Dr. Able leads academics

Editor's note: The following story was written by Dr. Able and appeared in the Aug. 14 issue of The Miami News Record.

For Bi. Bill Able accepting the position of vice president of academic affairs at NEC was a return home. "It's never been the same but it's always home," Able said.

All academic programs within the college are directed through the academic affairs office. "We try to upgrade and add curriculum as we feel appropriate and eliminate programs which are no longer in vogue due to lack of student interest. Eliminating programs has happened in the past and will continue to happen as times change," Able said.

Able took the position two years ago. He came to Miami after completing a five-year contract as executive vice president of the International Charities Breeder Association of Kansas City, Mo. Able said he is looking forward to returning to education after leaving his only position outside of the field.

"I contemplated early retirement but I decided to apply for this position which asked for Dr. Maye. I was lucky to be approved. I've always had a love for NEC and appreciated the opportunity," he said.

Able comes to NEC with the goal of creating a "customer service mentality."

"We need to try to bring back and instill in the faculty pride in ownership. That's our biggest drawing card. We need to stress the impact of the faculty on the students and of the students on the faculty," he said.

Able's first step toward that goal will be to begin a sort of mentor program between new teachers and those with years of experience.

"We've never had anything like that before. It will give someone a chance to talk to, to help them to learn how to do things such as maintain relationships with students," Able said.

Able said he views technology as the up-and-coming area to be stressed at the college.

"The advances in technology can be incorporated into all different classes resulting in a lot of changes in other areas," he said.

He said he anticipates a more aggressive continuing education department and further development of the distance learning program.

"The distance learning program is a concept that can be a slow process but it is available for students with a goal," he said.

Students can get their bachelor's degrees here and never leave the community.

A native of Wyandotte, Able participated in high school athletics, FFA, and 4-H.

He graduated from NEC and taught agriculture at the school for several years before getting his doctorate. Able was able to incorporate his background in farming and a love of teaching into a career that he has enjoyed.

"I don't believe I've ever had a real job because I love my occupation and what it entails. I encourage all students to do what they want to do or find another career," he said.

He was named outstanding alumnus of the college in 1978 and gave the graduation speech at the college two years ago.

His wife, Ruth Ann, grew up on th Oklahoma side of Seneca, Mo., and attended Wyandotte High School.

"She's an important part of the team. Tell people who are going to hire me if the best they are going to get is that Ruth Ann is with me," Able said.

His son and granddaughter live in Manhattan, Kan. Able has served on many junior college boards throughout the country and describes NEC as "unique."

"The infrastructure at NEC is similar to that at a four-year school. Other junior colleges might be a bigger but a retch of the high school," Able said.

Lantz assumes vice president role

Editor's note: The following story was written by Mary Ellis and appeared in the Aug. 11 issue of The Miami News Record.

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College's new vice president of student affairs says his job is to make sure students have a good experience outside the classroom.

"Our primary function is to provide a quality lifestyle for our students," he said.

Students are given the freedom to choose their own classes, which is a departure from the traditional system of having classes assigned by faculty members.

"I want students to have student affairs knowing that they have been dealt with as an individual who is cared about," he said.

Able described his position as being the go between faculty and students.

"I want to have several student affairs knowing that they have been dealt with as an individual who is cared about. That's the bottom line," he said.

One of the skills Lantz brings to his position which he feels is important is the ability to quickly adapt to new situations.

"Sometimes the first time you meet a student when they are brought in for discipline, they have to be able to quickly figure out what makes them click," he said.

The quality of life for the students includes athletics and more than 40 different student organizations, service groups, and academic clubs.

"The length of the dormitory is a problem for many, but you've got to be flexible," Able said.

"I love solving problems and finding solutions. But first and foremost I love my kids. Anyone who doesn't believes shouldn't be in education," he said.

Lantz, a native of Oklahoma City, played football while in college.

"I paid for my education by playing football. I didn't expect to be a professional star until I was 18. Today, the only kids we're used to our own room with their own television, phone and internet. Now they learn to share the bathroom and room with 7 other students. They have to learn to change and adapt. It can be tough," Lantz said.

Lantz, who believes that Lantz and the Student Affairs office help with include difficulties with peers and social life, alcohol and drug abuse, caffeine and dormitory beds.

"The length of the dormitory is the first problem to many, but if you've got a 6-foot-7 basketball player with a 4-foot-2 bed it can be a problem," Lantz said.
College graduates leaving state

By Danielle Boyd

Four years ago, Oklahoma had 42 institutions of higher learning: 25 public and 17 private.
The public institutions included two comprehensive universities, 10 regional universities, and 13 two-year institutions.
Some additional schools are the College of Law, Health Science Center, College of Osteopathic Medicine, and College of Veterinary Medicine; bringing the total to 29.

These institutions account for about 15 percent of the state's budget. The state spends a high percentage of the personal income of its citizens on higher education compared to the U.S.; about two percent vs. 17 percent respectively; and ranks above the median among states in this respect.
So Oklahoma is making a good financial effort to provide higher education opportunities for its citizens.
Yet despite this effort, Oklahoma is above average in the percentage of its population aged 25 and above who are not high school graduates. This is below average in the percentage of its population with an associate, baccalaureate, or advanced degree.

According to these measures, Oklahoma is deficient in the stock of human capital, which means that incomes will be lower than they are elsewhere, despite Oklahoma's financial efforts to correct the problem and despite the fact that the state compares favorably with the U.S. in the percentage of its population enrolled in institutions of higher education.
The lack of human capital has been commented on by others and the recommended solution has been more in order to increase economic growth.
The problem cannot be solved so simply for several reasons.
First, Oklahoma taxpayers face a high tax burden, because in 1993-94 about 87 percent of students were enrolled in public, not private, institutions—compared with 78 percent in the U.S. generally.
This increases the tax burden on Oklahomans, who must support a larger number of students, and decreases the public spending per student.
To spend more would increase the tax burden.
Second, private institutions are at a distinct disadvantage because tuitions and other expenses are subsidized at public institutions.
By selling education well below cost, public institutions are attracting an increasing number of students at the expense of private institutions.
Third, there is a surplus of college graduates in Oklahoma.
The term surplus is used in an economic sense.
There are more graduates than can find jobs in the state that pay acceptable wages or salaries.
The result is an out-migration of the highly educated.
The Tenth Federal Reserve District found that Oklahoma had a higher out-migration rate of the highly educated than any of its surrounding states in the 1985-90 period.
Some studies found that over the 1980-1990 period about half the graduates of public and private institutions left the state.
When the 2000 census data becomes available, this figure can be updated.
As it is, Oklahoma's poor performance is subsidizing the stock of human capital in wealthier states; an $8,341 surplus of state affairs.
The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education produced a 1997 study which said the state was only losing 20 to 25 percent of its graduates.
Although far more favorable, the out-migration rate is still high.
It means Oklahoma finances capital accumulation in other states.
Our college-graduate problem is one of inadequate demand, not inadequate supply.

Fee squabble

By Danielle Boyd

I'm younger sister is a senior in high school this year, and is concurrently enrolled at NEO.

I'm the great big sister that I am, I offered to bring her to get her books, pay tuition, and show her around campus.
We get to the registrar's desk, and the secretary asks my sister if she wants a student ID card, although she wouldn't be able to get into the games, because she is a part-time student.
She explained that only full-time students can get into activities for free.
I thought that it was fair, until I asked if she still had to pay the activity fees, and the secretary said that she did.

So basically, part-time students have to pay activity fees to get into all of the games, and on top of that, to attend the games or plays or any student activity, they have to pay at the door.

Part-time students are paying twice as much for activities that NEO offers for full-time students.

Why is NEO doing this? Well, the toys that were on campus Wednesday that no one played on cost a lot of money.

Did the part-time students pay for that, too? Should I have called my sister and asked if she wanted to come play on the toys? Or would she have had to pay for it?

I don't think part-time students should have to pay activity fees if they are not able to participate in all the activities along with full-time students.

The enrollment at NEO is slowly declining, so I suppose they have to pick up the slack somehow.

But if a concurrent student ends the year with a grade toward the college because of unnecessary fees they had to pay, does the administration honestly think they will want to be a part of the school as a full-time student?

Or does it really matter, because NEO has already made a profit from them?

The solution to this is simple, really. Either let the part-time students pay activity fees and participate for free, or take it out of part-time student tuition.
DEMOLITION

INTRAMURAL GYM BECOMES MEMORY...

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE BOYD
Honor's Program
Summer European Trip
Photos by Carol F. Smith

Changes strike: both faculty and staff

By Danielle Boyd
News Editor

Several new faces have joined the faculty to start the fall semester.

The new faculty includes Don Bigby, history instructor; assistant football coach; Beth Blatck, sociology/social work; and Dr. Michael Bradley, instructor, biological science.

Charla Echols, director of American Indian Studies; and Program Coordinator of NASA; James Greer, chemistry; Ethel Hays, business; and Pat Hecksher, biology and science. Hecksher will also direct the Norse Stars and NEO cheerleaders.

Glenda Bachman, reading; Albert Hartman, math; Janet Roach, English; and Michael Shehi, Learning Resources Center computer A/V technician.

Ron Lawton, business; Gina Manders, coordinator, of Continuing Education; Una McElhany, director of Public Information; Michael Marlett, agriculture/video team coach; and Dr. Jan Wayland, director and chair of the nursing department.

Current faculty members who have position or title changes include: Mike Barlow, athletic director; Alan Rant, interim department chair, mathematics; Carol Calcagno, interim department chair, health and physical education.

Edie Judkins, interim director Student Recruitment Office; Tom Robertson coordinator, campus Police Department; and Tony Rowland, hall director, Harrill Hall.

New staff employees include James Adams, Computer Center PC support technician; Dennis Atkinson, Student Union building attendant; Cindy Bigby, LRC secretary/library assistant; Phyllis Callison, tab assistant/secretary, and Betty Davall, secretary Vice President for Fiscal Affairs.

John Furr, assistant hall director, Dyer Hall; assistant football coach; Tom Hale, basic skills specialist, JOBS Program; Angela Jocelynn, apartment manager; Joey Jones, clerk typist; and Jo Nelson, assistant hall director, Dyer Hall; assistant football coach.
Barlow guides athletic program

By Kurt Wilton
Sports Editor

After serving six months on an interim basis, Mike Barlow has been named athletic director. Barlow assumes the responsibilities of full-time athletic director after replacing interim AD Dale Patterson who remains as head coach of the Golden Norse football program. Patterson had replaced long-time AD Bob Maxwell who retired following the 1999-2000 school year.

Patterson served on a six-month interim basis before returning to full-time coaching in January, 2001. The athletic director is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of six intercollegiate athletic programs and compliance with both National Junior College Athletic Association and Bi-State Athletic Conference rules and regulations. Barlow will also coordinate activities held at Robertson Field, Huma Thomas Baseball Field, the softball field, the intramural field and the newly renovated NEO Fieldhouse gymnasium.

Along with his athletic director responsibilities, Barlow enters his ninth year as coordinator of a student training staff that provides medical assistance to both the college student population and student athletes. Completing graduation from high school in Liberal, Kan., Barlow served as a student trainer at Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College. After earning an associate's degree from Hutchinson, he worked on the training staff at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He earned a bachelor's degree from OSU before coming to NEO in 1993.

Barlow earned a master's degree in educational leadership in 2001 from Pittsburg (Kan.) State University.

Football season ticket packages still available for four home games

Several season ticket packages for four home football games are still on sale according to Mike Barlow, NEO athletic director.

General admission tickets purchased at the gate are $6 for adults and $3 for students 16 years old and younger and senior citizens. Reserved seat tickets for four home games are $30 each while a general admission pass is $25 per seat. A general admission family pass for two adults and three children is $50.

“We’re also selling a corporate level package for $100 which includes eight reserved seats for each game. A corporation can purchase this package and receive 32 tickets for the entire season. But our quantities are limited because we only have 350 total reserved seats,” said Barlow.

The Golden Norsemen open the home portion of the schedule Saturday, Sept. 1 with Westco serving as corporate sponsor for the Butler County, Kan. contest at 7 p.m. on Robertson Field.

Following an open date on Sept. 8 and a 7 p.m. game in Fort Scott, Kan. on Sept. 15, the Norse open play in the Southwest Junior College Football Conference on Sept. 22 for a 3 p.m. game in Ranger, Texas.

Concluding a three-game road trip, the Norsemen will travel to Tyler, Texas, Sept. 29 to a 7 p.m. conference game.

Baptist Regional Health Center will serve as corporate sponsor of the traditional Homecoming game, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. against conference foe Trinity Valley Community College.

After a trip to Corsicana, Texas, Oct. 13, for a 3 p.m. conference game with Navarro College, the Golden Norse return home for a 7 p.m. league contest Oct. 20 with Kilgore, Texas. First National Bank and Trust Company of Miami will serve as corporate sponsor for the game.

Following a trip on Oct. 27 to Cisco, Texas for a 1:30 p.m. conference game, the Golden Norse will conclude the regular season Nov. 3 by hosting Blinn College in a 6 p.m. contest. Wal-Mart will serve as corporate sponsor.

Anyone wanting further ticket information should contact Kathie Huskey at (918) 540-6327 or the college business office at 540-6218.

Scrimmage concludes pre-season workouts

By Kurt Wilton
Sports Editor

Heat and fatigue might have been the big winners in the final Golden Norse intrasquad scrimmage Saturday on the NEO practice field.

“We knew going into the scrimmage that the kids were tired,” said NEO head coach Dale Patterson. “But it turned out better for us since that even more of them, so our performance wasn’t as sharp as I would have liked.”

Even though the players were hot and tired, they were able to accomplish some of the things the coaching staff wanted out of the final all-out scrimmage.

“The scrimmage was what I refer to as the end of pre-season because we won’t have three-day practices any more and Sunday we get down to preparing for the season opener with Coffeyville,” said Patterson.

“We were pleased with most of what we saw out there, but we have a couple of guys forget that they were supposed to be on the field. But, that’s why they call it practice so we can take care of these things before the real thing,” Patterson said.

“Overall, we did a good job with clock management and getting our plays off in a reasonable amount of time. We were able to do the things we needed to do under game-like conditions.”

Red-shirt freshmen Justin Sutherland (6-2, 218, Tableiqua) and Darren Swiget (6-2, 195, Edmond) continued to battle for the starting quarterback job.

“More and more it is beginning to look like we’ll open the season platooning Justin and Darren at quarterback. They both did a good job of reading the defenses and executing our offense. There just isn’t much difference between the two.”

The Golden Norse running game was without the services of sophomore tailback Tabil Humphrey (6-2, 231, Miami, Fla.). Humphrey suffered a mild concussion on Thursday and was held out of the scrimmage as a precautionary move.

“Tabil was ready to go, but we just held him out so that he could be at full strength all this week,” said Patterson.

“Our defense did a good job. We didn’t have any blown assignments or mis-alignments on our side.”

POWER PLANT
Assistant football coaches John Farnum (left) and Chris Garrett adjust a weight rack in the new Golden Norse football weightlifting facility called the Power Plant located under Robertson Stadium.
Golden Norse square off against arch-rival: Red Ravens in season opener at Coffeyville

Renewal of one of the most intense rivalries in junior college football will occur Saturday as the 14th-ranked Golden Norsemen make the 50-mile trek to Coffeyville. Kickoff is 2 p.m. and Coffeyville Red Ravens in the regular season opener for both teams.

Kickoff time is 7 p.m. for the inaugural game to be played in the Veterans Memorial Stadum. The facility was built over the summer and features the most modern Super Turf.

Prior to the game, the NSO Food Services will host a hamburger tailgate party starting at 5:30 p.m. in the stadium parking lot. Tickets for the game are $10 for adults and $5 for students and senior citizens. Ticket prices include admittance to the tailgate party and will be on sale at the stadium.

The Coffeyville Kiwanis Club is charging $1 for parking at the stadium.

Directions to the new stadium are as follows: If you enter Coffeyville from the south on US 169 (Walnut Street), you follow the signed detail and turn west on 11th Street (US 169).

If you enter Coffeyville from the east, you will be on US 166 & 169. Stay on 166. Drive west to Wal-Mart. Turn right (north) at the stop light located at Lockwood Street (Wal-Mart and Braum's) turn left (west) at the first stop sign and turn back right (north) on Cline Road.

Continue north on Cline Road past the Drive-In Theatre, the cemetery, and the 18-hole Hillcrest Golf Course. Just past the golf course you will turn right (east) and arrive at the stadium.

Sixth-year head coach Dale Patterson has guided the Golden Norsemen to the 14th spot in the National Junior College Athletic Association pre-season poll. Last year the Golden Norsemen finished ranked 12th with an 8-3 overall record.

NSO won the regular-season Southwest Junior College Football Conference crown before dropping a 23-21 decision to Tyler (Texas) Junior College in the Red River Bowl game at Bedford, Texas.

Jeff Lucken enters his first season as head coach of the 20th-ranked Red Ravens after coaching stints at Fort Hayes (Kent State) College, Garden City Community College and Butler County Community College.

For the first time since 1974 the Red Raven football program is not under the direction of a coach named Foster. Legendary coach Dick Foster compiled a 127-23-2 record from 1973 through 1988. His son Skip guided the Red Ravens to a 4-5 record last year in the Kansas Jayhawk Junior College conference before leaving to become head coach of the Tulsa Arena 2.Talons. During Skip's tenure the Red Ravens posted a 70-32-1 record.

This year, however, the Red Ravens have a 2-4-0 record with the first three losses coming to the 14th-ranked Golden Norsemen and the last two to the 18-19-19 tie to future national champions.

The two teams squared off against each other in 1998 Red River Bowl in Bedford, Texas. NSO's defense posted a 31-0 shutout over Coffeyville as the Golden Norsemen finished ninth in the nation with a 9-3 record.

Prior to the creation of the Border Battle in 1989, the two teams only took turns knocking each other out of the NJCAA number one ranking. The Red Ravens defeated the top-ranked Golden Norse, 21-20, before an overflow crowd at Robertson Field to end the 1983 regular season. Season ending off a loss at Field in 1982, the Golden Norsemen toppled the Red Ravens from the number one position with a 38-21 victory.

During the 1970's the two teams split the four-game series while NSO won five of six games played during the 60's.

A 19-19 tie in 1956 kept NSO from winning the five game series played during the decade. In the 1940's the teams split the four-game series. NSO won the only game played in the 30's with a 35-6 win in 1932. The series started with a 7-7 tie in 1925.

What ever we do in this first game, everything is predicated on winning the game. We know we've got to establish the running game," said Patterson.

"At this level, you've got to have a solid running game in order to establish the run, you've got to be able to throw the football."

"We want to keep them off balance with our passing game and then use our running combination to create a balanced attack with the run and pass. We're going to go in and throw a lot of different formations at them to see how they adjust."

"Hopefully, that will create a mismatch or two. We have most of our offense in and we've narrowed it down to what we think we can execute," Patterson said.

"We want to try and cause some problems with our sets and formations."

"We're going to start Justin Sutherland at quarterback and he'll probably run the first few series. But we'll bring Darren Swiggart in and kind of see how things go."

"How fast Darren gets into the game will depend on the eb and flow of the game. We plan on playing both quarterbacks to see which one might have that spark or charisma."

"I really think we've got three tailbacks that can carry the load. Even though Talib (Humphrey) has been slowed by a slight concussion, he played quite a bit as a freshman as did Mario (Hains). Terrell (Harris) was a red-shirt last year, but we should be able to use any of these three in a variety of situations," said Patterson.

"Then you throw (pre-season all-american) Johnny Bizzell in at fullback in the two-back set, then we have a very good arsenal."

"Just looking at Coffeyville from scrimmages films, they appear to be primarily a running football team. Once they get their running game established, they like to try and hurt you with the play-action pass."

"They have a couple of running backs that are very versatile and talented."
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