



UNK's Ford in D.C. for inauguration



Courtesy photo Harrison Ford, a senior political science major took a semester off to work for the Obama campaign during the fall 2008 semester. Ford is currently in Washington D.C. enjoying the inaugural festivities.

BY BRIANA DUNCAN
Guest Writer

Harrison Ford's senior year at UNK was going to be put on the back burner because the McCook native landed a job any political science major would die to have.

Two weeks prior to the fall semester, Ford received a phone call from the State Director of Barack Obama's "Campaign for Change," John Berge, who let him know about a job opening for the campaign in Nebraska.

"It's not what you know, it's who you know," Ford said as he talked about working for Berge two years ago during Ben Nelson's 2006 Senate reelection campaign. In the summer of 2007 Ford also traveled to Washington D.C. where he interned in Nelson's D.C. office.

"Hanging out on Capitol Hill for the summer definitely was an amazing experience that pushed me to be more inclined in American politics," Ford said.

Ford was named a field organizer for Obama's campaign and worked in the 2nd Congressional District to help Obama earn an electoral vote. Ford was also in charge of the 12th and 14th Legislative Districts, which includes the cities of Ralston, La Vista and Papillion.

Ford was busy making phone calls, training volunteers and going door-to-door, meeting with citizens of the community.

The senior political science major usually worked 15 hour days, seven days a week. "The hours are crazy. Honestly, I'm in the best mood when I'm at work. When I'm at work, I know I will be there for a while and can get settled in. When I go home for the night, it seems like a scramble getting ready for the next day," Ford said.

Although Ford enjoyed his experience working for the "Campaign for Change," the transition from Kearney to Omaha was a huge leap. "I miss the social scene. My life was kind of turned upside down," Ford said.

Ford is currently in Washington D.C. attending all the festivities involved with President Obama's inauguration.

Read and see more about Ford's experience in D.C. in *The Antelope* next week.

Flames reflect King's call for equality

BY TARA PURDIE
Antelope Staff

Political science professor Joan Blauwkamp wanted students to leave the candlelight vigil celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. with newfound insight and a call to action.

"I hope students will be inspired to think about their own ideals for what America should be, the continuing problems we face as a country, and how they can be part of solutions to the problems if they avoid becoming bitter about politics," Blauwkamp said.

At the vigil Monday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. students, professors and community members gathered to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the revolutionary changes he made for this country huddling together in the cold while a flame was passed from candle to candle.

Organizers and guests recited sections of King's famous "I Have a Dream," "Give Us the Ballot" and "I see the Promised Land" speeches and encouraged everyone to share their reflections.

Rose Marie Coleman, a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, MO., and sister of UNK professor Claude Louishomme, recited first. Coleman and other members of her family were among the 300,000 who left their homes to participate in the march on Washington to urge the official Martin Luther King Day in 1981.

Louishomme said, "Rose Marie, Marlene and I have been going to events commemorating Dr. King's life and work since January 1981.



Courtesy photo Associate professor of political science and director of ethnic studies Claude Louishomme, reads Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech originally delivered to 250,000 civil rights protesters on Aug. 28, 1963. The speech is considered to be one of the greatest and most notable speeches in history and was ranked the top American speech of the 20th century by a 1999 poll of scholars. Louishomme and his sisters were among the 50 people gathered for the candlelight vigil.

That year we drove from St. Louis, our home town, to Washington, D.C., to participate in a massive march organized by Stevie Wonder and others to pressure President Ronald Reagan to sign the legislation designating Dr. King's birthday a national holiday. President Reagan signed the legisla-

tion on Nov. 2, 1983 and the law came into effect a year later."

Amanda Torpy freshman nursing major from Atkinson said that her mother always spoke to her about King and the vast importance of his civil rights movements. Torpy said she especially wanted to attend the vigil

because of Obama's inauguration despite the cold weather.

The candlelight vigil ended with singing and some reluctant to leave in spite of the chill.

The vigil was really beautiful. I loved it, especially the speeches," Torpy said.



Photo courtesy of Chancellor Doug Kristensen Band members perform the classy cubano step for thousands of Italians on the streets in Rome, Italy.

'Pride of the Plains' performs at Vatican

UNK's Marching Band makes history with return to Italy, the only American band to perform twice in the New Year's Day parade.

BY STACY LAUE
Antelope Staff

Thousands listened to the enchanting music of "American Band" and "Ode to Joy" on New Year's Day in Rome, Italy. Thousands more were lured by the music to follow its sound.

At the head of this large parade of music lovers was none other than UNK's "Pride of the Plains" Marching Band. On Dec. 28, 2008, 95 students, family members, and staff members left Nebraska to travel to the historic country of Italy.

This is not the first time the band has performed in Rome, Neal Schnoor, director of bands and director of the UNK marching band said. "Three years

ago we submitted audition materials and received an invitation to perform by Vatican officials. Due to the success of our first trip, the band again received an invitation to perform this year," he said.

Schnoor believes that every undergraduate student should experience life abroad. "Four years ago I looked for trips to a destination that was rich in history and culture, and I cannot think of a richer cultural experience than you can find in Italy," he said.

The group met in Omaha on Dec. 28 and then broke into three different flight groups. While two groups flew straight to Rome, one group was fortunate to have an eight-hour layover in Germany.

The lucky group of 30 was given a few hours to leave the airport and explore the city of Munich. "I was so excited to go to Germany," said junior music education and German education major Kelci Fulton, "because not only have I been there before, but I can also speak the language and it was fun to experience both with my friends."

The UNK band stayed in the town of Sorrento, where they held their first performance on Dec. 30. The band was given a police escort while parading through the city to where they gave a stationary performance at the town center. Schnoor estimated a total of 20,000 people watched the UNK Band.

The large crowd danced with the band during some tunes and clapped after the band performed the Italian song "Va Pensiero." "It seemed like they were having just as much fun as we were," said Kara Dacey, a junior business marketing major from Bellevue.

While the band stayed in Sorrento, they visited the ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii, which was covered by volcanic ash from the still active volcano, Mt. Vesuvius, and Naples.

Dr. Gary Davis, professor of music, felt the trip was a very educational experience for students. "By visiting places outside the U.S., I think you learn to really appreciate what we have in the United States," Davis said.

The students were very excited when they left the southern region of Italy behind to stay in Rome. "Rome is like a walking museum. We got to see the cathedrals, ruins, and the Vatican," Anthony Ford, a sophomore music business major from Detroit, Mich. said.

As 200,000 people crowded into St. Peter's Square on New Year's Day, the 71 member band warmed up with

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