NEO divided the Ninth Annual Founders’ Day Celebration across two Fridays in April in anticipation of severe weather, and hosted the annual Mabon Award Ceremony on April 6 in Commons Hall Auditorium. During the event, Head Librarian and Archivist Sloane Arana presented “99 Years in the Making” and City Manager Dean Kruithof honored the 2018 National Championship Wrestling Team with a proclamation from the city of Miami.

As part of the annual celebration, students, staff, and faculty members submitted campus beautification and improvement projects for the James Mabon Award. The award gives the winning project up to $2,000 to improve the college. This year’s winning submission was from Jana Hayes from the Student Recruitment Office.

“The college is very good about supporting and fostering innovation on campus,” said Hayes. “I think these signs will continue to help us support students and their families, as well as staff and faculty.”

Over the past several years, Dr. Jeff Hale and the President’s Partners have supported the first and second runner-up projects. This year, the first runner-up was the NEO Honors Program for the creation of an Honors Lounge, and the second runner-up was the NEO Agriculture Department for the installation of a new trophy case in Ables Hall.

Following a presentation by Sloane Arana, Kruithof presented a declaration from the City of Miami that April 3 will be known as NEO Wrestling Day. The proclamation was made after the team won their fifth regional championship and third national championship in the last five years. While unable to attend, Coach Renfro presented pre-recorded remarks.

“Each one of our guys stepped up to the occasion. It was an emotional roller coaster and things are going to happen. You don’t get to the national tournament through luck,” said Renfro. “They are a phenomenal bunch of people, whether we win a national title or not, fortunately we came out on top.”

In continued celebration of NEO Founders’ Day, Dr. Hale and members of the NEO Soccer Teams will break ground on a new NEO Soccer Facility on April 27, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.
Dozens of middle and high school students came to the NEO campus in March to participate in the Annual Regional Oklahoma History Day Competition. Students from area schools gathered to present exhibits, research papers, web pages, documentaries, and dramatic performances at the largest History Day event in NEO’s history. Dr. David Loving, NEO history instructor, again served as the coordinator for the event.

“We had eight different schools this year and I am excited to see how this event is growing,” said Dr. Loving.

Miami Chief Little Turtle was the subject of this year’s E.J. and Jane Griesshaber Best in Show Award. Molly Bryant from Jay High School is a descendant of Chief Little Turtle and chose to illustrate this year’s theme of “Conflict and Compromise” by exploring his military conquests and later compromise through the Treaty of Greenville. With Best in Show Award, Bryant will receive a stipend to support her entry into the state competition.

Oklahoma History Day is coordinated through the Oklahoma History Center in conjunction with National History Day. For more information Oklahoma National History Day, visit okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday.

Results:

Junior Group Exhibit
1 Eli Bearden, Scout Mayfield, Spencer Smith | Will Rogers Middle School: Picher: The Most Polluted Town in America
2 Jordan Shirley, Breely Stenger | Will Rogers Middle School: The First Cursed
3 Michael Bunch, Christian Reavis, Scott Walker | Will Rogers Middle School: More Than a Massacre: The My Lai Story

Senior Group Exhibit
1 Michelle Lindemeier, Tashauna Miles | Miami High School: The Conflicting Crusades
2 Renee Betz, Alyssa Gay, Justin Tyler | Afton High School: To Drop or Not To Drop
3 Megan Collins, Vallerie Vargas, Hali Bowling | Miami High School: Hocus Pocus: How Salem Lost their Focus

Junior Individual Exhibit
1 Makenna Murray | Will Rogers Middle School: Dorothea Dix and the Asylum Reform
2 David Nutting | Will Rogers Middle School: Trail of Tears: The Quapaw Story

Senior Individual Exhibit
1 Molly Bryant | Jay High School: Chief Little Turtle
2 Megan Robinson | Afton High School: Mississippi Refusal

Senior Group Website
1 Jalee Davenport, Heath Huffman | Vinita Middle School: Nazi War Crimes Effects the Jewish People

Senior Group Documentary
1 Katharine Barlow, Mikalanne Wiford, Carmine Eulitt | Miami High School: How Cruelty Cured the Salem Witches
2 Grant Noite, Conner Womack | Miami High School: Vietnam War: The Paris Peace Accord
3 Jordan Davis, Caden Folks, Chase Cunningham | Miami High School: Trouble in Paradise: 12/7/1941

Senior Individual Documentary
1 Jami Joslin | Miami High School: The Restoration Revelation
2 Yoshihrio Shinzato | Miami High School: The Battle of Okinawa
3 Guillermo Lahoz | Miami High School: The Roman Empire

Junior Group Performance
1 Cain Anderson, Aubreigh Lambert | Vinita Middle School: Washington and the Economy that Sparked a Revolution

Senior Group Performance
1 Briana Witham, Heather Moss | Miami High School: The Best of Enemies

Junior Individual Performance
1 Shaelyn Oliver | Vinita Middle School: Aaron Burr
2 Jayden Kennedy | Will Rogers Middle School: Purge- A History of Horror

Senior Individual Paper
1 Ashlin Ferris | Miami High School: On the Side: The Unresolved Bioethical Debate of HeLa Cells
2 Denver Miller | Afton High School: Down the Hatch
3 Megan Grissom | Fairland High School: The World’s Tragedy: The Holocaust
The NEO Campus Mall is getting a little bit brighter following updates to lighting around walkways. Through a concerted effort between the Student Body Government (SBG) and administrators, the dated lights that line campus are being retrofitted with new LED housings. The new lights are cooler (whiter) and brighter than the warmer (redder) lights that are currently installed at many outdoor areas.

“One of the best ways to help prevent criminal acts is to keep populated areas lit up,” said Mark Wall, Director for the NEO Department of Public Safety. “The lighting also has the added benefit of assisting the quality of recording for our upgraded security camera network. This is just another example of how NEO is dedicated to the safety of its students, employees, and guests on campus.”

Over the past several months, NEO SBG has been working with students on campus and administrators to ensure the lighting updates were quickly implemented. SBG Officers Deven Foster and Lyndsey Harvey noted that what at first seemed like a minor inconvenience was an issue that the student body wanted addressed.

“The team as a whole had heard numerous concerns from students saying that they didn’t feel safe walking back to dorms in the evening, or that every time you walk by a light, it seemed to turn off, and there you were in the dark again,” said the team. “Student peace of mind was clearly a huge concern, so we took the issue very seriously.”

The team wrote up their concerns and took them to Physical Plant Director Steve Grimes’ office.

“We voiced our concerns, and Steve took to heart what we said.”

After comparing the SBG plan with the ongoing retrofitting plan, Grimes was quickly able to begin the Campus Mall project. As part of NEO’s commitment to improving energy efficiency as well as being good stewards of state funds, Grimes noted that careful consideration went into every step of the retrofit.

“We’ve been completing the retrofits over the past several months and it was important for us to be mindful of the cost as well as the plan the SBG brought to my office,” he said. “By finding the right lighting system, we’ve been able to retrofit these lights for about one third of the price we had originally estimated since they are energy efficient, they will pay for themselves in as little as four years.”

President Jeff Hale is encouraged by the project and is dedicated to continued cooperation between the student body and the NEO administration.

“Campus safety and the day-to-day security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors is a stated goal of NEO’s 2020 Strategic Plan. I am so proud of our SBG who brought the recommendation forward and our Physical Plant staff who made the improvements happen.”

Deven Foster and Austin Banzet hold the old lighting and Lyndsey Harvey shows the upgraded LED bulb that replaces the old lights.

TWO NEO STUDENTS JOIN THE ALL-OKLAHOMA ACADEMIC TEAM

Two students from NEO travelled to the State Capitol early in March and were honored as outstanding two-year college students. Christopher Bentley and Brandy Brogdon were named to the All-USA Academic Team as two of the forty students recognized by the Oklahoma Council of Two-Year Colleges and the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC) in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa (PTK).

“Brandy and Christopher were nominated for the All-USA Academic Team for their leadership, academics, and community service,” said Dr. Bethene Fahnestock, Vice President for Academic Affairs. “I am proud that we have such outstanding students representing NEO College.”

Brogdon is a Business Administration major from Grove, and Bentley is a Social Science major from Tulsa. Both students are members of NEO’s PTK, of which Brogdon is the Vice President of Service and Bentley is the recording officer. Brogdon is also a member of NEO’s Top Ten Freshman.

The OACC also awarded NEO Freshman Delisa Mowery with a $1,000 Tuition Waiver Scholarship. The scholarship will provided $500 per semester during the upcoming academic year.

One of the best ways to help prevent criminal acts is to keep populated areas lit up.

Mark Wall, Director for the NEO Department of Public Safety
LEAVE MORE WOOD ON THE WOOD PILE... LEAVE MORE THAN YOU TAKE... GET THE MEMO AND TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

GeorgeAnn Roye, Attorney at Law
The NEO Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society was named the Most Distinguished Chapter at the Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Convention on March 10, 2018. The Mu Chapter was also recognized as a Five-Star Chapter, as they have for the past several years. Along with chapter recognitions, Mu Chapter Vice-President of Leadership, Clint Howard, was named one of the Top Five Chapter Officers for the region, and chapter member Stephanie Gilbert was named one of the Top Five Chapter Members.

There are 42 active chapters in the OK/AR Region of Phi Theta Kappa and the Mu Chapter consistently ranks in the upper echelon. This year, Mu Chapter also won Most Distinguished Honors-in-Action Project for their research into human trafficking and Top-Five College Projects for their work on campus safety issues. Mu was also designated a Reach Rewards chapter for exceeding the international standard in membership acceptance.

The Mu Chapter on the NEO campus is very involved in both campus activities and off-campus events and was the first established outside of Missouri. Currently the second oldest operating chapter in the United States, students must complete at least 12 hours of courses and maintain a 3.5 grade point average to gain admittance into the society. Through their membership in PTK, students will have access to scholarships and service opportunities.

Mu Chapter now prepares to attend the International Convention in Kansas City, Mo., in April.
The NEO Equestrian Team claimed the IHSA Zone 7 Region 5 Title during the March 4 regional show. Along with outstanding team performances at the event, Sophomore Edson Varela was named as the Regional Reserve High Point Rider. After qualifying 19 students to compete in the event, ten placed in the top two in their division and traveled to compete in the IHSA Western Semi-Final competition in Galva, Ill.

"Thank you to all the team members, families, and friends that came to support the team this past weekend," said Coach Amanda Burrows. "This group is pretty special and watching them ride and support each other is what it is all about!"

Coach Burrows noted that this was the largest group NEO had ever qualified for Regionals and that this is also the largest group the we have sent to compete in the Semi-Finals.

"Each year we set the bar higher for our program and along with the ten students we have competing in the Semi-Finals, we have the opportunity for our team to qualify for Nationals."

Regional Qualifiers: Samantha Clayton, Hannah Jenkins, Katie Daniels, Cheyenne Detherow, Kristan Hamilton, Lyndsey Harvey, Morgan Leeper, Nathania McKenzie, Baily Summers, Becca Garrett, Tanner Robertson, Andrea Althoff, Rachel Harper, Ashley McLaughlin, Carla Carfora, Trish Meyer, Edson Varela, Ashley Aden,
NEO will induct nine members into the NEO Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony on Saturday, September 15, 2018. The 2018 honorees include eight individuals and one national championship team.

NEO’s 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees include:

- **Ronnie Lowe** is a member of the 1967 National Championship Football Team, NEO All-American Linebacker, and member of the Florida State University team.
- **Dallas Kirk Lewis** played for the Lady Norse Basketball Team from 1975–77; she has been inducted into the University of Missouri Rolla Basketball Hall of Fame and was drafted by the WNBA’s Milwaukee Does.
- **Mike Butcher** was an NEO Baseball pitcher from 1983–85 and spent three years in the major leagues. He is currently the pitching coach for the Arizona Diamondbacks.
- **“Downtown” Terry Brown** is a member of the 1989 National Championship basketball team and an NEO All-American. He also put up 16 points for the University of Kansas in the 1991 NCAA National Championship game against Duke.
- **Kaycee Odle Grigg** played NEO Softball from 2003–05. She was a two-time NJCAA Softball and Academic All-American and played for the University of Arkansas.
- **Bill Yocum** was the NEO Football and Wrestling Coach from 1977–81. He was a football All-American in 1970 and played on the 1969 National Championship team, before coaching for the 1980 National Championship team.
- **Jim Ellis** has been an NEO Contributor and Miami News Record Sportswriter for 40 years. He has been inducted into the Eight-Man and Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.
- **Bennie Crossland** is a Major Contributor to NEO Athletics and facilities, including the Crossland Complex, Red Robertson Field renovations, NEO Wrestling Complex, and the Legends Series Banquet.
- The 1986 NJCAA National Championship Football Team coached by the late Glenn Wolfe.

“Every two years, the Hall of Fame Committee has the privilege of selecting an elite group of individuals to be honored,” said Dale Patterson, athletic director for NEO. “The achievements of this group excel in examples of leadership, longevity, and accomplishment. They exemplify our traditions and the Norse commitment to excellence. We are honored to acknowledge them.”

The induction ceremony will take place in the Calcagno Family Ballroom in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union before the evening’s football game. Following the ceremony, the NEO Golden Norsemen football team will play against rivals Trinity Valley. Kickoff will be at 6 p.m. Tickets for the event will go on sale in July.

“The Hall of Fame is a legacy that we are very proud of at NEO and to have it in conjunction with the NEO vs. Trinity Valley game will make for a great day of NEO Athletics,” added Patterson. “We hope everyone will come out and support the event and the Norsemen.”
NEO SOFTBALL COACH ERIC IVERSON HITS THE 1,000 WIN MARK

Coach Eric Iverson has seen a lot of change in the sport of softball since he began at NEO 23 years ago. The Women’s College World Series (WCWS) in Oklahoma City drew a crowd of just over 12,000 people in 1996. In the past twenty years, the popularity of softball has driven attendance to nearly 80,000 people every year.

“I wanted to build on that rise in popularity and make something that people would respect. I wanted to be known for athletes who excelled academically, on the field, and in their personal lives.”

This growth mindset has led Iverson to shape the NEO softball into a nationally competitive program and recently earned his 1,000th win with the team. Named to the NJCAA Softball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2009, Iverson is the only two-year coach in Oklahoma to win over 1,000 games.

“We won 1,000 games with a lot of people, not just me,” notes Iverson. “NEO Softball is a family thing at our house and my wife and two daughters have been so understanding of the times when I have to be away.

“I think that it is important to deflect this away from me and put it on the program. We receive incredible support and have had dozens of talented athletes,” he added. “I’m the lucky one. I’m the guy that’s been able to do the same job for 20 plus years at the greatest institution among two-year schools.”

For Iverson, however, on-field performance is only part of what makes a successful program. He also expects his team members to develop their character and academic prowess.

“I expect my players to hold themselves to a standard of excellence. I want athletes who will take pride in themselves and take pride in what we have available.”

Pride and character are major hallmarks of Iverson’s coaching philosophy. Each day during the season, you can find him mowing the grass on the field and ensuring that everything is in line.

“I can’t expect my players to hold themselves to an exceptional level if I don’t hold myself and our facilities to an exceptional level. Somebody told me many years ago: ‘show me a bad facility and I’ll show you a lazy coach.’”

Iverson also notes how his definition of success has changed over the years. As a younger coach, he always had a focus on team success. However, he has broadened his definition for success in the past twenty years.

“When we bring our athletes in, we make them reflect and define their character. We make them ask themselves what their vision for their future will hold. One of the best measures of that success is to look at where those players are ten years later. I don’t mean look at how much money they are making or what their job is, but are they happy? Are they excited about where their life is going?”

For now, Iverson is keeping an eye on the success of the team and is excited for what the next twenty years will hold.

“Right now, I am excited that the pieces are fitting really well together. Our team has a lot of character and athleticism and we’ll have to see what happens when challenges start to get tough. I anticipate that they will hold up really well through the rest of the season.”

I think that it is important to deflect this away from me and put it on the program. We receive incredible support and have had dozens of talented athletes. I’m the lucky one. I’m the guy that’s been able to do the same job for 20 plus years at the greatest institution among two-year schools.

Eric Iverson, Head Softball Coach
The NEO Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Club recently travelled to Reno, Nevada, to participate in the 2018 Young Farmers and Rancher’s Leadership Conference. Along with the opportunity to participate in breakout session and hear speakers, NEO Sophomore Austin Jackson represented NEO and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau in a Discussion Meet.

Jackson was one of the two representatives from the State of Oklahoma to participate in the meet. During a Discussion Meet, students are judged based on their displayed understanding of the selected topics, as well as their ability to present ideas. Participants at the conference discussed utilizing Farm Bureau to develop creative ways to address pressing issues in agriculture. Jackson earned his spot in the Discussion Meet earlier in the spring, when NEO hosted a meet where students discussed different ways that Farm Bureau can advocate for farms of all sizes.

The 2018 Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference was presented by the American Farm Bureau Federation and focused on the "Biggest Little Industry in the World." The conference focused on technology, leadership, civic engagement, and more, as students heard from a variety of speakers, including President of the American Farm Bureau Federation Zippy Duvall.

Along with Jackson, six other NEO students attended the event. Cooper Secker, Nathania McKenzie, Bri Nelsen, Loren Decker, Caitlyn Carnahan, and Katey Freeman all had a chance to participate in a broad spectrum of agriculture seminars and events. The trip was funded in large part through the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and Ottawa County Farm Bureau offices.

“Although our Aggie Days contest spans more than six decades, the events have evolved with the industry,” said McKenzie Conner, Agriculture Department Chair. “This year’s Aggie Day event included contests such as Meat Evaluation (hosted at the newly unveiled Quapaw Tribe Meat Processing Facility) and Forestry (hosted by Oklahoma Forestry Services), along with 14 other agriculture and natural resource related competitions. This event provides excellent exposure for the programs and activities available at NEO in the field of agriculture.”

The Adair FFA received first place in the Aggie Days sweepstakes division for multiple-teacher programs. They were followed by Owasso and Oklahoma Union. In the single-teacher division, Vinita FFA took first in the sweepstakes division, followed by Colcord and Chouteau. The winning chapters in each division were awarded a Viking Tuition Scholarship.


This event provides excellent exposure for the programs and activities available at NEO in the field of agriculture.

McKenzie Conner, Agriculture Department Chair
The NEO Rodeo Team travelled to Manhattan, Kan. for the Kansas State University Rodeo on the weekend of Feb. 16 for their first rodeo of the spring season. Riders competed against schools in the Central Plains Region and NEO riders earned several top-five finishes.

Leading the women's team in points was sophomore Sage Keener with a second place finish in Goat Tying. Keener is no stranger to success; the freshman from Whitesboro, Texas also earned a top-ten finish at the Stillwater rodeo in the fall. With five season rodeos left, Keener will have several opportunities to improve her times, finishing less than a second off the top spot in Manhattan.

On the men's team, Team Ropers Dalton Fuhrman and Hunter Reed pulled out a third place finish at the Kansas State event. Placing just one-tenth of a second off second place, the freshmen from Bronson, Kansas and Potosi, Missouri respectively look to develop their technique and crack into the top spot.

Sophomore Joshua Pool from Fairland also earned a top-ten finish, taking sixth in the tie-down roping event.

NEO Rodeo will travel to two more spring rodeos this season: Fort Hays State University on April 20–22, and Panhandle State University on April 26–28.

Along with individual rodeo successes, several NEO riders are looking to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR), held in Casper, Wyoming each year. Set for June 10-16, the CNFR showcases the top college talent in the nation. NEO has five riders aiming to compete, with Ben Piazza sitting third overall in the Tie-Down Roping standings, Steven Richmond sitting sixth in Steer Wrestling, Ethan Griffin and Brady Hagler at second in Team Roping, and Amber Scales currently in seventh among Barrel Racers.

“We had a great weekend at the K State rodeo,” said Rodeo Head Coach Kolby Ungheuer. “The best thing that happened is we put three more students in great shape to try to qualify for this year’s CNFR with the final half of the season to come. I’m very proud of all of our NEO Rodeo team members for all the hard work they have put in to prepare for the tough spring season.”

The Ag Ed Club, established by the late Mr. Roger Fent, is dedicated to giving NEO students classroom experience, while also improving the college. The Ag Ed club is involved in on-campus events such as homecoming, Aggie Days, and coordinating special events, as well as off-campus activities like teacher shadowing and lesson plan development.
NEO Women and Friends Hosts Sixth Annual NEO Expo

NEO Women and Friends hosted the sixth annual NEO Expo and Craft Fair in the Calcagno Family Ballroom in March and dozens of vendors catered to hundreds of attendees.

Merchants from across the four-state area offered crafts and services to give community members a chance to shop local and regional vendors for art, clothing, hand-made jewelry, specialty foods, and much more. The purpose of the annual craft fair is to raise money to support NEO’s students through scholarships, the operation of a charitable business attire clothing closet, and an emergency medical fund.

“This is our major fundraiser each year and we love bringing the opportunity to shop for something fun or unique to everyone while helping NEO’s students,” said Donna Hale, Executive Director of NEO Women and Friends.

Many of the event’s most popular vendors returned in 2018, including Pampered Chef, Magnabilities Jewelry, Marty’s Jewelry with Marty Gullett, Country Road Threads Embroidery, Nana’s Naturals, Zena Suri Alpacas, and Lula Roe.

Megan Frazier Photography returned to take spring photos in mini-sessions. “It’s fantastic to see both familiar faces and new ones in our spring mini-sessions,” said Frazier.