COMMUNITY MARCHES IN SUPPORT OF SCIENCE

“We’re here to celebrate science and show how important it is to the world. Science is super important, and these days people who don’t work in scientific fields sometimes need to be reminded of that. We especially need to remove the subject of science in politics where its validity is often argued against and remind people how much it has benefited, and continues to benefit their lives. People who march with us can call their actions whatever they want. However, for myself and many other participants, we’re simply here to show the love and support that we ourselves, and the rest of the world, have for science,” said Dr. Nate Bickford.

READ MORE on PAGE 3

Participants of the Kearney Science March gather for a group photo in the MONA parking lot after completing the route of the march.

BATTLE OF THE BATHROOMS

KATHERINE COKER
Antelope Staff

The debate over transgender rights always seems to boil down to bathroom talk and which bathroom transgender people should use.

Generally Conservative Republicans say transgender people should use the bathroom of their legal gender, the gender on their birth certificate while human rights activists like those from The Human Right’s Campaign say transgender people should be allowed to use the bathroom of their gender identity.

The transgender community has become more public, but confusion and stigma remain, much of which has come down to the bathroom battle. By allowing transgender people to use the bathroom that coincides with their gender identity, many conservative Republicans say that this would mean sexual attacks on women who are sharing a bathroom with biological men. However, there has been no proof of a single attack in a public restroom from a transgender person. In fact, three GOP Lawmakers have been arrested for sexual misconduct where there have been no reports of sexual assault by any transgender individual.

Who chooses which bathroom transgender students use?

IT HURTS: According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, current data suggests that 20-25 percent of the L.G.B.T.Q community experience hate crimes.

Get Yelled At Get Beat Up

High school senior Gavin Grimm found himself headed to the Supreme Court over the simple

BATHROOMS, PAGE 11
Trump sets different tone

Trump’s First Hundred Days don’t deliver on campaign promises

ELIOT GONNELLA
Antelope Staff

The Honeymoon Phase—this phrase suggests a pause during which everything is going to be perfect. Everyone will be happy doing whatever they want to do and reality doesn’t seem to apply. You hear this used after someone gets married, when they appear bubbly all the time.

You can also apply the term when someone new comes into power. When a president begins his term, the Honeymoon Phase is often used to refer to a period of time called “the First 100 Days.”

Using history and common sense as a guide, the First Hundred Days are supposed to be a time when many things happen. When a president comes into power for the first time, usually the legislative branch is backing him. Drastic changes are supposed to happen and promises should become legislation, though a fair amount of compromise eventually changes the ideas to fit the situation.

I say supposed to, because that has not happened when Trump took the Oval Office. The second he took office, he had the backing of both houses, and he made it sound like the whole nation was behind him in his agenda. Nothing could stop them, and America would be great again!

Trump promised to build a wall and make Mexico pay for it, ban immigrants and refugees from Muslim dominate countries, repeal the Affordable Care Act, dismantle the EPA and persecute Hillary Clinton for…something.

Look at a few news sites and see how well that has gone.

No wall is being built, and Mexico has stopped just short of telling Trump to go **** himself when it comes to paying for any wall. The first Muslim ban has been torn down in the courts and the current ban is facing a similar fate. The ‘replacement’ health care bill sank like the Titanic but, as opposed to a tragedy, it was a bit amusing to watch it die. As for persecuting Clinton, he walked back on that statement more or less the second he won the race.

While I was far from surprised Trump blamed Democrats, liberals and others for these short comings, he can’t continue blaming the same people for different mistakes. He had the power and the opportunity to make it happen. With a majority, albeit not super-majority, in both houses of Congress he had the chance to make his rhetoric a reality. The problem was not Democrats holding Congress hostage, the problem was Trump not connecting with those who may have shared his political party but not his extremist views.

Factionalism exists even within factions. Trump had the opportunity, but his faction or brand of conservatism is not what many within his own party would support. Even those who sold their political souls for Trump’s backing had a hard time gathering support from those who could not bring themselves to support him.

Trump could have changed his tone...
Lately the subject of science has been caught up in the media and in politics as to whether much of it is real or valid, which is quite a silly argument to make. In this modern era, practically every aspect of our lives that we take for granted is the product of science: our medicine, our transportation, our entertainment, our agricultural practices and so on.

A healthy scientific community drives the world forward, and when people get in the way of science, they are only getting in the way of progress. The International Science March, unlike many of the other mass public demonstrations this year, was not specifically a protest. Participants simply wanted to demonstrate their support for the scientific community and lend their voice to the message that science is very important and should not be defunded or brushed aside.

Approximately 130 citizens join in the Kearney march from the parking lot between Founders Hall and Luke & Jake's BBQ to the MONA parking lot. Others joined to support along the way. Participants brought with them their signs, kids, dogs, friends and, of course, a passionate love for science.

Once in the MONA parking lot, participants enjoyed live music, testimonies from organizers and participants for the importance of science and its practices, and even the International Food Truck to refuel and celebrate through food.

There were even a few stands for activities, such as a table with all kinds of scientific equipment for photos, a table with free eclipse sunglasses and posters advertising the upcoming solar eclipse, and posters made for presenting the scientific research that has been conducted by the students and faculty at UNK.

The Kearney Science March was an absolute success as many enthusiastic community members shared their support for the well-being of the scientific community with each other, the city of Kearney and the rest of the world at large who participated in the international science march. Over 600 marches were held in different cities worldwide.

“We’re out here marching for science and the awareness of its benefits. The well-being of the scientific community is very important these days. It always has been in the past, and it’s especially important for future generations, so it’s great to see how many young kids are out here marching with us as well. Personally, I’m marching for both political reasons and personal reasons. In politics these days, science is getting less and less funding and validity, and it is very important to remind people that a strong scientific community can improve people’s lives in any and every way imaginable. And personally, I’ll never forget all the things that science makes possible for me. This summer I’m very excited to be traveling to Africa, and without all the science that goes into things like fuel and air travel this experience that I’m looking forward to would probably never happen.”

Marika Van-Brocklin
Senior, wildlife biology major from Hastings says stop denying science

Photo by Brock Madsen
'It’s on us' - students pledge to end sexual assault

Women’s Center marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month with nationwide campaign

RACHEL AREHART
Antelope Staff

During April, which is recognized as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Women’s Center joined the nationwide It’s On Us campaign, which focuses on sexual assaults and asks students to pledge to stop sexual assault on the UNK campus.

The Women’s Center staff is tabling at the Union every weekday for the rest of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., asking students to take a picture with the It’s On Us sign and to post it on social media with the tags #ItsOnUs and @WomensCenterUNK to enter a drawing to win a free T-shirt. One t-shirt will be given out each weekday for the rest of April.

“It’s On Us is a national campaign that we’re taking part of that raises awareness of the bystander focus on prevention of sexual assault,” said Kristen Tomjack, an undergraduate intern at the Women’s Center. She is a sophomore social work and pre-law major with a women’s and gender studies minor from Wahoo.

“Tabling is a great way to connect with students because you can make that face to face connection that you can’t over social media,” said Bailey Bond, the Women’s Center graduate assistant. “We can share videos and pictures, but making that connection and asking students to get involved when they’re right in front of you is more powerful.”

Sexual Assault Awareness Week is observed on campus from April 24 through the 27.

April 26, Denim Day, started 18 years ago when a sexual assault case was overturned because the Italian Supreme Court claimed that the victim would have had to help the rapist remove her jeans because they were so tight, and therefore consented to sexual acts.

The following day, women of the Italian Parliament wore jeans to show support for the victim. Wearing denim and posting a picture on social media with the hashtag #DenimDayUNK will put students into a drawing to win a free T-shirt.

UPCOMING

The last day of Sexual Assault Awareness Week brings poet Katie Wirsing to campus. She will be performing at 7 p.m. April 27 in the Ponderosa Room of the Union. Her poetry focuses on topics of gender, love, sexuality and spirituality.

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.

Difficult truth

Never afraid of the difficult truths, Wirsing has toured her way to stages around the world, speaking on issues from gender, love, sexuality and spirituality to Jello wrestling and her ever-hilarious Grandmother. Wirsing was a member of the 2006 National Poetry Slam Championship team and 13th-ranked poet at the Women of The World Poetry Slam. Her work has been featured on college campuses across the country, NPR, the BBC and countless local radio stations. She performed as the opening act for The Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and AquaGirl, a queer woman’s festival, as well as the poetic voice on a national commercial.

See more @ http://katiewirsing.squarespace.com/ can get photo online
Health, fitness come easy to Gilbertson

Gilbertson focuses on fitness journey to be healthy throughout college

RACHEL OVERBY
Antelope Staff

Good health is a struggle for most people, but in college it can be an even greater challenge. For sophomore health and physical education major JoHanna Gilbertson, being fit and living a healthy lifestyle follows her in all areas of her life.

Gilbertson, a Kearney native, grew up being fit and eating healthy. She says her mom always had healthy food at their house and has really influenced the way she eats to this day. Gilbertson has been involved in sports her whole life making exercise ingrained into her daily routine.

Each day Gilbertson wakes up at 4:15 a.m. to head to the gym to start her first workout of the day at 5 a.m. “While consistency is key, my workout schedule varies greatly. But this is also very important with fitness to switch things up so that your body is continually changing and doesn’t adjust, hitting a plateau,” Gilbertson said.

From ab circuits to upper and lower body workouts, Gilbertson does it all. She also loves running and is always training for a new race, so cardio is a big part of her workout routine. Keeping variety helps Gilbertson stay engaged and safe while working out. All of this is her personal workout routine, but it isn’t all Gilbertson does to stay fit. She works at Just For Ladies gym and teaches different classes there like water aerobics and some cardio classes.

Although she says it may sound weird, Gilbertson says that she is one of her inspirations to keep fit. “I think allowing yourself to be your inspiration—that gives you more room to grow, and when you aren’t comparing yourself to others you can excel past barriers of who you think you should look like or how you should perform.”

She says her friends and family have helped her to stay fit. From friends and classmates who have become running partners to sorority sisters who become teammates for intramural sports, Gilbertson says she has many people to keep her in check and always working towards a healthy life.

O&A

What do you think is more important: eating healthy or exercising?

To me both are equally as important. For someone who is wanting to see body image results, eating should be your main priority. A healthy diet is how you see results when you are putting in time at the gym. You will even see results just by having a better diet. A major thing for me is the mental part of exercising. It’s my time to focus on me and my life for a bit; it’s an escape from the real world and all of the stressors of everyday life. Exercising gives me a healthy mind and healthy eating gives me a healthy well-functioning body.

Have you always been in to health and fitness?

I don’t think it has always been at the priority level it is now to me, but it has always intrigued me. Throughout high school, I was active through sports and ate decently, but when I came to college I realized it was just another aspect of life that was all on me now. If I wanted to feel better and be healthy then I needed to do what it takes to be that way.

My first semester of college, I didn’t take the time to exercise regularly or to make smart choices when eating and I paid for it. I got sick more often than normal and just felt sluggish on a regular basis. I knew that wasn’t how I wanted to be and so I decided to make changes that would benefit me.

Do you have any advice for students wanting to live a healthier life?

You don’t have to eat a salad for every meal and you don’t have to run 10 miles a day to be healthy. Just cut out some stuff here and there and exercise in a way that you enjoy. You have to enjoy what you’re doing for it to become a lifestyle change.

Our bodies don’t need a Frappuccino every day or ice cream after every meal. Use these as a reward for yourself at the end of the week and give yourself something to look forward to. You of course don’t have to cut out every fatty, sugary, cheesy, what-have-you food out of your diet. I just started taking out small things at a time—taking the top of my bun off when I get a burger, small things like that are the best place to start.

Have you ever considered quitting it all and eating junk food?

YES YES YES but then I quit being dramatic and realize that it’s not some bizarre diet I want to quit on, it’s a lifestyle change. I TRY to only eat out or pig out once a week, but in college that can be hard as many social gatherings involve food. And that’s OK. Don’t miss out on opportunities just to follow a meal plan. One meal won’t change or destroy your life or healthy lifestyle. I get caught up thinking that sometimes, but then I just use it as a motivator to work even harder at the gym and to use that food as fuel.

What does your future look like? Will you continue to stay fit?

I sure hope so and I plan on it! I like the person I am today, and I believe fitness has a lot to do with that. It keeps me accountable and mentally/physically healthy. I also know I have a lot of influences in my life to keep me accountable!

Any words of encouragement?

It’s not about being better than anyone else, it’s about being better than who you were yesterday. Strength doesn’t come from what you can do; it comes from overcoming the things you thought you couldn’t.

Gilbertson started a fitness Instagram page to keep herself accountable and hopefully to inspire others. She posts meal recipes, as well as sample workouts along with her progress pictures. “I wanted to give people an account that was more relatable and encouraging,” Gilbertson said.
Defense downs offense 44-40 in spring game

1. Defensive back Famous McKinnon, a junior out of Miami, Florida, studying business administration, breaks up a pass intended for Jack Lydiatt during Saturday’s spring game.

2. Alex McGinnis, a sophomore quarterback out of Crete, connects with Breon Michel, a redshirt freshman from Colorado Springs, Colorado, for a 52-yard scoring pass in the second quarter.

3. Redshirt freshman Dayton Sealy of Hastings St. Cecilia stiff arms Zach Sullivan while rushing toward the line to gain. Sealey carried the ball 14 times for 50 yards and one touchdown.

4. Coach Josh Lynn hussles in the offensive line at the end of a drive. The spring game was Lynn’s first "game" as head coach since being introduced to Loper nation in January. For the spring game, points were earned for first downs, three and outs, turnovers, sacks, and scores. The defense edged out the offense with two late sacks from Hinwa Allieu, a sophomore defensive lineman from Gaithersburg, Maryland, studying construction management.

Photos by Todd Rundstrom

More Photos online @ UNKANTELOPE.COM
Q&A with Momoko Nakamura

From Fukui to Kearney: Momoko Nakamura is loving life as an international student

How did you learn about UNK?
My school in Tokyo had a connection to UNK. They provided me with information about UNK: tuition, what kind of majors and stuff like that.

Why did you choose UNK?
I knew that Kearney was kind of a small and peaceful place. I also watched a website video on the athletic training program from my professor and it was so interesting. I was immediately interested in studying athletic training here. Tuition was also not as expensive compared to California or New York.

Best part about UNK?
It’s not too big. I like running into friends on campus, making friends in the community and getting to know a lot of people.

Did you always want to come to America?
It was always my dream. I started really wanting to study English and go abroad in high school.

Biggest culture change?
When I was in Japan I would use the train or public transportation and I never drove a car, so every time I needed to go to work or go out to eat, I had to ask friends. It was not annoying, but kind of stressful.

Best part about America?
I don’t know how to explain it, but people are so free. They don’t really care about what other people say compared to Asian culture. We always care about what other people are saying. Like what to wear and small things, but here people don’t say much about others. People seem so free.

Why did you choose to major in athletic training?
I’ve always liked sports. I used to play volleyball and run a lot, but I had some injuries before. So, when I had these injuries I always felt like I wanted to get support from someone to perform better. So that experience made me think, maybe I should study athletic training to know how to support athletes because I know how frustrating it gets sometimes.

Talk about your experience as wrestling team trainer:
I didn’t really know much about wrestling. I didn’t know the rules or how practice goes and stuff like that, but I always liked Roy (UNK Assistant Athletic Trainer/Rehab Coordinator) and knew how great of a job he does, so I was okay with it… I liked it and learned a lot. Compared to other team sports, it’s completely different. I liked that the guys wrestle independent.

Biggest struggle of being part of the wrestling team?
At first I felt pressure being the only female, but I got used to it. I had no bad experiences with the wrestling team.

What are you planning on doing after graduation?
I’m not sure where, but I’m thinking about going to graduate school.

Do you ever plan on going back to Japan?
I don’t want to. I have my boyfriend here. I miss my family of course, but when I went back home last summer it felt stressful and tight. Everywhere it’s so crowded and there’s so many people wherever you go. It was stressful, so I don’t want to go back. I want to explore and keep making friends here.
Communication Day showcases student projects

At 4th annual event, students, faculty, staff, alumnae celebrate cumulative senior projects in Department of Communication

MEGHAN WEIDEBURG
Antelope Staff

Lambda Pi Eta hosted the 4th annual Communication Day Friday, April 21 from 3 to 5:30 p.m., showcasing the diversity within the Communication Department.

Current communication students, faculty, staff and communication alumni gathered Friday for this event in the Mitchell Center.

The event kicked off at 3 p.m. with presentations in two separate rooms. In one room, students from Dr. Fletcher Ziwowa’s senior practicum course presented their final academic service-learning projects with various non-profit organizations in and around the Kearney area.

In the room next door, directing students were able to showcase their multimedia project promoting a documentary project on the Gila River begun last summer by video professor Jacob Rosdail, based upon research by Mary Harner.

Following the student presentations, Lambda Pi Eta organized a professional panel to discuss interviewing strategies for college students, being flexible with jobs and things such as being honest and personable during an interview.

“I think my favorite part about this event is the community aspect, almost like a ‘homey’ feeling I get being surrounded by alumni, current students, faculty and staff of the communication department. Sometimes this event can feel just like a family reunion,” Cherry said.

The event concluded after the professional panel, wrapping up another successful year at communication day.

Each year the members of Lambda Pi Eta get to create what that year will look like. Cherry said, “This year we really wanted to focus on showcasing our students department-wide and are having past and present students come in to present and answer questions.”

Lambda Pi Eta is an honor society in the Department of Communication at the University of Nebraska at Kearney established to honor those students who excel in the communication discipline and support the field of rhetoric. “This chapter of the Lambda Pi Eta honor society is dedicated to developing and spreading the knowledge of rhetoric in order to improve our lives, relationships and world,” said Dr. Ziwoya, Lambda Pi Eta’s adviser.

Miranda Cherry, Lambda Pi Eta member and senior organizational communication major from Valentine, said the overarching mission for Communication Day is to showcase our department on campus in all of its diverse and encompassing glory. “We love our department, and we want to show potential and current students why they should love it too.”

Senior organizational communication major, Holly Green, presents on Communication Day over her academic service learning project for her senior practicum. Green spent the semester working with a non-profit in the Kearney area centered around animal-assisted psychotherapy programs for young children.

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Finding common ground in pipeline fight

People have very different ideas about ongoing pipeline controversies

SYDNEY NORRIS
Antelope Staff

In the struggle between differences of opinions on the pipeline issue, tensions are high. Finding common ground is difficult, especially when it's the ground people are fighting for.

Water, economy and oil are all aspects taken into consideration on behalf of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and the Keystone Pipeline (KXL). To clarify the difference of the KXL and the DAPL, the KXL will be traveling through Nebraska and the DAPL will be traveling through North Dakota near Native American reservations. The disagreements however, have been happening for quite a while.

Frances Bullshoe, a teacher at Marty Indian School in Marty, South Dakota, believes that the government should stop the progress of the pipelines. She attended the No Dakota Access Pipeline, Oceti Sakowin Camp on two occasions.

“As an Indigenous person, it gave me a very uplifting feeling of unity,” said Bullshoe. “Not only for us Native American People, but for all people on Mother Earth.”

Bullshoe said that the tribe’s ancestors have given up their lives to spread the message of “Mother Earth” and have died through genocide. “The messages of our ancestors have always focused on the importance of Mother Earth, and that is our job as indigenous people, to protect her,” says Bullshoe.

Bullshoe not only looks out for the safety of earth but for the safety of water, a necessity for life, she describes.

On the other hand, Republican, Marilyn Synek, a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, studying political science and multimedia, and works as a legislative page for the Nebraska Legislature, believes that the KXL would be beneficial to Nebraska economically and would provide more job opportunities.

“I believe that the KXL specifically will lower the prices of oil, minimize our dependence on foreign countries for oil, bring jobs and people into our state, and help stimulate economic growth in our community,” Synek said.

Synek said she was initially worried about the possibility of the pipeline leaking. However, she was comforted by the thought that the advanced pipeline technology is better now than any of the other pipelines. Synek is excited to see how the executive order will carry out.

“Even though this is just the first hurdle of what will likely be a long process before building commences, I am optimistic that construction will begin in the next few years,” Synek said.

While Synek sees Trump’s executive order as something to look forward to, others feel quite the opposite.

Will Flatness, a senior at Grand Island Community College majoring in information technology, stands in front of one of the Native American camps where thousands of protesters gathered to halt the Dakota Access Pipeline. The camp was burned in February after a governmental emergency evacuation order.

“A major reason I am opposed to both pipelines is the fact that the amount of jobs created for the KXL and the DAPL are negligible when compared to the amount of damage we would possibly do to our country and planet,” Flatness said.

The KXL pipeline will transport tar sands. This type of oil consists of clay, sand, water and bitumen. Flatness is also opposed to the use of the drilling technique otherwise called fracking. Those opposed to fracking think it is a more dangerous type of drilling. Ucsusa.org represents the opposition to fracking, saying it releases dangerous greenhouse gasses into the environment due to the breaking down of rock and the amount of chemicals and energy used to create this process.

Flatness attended the protest against the Dakota Pipeline. Flatness said he witnessed an incredible number of people from all walks of life. “There were also a lot of Indigenous people of various tribes present, which was an amazing thing to experience.”

Flatness believes that if the government continues to build the pipelines, the government has failed. “To halt the building of these pipelines would mean progress.”

In contrast to the opinions of Flatness, a conservationist with Omaha Public Power District, who wishes to stay anonymous, believes that we need to take care of our land. However, his stance is a little different. While he believes that we should take care of our land, he also believes that the government should continue through with both pipelines.

“While there are occasions of pipeline failures/leaks the impact is no different than the trains and trucks carrying the same products when they are involved in accidents,” the forester said.

He said that while pipelines can cause leaks and other problems, trains and trucks can too and have in the past. He talks about a disaster when a train carrying oil destroyed a large number of homes. According to The Oregonian newspaper, one example of many train crashes/derailments, Feb. 16, 2015 in West Virginia, a train carried almost 3 million gallons of crude oil from North Dakota and derailed causing a huge fire.
YOUR LIGHT COURSE LOAD IS HEAVIER THAN YOU THINK.

news

Shakespeare Revels honor bard

Much ado about nothing: Sigma Tau Delta’s Shakespeare Revels honor 400-year old poet and playwright with performances, readings and music performed by faculty and students

JESSICA TUREK
Antelope Staff

“All the world’s a stage, / And all the men and women merely players;” “As you Like It” Act II, Scene VII

Shakespeare, the actor, poet and playwright who has moved the hearts and minds of those who have listened to his words, is considered by many to be the finest writer in English history. His known 38 plays and 150 poems have been translated into every major living language.

Come join Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, in the Fine Arts Hall Studio Theatre on Friday, April 28 from 3-5 p.m. to enjoy their Shakespeare Revels, celebrating his works and the Elizabethan era.

Marguerite Tassi, English professor said, “It will be a great way for Sigma Tau Delta to end with a blast.”

The Fine Arts Department will provide a variety of entertainment. English faculty will read dramatic readings and English students will read sonnets. Theater students will perform three scenes from Shakespeare’s comedies. Music students will play a ten-minute selection of early modern music.

An Elizabethan feast food will be provided by Lopers’ Catering. The menu includes cockaleekie, mincemeat, lamb pies, citrus tarts, apricot cakes, honey cakes, orange cranberry pound cake and butterbeer.

Interested in learning more about Shakespeare?

Sign up on your myblue for one of the fall 2017 Shakespeare courses taught by Dr. Marguerite Tassi listed below:

• Eng 254, general studies
• Eng 463/873, primarily for English majors and English graduate students

There is an exciting addition to these courses, including a master class on Shakespearean acting from an actress/University of Colorado-Boulder faculty member, Tamara Meneghini.

Meneghini will perform along with another actress, a play titled Elizabeth I: In Her Own Words. The script was written by Dr. Carole Levin, a history professor, who will be giving a lecture for the history department on Queen Elizabeth in conjunction with the play.

The play is scheduled to be a MONA Showcase on the evening of November 2.

JESSICA TUREK
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Marguerite Tassi, English professor said, “It will be a great way for Sigma Tau Delta to end with a blast.”

The Fine Arts Department will provide a variety of entertainment. English faculty will read dramatic readings and English students will read sonnets. Theater students will perform three scenes from Shakespeare’s comedies. Music students will play a ten-minute selection of early modern music.

An Elizabethan feast food will be provided by Lopers’ Catering. The menu includes cockaleekie, mincemeat, lamb pies, citrus tarts, apricot cakes, honey cakes, orange cranberry pound cake and butterbeer.

Interested in learning more about Shakespeare?

Sign up on your myblue for one of the fall 2017 Shakespeare courses taught by Dr. Marguerite Tassi listed below:

• Eng 254, general studies
• Eng 463/873, primarily for English majors and English graduate students

There is an exciting addition to these courses, including a master class on Shakespearean acting from an actress/University of Colorado-Boulder faculty member, Tamara Meneghini.

Meneghini will perform along with another actress, a play titled Elizabeth I: In Her Own Words. The script was written by Dr. Carole Levin, a history professor, who will be giving a lecture for the history department on Queen Elizabeth in conjunction with the play.

The play is scheduled to be a MONA Showcase on the evening of November 2.
necessity of going to the bathroom. Grimm, a transgender teen was told by school officials that he could not use the boy's restroom in his Virginia School because his birth certificate labeled his legal gender as female.

The case was sent all the way to the Supreme Court, which then sent Grimm's case to a lower court saying states should make the decision rather than issuing a federal anti-discrimination ruling. The state should decide whether Grimm has the right to use the boys' bathroom in his Virginia School.

Under President Obama's administration, public schools had been instructed via an executive order last May to let transgender students use the bathrooms matching their chosen gender identity, threatening to withhold funding for schools that did not comply. Transgender people and supporters hailed the step as a victory for civil rights. However, in his first weeks in office, President Donald Trump revoked these federal protections for transgender students and stated that any decisions would come from individual states and school districts.

"This is an issue best solved at the state and local level," Trump's Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said in one of her first public policy statements. "Schools, communities, and families can find -- and in many cases, have found -- solutions that protect all students."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said, "Congress, state legislatures and local governments are in a position to adopt appropriate policies or laws addressing this issue. The Department of Justice remains committed to the proper interpretation and enforcement of Title IX and to its protections for all students, including LGBTQ students, from discrimination, bullying, and harassment."

The choice to leave the decision with local governments and school districts could allow for more instances of potential prejudice against transgender students in conservative areas of the country.

Sarah Warbelow, the legal director of the Human Rights Campaign was disappointed that the Supreme Court chose not to act in regards to Grimm's case instead of taking a stand for transgender rights. "Thousands of transgender students across the country will have to wait even longer for a final decision from our nation's highest court affirming their basic rights," Warbelow said. Kerri Kupec, a lawyer with Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative Christian group, was pleased with the development. "The first duty of school districts is to protect the bodily privacy rights of all of the students who attend their schools and to respect the rights of parents who understandably don't want their children exposed in intimate changing areas like locker rooms and showers," says Sarah.

Nebraskans expectedly have a wide array of opinions on the controversial issue.

The Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts has been very vocal against the original federal ruling to allow transgender students to use the restroom of their gender identity and urged local school boards and the State board of education to reject the federal guidelines. Gov. Ricketts has said he does not have the power as governor to set policy for schools. But he said that as a parent, he would worry if his children were using a restroom with a student of the opposite sex.

Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson sent a letter to federal officials objecting to the guidelines and promising that his office would do "everything in its power" to resist them.

Nebraska was one of 10 states that filed a joint lawsuit challenging the Obama Administration's Executive Order in July of 2016. Nebraska filed on March 16 to drop the lawsuit after President Trump revoked the previous administration's executive order.

Marilyn Synk, a political science major and activist from Kearney agrees with President Trump's actions to lift the bathroom guidelines. "As a supporter of limited government, I believe that these types of decisions should be made locally, so members of the community can give their input. I am in opposition of schools converting their bathrooms and locker rooms into transgender compliant facilities. This fosters the opportunity for sexual harassment and assault to occur. Additionally, young girls and women can be traumatized by being seen in compromising situations by men regardless of their intentions and gender identity. These radical open bathroom policies are a violation of an individual's safety and privacy."

Not everyone in Nebraska feels the same way as Gov. Ricketts and Attorney General Peterson do about the issue.

Katie Kovanda, an elementary education and early childhood inclusive major from Grand Island feels that all students should be protected, including transgender students. Students who face adversity often have lower academic success. "As a future educator, it is my educational obligation to ensure the safety of all students. Teachers must cater to the needs of each individual student. Transgender students are a minority group who face tremendous challenges in society. Public schools should protect them to ensure their safety and success."

The Transgender community has made progress toward being recognized and understood but there still remains a stigma around them that stems from the fact that a majority of people, including lawmakers and representatives do not understand what being transgender means.

During Gavin Grimm's Supreme Court hearing, U.S., District Court Judge Robert Doumar claimed that being transgender was a mental disorder, an idea that the American Psychiatric Association has deemed untrue.

The battle of the bathrooms is far from over but many see it as vital for the transgender community to continue to fight for this basic right.

and made deals with influential members of his party, but that would have led to a compromise. Trump's ego is not too keen on compromising, despite the fact that is how the world works.

The first 100 days set the tone for Trump and his political ambitions. From what we have seen, it does not look like it will be a fruitful time. Midterms are coming in 2018 and if the current pace continues, opposition from both parties may elect candidates that do not bode well for Trump. Ted Cruz is facing difficulty keeping his Senate seat in Texas, and other strong tickets a few years ago are finding similar trouble back home. Granted, 2018 is a year away but if the current climate continues, there could be a surprising result or three.

Trump, you had your chance to set a tone your way. You had the pieces in your hands and like some comic book villain, you let it slip through your fingers in arrogance. I would like to say that the "Honeymoon's over," but because your actions, you barely got packed before it was canceled.

and treacherous conditions due to a snow storm.

He breaks down a list of environmental solutions that our country has tried to improve upon such as solar power, wind energy and natural gas. He also lists problems that each of those solutions can cause.

The forester does not know the answer but hopes for more research for both sides of the spectrum to improve the environment and the improvement of human technology so they both can work together rather than apart.

"Clearly, we can't give up the modern forms of energy and go back to a third world level of burning nothing but wood fires...creating even worse pollution due to the number of trees being cut down," said the forester.

While the forester is not only thinking about the environment, he is also thinking about the common wealth of Americans. He said, "We can't give up oil and coal, without a reliable and viable alternative energy source that the average American can afford."

The forester wants both pipelines to go up for the sake of the reasons just discussed; however, he believes that both sides have areas of improvement and hopes they can get resolved in the future.
Dance to the beat of your own heart

Watanabe uses dance skills to participate on campus, follow dreams, practice English

LARS JOHNSON AND
DANIELA GONZALEZ AMOR
Antelope Staff

Senior musical theatre comprehensive major Akira Watanabe from Gifu, Japan, says that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time as an international student here in Kearney. Sitting in the dance studio of the Fine Arts Building, a room where she has spent many hours, reporters had the chance to speak with her about the time she's spent here.

“My hometown and Kearney are pretty similar,” she said. “I’m not from Tokyo or a New York-style city, so it’s very comfortable for me. I think it’s good that UNK is a small school, because all the professors pay attention to each student and are close to us. It’s nice that whenever we have questions we can ask, and even talk about private things.”

Because English is her second language, she says that communication has been a little bit of a challenge, but she also faces the same struggles that English-speaking students face when trying to balance school and a social life. “It’s tough to have a balance. I want to be active and be a better English speaker, so I need to get out and be active and actually speak English with my American friends and catch on to some accents and actual speaking, but I still have to study and get a certain GPA. I have to study by myself, but also be outgoing.” Still, she says most everyone here in Kearney is very understanding and helpful when it comes to the language barrier.

She says she doesn't experience racism much at all here in Kearney, but there still are instances when it occurs. “Sometimes someone will just yell from the car while I’m walking,” Watanabe said, but she cannot be affected. “I just don't care. If you really want to say it to me you can, but they’re just saying it while running away. I feel like I’m so much stronger than them, so it doesn’t matter.”

Watanabe has been very active as a performer from dance to acting to singing. “There are so many opportunities, and as a musical theatre major I need to be on the stage a lot.” She says it’s hard sometimes because English is not her mother language, but she has to speak or sing in English. “But I still get opportunities to be on the stage as a dancer or even say ‘OK, this character can have some sort of accent, it’s a French or a Russian accent, but we’re gonna make it a Japanese accent,’ and that’s so great.”

As a performer, she says her favorite performance was her first time on stage in America. “It was at Kearney Community Theatre, and I did ‘Hello Dolly!’ I did all the auditions on campus and couldn't get anything, but I thought ‘I came here to study musical theatre, I have to be on the stage to learn something!’ So, I went to KCT. I was so grateful that they gave me a role.” Since then, she has performed in shows with KCT, UNK and Crane River Theatre.

Reflecting on her years here, she says many people have helped her. “Dr. Campbell is my voice teacher, so we spend a lot of time together. She like a mother role to me, so I talk to her whenever I have a problem. She’s so great,” she said. “Also I have the (I couldn't quite understand her in the interview, I’ll get you the name ASAP) family as my host family, so they give me a lot of American culture experiences. I also have a best friend, Elizabeth Davis, who I met as a conversation partner through international program stuff.”

Watanabe got involved in the Kearney dance community when she first came here to learn English through dancing. “I didn’t speak English well when I got here, so I wanted to be better in dance and English too; then, I decided to be part of these groups and help myself in both areas.”

The Dance à UNK project launched a few years by Watanabe along with Ana Tejada, a professor in the Spanish Department, who worked hard the first year hand in hand with Watanabe. For personal reasons, Watanabe continued it by herself.

The purpose of Dance à UNK is to teach students who are in some way passionate about dance and theaters but need guidance to improve their skills. “We’ve been in a couple of events as Japanese Festival, Korean Festival and recently at International Food and Cultural festival. I am personally satisfied with the effort we all have put on these past dances,” Watanabe said.

“When I first came here as a freshman at UNK,” she said, “One of the senior students asked me about creating a dance team.”

Watanabe agreed with their idea, “I said that would be nice, so I did it.”

After college, Watanabe plans to pursue what she has studied further, and already has jobs lined up. “I have a job from the end of May to January at the Round Barn Theatre in Indianapolis, so I will be an actress in ‘The Sister Act,’ ‘Legally Blonde,’ ‘Guys and Dolls’ and ‘The Little Mermaid,’” she said.

She is still looking at other opportunities. “I went to some auditions this semester, and I had four companies say ‘OK, when you get done with your contract, come back to us,’ so I can contact them too.”

Watanabe is pursuing a goal to teach and share her personal abilities with those who like to dance and act in theatre while improving her skills by practice. She says she set her mind on a target the moment she put her feet in United States. “I feel proud of myself because I am so close to a degree in the United States, and as an international student I am so thankful, and also thankful to my parents because they support me through my whole experience,” Watanabe said.

She says she is ready to achieve her graduation goal and excited for the projects completed during the past four years, as well as those to come.