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New dance and cheer coach Nicole Nee sits at her desk recently at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School. She is looking forward to working with the Saints squads next school year. L&T photo/Giseelle Arredondo

By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

• Leader & Times

The new coach at Seward County Community College may not be able to show an athlete how to swing a bat or double-team in the paint, but she can show them how to get the crowd into the game.

Nicole Nee has been named the Saints' new dance and cheer coach.

It's not something she's new at either – she has been dancing since she was 4 and tumbling since the age of 5.

“I love it a whole lot,” she said.

Her dancing career started on the east coast of Virginia, and then she moved on to Kansas where she kept at it.

Nee was a cheerleader in middle school and captain of the cheer squad at Eureka High School. At the same time, she was a dance student at RMS Studios and Gymnastics.

Nee went to Allen County Community College in Iola on a theater scholarship where she was also recruited to be on the cheerleading team.

She then transferred to Hutchinson Community College where she served as captain of the Dragon Dolls under Bonnie Neville. Nee became a teacher at Neville's dance studio.

She graduated with a degree in philosophy and theatre education and started coaching at Humboldt High School as the varsity cheerleading coach.

From there, Nee started coaching as a volunteer at area schools around Hutchinson: Nickerson High School, Trinity Valley High and Hutch High. She became the head cheer and dance coach at Independence Community College from 2009-12, where she took her team to a tournament in Tavart College and placed third.

“We were the only junior college there competing against 4-year universities in dance and we were 1.03 seconds off of a perfect 10,” Nee said.

She took another squad to competition and placed third at Kansas Best for the year 2002-03.

Nee said that she is really excited to be at Seward and that she hopes “to just improve upon the program.”

“I came on to campus, and I really liked it. The campus is beautiful and the people that work here from faculty to staff, they are just great, and they are personal employees and members of the community, and you can just see that everyone kind of works together and gets everything done. It just seems like a great family atmosphere; they really do care about the students that come here,” Nee said.

She is also the Industrial Technology Division secretary. She stated that her boss has been great about letting her do both.

Coach Nee will also be working with an assistant, Shelby Louderback, 22.

“I believe she will make a great addition to my philosophy and how I want to take the program. She has a lot of energy, and I think we can work great as a team,” Nee said.

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