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STEM building to be completed fall 2019

Programs in Otto Olsen will be moved to new building next year

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

Since 1955, the Otto C. Olsen building has had its fair share of students walk through the historic halls, but like father time, it's time for UNK to move on as technology advances. The $30 million science, technology, engineering and math building will be completed in Fall 2019.

The 80,000 square-foot STEM building has been on the drawing board for almost 20 years.

“I am very excited for the new building,” said Logan Geiser, a junior from Cozad. “It will be nice to have the new technology. I am going to enjoy that the STEM building is more open space for the technology. But I will miss the historic feeling the old building had.”

According to a UNK press release published in May, Chancellor Doug Kristensen said, “Some of our best programs are in our worst building … I don’t think I’m overstating it when I say this building will change Nebraska.”

When the plans for the STEM building began in 2016, funding was a big talk with all the construction programs around UNK. The funding was finally approved by the Nebraska Legislature and paid for by renewal bonds. The building will be between West Center and Ockinga/Welch Hall.

“We desperately need a new building,” said Zach Carattini, a freshman from Chadron. “It makes no sense that the child development center shares Otto Olsen with the computer science students.”

Dirt has been dug and moved to properly measure the land before progress continues on the STEM Building.

With the establishment of the STEM building, two separate programs currently take place in Otto C. Olsen such as the UNK child development center and the glass-blowing lab.

The UNK child development center will be in a new building being constructed next to the new Village Flats resident hall and will be named the Early Childhood Education Center.

In addition, glass-blowing programs will be constructed in the Fine Arts Building.

A combination of programs will make up the new STEM building. The building has been paid for by renewal bonds. Starting next fall, UNK students will no longer be going to class in a 63-year old educational building.
After nearly two years of planning, UNK has broken ground for the new Early Childhood Education Center at the University Village development south of campus.

The $7.8 million and 19,900-square-foot project will replace the childhood center space in the Otto C. Olsen building which currently serves 60 children of university faculty, staff and students.

When completed in fall 2019, ECEC will house 176 preschoolers from infants to age 5. The new facility will be able to include faculty, staff, and students’ children, as well as children from the community.

“We’re very excited to include community in this Center, as it will provide more diversity and therefore a richer experience for everyone,” said Sheryl Feinstein, dean of the college of education.

In addition to spacious rooms, more learning will be feasible as the new building will be a model for exemplary early childhood education, early childhood educator preparation and research. Likewise, undergraduate and graduate experiential learning will occur in the form of practicums, internships, observations and diagnostic testing.

With its new amenities, the building will also have a new name: the LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center.

Dr. LaVonne Kopecky Plambeck directed the first Montessori Educational Center Omaha preschool in 1968. She has been an advocate for early childhood education for several years.

ECEC will follow the Montessori approach which is self-directed learning allowing children to develop their unique talents and abilities through their own learning style, while building confidence and a sense of independence.

“The mission of the new center will be to provide high quality, developmentally appropriate care and education while encompassing research and academic experiences within the UNK community,” said JoAnna Cordova, the center's director.

Two of the classrooms will be dedicated to Montessori, while the majority of classrooms will have an eclectic approach to childcare and education. There will be classrooms that offer a traditional approach using a research based curriculum and there will also be classrooms that will use the Montessori approach.

“This will also provide opportunities for students and faculty to perform observations and research in a facility on campus,” Cordova said.

The building is funded by state funds through LB 957 and dedicated facility funds from the Plambeck gift.
Keurig Night offers caffeinated retreat

Students come to Learning Commons to get help, free coffee

Alana Kellen
Antelope Staff

The Learning Commons in the library puts on three Keurig nights per semester. These events are intended to promote the Learning Commons and the tutors who are there to help students. Mikalah Brown, the office associate of the Learning Commons, encourages students to use the academic support system.

“The main idea behind (the night) was that students are busy cramming or something and need that caffeine buzz,” Brown said. “There has been a big hit with coffee and students have said we need to have coffee up here.”

Some students weren’t aware of Keurig Night, but when they showed up to the commons to study, they were happily surprised. Jorden Dick, a junior from Kearney, enjoys the night because it’s free coffee.

“I come every week for the chemistry study group,” Dick said. “I usually study before the study group then go to the study group and then go to a tutor afterwards.”

Brown likes the Keurig nights because students can come to the Learning Commons to get know people and the staff.

“It’s a good idea because it gets people over that ‘I can’t get help’ stigma,” Brown said. “Once you get over the stigma of getting up here and asking for help, it’s really not that bad.”

The UNK Learning Commons has 54 staff members between the welcome desk and tutors this semester, including writing center tutors, speech coaches, success coaches and subject tutors.

“I come in here for chemistry tutors, I’ve come for the writing center; anything I feel like I need help with I know I could come in here and get help,” said Carissa Wolfe, a UNK student from Bayard, said. “It’s helpful having someone who is knowledgeable about the certain subject that can help you because most of them went through it themselves.”

Keurig Night attracts students to go to the Learning Commons and gives them another reason to see what it is and how the tutors can help people.

“It’s an open space with specific tables for each subject,” Wolfe said. “The Learning Commons is a good resource for students to use and its nice that they have specific schedules that allow people to come in and get help.”

Lopers in the Spotlight

Rose Deng

Age: 18
Major: Pre-Medicine
Class: Freshman
Hometown: Omaha

Mackenzie Krumland
Antelope Staff

Q: Why did you choose UNK?
A: I just wanted to experience a new place. I’ve lived in Omaha most of my life and Kearney seemed pretty nice. It’s away from home, but not too far.

Q: What is your personal mission statement?
A: Helping people. I absolutely love helping people. Especially people who don’t have anything. When I get older, I want to be a doctor and help people who have nothing.

Q: What inspires you?
A: Seeing people succeed inspires me because if they can do it, I can do it.

Q: How do you deal with failure?
A: When I fail, I work even harder. For example, I struggle with math so when I don’t do well on something, I ask for help and study more.

Q: Who is your role model in life and why?
A: I guess I am my own role model. I don’t really have anyone in my life that I’ve been able to look up to.

Q: What is your favorite comfort food?
A: Albondigas. It’s a mexican stew that has cabbage, carrots, corn and mexican meatballs. I usually eat it when it’s really cold out and it’s just relaxing and calming.

Q: What is your favorite party music?
A: I really love chill songs. I really like Daniel Ceaser. I know he doesn’t have party songs, but they just get me in the boogies.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?
A: I would go back in time. In the past, I regret not doing things I should’ve that I was too nervous to do.

Q: Where do you want to be in five years?
A: I want to go into the Air Force because I want to protect and I know it will bring confidence and they will help me financially and be like family.

NOW HIRING

Photo courtesy UNK Learning Commons

Keurigs, coffee and creamer are available in the Learning Commons to give students the extra kick of caffeine when completing homework.

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Pick up and submit application at any location
Agribusiness increases job placement rate

Internships, coursework lead to 95 percent employment, 5 percent graduate school acceptance for graduates

**Cheyanne Diessner**
Antelope Staff

UNK’s growing agribusiness major is at a near 100 percent job placement rate. Students who learn these skills will be desirable job candidates as technology improves and products change in this field.

“In terms of the high placement rate, I think it is an indicator of the strength of our curriculum and that many of the employers in our area are looking for graduates with an understanding of agriculture and the desire to work in rural areas,” said Dr. Deborah Bridges, an associate professor in UNK’s agribusiness program.

Ninety-five percent of UNK’s agribusiness graduates are holding full-time jobs and five percent go onto graduate school.

As farmers anticipate larger support staffs and increasing technology, workers with agribusiness training are in demand. The agribusiness program prepares students to take on these tasks, starting with the core. Students take business foundation courses, such as accounting, finance, marketing and management to create a broader understanding of agricultural issues and challenges they may face.

“The agribusiness coursework integrates the study of business and agriculture and provides a unified view of the risks and opportunities that exist for agribusinesses; Bridges said, traditional business courses provide students with a strong foundation in the functional areas of business.”

UNK graduates are getting jobs in many fields, such as agronomy sales, elevator grain management, production supply management, insurance sales, equipment sales, finance, ethanol production, agricultural marketing and crop consulting. Some even go back to their family farms. Many graduates receive job offers before graduation.

“A lot of UNK grads are taking the information back to their family farms and are helping their family do things in different ways, especially with the way the farm economy is right now,” said Courtney Leitner, a junior agribusiness major from McCook.

“It’s really interesting to be able to learn those things in class and be able to apply them not only in my future career, but also by helping farmers, ranchers and my own family’s farm.”

Over 90 percent of agribusiness students graduate with an internship experience, which leads them to better opportunities in their field. Students have had internships with Syngenta, FuturesOne, Clevenger Farm Products and Bayer, formerly known as Monsanto. Some students find jobs with the company they have an internship with, completing research and gaining communication skills, which carry on to future jobs.

“Even if companies don’t have spots open for jobs, they’re really good about finding different firms that they know around the area, giving good recommendations for students and getting their interns into those positions,” Leitner said.

In Nebraska, students couldn’t ask for better opportunities to learn hands-on about their field. At UNK, agribusiness students learn everything from the basics of accounting to learning how to handle situations in real life.

“Having those basics and just feeling confident about the information you do know, and then being able to apply those skills into the workforce and in a real-life situation have shown through in past graduates,” Leitner said.

by Mackenzie Krumland

the antelope

October 10, 2018
Orphan Train musical entertains, informs
Members of the Kearney community, as well as Kearney elementary, middle and high school students came together with UNK students and staff to recreate the stories of Orphan Train the Musical. In this musical, it portrays several stories of orphan children given the chance of a new life through the Orphan Train. Although controversial at the time, the Orphan Train gave orphans new homes in exchange for work and was the beginning of the foster care system. The show gave a powerful message by giving the statistics of surplus children during the time of the Orphan Train vs. now.
Career fair encourages exploration

Businesses, graduate schools available for students seeking opportunities

Photos by Nick Hinz
Concern grows with assault case mishandlings

Stigma surrounding sexual assault accusations should warn Americans

It seems that every time the news is on and the current resident of the White House is speaking, there is always something real Americans should be afraid of. Something, or more accurately, some group of people, is out to destroy lives of American citizens.

More recently, he and his unfortunate genetic legacy have been talking about how dangerous it is for men today because of all the harassment allegations and false rape accusations. How they are concerned for the little boys in this world who have to grow up in this fearful time where they are going to be found guilty just because they are boys. The way they present it, rape is a small problem and the real aggressors are women who are seeking fame and money.

As someone who lives in the real world, I can't help but laugh at the mental gymnastics someone has to go through to believe any of that.

False accusations of rape can happen, such as the Duke University Lacrosse team scandal back in 2006, which was the combination of false testimony, mishandling of evidence and an unethical prosecutor. The infamous Rolling Stones article “A Rape on Campus”, in which an unsubstantiated article about a rape by a fraternity at The University of Virginia was published without any supporting evidence, shows that misinformation and lies about this subject can be swallowed easily.

These are exceptions to the rule rather than the norm.

“A review of research finds the prevalence of false reporting is between 2 and 10 percent,” according to The National Sexual Violence Resource Center in a recent report.

At first glance, the numbers may seem to vindicate the feelings that lying about rape or sexual assault is prevalent, the article further goes on to state that false is not the term that can be applied to all those cases. Baseless, or unable to find corresponding evidence, but the testimony is believed to be truthful, would be a better term for many of those cases labeled as false. The ways rape cases are handled and cataloged vary widely from state to state, in some cases even town to town. While one city may dismiss a case because the alleged rape victim delayed reporting, another city may discount the accusation because the available evidence may not back the individual’s testimony. Because of the differences with cataloging accusations that are not prosecuted, it inflates the number of false accusations to be used as a talking point.

Rape and sexual assaults are a major concern, regardless if we believe it or not. One out of every six women and one out of every 33 males will either be raped or be the victim of an attempted rape in their lifetimes, according to a survey by the National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

“63 percent of all sexual assaults go unreported… Determining whether rapes are ‘real’ is intensely entangled in rape myths that blame victims, excuse rapists, and erroneously support that false rape claims are a common problem,” the NSVRC report said.

I am not afraid for myself or children I may yet have being falsely accused. I am concerned with this misinformation. What I am afraid of is them buying into the notions that are commonly used to excuse or minimize the act and effects of sexual assault. I don’t want my future daughters to be told to dress a specific way to avoid being raped, nor do I want my sons to think that they cannot be alone with someone of the opposite sex or sexually assaulted because they are males.

“I don’t want my future daughters to be told to dress a specific way to avoid being raped, nor do I want my sons to think that they cannot be alone with someone of the opposite sex or sexually assaulted because they are males.”
“We understand that every week is winnable if we have our minds right,” Squiers said.
The Lopers won’t have to look too far in the future to find their next test. The football team will be travelling to Maryville, Mo. to take on D-II powerhouse Northwest Missouri State. The Bearcats are coming off a 31-7 victory over top 10 ranked Pittsburg St.
“We are just looking forward to the opportunity,” said McGinnis. “It’s a fun place to play.”
Lindenwood falls to 2-4 on the season and will have a good shot getting back into the win column next week when the Lions play Northeastern on the road.

Fasten your seat belts for the hottest takes from recent events to personal opinions—all things Antelope, all the time. Listen live every Thursday on 91.1 KLPR at 6 p.m.

Antelope Sports Editor Brandon Rojas and Rachael Fangmeier keep the news chat going with Antelope campus news and weekly guests.

Subscribe to Video @ The Antelope on YouTube and watch this week’s livestream.

This week’s Twitter poll: What’s your favorite soup? Chille, chicken noodle or something else?
Prososki leads Lopers to second clean sheet

Brandon Rojas
Sports Editor

The Lady Lopers (5-7-0) end up following the same course as last weekend, splitting their two games Friday and Sunday. Their first game of the weekend was against Northwest Missouri State (1-9-0), Friday at Foster Field.

UNK pressed early and often in the first half of the game with six shots as well as four corner kicks. Alexis Castillo-Serna helped the Wildcats keep the Lopers at bay, with four saves in the first half.

While the Lopers, started off hot offensively, they made sure to turn it up a notch in the second half. Maddie Love, a junior forward, scored a goal in the 59th minute to give UNK a 1-0 lead early in the second half. Love is now tied with her teammate Ciera Clark, a senior forward, for most goals this season for the Lopers.

Led by senior goalkeeper, Allie Prososki, the Loper defense buckled down and recorded a clean sheet for just the second time this season. Prososki, who has been a key part of this Loper squad, recorded four saves and earned her fifth win this season.

Still holding onto the Sunday curse from last weekend, the Lopers struggled against Missouri Western State (8-4-0). The Lopers opened the scoring in minute 31 with a great pass from Maddie Love to set up freshman midfielder/forward, Kassidy Kirsch, for her first career goal at UNK. While the Lopers scored early, they struggled to hold their 1-0 lead down the stretch.

Division I transfer, Cassidy Menke, was a menace for the UNK defense, and the Lopers struggled to contain her throughout the game. Menke scored her first goal right before halftime at the 41st minute, and then stayed hot after the break scoring at the 61st minute to give the Griffons a 2-1 edge.

The Lopers will head on the road this weekend and have two matches. The first against Lindenwood, at 7p.m. Friday, Oct. 12 in St. Charles, Missouri. Then the second match will be played in Warrensburg, Missouri, against Central Missouri at 1p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 14.

McDonnell closes in on school record

Lopers.com

Senior outside hitter Kendall Schroer had a season-high 17 kills and senior libero Ellie McDonnell had a match-high 20 digs to help fourth-ranked Nebraska-Kearney sweep 16th-ranked Central Missouri (25-21, 25-22, 25-18) Saturday afternoon in Warrensburg.

The Lopers (22-1, 8-1) push their win streak to nine in a row and picked up their second win in six tries at UCM (16-5, 6-3) in the MIAA era.

To hand the Jennies its second home loss of the fall, UNK hit .258, had 7.0 team blocks and was plus 10 in the serve game. Central Missouri hit a respectable .250, had one more kill and four more digs than the Lopers but couldn’t overcome nine services errors.

Schroer, who also had 17 kills in a five-set win at Cal State San Marcos, reached her offensive out put today in just 42 swings (.357 pct.). That is her third highest hitting percentage of the season and tops against an MIAA foe.

Five others Lopers had between two and nine kills including Kearney sophomore middle Anna Squiers (nine) and Kansas junior outside Julianne Jackson (eight). Squiers hit a team-best .467 with Jackson digging up 12 balls.

McDonnell came into today needing 27 digs to reach 2,100 in her career. That would break Liz McGowan’s school record of 2,099, set between 2011-2014. McDonnell had 11 digs in the first set and now has 2,093 in her career.

The match featured 12 ties and seven lead changes with UNK breaking a 22-all tie in the second set thanks to three straight kills. Two came from Jackson with the other by Squiers. The Lopers then jumped out to a 10-5 lead in the third and never looked back.

UCM was paced by Audrey Fisher (11 kills) and Kylie Hohlen (10 kills and eight digs).

UNK hosts Missouri Southern State and Southwest Baptist next weekend.
Lopers outrun Lions for fourth win

Chris Langin
Antelope Staff

UNK nearly doubled up the Lindenwood Lions in Time of Possession on Saturday en route to a 41-14 victory. The win gives the Lopers a 4-2 record on the football season, a new record high for wins since joining the MIAA in 2012.

“It’s a great milestone but we aren’t looking to win just 4 games,” said center David Squiers.

UNK had an impressive outing from their offensive and defensive units, but the special team unit arguably had the biggest impact. Kicker Brian Covarrubias was 2 for 2 on field goals and made each of his 5 extra points. Perhaps the biggest momentum changer of the game was when Cody Summers flipped a 5-yard touchdown pass to Travis Holcomb on a fake field goal attempt to cap an 18-play drive and put the Lopers up 17-0 in the second quarter.

Offensively, the Lopers compiled over 300 rushing yards and had nearly 40 minutes of possession, nearly 67 percent of the game took place with the Lopers commanding the football. Halfback Darius Webb led the Lopers with 17 carries and 127 yards on the ground and added 4 catches out of the backfield for 22 yards. He also added a pair of rushing touchdowns that raised his total on the season to 9.

Quarterback Alex McGinnis had an efficient day as he was 11 of 14 for 84 yards and scored a touchdown. McGinnis also added a rushing score on the ground while leading the run-heavy option attack. “Offensive line really controlled the line of scrimmage,” said McGinnis. Defensively, the Lopers all but took away the running game from the Lions. Lindenwood running backs had 6 yards at intermission and Nash Sutherlin, who ran for 95 yards on just 7 carries the previous week, had 16 yards on his 5 carries.

“The Defensive line controlled the line of scrimmage which made the running backs go outside,” said defensive end and captain, Tye Spies. “It allowed our linebackers to play outside and contain the back.”

The Lopers also contained Erik Henneman, a receiver who came into the game with 7 receiving touchdowns. Henneman was held to just a catch and 15 yards at halftime. About the only thing that went wrong for the Lopers in the first half was their inability to contain the feet of Lindenwood Quarterback Cade Brister, who had 56 rushing yards. The Lopers didn’t lose track of him in the second half, as he went backwards and finished the game with 52 rushing yards.

“We changed our defense at halftime so that we didn’t counter on our pass rushes to ensure we kept their quarterback contained,” Brister said. The win pushes the Lopers to 4-2 on the season and allows for more ambitious goals in the second year of Head coach Josh Lynn’s tenure.