



NORTHEAST TODAY

▶ VOL 17 NO 4 ◀

Northeast Missouri State University

July 20, 1992

Northeast Missouri: A Place That Cares About Undergrads



Assistant Professor Dean Van Galen (left) chats with students at Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville. "If I die tomorrow, I'm a happy man," Van Galen says. "I just love teaching."

In an obscure corner of the academic world, an unheralded school marches to a different drummer. It's a march that other schools may want to join. While higher education's bigger names have been chasing fame and fortune, Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville has remained faithful to the undergraduate.

In 1984, Northeast, aware that the population base of the surrounding counties had declined to that of a century ago, decided to attract students from a wider area by making itself distinctive.

"We wanted to offer the best undergraduate education in the land," said Jack Magruder, vice president of academic affairs. "We knew we couldn't do that if we spread ourselves too thin in graduate studies and research."

Northeast made a deal with the budget-minded Missouri legislature to trim programs and administrative fat in return for being designated the state's "liberal arts university." While administrators at other schools trumpet a long menu of degree-granting programs, Northeast's officials proudly tick off a list of how many they've killed—120 in the last five years.

The financial savings thus produced have enabled the school to keep its books rela-

tively balanced at a time when many universities are deep in red ink.

As other institutions diluted their undergraduate programs, Northeast required students to take a tough group of core courses. It also stiffened entrance requirements so that, currently, it is more difficult to get into Northeast than into the University of Missouri at Columbia, the state's flagship school.

Northeast instituted a comprehensive system of evaluation, testing every student each academic year. Magruder explained that a university should be able to demonstrate that

it imparts something to students in return for their tuition money (\$2,235 for Missourians, \$3,009 for out-of-staters, plus \$2,864 additional for room and board).

He explained that the school has found a way to turn academia's publish-or-perish ethic to the advantage of its undergraduates: At other schools, research-minded faculty give undergraduates short shrift, but Northeast's faculty is expected to involve these students in their scholarly projects.

"This year 890 undergraduates were involved in faculty members' research projects," Magruder said.

The school's reputation as a place that cares about undergraduates is spreading. Thirty percent of the enrollment comes from out of state, and 36 foreign countries are represented on this campus 170 miles northeast of Kansas City.

U.S. News and World Report has listed Northeast among the nation's best-buy "sleeper" colleges. Praise, however, is not what drives faculty members like Dean Van Galen, a born classroom performer who inspires non-science majors to line up for Chemistry 100.

"If I die tomorrow I'm a happy man," Van Galen said after an energetic lecture demonstrating the personal chemistry that makes him a magnet for students. "I just love teaching." @ Copyrighted 7/20/92, Chicago Tribune Company, all rights reserved, used with permission.

Northeast Promotes Volunteerism

When Brewer Hall residents move back in the fall, they may be surprised to find out their basement is looking as good as new. This improvement is due to NMSU promoting volunteerism with high school aged students over the summer in cooperation with Upward Bound.

For six weeks this summer 63 area high school students will get a taste of college life, while engaging in different programs on and off campus, in addition to spending 5-6 hours a day in classes.

These programs consist of "experience-ships and job shadowing," according to Lana

Brown, Director of Upward Bound. The students will be linking up with professionals from areas the student chooses. This can be on or off campus and in some cases the student may be paid as a part-time employee.

Brown says, "These programs are helpful because the students learn by doing. It makes all the sense in the world."

Of these 63 students, 17 have chosen to work with the Center for Service-Learning. They will participate in several community service projects around the area. Among the projects are painting the Brewer Hall basement and working with other organizations

This Week

22 WEDNESDAY

► 8 p.m.—**Hypnosis Presentation** in the Activities Room of the SUB. Sal Costa, instructor of psychology will be the guest speaker. Sponsored by SAB.

31 FRIDAY

► 9 p.m.—**Outdoor movie** in the Dobson Hall courtyard. Bring a blanket and enjoy the outdoor movie. Sponsored by SAB.

Notes

Sunday August 9 the NMSU St. Louis Alumni Chapter will host Northeast Missouri State University Day at Busch Stadium. A picnic will be held at 11.30 a.m. that day in the centerfield picnic area, which will include unlimited food and beverage. The game will begin at 1 15 p.m. The price is \$27 for both the picnic and the game or \$17 for the picnic, and \$10 for the game alone. For tickets and information contact Tim Bahr at 785-2549 or 627-6280. All those 15 years and under with a purchased ticket will receive a Cardinal's Gatorade Cup at the gate.

Former Northeast instructors **Elen Arnold** and **Peter Saltzstein** were married June 4 1992 in Bloomington, Ind. where they now reside. Arnold was an instructor of language and literature and Saltzstein was an assistant professor of social science.

The George Clark Missouri Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a college or graduate student pursuing a career with an emphasis in areas such as: wildlife biology forestry education, wildlife biology wildlife management, fisheries, law enforcement, or other conservation related areas. Candidates must be currently enrolled in a major university in Missouri with a 3.5 minimum GPA. The application deadline is January 1 1993. For more information stop by the Financial Aid Office.

Anyone interested in having a french "au pair" girl in your home (child care and light housekeeping in exchange for room and board) during the months of August and September contact Ruth Bradshaw at 785-4514 or 385-3887.

Notables

Northeast Missouri State University was represented at the Public Liberal Arts College Conference from June 20-23 by President **Russell G. Warren** and **Jack Magruder**, vice president for academic affairs. The gathering was designed to bring those colleges together that have been identified consistently in various nationally circulated books and news articles as "public ivies."

Lewis Hershey, assistant professor of business administration, has been retained by Austin Press as part of a development team for a new Marketing Principles textbook. His responsibilities will include reviewing drafts of the text, planning and preparation of teaching strategies for inclusion in the supplement package.

Craig Payne, instructor of language and literature has had an article, "Natural Disasters and the Nature of Charity" accepted for publication in the *St. Croix Review*.

Keith Blunt, science materials manager and Elaine Scudder chemical stockroom

manager have been awarded Nalge Company Professional Training Fund Awards to attend the National Association of Scientific Material Managers annual conference in Valley Forge Pa. August 17. Only 10 awards were given this year. Scudder will present a program on "Problems in Running 'Small' School Labs and Stockrooms — Time Space and Money!!!" at the conference.

Barry Cole Poyner, assistant professor of communication, presented a series of lectures in Jackson, La. July 17 19 on "David Lewis Phares: The First Graduate of the College of Louisiana."

John H. Settlege, professor of science, has been commended by Earthwatch, a national volunteer organization, for his volunteer work in Australia. Settlege assisted Dr. Aharon Arakel of the Rivers Section Water Board in Sydney collecting water and sediment samples from Australia's Queensland coast in an effort to understand the estuarine ecosystems, and how they might affect the Great Barrier Reef.

Volunteerism cont.

such as the Kirksville Housing Authority Violence Intervention Center and the Adair County Library.

Noelle Kranz, Brewer Hall Director said "It's a great idea because the kids live in or near the community therefore they get to see first hand the results of their work."

Matt Gore of Knox County said he chose the Center for Service-Learning because "It will help me work with people and better my community."

Brown said she sees the Center for Service-Learning as a perfect avenue for Upward Bound students to participate.

"Hopefully they will begin to develop a heart for service," she said.

Upward Bound is a federally funded, year-round support program designed to assist qualifying high school students in building skills and motivation necessary for success in college.

The Northeast Missouri State University's program is one of 500 in the country. It serves approximately 80 students from 15 area schools including the following counties: Adair, Schuyler, Scotland, Knox, Shelby,

Macon, Randolph, Sullivan, and Putnam.

The Center for Service-Learning assists students in securing placements compatible with their interests, previous community service, academic programs, community needs, etc. The student is referred to a specific agency where they will learn about the services provided and how they might contribute.

NMSU is bringing these two programs together in order to help mold the students of tomorrow.

For the 13th year Northeast will host a group of students from Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan. The students will stay on campus July 25 through Aug. 13. Homestay family participants are needed for the weekend of Aug. 7. The students should be picked up at Ryle Hall lounge by 5 p.m. on Aug. 7 and returned to the hall after supper on Aug. 9. To help defray the cost of the stay the University supplies a \$25 stipend for each student. Families interested in hosting a student should contact Ann McEnderfer at 785-4481 or 665-2321.