Ray Birmingham, the head coach of the University of New Mexico Lobos Baseball team since 2007, previously served for 18 seasons as the head Baseball coach at New Mexico Junior College, where he was 785-255-2 (.750), won a national title in 2005, and finished second in 2007.

Birmingham came on board as NMJC’s head coach in 1990. The T-Birds went 22-30 the first season but enjoyed 17 consecutive winning seasons thereafter. From 2000-2007, the T-Birds were an impressive 378-88-2 (.805). They were nationally ranked 14 times, including five appearances in the Top-10.

Under his leadership, NMJC became known for its hitting ability, with six former players leading the country in batting and six teams hitting over .400. The T-Birds hit .416 as a team in 2007. The 2005 NMJC national championship team hit .411 during regular season and .400 in postseason play. In 2001, the T-Birds displayed one of the most impressive offensive teams in NMJC’s history, batting .438 as a team. In 1998, NMJC led the nation with an impressive 122 home runs. So successful was Birmingham during his time at NMJC that on Feb. 2, 2008, the college named the newly renovated baseball field in honor of him.

Birmingham’s coaching career began at Las Cruces (N.M.) Mayfield High School. In 1983, Birmingham came to NMJC, serving as the public relations officer and assistant to legendary basketball coach Ron Black, who led the T-Birds to three consecutive 20-win seasons, including the school’s first conference championship in 1987. Birmingham then moved to College of the Southwest to guide its new baseball program. In 1989, under Birmingham’s leadership, the Mustangs reached No. 23 in the NAIA national rankings, won 33 games, and advanced to the regional finals.

Birmingham has worked professionally for the Cleveland Indians, Oakland A’s, and Kansas City Royals.

In 2004, in Beijing, China, Birmingham led the NJCAA All-Star team to four wins in five games over the Chinese All-Stars. In 2006, he was selected as head coach of the NJCAA All-Star team when China returned to the U.S. to play. Birmingham also coached the NJCAA West All-Stars to a three-game sweep over the East All-Stars in 2009.

Despite national championships, international victories, and impressive numbers on the diamond, Birmingham is most proud of his former New Mexico Junior College players. Brendan Donnelly (’90-’91), Armando Almanza (’92-’93), Jose Flores (’92-’93), Mike Vento (’97), Johnny Lujan (’03-’04), and David Carpenter (’06-’07) are six of his former T-Birds who have gone on to play major league baseball.

Birmingham has three sons: Josh, 31, a former NCAA World Series participant at the University of Nebraska, who played for his father at NMJC and is now a lawyer in Texas; Bryan, 28, an insurance professional in Texas; and Nick, 11.

As the oldest child in a family of 10, I long ago realized that NMJC was a life-saver for the Birminghams. I, along with my mom, dad, brothers, and sisters, all attended NMJC to launch into passionate professions. We are all successful professionals because of New Mexico Junior College. Best community college in the country! And, NMJC is pretty good at baseball, also.

– Ray Birmingham

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CONGRATULATIONS, 2012 NMJC GRADUATES!! YOUR SUCCESS STORY HAS JUST BEGUN!
Golf Honors
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- Donavon Sanchez
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  All-Conference Medalist

- Rich James
  All-Region Medalist
  Ping All-Region; All-Conference
- Willy Hogan
  Ping All-Region
  All-Conference Medalist

Dr. Steven Townsend recently presented "Lincoln as a Father" as part of New Mexico's statewide Centennial Celebration.

People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be.
— Abraham Lincoln

President Steve McChesney presents retirees with an appreciation plaque in a recent Board meeting.

Dr. Vic Berner
Professor of Chemistry / Astronomy
30 Years

Pam Fisher
Professor of Nursing
2 Years

Sam Nichols
Professor of Biology
4 Years
(Adjunct 16 years)

Executive Director
of WHMC & LCCHOS
5 Years

Retiree Calvin Smith (center) with Congressman Steve Pearce visiting the Sanderson Mammoth Site.
SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN
May 29
www.nmjc.edu

GED TESTING
May 24
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES: The New Energy Pioneers
June 1 @ 11:30 am
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

RELAY FOR LIFE: “Heating Up against Cancer” PTK
June 2
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

NMJC Foundation Golf Tournament
June 9-10
Hobbs Country Club
Contact: Kim Latimer, (575) 492-2780 or klatimer@nmjc.edu

SMLEA GRADUATION
June 13 @ 2:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Kelly Amador, (575) 492-2720 or kamador@nmjc.edu

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF QUILTS
June 14-17 @ Grand Opening June 14 @ 2:00 pm
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: (575) 392-6730 or westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

GED TESTING
June 21
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592 or jhamm@nmjc.edu

FALL CLASSES BEGIN
August 20
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ROdeo
September 20-22 @ ENMU – Portales
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

ROdeo
September 27-29 @ Sul Ross State University – Alpine, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

ROdeo
October 11-13 @ Vernon College – Vernon, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

ROdeo
October 18-20 @ Texas Tech University – Lubbock, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

ROdeo
October 25-27 @ Clarendon College – Clarendon, Texas
Contact: Richard Morris (575) 492-2748 or rmorris@nmjc.edu

PTK ORIENTATION
November 3 @ 10:00 am
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Maria Vick (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

PTK ORIENTATION
November 6 @ 7:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Maria Vick (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

PTK INDUCTION
November 13 @ 7:00 pm
Watson Hall Theatre
Contact: Maria Vick (575) 492-2850 or mvick@nmjc.edu

In the May 2012 Board meeting, Army Specialist Philip Guthrie, former NMJC student, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to our country. His father, Robert Guthrie, NMJC Professor of Accounting, is seated next to him.

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE
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