UNK TOP 10

U.S. News and World Report ranks UNK a top 10 midwest regional public university

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TALE OF TWO HALVES

Lopers were galloping toward 3-0 until second half collapse

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Experience the sights of homecoming 2018

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UNK named top 10 midwest university

Students, faculty say ranking a reflection of “good things” on campus

Arianne Goode
Antelope Staff

UNK has retained its status as one of the top 10 regional public universities in the midwest in U.S. News and World Report’s annual ranking of higher education institutions.

UNK was ranked No. 10 out of the 36 public regional universities in the midwest, and 53rd overall in the rankings when private institutions are included. That overall ranking is up from 64th last year.

The news was well received on the UNK campus.

“It’s wonderful to receive this affirmation of the good things UNK is doing,” said Dr. Martha Kruse, UNK associate professor and graduate director of the English Department.

“(The) Top 10 designation helps assure our students — both present and future — that UNK offers a first-rate learning experience, one that is committed to student success.”

Students also appreciate the prestige U.S. News and World Report’s ranking gives UNK.

Junior Tawny Moore said, “It was cool that UNK was ranked as one of the top 10 this year.”

The ranking may add to UNK’s reputation as a good place to get an education.

“UNK has the history of being a great teacher’s college,” Moore said. “Now UNK is getting attention for being a “great college in general.”

The magazine also ranked UNK No. 32 for the best regional universities in the midwest for veterans, and No. 47 for the best value in this category.

Including private schools, the magazine ranked 172 institutions in the midwest regional university category.

According to a UNK press release, the magazine’s rankings are based on a formula that uses mostly objective measures of academic quality, such as graduation rates, social mobility, faculty information and admissions data. About 20 percent is based on academic reputation, determined by a peer assessment from top academic administrators at colleges and from high school counselors.

Moore said she thinks the news

RANKINGS, PAGE 10

Campus enrollment takes dip

Despite increase in first-time freshmen, overall attendance numbers down

Safyre Yearling
Antelope Staff

UNK enrollment is down this fall. On the sixth day of the semester, the official counting day, UNK’s head count was 6,327, showing a decrease from last year’s count of 6,644, but that number also includes dual-credit students who were not counted this year.

UNK’s enrollment decline in began after 2012, when 7,199 students attended in the fall.

This year’s drop of 317 students was largely driven by two factors: the last three graduating classes have been the largest in UNK’s history, and this year, those dual-enrolled students were dropped.

While the overall enrollment at UNK is down 1.1 percent, there are signs it may increase in the future. This year the number of enrolled freshman, grad students, and online/distance learners has increased. There are 944 first-time freshmen enrolled, a 4.4 percent increase from last year. There are also 377 students enrolled in online bachelor’s degree programs, a 27 percent increase, and UNK has 1,843 graduate students, which boosts Loper grad numbers 2.3 percent.

Along with these areas of growth, there has also been a 40 percent increase in re-enrollment of students who previously attended UNK, left school, and have now re-enrolled.

Five Year Enrollment

2018: 6,327
2017: 6,644
2016: 6,788
2015: 6,747
2014: 6,902

In 2018, UNK changed its counting method to no longer include dual-enrollment students.
Searching for solution to pigeon droppings

Pigeons continue to nest near gym entrance even though new spikes attempt to combat issue

Sydnee Bartruff
Antelope Staff

Some students at UNK might say that the campus feels like their second home.
They’re not the only ones.
Pigeons have long gathered on campus, as it provides them shelter, warmth and essentially space to hide.
“It’s hard for predators to get to them, so they are pretty well protected, not just from the weather but from other things in the environment,” said Lee McQueen, UNK director of facilities management and planning.
The west entrance of the Health and Sports Center has attracted more pigeons than other areas on campus because of its layered overhang and, of course, better shelter.

Enticing as the building is to the birds, the droppings they leave behind are not. Students, faculty members and administration at UNK have brought up concerns about the smell, health and distasteful appearance of the bird’s droppings.
“We’ve engaged a falconer to work with us a little bit for an opportunity for a natural solution,” McQueen said.
“That worked for a bit, but we didn’t continue on a longer-term basis. That was an experiment last winter that seemed to reduce the numbers for a time. We are just trying to find a natural solution.”

While McQueen said the university’s bird issue is “all about environment,” he added staff is trying to be conscientious about the university’s resources.
UNK has proposed a design for a new entry into Health and Sports Center that might solve the problem, McQueen said, but it’s a “big six-digit fix” McQueen said. The college is not anxious on spending that kind of money.
The only cost-effective tactic may be to focus on cleanliness, one administrator emphasized.
“Our custodial services do a really good job at trying to maintain and keep that area clean,” said Marc Bauer, UNK interim athletic director. “I don’t know how often they clean, but I know they’re out here with high-pressure sprayers spraying (the droppings) off almost every other day.”

Bauer has been with UNK for 22 years and said the birds have been a problem for at least that long.
“Obviously, you want an inviting area for people to walk in,” he said.

“We have tried to keep it as nice as we possibly can. It’s on both sides of the building and it’s just a constant, constant battle.”
Part of that battle comes from not having full control over the situation.
“You can’t tell a bird where to build its nest,” Bauer said with a laugh.
Over the years, UNK has tried various vendors who sell spikes that make it hard for the birds to gain footing. UNK staff has tried metal spikes that McQueen said only worked for so long. Newer generation spikes, made of plastic, have been effective as they have somewhat deterred the birds.
UNK maintenance staff also experimented with different paints, which seemed to work.
“We appreciate that the campus considers it a nuisance; we aren’t fond of it, either,” McQueen said.
UNK crowns homecoming royalty
Quiñonez, Wegener named king, queen

Alana Kellen
Antelope Staff

Every year, students can nominate up to two people from each campus organization for homecoming court. Loper Programming and Activities Council had two representatives and both candidates were crowned king and queen.

Odwuar Quiñonez, a senior elementary education major from Lexington, was shocked when he won. Quiñonez is involved with LPAC, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Kappa Delta Phi, is the secretary for Phi Delta Theta and is the senior advisor for Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, to name just a few of the campus organizations he is involved in.

“I wasn’t nominated in high school, so this was all really shocking to me,” Quiñonez said. “I couldn’t say no to the nomination, because I wanted to represent LPAC as a whole, and I was happy and honored to accept the nomination.”

Alongside Quiñonez was Anna Wegener, a senior from Lindsay majoring in business administration with an emphasis in accounting. Wegener is a member of the Honors Student Advisory Board and the Honors Program, is president of LPAC, a Chancellor’s Student Ambassador, and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma.

“I always hoped I’d be nominated,” Wegener said. “I didn’t let myself get too hopeful, so I wasn’t disappointed, but when they nominated me, and I won — it’s awesome.”

Both Quiñonez and Wegener have been heavily involved in LPAC and with their other organizations during their time at UNK. Being involved can help students get recognized by staff, faculty and other students.

“I’m the only Hispanic that’s on homecoming court and I’m so proud,” Quiñonez said. “I’m outgoing and know a lot of people on campus and now more people are going to recognize me, so they get to see me representing UNK in a good way.”

Quiñonez never saw himself at UNK, but a good scholarship offer changed his mind. Now he loves being here and being a difference maker.

Wegener still can’t believe she won. She wasn’t nominated for royalty in her small class of 11 students in high school, so this was a nice surprise. Her dedication to LPAC made her stand out in her organization and led to her nomination.

“I can’t picture myself freshman year and be like ‘Oh you’re going to be homecoming queen’ and now I am, which shows people know me and notice the work I do on campus and appreciate what I do,” Wegener said.

Quiñonez and Wegener were presented at the homecoming parade and at the home football game Saturday.

Both candidates enjoyed the activities during homecoming.

While Quiñonez’s favorite event is the Lip Sync, he was very excited to be presented in the parade and throw candy to people.

“I just want to thank everyone who voted,” Quiñonez said. “It just means so much to me.”

Wegener’s favorite homecoming event is the parade.

“I love doing the parade. It’s an early morning, but it’s fun to make sure everything runs well,” Wegener said. “LPAC does such an amazing job Organizing and running the parade. I’m excited I get to share this moment with Odwuar and that both LPAC reps won.”
Parade floats fire up team sweepstakes

Teams compete for best float in Nebraska’s largest homecoming parade

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

On Sept. 15, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., people of all ages lined up on downtown Central Avenue to watch amazing floats that represented the best of the Kearney area. From UNK decorative floats to Mason organizations, a plethora of floats showcased their support for everyone in the Kearney area.

Candy flooded the streets, marching bands from Kearney Catholic and the UNK marching band played their hearts out and kids waited anxiously with their plastic shopping bags for more sugary candy.

Tyler Nelsen, Homecoming royalty, said of the event, “It may be different for those that worked on the floats, but I got to ride in a limo with the other students that were homecoming royalty. I know Odwuor Quinonez well and was glad to see him win, and I can’t complain about anything because I got to ride in a limo and then a convertible to wave to people.”

“It honestly felt like I was the king of a country. I was hoping I didn’t need a special wave or anything; it was just so much in a short amount of time, but I wouldn’t change anything,” Nelsen said.

For the UNK floats, this year’s theme was “Circus, Experience the Magic,” in which the floats certainly represented the theme well. The fraternity and sorority life floats, as well as the residence hall floats, contained well-put-together plastic and paper cannons, red and white tents and some students dressing as clowns. With so much creativity on display, these students represented their organizations and UNK immensely.

The student in charge of the Gamma Phi Beta, Phi Delta Theta, and Sigma Tau Gamma float, Colton Nisley, a senior from North Platte, said, “It was exhausting. I loved the support during the thirty-minute ride through downtown and seeing all those kids hoping for candy and especially the adults who wave and give shout outs. It feels like the last three nights of working from seven to three in the morning paid off in the best way possible.”

Nisley’s best ideas for the group’s Circus-themed float was a cannon. It was made out of plastic and...
Experience the Magic

No clowning around at UNK Homecoming 2018
1. CTE and CTW embrace their inner freak to win Thursday night’s Lip Sync competition.
2. Joseph Griffin, Sarah Berke and Sydney Keckler had a successful night at the Lip Sync.
3. UNK Fraternities and Sororities worked together to make a sculpture with canned food.
4. Kenny Ernest recovers from his leg of the Adventure Race.
5. Pride of the Plains Marching Band is joined by alumni for their halftime performance.
6. Alpha Xi Delta, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Phi Gamma Delta and Sigma Lambda Gamma celebrate their adventure race win during homecoming.
7. Alumni of UNK’s Pride of the Plains Marching Band return to play at homecoming.
Bone marrow donation ‘all-around rewarding’
My experience with Be the Match over summer

Elliot Gonella
Antelope Staff

During spring of my freshman year, I wandered to a booth promoting an organization called Be the Match. I was mainly drawn to the Pac-Man t-shirt showing the titular character devour a ghost called leukemia. I was under the impression that if I filled out what they wanted, I would get a shirt. One hour and a few throat swabs later, I walked out with membership to the bone marrow registry and with no t-shirt in hand, as those cost twenty dollars.

I had some possible matches over the next two years, but in April, I received a call that would eventually lead to my first successful donation.

The process of donating started with a typical health questionnaire that took place over the phone. In about one week’s time, Be the Match asked for a blood sample, which I provided on campus.

Two weeks later, I got a call from someone who called themselves my donor advocate. This person stated that, based on the blood and my genetics, I was the best candidate. I received a portfolio of information and legal documents including a one-million-dollar life insurance policy, in case I were to die as a result of the procedure. After filling it out, I called my advocate and scheduled my examination.

I underwent the physical examination at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in early May. All lodging, travel and food were reimbursed. My blood was drawn, urine sampled, veins examined, weight and height calculated, along with having completed a much more thorough medical history background questionnaire that made me wrack my brains to remember what procedures I had had. Medical personnel there also decided that I would undergo the PBSC bone marrow procedure, which would draw stem cells from my blood rather than extract the marrow from my hip bones.

Once those plans checked out a week later, I was told I had to take 1600 milligrams of filgrastim, a chemical that stimulates the growth of marrow stem cells a week leading up to the procedure. I received the injection at a hospital 20 minutes away, and I felt the effects immediately. The stem cells are located in your bloodstream, and the body reacts to them as a foreign threat. I found out later my blood consisted of almost 58 percent white blood cells, so for the week my body acted as if it was fighting a nasty cold. Joint and muscle aches were common along with fatigue, which made my job as a dishwasher a tad more difficult.

After five days of injections, my father flew up from Atlanta—another covered expense—and we drove to UNMC for the procedure on May 24. I had one last check over, gave another blood sample and received an injection of the drug. I lay down on a bed with both arms extended as a needle entered the best veins on my arms. The machine would process 12 liters of blood for the procedure to be complete, and then they would see if they had collected enough in the first go or if I would need to come back the next day. The needle in my right arm was at the right depth to collect the stem cells in my blood stream, which would run through the machine that would separate them from the rest of my blood and return it to my other arm. The whole process took about three hours, and it helped having my dad nearby for conversing.

I thankfully got enough in the first go, and those stem cells are now in someone who is battling leukemia. Since the patient had his or her own marrow destroyed in chemo, this person now has my genetic traits in them as well. The recipient now has my allergies, and in some cases may also have my preferences for food and drink. If he or she also adopted my mannerisms, I think the universe might implode.

It was a very tiring, painful, at times frustrating, but all-around rewarding experience.

Gonella

Top: Gonella waits patiently while donating bone marrow. The PBSC procedure extracts stem cells from blood, rather than hip bones.

Bottom: After a three hour process, Gonella views the stem cells he is donating to a leukemia patient.

“it was a very tiring, painful, at times frustrating, but all-around rewarding experience.

Gonella

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the antelope

by Arianne Goode
English in action with Sigma Tau Delta

Honors Society unites Lopers through literature

Sydnee Bartruff
Antelope Staff

When asked to describe the atmosphere of Sigma Tau Delta, Jessica Moser responded with one word: enthusiastic.

Moser, president of the English Honors Society chapter, is in charge of running the meetings and events for students involved in the program at UNK.

“Our meetings are a lot of fun,” Moser said. “There’s always a lot of laughter and sometimes impromptu Shakespeare readings.”

The most upcoming event is the “Welcome Back Pizza Party and Literary Feast” from 4-6 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the Amphitheater. The event is designed to help recruitment for both Sigma Tau Delta and the English department as a whole.

Other events include a Carillon Release Party from 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 4 at the Alumni House. “The Carillon” is the English department’s annual student publication, Moser said. Also, on Oct. 11, members will meet at 3:30 p.m. at Thomas Hall 107 and anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend the meeting.

“Everyone is always so passionate about their creations that it’s impossible not to get passionate about it as well,” Moser said, about the organization and its members.

Our meetings are a lot of fun; there’s always a lot of laughter and sometimes impromptu Shakespeare readings.”

Jessica Moser

About Sigma Tau Delta

Not an English major, but still a Shakespeare lover?

Sigma Tau Delta allows anybody, English major or not, to join, as long as the student has completed a total of 12 hours in English classes.

To find out more information on how to join, visit the Sigma Tau Delta bulletin board in Thomas Hall.
Brown for an 8-yard score to make it 20-17; the Hornet extra point was blocked by the 6’ 7” Trey Lansman.

McGinnis finally got the offense back on track late in the fourth-quarter as he commanded a 13-play 61-yard drive. On third down and the twelfth play of the drive, he appeared to hook up with former Loper hoops starter Trey Lansman with a 15-yard touchdown pass. The referees disagreed, stating that Lansman had stepped out of bounds. A replay might have disagreed with that call, but the game quickly moved on.

With 4th down looming, the Lopers elected to kick a 32-yard field goal into a 25 mph wind. The kick had the distance but went off the right cross-bar and gave the ball back to the Hornets.

The Loper Defense was able to utilize their two timeouts and force an Emporia State punt with 46 seconds left. Their punter utilized a rugby-style kick that went off one of the Hornets players and gave the Lopers promising field position at their own 43.

After a couple of completions, the Lopers had the ball at Emporia State’s 37-yard line for one final play. McGinnis was hit as he threw to the endzone, so the motion of the throw was affected, and any last-second heroics were neglected as the pass fell incomplete.

“It was a tale of two halves,” Lynn told members of the media. “Emporia did a good job with adjustments at halftime. I thought our defense did an outstanding job against a high-powered offense. Their offense controlled the clock in the second half and made us work. It does sting,” said Lynn. “It’s homecoming, and we had a chance to win.”

While the loss stings for UNK, it is worthy to mention that a game like this may have been seen as a morale victory a year ago. Marstall threw for 435 yards on 36 attempts last season and managed just 132 on 35 attempts this time around.

The Lopers look to get back in the win column next Saturday as they head to Pittsburg, Kansas to face an undefeated Pittsburg State.
Lopers impress at Missouri Stampede

The Nebraska-Kearney cross country teams placed fourth (men) and 19th (women) at the annual Missouri Southern Stampede Saturday morning in Joplin.

This was UNK’s first race of the fall after an intrasquad “Time Trial” back on August 31.

The Loper men came in ranked fifth in the Central Region and should move up after a stellar showing on a very humid day. Kearney tallied 168 points to place ahead of 18th-ranked West Texas A&M (188) and just behind Division I Tulsa (59), No. 20 MSSU (71) and No. 17 Sioux Falls (191).

Besides WT, UNK placed ahead of 22 other squads including 20 from the Division II ranks. The top seven Lopers all finished in the top 71 with the field consisting of 277 runners.

DeWeese junior Corbin Hansen led the way with an ninth place finish (eight team points) by running the 8k course in 25:22.4. Washburn junior Jacob Klemz paced the field in 24:45.4.

Not too far behind Hansen was Juniata freshman Justin Vrooman (29th place & 27 points; 26:03) and Scottsbluff junior Shane Burkey (34th place & 30 points; 26:09.8). Finally, three Lopers scored between 50-58 points led by Stanton redshirt freshman Trenton Cadwallader (26:47.6).

The Loper women, minus two of its top runners, scored 513 points to place 19th in a field of 34. They came in ahead of, among others, five MIAA rivals, three GAC (Great American Conference) members and three schools from the Heartland Conference.

Division I Tulsa (33) easily came in first with D1 Missouri State the runner up (140) and No. 21 Oklahoma Baptist third (160).

Merna junior Elizabeth Cramer was the top UNK finisher, running the 5k course in 19:16.2 to be 69th in a field of 323. She tallied 66 points with Comstock sophomore Zoe Ritz tallying 73 after turning in a 19:21.0. Omaha freshman Emily Robles was the third UNK runner to come in (115th pace & 109 points; 19:41.0).

Tulsa had the top two finishers in Reagan Hausmann (17:26.5) and Caitlin Klopfer (17:33.0). Drury’s Claire McCune was third and the top D2 finisher (17:34.6).

UNK runs again in two weeks at the annual Rim Rock Classic at Kansas.

Set-piece goal bites UNK

Brandon Rojas
Sports Editor

In the game of soccer, set pieces are crucial, and they need to be taken advantage of, to make the best of any game. Taking advantage of a set piece is exactly how Washburn broke the draw early in the first half of Friday’s game against UNK and ended up taking home the victory.

After the ball was crossed in by Washburn sophomore Tera Lynch, the ball bounced off a few players and eventually landed at the open feet of senior Paige Swanson, who slotted the ball past Kearney goalkeeper, Allie Prososki.

An unfortunate turn of events ended up shifting the momentum in the game, as Washburn was able to hold the lead until the final whistle.

Throughout the game, the Lopers had nine corner kicks, seven of those coming in the first half. One of the best opportunities came early in the game at the seventh minute. Junior Molly Willis had a great chance for a goal to put UNK ahead, but her volley sailed over the crossbar.

A quote from Loper head coach Chloe Roberts through Lopers.com said, “At the start of the game, we had a shot in the six-yard box … we have to put that away. Soccer is a cruel game; we miss that, and they go to the other end and score off a set play.”

Creating goals through these opportunities was something that UNK struggled with throughout the entire game, and eventually led to their downfall in the 1-0 loss. The match was a physical affair on both sides, totaling 22 fouls throughout, 14 of those fouls against Washburn.

The Ichabods now (3-3) will face Fort Hays State this Friday at home and look to improve upon their up and down season.

Up next, the Lopers (2-4) look to face-off against Emporia State on the road this Friday and then travel to Topeka for a rematch against the Washburn Ichabods on Sunday, September 23.
Lopers stung by Hornets for first loss

Chris Langin
Antelope Staff

UNK Football dominated their way to a convincing 17-0 lead over Emporia State at intermission on Saturday. Unfortunately, the Hornets of Emporia State returned the favor with 20 unanswered second half points and left Kearney with a 20-17 victory.

On a significantly windy Saturday afternoon, the Lopers (2-1) took their first drive of the game and went 82 yards on 10 plays, capped off by a Darrius Webb nine-yard touchdown run. Not to be outdone by the offense, the Loper defense managed to turn over Emporia State (2-1) on their first drive via a Malik Webb interception that he returned for 62 yards to the Emporia State eight-yard line. Darrius Webb made sure that at least one Webb was credited with a touchdown, as he took the next play into the endzone for his second touchdown of the first quarter to make it 14-0 UNK.

The Lopers had the wind at their backs in the second-quarter and got a 31-yard field goal from freshman Brian Covarrubias, extending their lead to 17-0.

Emporia State's offense, led by Braxton Marstall, one of the most accomplished quarterbacks in D-II, finally got deep into UNK territory late in the second quarter. With 18 seconds remaining, the Hornets were at the Loper six-yard line and had a snap fly over Marstall's head that preserved the first-half shutout for the Lopers.

At halftime, Emporia State had a dreadful 61 passing yards on 18 attempts. The Hornets had a net loss of 1 passing yard when accounting for Malik Webb's interception yardage. Marstall had previously averaged 290 yards per game, passing for the Hornets a season ago.

Defensive end Tye Spies credited the scheme for the disruption in Marstall's production. “We only sent three and had a spy on the quarterback and dropped everyone else,” said Spies. “He didn’t have his first or second read, so it gave the defensive line time to create pressure.”

Emporia State changed course and ran the ball nine times on their opening third-quarter drive and had one complementary 20-yard completion that led to a six-yard touchdown run by Kai Callins to make it a 17-7 game.

After the Hornets forced UNK into their first three-and-out of the game, they moved the ball down to the UNK three-yard line. On fourth down, the Loper frontline swarmed Emporia’s Kai Callins on the thirteenth play of the Hornet drive to preserve the 10-point lead.

Another three-and-out for the Hornets defense gave them the ball at UNK territory to start, and this time, the Hornets cashed it in as wide receiver Tyler Harris lined up in the wildcat and ran outside for a two-yard touchdown run to make the score 17-14 UNK.

The Lopers struggled to move the ball in the third quarter as they managed just one yard and ran just seven plays. Emporia State had over 11 minutes of possession during the quarter.

“I didn’t execute very well,” said Loper quarterback Alex McGinnis. “I missed a few opportunities to get to the perimeter. I haven’t watched the film yet, so I can’t really say for sure.”

McGinnis came into the game with a 191.5 rating and was 5-for-8 with 87 yards passing during the first half. “I was supposed to step up; it was my fault.”

The Lopers had their third drive of the second half stall after a very questionable no call was made when Dylan Reifeis was hit 10 yards downfield and fell to the ground, unable to complete his designated route. As such, McGinnis’s pass sailed a good 20 yards beyond him. Following a punt, UNK coach Josh Lynn was flagged 15 yards while stating his case and protecting his player.

Starting at the UNK 40, Emporia State again marched inside the UNK 10 and this time Marstall found Justin...