office was still in this old building and the copy center was in part of that old ticket office. I worked in there for about three months.

Then there was a position that opened in the purchasing office. The purchasing office purchased supplies and took care of the different departments – everything went through there. Plus, we had the motor pool. We were real familiar with all of the faculty at that time because they would have to come in there and get car keys to go out to teach classes off campus. We didn’t have the web at that time, of course. You really got to know those faculty.

From the purchasing office I went into the finance office. We used to have to type all of the documents for payments and such to be sent to Lincoln. We don’t do that anymore, either. The person that I went to assist as director of finance was Reinhold Ehly. From there, that’s the position I’ve always held.”

Three words that describe your personality: “The very first thing that forms my fabric is my faith. And through that faith comes caring and a positive attitude.”

Share something about yourself that few people know: “I served as the state president in 2013 for the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Auxiliary. I’m also a certified scuba diver.”

What do you like most about your job? “I like the one-on-one conversations. I work with kind of a difficult part of collecting bad debt. So, if a student emails me I try to reach out to them to either call me, or come in and see me. I want them to know that our doors are open and to not be afraid. If something happened in your life, it’s not the end of the world. We can try to help you out. If you ignore us, we don’t have any other option than to send you to an outside collection agency.”

What is the biggest change you’ve seen at UNK since you started? “Probably going from Kearney State College – where we were the largest of the state colleges – to the University of Nebraska system, where of course there was UNL and UNO.”

What is the best business/work/career advice you received? “A lady who was my supervisor, Marietta Sims, told me to always come to work on time – maybe even a little before time – and do the best of your ability. If anytime you need to offer your assistance to someone else, do that. I still live by that. It’s good advice, and she said you’d be rewarded, and I have been. She also said to get involved. I served on different committees on campus.”

What is your favorite thing about UNK? “I think it’s the partnership and the relationship with the city of Kearney. I think the students think Kearney is a vibrant place to live and work. It’s interesting with our diverse student population. Learning about the different cultures. I grew up in a small town in Nebraska, so you don’t see all the diversity that you do here on campus. I think that’s great. And they’re willing to teach about their cultures.”

Where is your favorite place to visit on campus? “My husband, Gene, and I are avid Loper fans, so I’d say my favorite place is sitting in the Health and Sports Center watching volleyball or basketball. We enjoy baseball and softball, too, but the times they play we’re still working. So, when I retire I’m hoping to get to more of those games during the day.”

What is the biggest challenge you faced in your time at UNK? “Probably dealing with difficult people to come to a calm manner. You get yelled at a lot trying to resolve their problems, or trying to come to some resolution for the situation that they’re in.”

What qualities make someone successful in your position? “I think you need to have patience and compassion. You also need to be a problem solver.”

How do you measure success, in terms of your career? “There isn’t anything better than when a student, after you’ve gone through stuff with them, says thank you. Or a parent will say you’ve been very helpful.”

Tell me about the time in your life at UNK when you worked the hardest? “We used to really work hard during the first week or two of semesters because we didn’t have online registrations. That meant we had to load up all of our computers. We had student tables in our office that we took to the student union. Students lined up and went through the registration process, registered for their classes and then came through our side in the Ponderosa Room, where we had all the paper loan checks.

We hired 26 extra people to help us. We’d do that for a whole week, but that wasn’t the only thing. Some in our office would have to come back later in the day to do the same thing for night registration. Others would pack up and go to Grand Island and do registration and fee payment over there. Those were long days.”

If you could go back in time, what would you do differently? “I might take some classes. When my kids were growing up we were so busy. That would have been fun. When I retire I might do what they call senior college. I might try doing that. I like history.”

What is your fondest memory of UNK? “Realizing that I did make a
Buffalo County Partners bring suicide awareness to Kearney community

MICAELE KLASSEN  
Antelope Staff  

Hope and Healing: A Life Intervention Project, provided the Kearney community with a discussion panel last Monday, March 27. The panel was facilitated by Buffalo County Community Partners with the help of a UNK student Maggie Lesia, an occupational therapy and family sciences double major from Fullerton.

The panel, held in the World Theater downtown on the Bricks, was well-attended and successful according to organizers. Community members were invited to pose questions in a forum where speakers shared resources, trainings and programs.

The entrance to the theater was lined with pamphlets, candy, magnets and friendly volunteers offering information about their organizations. The smiles and conversations started there continued into the theater room. Once the panel began, seats were hard to come by while the audience sat and patiently waited for the question and answers to begin. More than 300 people gathered to hear panelists talk about suicide prevention resources. The object was to have the community come together and create messages of hope and healing while sharing the resources that are available in the Kearney community, as well as the state and nation as a whole.

During the gathering, panelists fielded several dozen questions, addressed myths about suicide and touched on the agencies equipped to provide mental health services, including Richard H. Young Hospital, Region 3 Behavioral Services, Kearney Police Department, churches and Kearney schools.

People learned about suicide prevention resources for teens and went home with a hotline number that should be programmed into every teenager’s phone: 741-741.

“As I look out across the room, we accomplished getting the community together. The event is titled Hope and Healing and that is what we are trying to get out of it,” said Doug Tillman, a UNK assistant professor.

Friston said, “Suicide is a raised awareness resource in our community... We can make good things happen from tragedy.”

A main take-away from the panel was to relieve the stigma between mental health and social ranking. “One in five struggle with anxiety and depression. Youth struggle with anxiety and depression. We have to remove the stigma, there should be no shame in seeking help. If you don’t know where to go family doctors can point you in the right direction,” said Koetters, a Kearney police officer.

The panel presented options of how to talk to children when they come to their parents upset or confused, stressing how important it is not to pry but instead to be present and in the moment with the child.

Learning about mental health is a constant learning process, according to panelists. The brain is complicated and this team of professionals emphasized the mission to keep learning about how to treat teens.

Social media is a key way children express themselves in our society today. A main take-away from the panel was the need for parents to be involved with and understand social media. Jason Sharp said social media is privilege, not a right. It is OK for parents to monitor their children's social media accounts to ensure their children are safe.

Sharp said leading honest lives as a parent can also open the doors to communication with children. If a child has a problem and they see their parents leading an honest life, that child may open more about how they feel and the tough situations they are in.

“For example, if you have a telemarketer calling, don’t lie and say you’re not there. If you mess up with something you told your kids you would be better at, then tell your kids you’re trying to be better, then accept it.”

“As Gandhi says, ‘Be the change you want to see’. So, are you gonna talk about it or be about it? I say let’s be about it,” Sharp said.

The purpose of the panel was to educate the community on the resources offered. If you are interested in learning more visit http://www.bcchp.org/ to view resources. A video of the panel is also on their webpage.

Participants on the panel included: Ranae Zimmer, co-founder of LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors); Krista Friston, professor at UNK and clinical director of LOSS; Jason Sharp, member of the LOSS team, advocate for teens and runs a youth ministry; Jessica Vickers, who works with youth in the community and is partnered with Buffalo County Community Partners (BCCP) to bring healthy minds; Jason Koetters, a police officer with Kearney Police Department, liaison between LOSS and police who is also on the hostage team; Melissa Dobish, Kearney Public Schools crisis of loss as well as oversees social emotional needs in the schools and Jill Schubauer, who gives training for suicide prevention and warning signs.

How you can help:
Rae of Hope Foundation Launch Party to prevent teen suicide: 6 p.m. April 13, Buffalo County Fairgrounds. The event is free, and donations for the foundation will be accepted. More information is available by calling 627-3033.

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April 5, 2017
Robot’s programmed to play golf

MICAELE KLASSEN
Antelope Staff

The bots were battling it out on a miniature golf course when computer science majors at UNK held a robot competition Friday March 31. Four teams consisting of three human people and one robot competed in three rounds where each team was allowed three minutes to get the golf ball to the hole.

One team was able to get the ball to the hole by dragging it. The students learned how to program the robots using algorithms and equations. Robots used light, color recognition and angles to get the ball to the hole successfully. The competition was held in Otto Olsen.

LEFT TO RIGHT: (Left) Jones is ecstatic when he sees his robot working. (Right) Randy Jones, computer science major from Papillion, discusses the equations used to program the robot to be able to navigate through a simulated course and to putt the golf ball.

Regents approve student union renovation project

UNK COMMUNICATIONS

After board approval Friday, the 55-year-old Nebraskan Student Union at University of Nebraska at Kearney will be getting a new look along with new dining options for students and the community.

Under plans approved Friday by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, a proposed multi-phase remodel of the Union will begin immediately after final design and bid-letting.

The planned Union remodel project will include new retail areas that – under a renegotiated contract with UNK’s food-service provider – include a Chick-fil-A restaurant and fully-licensed Starbucks coffee shop. The project will pay for from facility reserve funds and vendor investment – not state funds, according to Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Jon Watts.

The two new restaurants are included in the proposed ground floor remodel that will change the building layout to a more open entrance and adjacent corridors; reconfigure and remodel meeting spaces and dining areas; update interior finishes and add new furniture. The project will also fix HVAC and air exhaust, lighting and sewer issues in the building.

The $6 million renovation will provide space appropriately designed for modern student meeting, retail and lounge needs in addition to office and program needs to oversee student recreation, government, and organization functions and allow better use of student areas 24 hours a day.

The 22,000-square-foot Nebraskan today houses the offices of Multi-Cultural Affairs; Student Engagement; Fraternity and Sorority Life; Student Government; student meeting, cafeteria and food court; the Antelope Bookstore; several retail and food locations and large meeting spaces, including a ballroom. The Office of Multicultural Affairs offices and adjacent areas on the east end of the first floor saw a renovation in 2015-16. The remainder of the first floor will be upgraded to match the design/ décor of that first phase.

Discussion about new restaurants for the food court has occurred the last several years among UNK students and student leaders; UNK Business and Finance, which operates the business side of the Union, including meal plans; and Residence and Student Life, who are responsible for overseeing student housing and student services.

A coffee shop that carried Starbucks products has operated in the Union since 2002, but the newly-renovated space will allow a 1,208-square-foot shop, which is the minimum for a full-scale Starbucks. Chick-fil-A would be located in 937 square feet on the southwest main floor.

The food retailers in the Union, under contract with Chartwells Dining Services, are available for students to use their flexible meal plan dollars. The restaurants are also open to the public. The other national food chain in the Union currently is Subway, which will remain.

“The Nebraskan Student Union is the heart of our campus, serving the entire UNK community,” Watts said. “This multi-phase remodel will enhance the social and student activities hub of the university, providing programs, services, and spaces that are more fully aligned with current and future needs of students.”

Project design could begin in April with the restaurants ready during the fall semester, with additional construction concluding by early fall 2018.
Car Rental program needs new leadership

Affordable, accessible rental cars now available to students, faculty

KENNEDY SCHAEFER
Antelope Staff

Erik Frias is looking for his replacement as new student ambassador for the UNK CarShare Program. The senior from Lexington, who will be graduating in May, said that any student wishing to take over his position as the next student ambassador for the program may do so. "It's a great position, it sharpens up your sales skills and you get to do marketing on campus and with other businesses around the area."

Frias is at the student union every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Please reach out to me about (friaskev@lopers.unk.edu) CarShare or the internship program; it actually counts for six credits if your degree requires an internship," he said.

Frias said not everyone realizes the benefit of the program. "The convenience of getting around town can be a challenge for some students who may not have access to a vehicle in the Kearney area. With the CarShare Program students have access to an affordable rental car right from campus. "Students can rent a car for $8 an hour," Frias said.

The program began on larger campuses across the U.S. and has become a way for students who may not have access to a vehicle to obtain one while attending college. With a few requirements, students or faculty members may rent the vehicle instantly. The program requires students/faculty ages 18 years or older to hold a valid driver's license (International driver's license accepted) and a valid major credit card in their name. Students can rent a car and keep the car overnight for $35 or an entire day for $65.

Frias said they currently have one car and have about 50 members, but with 80 or more members, they can get a second car.

Students who wish to join or learn more about the program can go to: www.enterprisecarshare.com. The car also has its own parking spot in front of the student union on campus. "The hassle of trying to locate a parking spot is not a concern when renting the CarShare vehicle."

BENES from page 1

come together tonight when the curtains open.

You can see The Illusion in the Miriam Drake Theatre April 5-8 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 9, at 2:00 p.m.

BEERBOHM from page 8

difference, or somebody was listening to me. Or when I'm out at a restaurant or on the streets of Kearney and some student comes up and says hi. I think that's the most satisfying thing."

TATTOO from page 5

good kid has one, then where's yours?"

She said she was laughing so hard she couldn't even try to lie about it. "I was pretty impressed that I was able to hide it from my parents for three years."

If these students accounts have inspired you to make your own student body a canvas, Bread N' Butter Tattoo shop owner Josh Rivas in Kearney offers special discounts to students. "When students bring in their student IDs they get $20 off every $100 dollars they spend on their tattoo."

TRIKE BOWL

When: April 11, 2017
Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Cushing Coliseum

4-person race team. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

"Register by April 10
"Register on IMLeagues.com
"Download the REC*IT app
"No registration fee

Trike Bowl was a popular race back in the 80s and 90s that took place the night before the annual Bike Bowl race. It's time to bring it back! Get your teams together for a competitive trike race around the indoor track!

unkintramurals@unk.edu lopers@unkalumni.org
308-865-8676 308-698-5271

Erik Frias, student ambassador for the Car Share program, sits at the student union booth to offer more information about the car rental program on campus.
Students, faculty and community members were swaying along to great live music all night at the annual spring concert Thursday, March 30, at the Health and Sports Center, sponsored by Loper Programming and Activities Council (LPAC).

Joe Nichols was this year's headliner, with opening acts Logan Mize and Parmalee. Around 1,500 tickets were sold for this year's concert.

Nichols is a multi-platinum RED BOW recording artist and one of country music's most praised traditional artists. He's the proud winner of the Academy of Country Music's "Top New Male Vocalist" award, the CMT "Breakthrough Video of the Year" award and the "Horizon Award" from the Country Music Association.

"Crickets," his latest album, debuted in the Top 3 on the Billboard Country Albums Chart and stole the No. 1 spot for two weeks. Nichols new song "Undone" is said to be the defining song of the summer. This new hit is available now at all digital retailers and streaming services and will be hitting the radio in June.

Nichols entertained the crowd with RIAA gold-certified hits such as "Yeah" and "Sunny and 75," chart-toppers like "Brokenheartsville," "Gimme That Girl," and Top 10 hits like "The Impossible" and "What's A Guy Gotta Do."

Kansas artist Logan Mize opened the show and got the crowd rocking with his 2015 single "Can't Get Away from a Good Time" and 2016 release "Ain't Always Pretty."

Academy of Country Music 2016 nominee and country rock band Parmalee took the stage next playing their latest single "Roots," their biggest hit "Carolina" and "Already Callin' You Mine."

LPAC members spent months lining everything up for the concert. The members were hard at work during the concert as well with check-in, lighting, security and other event details.

LPAC member McKenzie Cuba said, "The spring concert is one of my favorite events we host. All of LPAC's events bring smiles to the participants and fellow LPAC members' faces. Our events are a chance for students to get out and relax in the midst of all their studies and tests. As for the spring concert, the event just has an incredible energy that I love."

MEGHAN WIEDEBURG
Antelope Staff

UNK students, from left to right, Karissa Finke of Ravenna, Jenna Gillespie of Holdrege and Kennedy Sander of Lincoln dance on stage with Parmalee's Matt Thomas at Thursday's LPAC concert. The show at UNK's Health and Sports Center also included opening act Logan Mize and headliner Joe Nichols.