



MONDAY
55/35
Today, mostly cloudy with a chance of light rain. Becoming cooler tonight and tomorrow with rain more likely.

Spanier to host radio talk show on local station

Listeners will get chance to express their opinions on university, other issues

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

Starting Wednesday, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier will address the public, not as a guest speaker, but as a radio talk show host on KFOR.

Spanier said he thought it was important for the university to be more accessible to the public.

"There are so many people who care about the university and would like to know what is happening," he said. "The radio is a good way to open the door and reach them."

Spanier's one-hour program, which is titled "To The Best Of My Knowledge," will feature discussions on current issues with guests and listeners.

"Because I'm hosting," Spanier said, "the show is likely to focus on the university, but I'm not limiting the show to university issues."

Spanier said his first show would deal with gender equity venturing into sports avenues, as well as hiring practices.

Brad Hartman, KFOR station manager, said he did not think any program like this had been done before.

"We've had the chancellor here for interviews before, just like the mayor and others," Hartman said. "But I think it'll be really interesting to have him on the air as a host."

"The chancellor is a real open administrator," he said. "And with this show, (Spanier) wants to help make his office as approachable as possible to the public."

The show will air every other Wednesday. Air time is set for 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

"To have someone of Chancellor Spanier's caliber should be great," Hartman said. "He is such a well-rounded guy, with a wonderful background in so many subjects including broadcasting."

Spanier said he worked as a radio announcer in Chicago while in high school and in Ames, Iowa, while getting a degree at Iowa State University. He also worked as a newspaper reporter as a teen-ager in Chicago and had a television show while on Penn State University's faculty that dealt with social issues.

Hartman said he could not wait for students, as well as the public, to call in and complain or share their thoughts.

"Listener participation will be encouraged during the radio program," he said.

Spanier said he wanted the callers to be the driving force of the show.

"I hope they take the opportunity to voice their concerns about the university and the myriad of other subjects we plan to cover," he said.

Spanier said a portion of the show's revenue would go toward a scholarship fund.

"It'll be fun to see this whole thing unfold," Hartman said.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Kam Ching-Leung is a UNL astronomy professor whose worldly adventures have earned him the nickname "Indiana Kam."

Adventures of Indiana Kam

Professor's worldwide expeditions make him Jones-like

By Jeffrey Robb
Staff Reporter

His career is that of a common college professor, but his around-the-world expeditions are what truly set him apart.

He's discovered the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail and conquered the Temple of Doom.

Oops, that's Indiana JONES.

But at UNL, there's Indiana KAM, better known as Kam-Ching Leung, University of Nebraska-Lincoln astronomy professor.

One of Leung's graduate students first coined the nickname. The banner the student made to christen the nickname still lines the top of Leung's office doorway.

Students and staff in the astronomy department, Leung said, called him Indiana Kam because "they feel that I'm one of those crazy professors" like the fictional Indiana Jones.

In some respects, the two are similar. Leung, 57, takes breaks from the rigors of teaching to trek to far-off places such as New Guinea, Ecuador, China and many of the Indonesian islands — too many, he said, to recall all of them.

His goal is to collect tribal artifacts from wherever he goes. He may wear a floppy, Indiana Jones-type hat on such trips, but the similarities with the bold, brash movie character end there.

Leung carries no bullwhip and certainly no pistol. The three cameras he hauls are his only side arms. Guides replace gorgeous sidekicks.

He has a soft-spoken personality. Leung's thin build seems odd for an explorer of such rugged lands.

Leung was born in Hong Kong and later moved to Canada to attend college. In 1970, he came to UNL from New York City, where he worked for a branch of NASA. He said UNL hired him to develop an undergraduate program and an observatory. The university had neither at the time.

Leung says he doesn't want people to think he drops his astronomy work at a minute's notice to take off on an adventure.

His exploring is only possible because of astronomy and research projects he works on in other countries, he said. But about 10 years ago, he started taking advantage of those trips to explore uncharted lands near the countries he visited, he said.

Leung said he wanted to collect art from tribal civilizations. Before long, he said, he went "gung-ho" on art collecting. Tribal works appealed to him, Leung said,

— "But when you're in a certain area, you're aware that you're very mortal."

— Leung
astronomy professor

because they were one of the most original art forms. Modern abstract art has borrowed many tribal ideas, he said.

The professor has been approached by Sothebys, an auction house in New York, to have some of his pieces auctioned for him. But he said he wasn't ready part with any of them.

But Leung has an ulterior motive as well.

"The reason why I travel is that I'm quite aware of the fact that around the world there are many vanishing cultures, vanishing customs and habits," he said. "For those areas, if you don't see it now, maybe in two to three years these cultures, habits and customs won't exist."

The different cultures of the world should try to co-exist, he said. Advances in technology will continue to wipe out many of these original civilizations, and Leung says he wants to see them before they disappear.

See PROFILE on 3

Health aide positions difficult to fill, coordinator says

By Joel Strauch
Staff Reporter

Health aide coordinators say they are having a little trouble filling aide positions in UNL residence halls and Greek houses.

"There has been a general decline (in health aides) because people are working more at outside jobs," said Carissa Simonsen, a health aide coordinator and a senior speech language pathology and audiology major.

Getting information to students is key to boosting manpower

"We ran a little behind last year," said Karen Weed, health aide program coordinator.

Another problem is that students think that you have to be in the medical field to be a health aide, Simonsen said.

But Weed said that students could be any major and live in any Greek house or residence hall and still be a health aide.

"Students don't understand what a

health aide does. We need to toot our horn a little bit and make it known what they do," said Weed.

Weed said health aides were certified in both first aid and CPR. Training is provided by the University Health Center before the semester starts, she said.

They are also required to take a two-semester public health course while they are aides, said Weed.

"It's like on-the-job training."

Health aides perform various roles from wrapping sprained ankles to referring more serious problems to the health center, Weed said.

"They are the communication link between the health center and students."

"They hang up informative papers on bathroom doors every week, called 'John Johns.' They also stand up at floor meetings and Greek meetings and share a health topic," she said.

Health aides can also provide over-the-counter medication to students.

A recent guideline by the Occupational Safety Health Association requires health aides to receive Hepatitis-B shots, Weed said.

The health center pays for the three-shot series, which is quite expensive, Simonsen said.

"Health aides are paid a stipend at the end of the semester," Weed said. "They aren't paid much, but it's an opportunity for students who care to help other students."