“I am very excited about this opportunity to lead the agriculture department. I realize I have big shoes to fill, but Dr. Shannon Cunningham continues to be a tremendous asset and mentor. I am surrounded by a great team of faculty.”

Tyler Dewey, NEO department chair of agriculture

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) is proud to announce that head livestock judging coach and agriculture instructor, Tyler Dewey, was chosen to chair the agriculture department effective July 1, 2014. Dewey succeeds former department chair, Dr. Shannon Cunningham, who was promoted to assistant vice president of academic affairs.

“I am very excited about this opportunity to lead the agriculture department,” Dewey said. “I realize I have big shoes to fill, but Dr. Shannon Cunningham continues to be a tremendous asset and mentor. I am surrounded by a great team of faculty.”

Dewey came to NEO in 2009 as an instructor where he taught a variety of classes ranging from feeds and feeding to livestock breeding. He was appointed NEO’s head livestock judging coach in August 2012. Along with serving as NEO’s head livestock coach and instructor, he is also the ranch management instructor and beef herdsman for the college.

He has been involved in the livestock industry throughout his life. He grew up on a poultry farm where he and his family also raised quarter horses and cattle. Dewey was on the livestock judging team in both junior college and senior college and received numerous awards and honors including being named to the Junior College All-American Team.

Originally from Poteau, Oklahoma, Dewey attended Eastern Oklahoma State College for junior college and finished his bachelor’s degree in ag-business at Texas A&M-Commerce. He earned his master’s in animal science with an emphasis in reproductive physiology at the University of Arizona. He coached the livestock team, taught four undergraduate courses, and served as advisor for the Collegiate Cattle Growers club while in Arizona. He has also had the privilege of judging livestock shows in multiple states and Mexico.

He is married to Katie Dewey, coordinator of marketing and public relations at NEO, and they have one child, Elsie. The Dewey family lives on the college farm.
The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) equestrian team from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) won Reserve Overall High Point Team for their region for the third consecutive year, beating all of the four-year colleges and universities. The equestrian team also qualified eight individuals for the regional show that took place at Blackhawk College in Galva, Illinois this year. Two riders, Brookelynn Baber and Martin Doustou advanced to the national semi-finals in Florida in March.

Baber placed first in advanced horsemanship at semi-finals, which qualified her for nationals in Massachusetts, and Doustou placed 10th in reining. Baber was NEO’s first regional and semi-finals individual champion and the second rider from NEO to advance to the national championships.

NEO’s third year of IHSA competition was extremely successful. In Amanda Burrows’ first year as coach the team took multiple High Point Team honors and had numerous individual successes as they traveled to nine different shows during the year.

Not only was the team successful in the show arena, but they also excelled academically and were recognized by IHSA for their academic success while competing on the team.

There were 10 team members recognized. The All-Academic first team included: Ashley Chalfant, freshman, Bailey Forester, sophomore and Ariel Ryals, freshman. The students maintained a competitive 3.8 grade point average or higher to receive the award.

Also receiving academic honors on the All-Academic second team, maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher were: Bailey Burnett, sophomore, Britani Di Santi, sophomore, Martin Doustou, sophomore, Brooke Mareth, junior, Hanna Minson, sophomore, Sydney Reynolds, sophomore and Johannah Richardson, freshman.
Brookelynn Baber, a sophomore at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO), recently attended the western semi-finals competition for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). Baber swept the competition, at the IHSA semi-finals in Lady Lake, Florida, where she competed against 16 other riders from across the country who all qualified through regional competition. Her win qualified her for the IHSA national championship which will be held April 30-May 3 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

NEO’s Presidents Partners program provided $1,500 to cover travel expenses.

“I couldn’t have asked Brookelynn to perform any better while we were competing at semi-finals,” said Amanda Burrows, equestrian coach. “I told her to go for it, and leave it all in the arena and that is exactly what she did. I am so very proud of her and can’t wait to head to nationals.”

Baber comes to NEO from Owasso, Okla. She rides for the equestrian team as an advanced rider. She has spent her life competing in equestrian events, which has contributed to her success while on the NEO equestrian team. Baber has been a member of the equestrian team for two years. She will graduate in May with an associate’s degree in applied science in equine farm and ranch management. She plans to stay and ride for NEO in the fall and transfer to Oklahoma State University in January 2016.

“I am so grateful to be part of such a fantastic team and to have an amazing coach pushing all of us to be our best. I am honored to have been able to represent NEO at semi-finals, and I look forward to competing at the national level continuing to represent my school. It’s been a long road of hard work so far, but it has all definitely been worth it. I couldn’t ask to be a part of a better team,”

Brookelynn Baber

As a team, NEO ended the season as the region’s reserve high point team. NEO once again had many individual riders qualify for regionals, sending eight riders. The top two placing riders in each division at regionals advance to semi-finals where the top four qualify for nationals. From regionals, two riders, Baber and Martin Doustou, qualified for semi-finals and Baber was the one who advanced to nationals.
A recent controlled burn at the old Miami Golf & Country Club provided an invaluable on-the-job experience for the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Fire Dawgs while clearing an overgrown area.

“It helps the neighborhood because it gets rid of a lot of the unwanted livestock that may be in there, cuts down on the fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and other stuff in there,” Fire Dawg program director Mike Neal said.

The Fire Dawgs are an elite wild land firefighting group of men and women who want to pursue firefighting as a career. To become a wild land firefighter, a student has to be certified (or red carded) through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the U.S. Forest Service.

After being certified, individuals can fight fires for the government and obtain a good-paying job in the process.

The NEO firefighting program is considered rookie training to get red carded and out on the fire line. The program can even provide credit hours toward a Natural Resource Ecology and Management degree.

“It was an awakening,” Neal said. “It’s a good experience. It gives them a chance to work right with fire, see what it will do. We weren’t there but a couple minutes and saw things with fire that we talk about all the time.

“They got to see a fire whirl and see wind change directions briefly, then change back again. They got to see what the reaction of it was. There was a lot of experience and education there.”

The Miami Fire Department had its brush truck available as a backup.
Representatives from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) participated again in this year’s Higher Education Day at the State Capitol Tuesday, Feb. 10. NEO’s Student Body Government (SBG) team had the opportunity to travel to Oklahoma City and have dinner and discuss emerging topics in higher education with legislators and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

“The NEO students appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues that are directly affecting them with those who are charged with dealing with the issues. On behalf of NEO, we would all like to say thank you to Representatives Loring and Cox and Senators Shaw and Wyrick for welcoming NEO at Higher Education Day,” said Amy Ishmael, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. “The students had an opportunity to see state government first hand and have a greater appreciation for what these individuals do on a daily basis.”

The officers started their Oklahoma City visit by meeting with State Legislators from the House and Senate, the Chancellor of Higher Education, OSU A&M Board of Regents and staff. The students participated in a discussion concerning higher education topics including Oklahoma’s Promise, guns on campus, and other issues facing Oklahoma’s college students. The following day the students toured the Capitol and sat on the house floor as concerns with higher education were expressed.

Some of the topics discussed were funding higher education and weapons on campus. The NEO team lobbied their concerns and the opinions of the students who are currently facing these challenges in today’s higher education environment.

“The fact that Representative Hoskins along with others emphasized this Capitol building was our building, and we had the power to make change was very motivating, not only to students furthering their education, but to everyone,” said Hanna Minson, SBG vice president.

The speakers included Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, Governor Mary Fallin and Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, and students from multiple colleges across Oklahoma who also had the chance to voice their opinion on the House floor.

The group from NEO included:
- Amy Ishmael, vice president for student affairs
- Tim Taylor, president
- Hanna Minson, vice president
- Mattie Moore, secretary
- Sabrina Terrell, treasurer
- Breanna Barngrover, senator at large
- Sydney Reynolds, senator at large
- Josh Warren, Senator at Large
- Veronica Dzul-Garcia, Freshman Representative
- Chaney Scott, Freshman Representative

STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ATTEND HIGHER ED DAY
Ag students hold majority of leadership positions on campus

Front row, from left: Hanna Minson, Breanna Barngrover, Mattie Moore, Veronica Dzul-Garcia, Sabrina Terrell and Amy Ishmael, vice president of student affairs
Back row, from left: NEO President Dr. Jeffery Hale, Sydney Reynolds, Josh Warren, Tim Taylor, SBG president, Chaney Scott and State Representative Ben Loring
Horse judges from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) started the season with a bang, capturing the title of Champion Team at the Judging 101 Spring Contest. NEO topped a field of 12 teams, winning high team in halter, high team in performance, and reserve high team in reasons. Sydney Reynolds won the halter division and was the reserve high individual overall. Brooke McCullough finished third overall, Branden Handke was sixth, and Bailey Forester was the eighth overall individual.

Students then went on to compete at the Tulsa State Fair Collegiate Horse Judging Contest, winning both Champion and Reserve Champion team. Team members brought home eight of the top ten individual awards, including four of the top five. Reynolds won the halter division and was the high individual overall. McCullough placed third overall, Branden Handke was sixth, and Bailey Forester was the eighth overall individual.

In November, NEO traveled to Oklahoma City for the AQHA World Championship Show. NEO was the third high team overall with several individuals being named in the top ten. Martin won the halter division and was the sixth high individual overall. Reynolds placed seventh overall, DiSanti was eighth, and Forester finished ninth.

In November, NEO traveled to Columbus, Ohio on Oct. 15 to compete at the All American Quarter Horse Congress Judging Contest. NEO competed against junior colleges from all over the country and took home the title of Reserve Champion Team overall, being named the reserve high team in halter, third high team in performance, and reserve high team in reasons. Baker won fourth high individual overall, Pleus was sixth, Handke finished eighth, and DiSanti placed ninth overall.

“I am tremendously proud of our students. They have worked so hard and are such a wonderful group,” said Amanda Burrows, NEO horse judging coach.

Amanda Burrows, equestrian coach
Four students in the natural resources and ecology management (NREM) degree program have received the opportunity through the Oklahoma Wildlife Department’s Paddlefish Research Center to work as an intern March 1st through April 30th. The students who received the internship are Blake Karraker, Justice Bratcher, Breanna Barngrover and Gibbon Simmons. The hiring process is done through a detailed application process that the students sent to the Oklahoma Wildlife Department who carefully selected the interns to work with them for the season.

Grand Lake is the premier destination for snagging a gigantic paddlefish. The Paddlefish Research Center (PRC) is a very convenient resource for anglers because the research center interns and staff clean the fish and package the fillets for the angler at no expense. The interns have an opportunity to work directly with the anglers. If an angler were to catch a fish, he/she could contact the PRC and they would personally pick up the fish in one of the company’s trucks that has a live well. Once the fish has arrived at the PRC, they record data before the fish is sent back to the cleaning room. Along with collecting detailed data, the jaw bone is also harvested for further research such as the length and weight. Then the fish is E-checked into the Oklahoma Wildlife Department’s information system. From there it is sent back to the cleaning room where the processing team cleans the fish and packages the fillets. If the fish is a female, the roe (caviar) is collected, packaged, and sold. “The community loves the PRC and what it can do for them, it’s vital to maintain population of these fish and that’s exactly what we do. We conduct research in order to preserve and protect this species so that anglers and the community can benefit from it for generations to come,” said Breanna Barngrover, student intern at the paddle fish research center.

These internships are coordinated through the NREM degree program that encompasses the forestry program. “NEO Forestry is unique because not only do we offer students the opportunity to pursue an education in the natural resource field, but also give students hands on experience. In NREM and Forestry we do things no one else on campus does. One day we can be in the classroom learning, and the next out in the woods or in the state park. With the NREM degree you can pursue a career in anything – natural resources, forestry or agriculture,” Barngrover said. NEO Forestry also has the Forestry club where we do many activities such as “Clean Up” days at Twin Bridges State Park, cookouts, float trips, camping trips, paintball, rodeo concessions, and other various activities. They are also a vital part of the annual “Aggie Days,” which is a three-day event hosted by NEO for agriculture students around the four-state area. The department puts on a forestry contest in which students compete. The Fire Dawgs are also part of the NREM program.
Jak e Pickering from the livestock judging team at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) was named to the junior college All American Livestock Judging team, which is the highest honor bestowed upon a judging student. Students are selected to the All-American team at the last national contest for the season in March, which is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

To be selected, All-American students are scored based upon their academic and judging success. The inductees were required to maintain a high grade point average as well as remain competitive at the four national judging competitions. Only 15 students were selected nationwide.

“Jake is one of the hardest working students I have ever coached, and he has definitely been NEO’s most successful competitor in the last decade,” said Tyler Dewey, livestock coach and department chair of agriculture. “Since his college career began, Jake’s focus was the All American team, and he has worked tirelessly to achieve his goal, and we are proud of his success. He has represented his institution well.”

Pickering will assist Dewey in coaching NEO’s freshmen – an honor not offered to just any student.

“No t only is Jake talented, but I have enjoyed watching him grow personally. His character, heart and willingness to learn make him the ideal All American,” Dewey said.

Pickering is an animal science major from Oroville, California. He is the son of Kevin and Tina Pickering. In addition to judging livestock for NEO, Pickering is involved in Aggie Society and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He assists with many livestock judging contests and volunteers regularly for farm clean-up days at the college farm.

“I am excited to receive this honor. It is very rewarding to see the results of my hard work and dedication to something I love pay off,” Pickering said. “It makes it all worthwhile.”

Jake Pickering, All-American

Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO president, Jake Pickering, Livestock All American, and Tyler Dewey, livestock coach and department chair of agriculture

Since he began his coaching career at NEO in 2012-13, Dewey has had one or more All Americans each year. The following six students are the only Livestock All Americans in NEO’s history:

2013
Taylor Langford
Megan Montgomery
Cheyenne Moyer
2014
Morgan Marley
Ethan Propp
2015
Jake Pickering
The Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) livestock judging team recently took top honors in two contests to kick off the New Year. NEO won the Willow Springs Classic and received numerous other accolades at one of the most prestigious livestock shows in the nation – Denver’s National Western Stock Show (NWSS).

As a precursor to the National Western contest, NEO placed first out of 13 teams at the Willow Springs Classic, which is a smaller contest hosted by Willow Springs Cattle Company in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. This is the first time in NEO’s history to claim the title, and NEO swept the contest by 19 points.

Willow Springs Classic:
NEO named Champion Team
Dylan Davis: first overall, first in cattle, second in reasons
Jake Pickering: third overall, seventh in small species, fourth in cattle
Natalie Hofschulte: second in small species

Later in the week NEO competed in the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado where NEO was Champion Team in the reasons room, which was also a first for the team and placed third overall out of 28 teams. NEO won second in sheep and fourth in swine. In addition to the team’s accomplishments, sophomore Jake Pickering of Orovile, California, placed second overall, fourth in reasons and fifth in swine. Sophomore Dylan Davis of Chatsworth, Georgia was fourth in sheep and goats. The team is coached by Tyler Dewey and Chris Hofschulte.

The team also competed in the carload competition, which is held only at the National Western Stock Show. Carload features four pens of cattle where competitors must rank in first through fourth place. Each pen contains four cattle that are judged as a group, unlike the livestock competition, which judges cattle individually. NEO finished sixth, and Natalie Hofschulte finished fourth individually.

Other individual honors include:
NWSS – Livestock:
Pickering: second overall, fourth in reasons and fifth in swine
Davis: fourth in sheep and goats

History of the National Western
According to the association’s website, in 1906 the first show opened on Monday, Jan. 29 and ran for six days. Attendance was estimated at 15,000 and the grand champion steer sold for 33 cents a pound, 23 cents over the market price. In 1931, the 25th National Western presented the first rodeo in conjunction with the livestock and horse show. In 1954, the Westernaires, (performers on horseback), made their first appearance at the rodeo. In 1981 the show increased to 12 days and included 21 rodeo performances. A still-standing record of $301,000 was paid at auction for a Hereford bull. In 2006, the National Western celebrated its 100th anniversary. The show’s attendance reached 726,972 for the 16-day show and the grand champion steer sold for $75,000 or $58 per pound.

More than 15,000 head of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, alpacas, bison, yak, poultry and rabbits step foot on the grounds of the National Western Stock Show each year. The National Western Stock Show is noted for hosting the world’s only carload and pen cattle show, held in the historic Denver Union Stockyards.
SIXTH ANNUAL JAMES MABON AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION CLUB

The 2014/15 academic year at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) marks the institution’s 96th anniversary. In honor of this milestone, the college unveiled the Willie and Jane Osborn Lab Sciences building and announced the sixth annual James Mabon award winner. This year’s winner was the Agriculture Education Club, for their proposal to create a student center in Ables Hall.

This was the first time for a student organization to apply and win the Mabon Award.

James Mabon, a representative in the fourth through the ninth Oklahoma legislatures, petitioned the state’s government to establish a college dedicated to the study of mining and metals, thus furthering the development of Oklahoma’s mining industry. Senate Bill No. 225 was passed on March 17, 1919, officially establishing the Miami School of Mines, which would eventually become NEO A&M College.

Jane Osborn, granddaughter of James Mabon, said that education was always of the upmost importance to her grandfather. Mabon never had the opportunity to receive a formal education and encouraged his grandchildren to go to college.

This year’s Founders’ Day celebrated the Osborn family and paid tribute to their continued support.

“Winning this award means so much to the Agriculture Education Club. This space will give us a place to study, host meetings and just hang out. We are truly thankful to have a place to call home.”

Sydney Reynolds, club president
This year marked the fifth annual Alumni Recruiting Rodeo for the agriculture department at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO). The rodeo took place in November.

The annual alumni recruiting rodeo hosted 300 students during the rodeo. Students from across four states traveled to the NEO campus to compete in rodeo events, such as barrel racing, tie down roping, calf roping, breakaway, steer wrestling, goat tying, and team roping.

Buckles were awarded to the high individuals in each division, and the high point overall for the high school division was awarded a two-year tuition scholarship to NEO.

Results below:

**Tie down roping:**
Alum: Blake Ash – Aurora, Mo.
High school: Payden Dawson – Maryville, Mo.

**Breakaway:**
Alum: Kirbee Spire – Maryville, Mo.
High school: Addee Carder – Miami, Okla.

**Steer Wrestling:**
Alum: Joey Bell – Fairland, Okla.
High school: Jace Rutledge – Harrisonville, Mo.

**Goat Tying:**
Alum: Caitlyn Philpot – Stillwater, Okla.

**Team Roping:**
Alum: Cale Markham – Vinita, Okla.
Stitches Stanley – Wagoner, Okla.
High school: Rowdy McFall – Miami, Okla.
Jake Cooper Clay – Sapulpa, Okla.

**Barrel Racing:**
Alum: Tara Holland – Columbus, Kan.

**Book scholarship:**
Wyatt Miller – Pleasant Hill, Mo.

**Tuition scholarship:**
Paige Wiseman – Paola, Kan.
Tylen Layton, 21, born and raised in Copan, Oklahoma has been roping calves since the age of four. He is currently a calf roper on the NEO rodeo team.

Layton said his next door neighbor Lon Chaney encouraged and taught him to rope as a kid, and Chaney let Layton use his indoor arena to practice. Layton was the recipient of the Annual NEO Recruiting Rodeo scholarship in 2013, which led to his rodeo career at NEO A&M.

Layton has been very successful during his time at NEO. He recently won the Kansas State tie down roping and came in fourth as a heeler in the team roping division. He received a buckle for both events and was named All-Around Champion Cowboy. Success is no stranger to Layton; other accolades include being named as he won Reserve Champion at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada where he took home close to $10,000 in cash and prizes.

In his time outside the arena, Layton enjoys being involved in the agriculture industry by trading cattle and being involved in the stock show world by trading show animals. After graduating from NEO, Layton said he plans to attend either Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas or continue his education at NEO in the Pathways Program through a partnership with Missouri Southern State University to obtain his degree in agriculture education.

Layton isn’t alone in his success this year. The rodeo team as a whole has been very successful in the first half of their season. Both NEO’s men and women’s teams are currently standing in second place in the Central Plains Region and five calf ropers are all holding spots in the top 15.

“I am excited about our upcoming rodeos because the team has been on a roll. I am so proud of our student athletes for their dedication and hard work,” said Rodeo Coach Kolby Ungeheuer. “If you consider how young the team is, it is that much more impressive.”

NEO has one of the most competitive rodeo teams in the Central Plains Region and has sent students to the College National Finals Rodeo the last three years under Ungeheuer’s leadership.

Sam Nave, Garret King, Quinton Inman and Jacob Suver are all in the top 10 in calf roping, while Bailee Snow currently ranks second in the region in barrel racing and Mattie Moore and Tara Holland follow right behind her. Clay Gulick and Patrick Houchins are in the top 15, and Tyler Worley is currently winning the team roping division.

A member of the Northeastern A&M College rodeo team was among four killed in a crash in November near Highlandville, Missouri.

Lance D. Porterfield, 19, a freshman from Sparta, Missouri, was among seven others in a 1999 Chevrolet Silverado that left a road in Stone County, near Highlandville.

Porterfield was sixth in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association’s Central Plains Region in team roping as a header. He and heeler Patrick Hutchings had finished second at the team’s last competition at Alva.

“Their goal was to make the college finals and they were headed in the right direction,” said NEO rodeo coach Kolby Ungeheuer. “Lance was one of a kind.”
INTEGRIS BAPTIST REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER DONATES DEFIBRILLATOR TO NEO A&M COLLEGE

INTEGRIS Baptist Regional Health Center donates defibrillator to NEO A&M College

The staff at Integris Baptist Regional Health Center recently donated an AED or automated external defibrillator to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College that will be housed in NEO’s multipurpose arena. Former Department Chair of Agriculture, Dr. Shannon Cunningham, worked to secure the life-saving device during her time in the agriculture department.

The process took about six months, and NEO now has five AEDs across campus.

According to the American Heart Association, “Each year in the U.S., there are approximately 359,400 Emergency Medical Services (EMS)-assessed cardiac arrests outside of a hospital setting and on average, less than 10 percent of victims survive. Cardiac arrest affects people of all ages, but occurs more commonly in adults with prior heart disease.”

NEO and Miami’s IBRHC were both established in 1919. The college and hospital have a long history of working together to support the community.

“Life-saving resources in an emergency situation are a must for all of our campus locations. We are very fortunate that Integris has so generously given us this AED for our Synar Farm and multipurpose arena. We are thankful for their support and attention to the welfare of our students and community.”

Dr. Shannon Cunningham, assistant vice president of academic affairs

NEO’S AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TEAMS UP WITH RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF THE FOUR STATES

The Agriculture Ambassadors, a leadership program at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO), have partnered with Ronald McDonald House (RMDH) Charities of the Four States as a way to volunteer their time for a worthy cause.

The mission of RMDH is to create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and wellbeing of children. Their cornerstone program provides a “home away from home” for families of seriously ill children (0-18yrs.) and ill-expectant mothers being treated at nearby hospitals.

The Agriculture Ambassadors program was incepted in 2007 as a way for the agriculture department to have representation by NEO students who rise to the top as leaders within the department. The group is only for sophomores who are carefully chosen based on their application, leadership skills, integrity and character during their freshman year.

Agriculture Ambassadors consist of students majoring in agriculture and are selected based on their academic success (grade point average), community involvement and reputation amongst peers to represent the department. These students are advocates for agriculture and participate in events including national and state FFA conventions, Aggie Olympics, student body government meetings, and various events throughout the year.

Agriculture instructors Alisen Anderson and McKenzie Nygren cosponsor the leadership program.
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) celebrated 10 of its brightest student leaders during their sixth annual ceremony last November, half of which were in the agriculture department.

The Top 10 Freshmen honored at the ceremony, who are now sophomores, were selected by a committee comprised of faculty, a president’s partner representative and a student activities representative to receive the distinction. The Top Ten Freshmen receive scholarships, special privileges, participate in leadership development activities and have opportunities to practice leadership skills together.

This year’s honorees from the ag department include:

Brody Cridlebaugh is majoring in agriculture and hails from Princeton, Missouri. He was placed on the President’s Honor Roll both semesters of his freshman year, served as a member of the PTK honor Society, Aggie Society, and the Agriculture Ambassadors. Brody was also a member of the livestock judging team and recognized as a top 10 individual at the Kiamichi Link Contest. In addition, he serves as a counselor at a Christian summer camp for sheep and goat exhibitors.

Hanna Minson is from Vinita, Oklahoma. She is majoring in agriculture with an agriculture education option. Last year, she was recognized on the President’s Honor Roll and was a member of the Norse Star Dance Team. She served as Student Body Government vice president and held officer positions in the Ag Ed club, Aggie Society and Catholics in Action. Hanna also participated in Norse campus ministry meetings, served as an Agriculture Ambassador, assisted with the Big Event, church clean up days and volunteered at The Harbor. Recently, she was named First Runner-Up in the homecoming royalty competition.

Mattie Moore is from Harrisonville, Missouri. During her freshman year, she received the Cream of the Crop award and was recognized on the Dean’s and President’s Honor Rolls. She was a member of the Rodeo Team and finished 7th in the Central Plains Region in barrel racing. As a member of the team, she helped run barrel racing, calf-roping, and team-roping jackpots at the school farm. In addition, she served as a Student Ambassador and an Orientation Leader. As part of her Leadership Class, she had the opportunity to promote, advertise, and obtain necessities for Peggy’s Closet. She currently serves as Student Body Government secretary.

Sydney Reynolds is from Pullman, Washington. She is majoring in agriculture and business administration. She is a member of the horse judging and equestrian teams. Sydney served as an Agriculture Ambassador, Student Body Government sophomore representative, president of the Ag Ed and Equine Clubs and reporter for Phi Beta Lambda. She was also a member of the PTK Honor Society and Aggie Society. Sydney was awarded the Cream of the Crop Award and named to the President’s Honor Roll. In addition, she worked with students at Washington Elementary and coordinated student volunteers at Horses of Hope in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Tim Taylor is from Vinita, Oklahoma and is majoring in agriculture with the agriculture education option. Last year, he was inducted into the PTK Honor Society, started the NEO Catholics in Action club and served as its first president. Tim earned a 4.0 GPA and was placed on the President’s Honor Roll. He played the clarinet and alto saxophone in The Norwegian Legion and was a member of the Ag-Ed club and Aggie Society. Tim assisted with the Big Event, Norwegian Legion can food drive, and served dinner at the The Harbor. He is currently Student Body Government president and NEO’s homecoming king.
Many students hope to land internships to give them a competitive advantage upon entering the workforce after graduation. NEO’s agriculture department had six students who were selected for industry-related internships, which are typically reserved for seniors. This is such an accomplishment as these positions are very competitive.

**Augustus “Gus” Anderson** is from Skiatook, Oklahoma and is a natural resource ecology and management major. He is an intern at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) with wildland fire fighting. His responsibilities include using fire suppression techniques to control unstable wild fires on tribal lands. Since his internship with the BIA, he now has a job as a firefighter with the bureau. Gus serves as an NEO Fire Dawg and is the Forestry Club president.

**Justice Bratcher** is from Muskogee, Oklahoma and is a natural resource and ecology management major. He is an intern at Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) Paddlefish Research Center in Miami. His responsibilities include harvesting paddlefish and collecting data about them such as weight and length. The center uses this data to help preserve paddlefish and the public’s ability to harvest them responsibly.

**Kirbee Spire** hails from Maryville, Missouri and is a MSU Pathways student. Spire will work for Prime Performance Nutrition-Jeff Butler for the summer of 2015 as a marketing intern. Prime Performance Nutrition is a very highly sought out company in other countries such as Dubai and Saudi Arabia, and now the task is to bring it to the United States. Throughout this internship, Spire will work to create long-lasting customers within the United States using a program that has been created specifically for this internship using marketing and salesmanship skills.

**Hanna Minson** is a Vinita, Oklahoma native and is an agriculture education and communications major. She will intern for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Four States (RMHC) in Joplin, Missouri. Responsibilities will include: content development for promotional materials, volunteer relations and interfacing with families of critically ill children. The mission of RMHC is to create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and wellbeing of children. Ronald McDonald House, their cornerstone program, provides a “home away from home” for families of seriously ill children and ill- expectant mothers being treated at nearby hospitals.

**Canyon Dewey** is from Lavaca, Arkansas, and he is an agriculture major with an emphasis in animal science. Dewey will intern at Welch State Bank within the agriculture lending department. Primary responsibilities will include performing farm inspections, collecting and preparing financial statements, and spreading tax returns to assist loan officers with the underwriting process. The goal of Welch State Bank is to expose their interns to every facet of community banking.

**Breanna Barngrover** is from Sand Springs, Oklahoma and is a natural resource and ecology management major. She is an intern at Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) Paddlefish Research Center in Miami. Her responsibilities include harvesting paddlefish and collecting data about them such as weight and length. The center uses this data to help preserve paddlefish and the public’s ability to harvest them responsibly.
Staff members from the agriculture department at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) made four inductions into the Aggie Hall of fame at the annual alumni banquet on Friday, June 13, 2014.

There have not been any inductions into the Ag Hall of Fame since 1988. The year 2014 marked the induction of a ‘super class,’ and it was a special induction ceremony to honor four icons of the NEO agriculture department.

From left: Jary Douglas, Lawson Essex, Pete Smith and Roger Fent – four legends who were inducted into the 2014 Hall of Fame. These men were instrumental in NEO’s agriculture department.