“I initially went to UNK with the intent to major in business,” said Matt Heimes, originally from Wynot, Neb. “However, I was drawn back into the performing arts (speech and theater) and couldn’t give up that part of my life. I decided that teaching in both areas was a great way to use my personal strengths and passions.” The 1992 graduate, who majored in secondary education, received endorsements in speech, theatre and basic business and now teaches oral communications at Lincoln South-west High School in Lincoln, Neb., and is the head speech coach.

“Dr. (George) Lawson did a great job of preparing me to both teach communication classes and coach competitive speech. The communication department was very much a family atmosphere – the students were closely knit and made positive connections with staff members who served as mentors during my four years there.”

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Following in the footsteps of her father, Toni (Shoemaker) Heimes, originally from Scotia, Neb., also wanted to become a high school English teacher and coach speech and theater productions. When it came time to choose a college, Heimes knew UNK had a good reputation as a teacher’s college.

In 1993, Heimes graduated with education majors in speech, theater and English and is now an English teacher and debate coach at Lincoln Southwest High School. “UNK gave me opportunities for guided practice of the skills that I would need in my teaching career. Through the department of communication, I was able to direct, write, act, work on technical crews and teach. All have played a role in the way I prepare my students in the classroom, on the stage, and in speech and debate competition.”

Heimes also sensed a family atmosphere in the theater department. “I felt like I was able to express myself artistically and given a strong foundation for my educational pathway. Many of my college classmates are now teachers, directors, writers or actors.”

WAYS TO ENGAGE ON CAMPUS

Forensics (college-level speech/debate)
UNK competitors work hard to improve their speaking abilities and compete on the American Forensics Association circuit.

Lambda Pi Eta
Students with outstanding scholastic achievement in the field of communication may join the honorary organization Lambda Pi Eta.

The Antelope (student newspaper)
Students publish The Antelope print and online newspaper weekly, utilizing writing and technology skills taught in the classrooms.

KLPR 91.1 FM (campus radio)
Student DJs and announcers produce a wide variety of music, sports, talk, news, public affairs and special interest programming on the campus radio station that broadcasts 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The content is also streamed at klpr.unk.edu.

Students in Mass Media (S.I.M.M.)
Students in Mass Media is an honorary organization for journalism and multimedia students. Members have opportunities for networking and out-of-class educational experiences through speakers, workshops and field trips.

Ad/PR Club
Members in Ad/PR Club will gain a better understanding of the functions of advertising and public relations, learn professionalism, be encouraged to network with professionals, develop individual communications skills, and have opportunities for fellowship.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

- Freshman grants
- Gerald S. Oswald speech Communication and Theatre Arts Scholarship
- William and Jeanne Ross Speech Scholarship
- Harold L. Ahrends Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Robert and Donna Larson Scholarship
- James and Sharon Knapp Scholarship Fund
- Clarice A. Reynolds Scholarship
- Dr. Augustus O. Thomas Scholarship

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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