NEO Basketball hosted its annual breast cancer awareness game on Feb. 15. This year’s “Get Your Pink On” benefit game hit close to home, as NEO Basketball honored DeAnna Chenoweth, the mother of one its very own players, sophomore Hannah Chenoweth.

All proceeds from fundraisers at the game benefited Chenoweth to help pay for medical expenses. In addition, a silent auction featured a pink basketball signed by all of the NEO basketball players among other items.

A single mom of three children, including Hannah’s twin sister Malarie and brother Eli, she was diagnosed in 2012 at the age of 41 after feeling a lump during a self-examination.

As a healthcare sonographer, Chenoweth understood the importance of self-exams. Despite no history in her family, she was formally diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer just one week later. Managing three teenagers on her own, she had to juggle treatment, work, and being a parent.

“Your lifestyle changes and you have to find a new normal,” said Chenoweth. “My kids really stepped up and took on adult roles. While I was flying to Chicago for treatments, the girls were taking care of their brother by preparing dinner, helping with homework, and driving him around.”

“We have always looked up to our mom for her bravery and strength, but we never really understood how strong of a woman she was until she began her fight against breast cancer,” said daughter Hannah. “She has never been the kind of person to focus on herself. It was always about us and making sure she could give us everything that she didn’t have for herself.”

After successfully completing chemotherapy and radiation, Chenoweth endured rigorous reconstructive surgeries. Now in remission, she is focused on educating others about breast cancer.

“It is important to keep up with self-exams. Some people say they just can’t tell the difference between something normal and something abnormal, but I always say you should take time to understand your body,” added Chenoweth.

NEO honored Chenoweth for her perseverance during the halftime of the men’s basketball game. Special thanks to sponsors B. Oliver’s, Donna Hale and NEO Women and Friends, Edie Ingram, Jana Hayes, Judy Kowal and Kountry Pearls & Bling, Kathryn Vanover, the NEO Bookstore, and Integris Miami.
Lady Norse Basketball remains in first place in the Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference by building on their 18 game winning streak. The women have a two game lead in the conference over Northern Oklahoma-Enid and they are currently ranked number 11 in the NJCAA.

Coach Jim Rowland was reserved in a Miami News Record interview after a recent 71-55 win against Enid.

“We’re in good position, but we can’t relax,” Rowland said. “I think we have to win one of the three we have left and we secure the conference title, but we’ve still got to play. We can’t back off just because we beat Enid.”

NEO has made an impact with their 3-point game. While they are currently ranked 29th among 3-point percentage in the NJCAA, they are seventh in both 3-pointers attempted and made, averaging over 25 points a game. With three games left, the Lady Norse are currently 22-3, compared to 22-6 from last year’s conference title team.

The Lady Norse are close to clinching their third consecutive conference title under the direction of Rowland.

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Jim Rowland, head women’s basketball coach

(Maria Delago drives against a Northern Oklahoma-Enid defender for 2 of her 22 points. Photo courtesy of Miami News Record - Dannie Lee Oliveaux/MNR)
The NEO wrestling team continued their dominance of the NJCAA West-Central District national qualifying tournament with their third consecutive title since the reinstatement of the program in the 2013-14 wrestling season.

The Norsemen qualified in all ten weight classes with seven champions, one second, and two third place finishers. The team earned 170.5 team points to outdistance second place Barton Community College easily. The NEO wrestlers took to the mat on Saturday and were victorious in 29 of 31 matches.

**Winning titles for NEO:**

133 lbs. freshman, Curtis Burnett, Independence, Kan., going 3-0 increasing his overall record to 29-15.

141 lbs. sophomore, Mitchell Sellers, Tahlequah, Okla., 3-0, now overall 26-10.

157 lbs. sophomore, Dawaylon Barnes, Muskogee, Okla., 3-0, increasing to 33-7.

174 lbs. sophomore, Jacobe Smith, Muskogee, Okla., 3-0, now 36-2. He was also named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the District Tournament. He is the defending 174 lb. National Champion.

184 lbs. redshirt sophomore Jacob Hill, Augusta, Kan., 3-0, now at 31-14.

197 lbs. sophomore Josh Latham, Chickasha, Okla., 3-0, now sits at 23-7.

285 lbs. sophomore Blake Andrews, Grapevine, Texas, 3-0, with a 42-5 overall record.

Sophomore Kristian Holguin-Mendez, from Sapulpa, Okla., and two freshman wrestlers; Logan Terril, Ark City, Kan. and Saul Ortiz, Wichita, Kan. also qualified for the national tournament.

The ten national qualifiers will now train in preparation for the NJCAA National Championships in Council Bluffs, Iowa on February 26-27, 2016. NEO won the National Championship in 2014 and finished fifth last year.
NEO Equestrian Team partnered with the Red Dirt Riders to host an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Horse Show on Jan. 30. The event allowed high school students from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to attend their first show of the season, while also allowing them to meet with NEO recruiters and riders. The NEO Equestrian Team not only provided horses and the arena for the event, but they also had the opportunity to show students NEO’s facilities.

The competing high school and middle school students watched NEO riders warm horses up and a random draw process was used to assign students a specific horse. Upon mounting their horse, participants had only minutes to become acquainted with their mount before entering the show arena. Along with the seven high school teams, seven middle school teams also participated. In all, 89 riders competed in the show, riding in either western horsemanship or reining classes.

“NEO Equestrian gladly stepped forward to host a show for these students. It was a great opportunity to show students our campus and riding facilities, along with showing them what collegiate equestrian is all about. We were excited with the fantastic turnout and the future of IEA in our region!”

Amanda Burrows, NEO Equestrian coach

For more information about the NEO Equestrian program, contact Amanda Burrows at amanda.burrows@neo.edu.

AGGIE ANKEE CARR EARN FOUR AWARDS AT NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Anneke Carr, a Georgia native and member of the NEO Livestock Judging Team, traveled to Denver Colo. in January to compete in the collegiate livestock competition. At the competition, Carr not only placed in the top ten in three individual events, she also placed 5th High Individual Overall.

“The National Western Stock Show is considered the Super Bowl of livestock shows,” said McKenzie Nygren, agriculture interim department chair. “Anneke’s recent success is a testament to her hard work and dedication and the relevancy of NEO’s academic and competitive programs.”

During the contest’s 110th year, Carr placed 7th High Individual Oral Reasons, 5th High Individual in Beef Cattle Reasons, and 2nd High Individual in the Sheep and Goats category. Along with her excellent performance at the event, Carr has also striven for success in academia. As an agriculture business major and Phi Theta Kappa member, she received an NEO Foundation Scholarship and was honored as one of the NEO 2015-16 Top Ten Freshmen for her work during the 2014-15 school year.
Officials from the NEO Development Foundation recently announced that $20,000 has been donated to endow a scholarship in memory of Dr. Charles H. and Mrs. JoAnn Angle.

Dr. Angle served 35 years at NEO in many capacities. Beginning in 1957, Dr. Angle taught social sciences and later became the dean of students and the vice president of academic affairs. After the retirement of Dr. D. D. Creech, Angle also served as the interim president of NEO. Angle earned his associate degree from NEO and later his bachelor’s degree from Kansas State Teachers College (Pittsburg State University), finishing with his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas.

As an educator, Angle was devoted to the overall welfare of his students. “I saw my relationship with students, faculty, and staff as that of a ‘pastor’ to them,” Angle was quoted in a *Miami News Record* article. “To really evaluate a teacher you would have to wait until their students live their lives and see how they have done. Then, and only then, could you judge them.”

Dr. Angle married his high school sweetheart JoAnn in 1951. As a long-time resident of Miami, Okla., Mrs. Angle worked in the family-owned Stubblefield’s Candy Shop. After marrying Charles, she eventually became the manager of the NEO bookstore. Remembered as a versatile and influential community member, Mrs. Angle also volunteered at the Northwest Baptist Church Sunday School and later the First Christian Church. The couple retired together in 1992 and remained in the Miami area.

Mrs. Angle passed away on May 14, 2015; she was 83. Dr. Angle passed away soon after on Aug. 2, 2015 after a brief illness. Their son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Cindy Angle and son and daughter-in-law, Herb and Alana Angle survive them, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The endowment was established by the couple’s sons and will provide $1,000 per year toward the purchase of books for students who demonstrate financial need and maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA).

“Together, Dr. Charles and JoAnn Angle dedicated more than 55 years to serving NEO. During their tenure, they impacted the lives of countless students. Thanks to the generosity of the Angle family, the couple’s legacy on campus will live on through an endowed scholarship in their memory. Since JoAnn managed the NEO bookstore for years, it seemed only fitting that the scholarship be applied toward the cost of textbooks.”

Jennifer Hessee, executive director of the NEO Development Foundation.

For more information on the Dr. Charles H. and JoAnn Angle Scholarship or any other scholarship offered through the NEO Foundation, please contact Jennifer Hessee at 918-540-6250.
Freshman Corey Pell thought he was a long shot when he applied for the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

“They have tens of thousands students that apply and they only pick about 1,000, so I didn’t figure I had much of a chance,” said Pell. “I first found out that I was a finalist in the spring of 2015. I had a close friend who was the National FFA Association state president who earned one, so he told me about it and helped me through the application process.”

The highly competitive Gates Millennium Scholarship program was founded in 1999 and has funded more than 17,000 scholars. From 2000 to 2014, the program funded nearly one billion dollars to support high achieving minority students. The program was established to reduce financial barriers that might prevent students from achieving their academic goals.

Pell, a Native American student from Chouteau, Okla. is majoring in Agriculture Education. He is also on the livestock judging team. Earning the scholarship did not change his decision to attend NEO, he had already committed and earned a livestock scholarship, but the scholarship eliminated any financial worry.

“I was just like any other student getting ready to go to college,” said Pell. “I was trying to get every scholarship I could. NEO had already offered me a livestock judging scholarship and I really liked the program, so I had committed in December. I always try to work hard at everything I do, but knowing that I wasn’t going to have a debt from college was a really big relief. I still have to work hard to meet the grade requirements, but the scholarship lets me focus more on school.”

“Corey exemplifies the type of student and person all instructors, coaches, and mentors love to see come through NEO,” said Taylor Graham, NEO instructor and livestock judging coach. “He’s a hard worker and a great student.”

Pell plans to attend Oklahoma State University after he completes his degree at NEO. His father attended OSU and Pell wants to keep the tradition alive. While originally planning to finish with his bachelor’s degree, Pell is considering working toward his master’s degree.

“I didn’t know if I wanted to go on and get my master’s degree. But now with the Gates Millennium Scholarship, I have the opportunity to go and get my master’s in education, which gives me the opportunity to do a lot of good.”

Corey Pell, NEO freshman
The NEO Governor’s Cup business team has begun preparations to compete in the spring competition. The Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition is a tri-state business competition for college students from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Nevada. The teams create a business plan proposal for submission and finalists give oral presentations to a panel of judges. The total cash prize pool reaches upward of $100,000.

The Governor’s Cup team members enroll in an exclusive course with members hand-selected by Calvin Becker, business instructor and Governor’s Cup team sponsor. The class focuses on the competition, but also instructs students in creating modern and attractive business plans.

A portion of the funding for the Governor’s Cup team comes from the NEO President’s Partners. Dr. Jeff Hale organized the President’s Partners program to support projects outside of the normal funding scope. Partners pledge annual support and disburse funds to several different projects including the textbook bank, Top Ten Freshmen scholarships, and travel abroad studies, among other projects.

“If our proposal makes it past the first round, then the students will make a pitch to actual investors. It gives the students a chance to make a real world pitch to people who might one day be on their hiring committee, so it is a great learning experience,” said Becker. “The support we receive from the President’s Partners program is also instrumental to our success. We are still developing our plan, but I can say that it focuses on a family center for Miami. We earned third place two years ago, so I would be very excited to see us perform at that level again.”

Calvin Becker, business instructor and Governor’s Cup team sponsor
Mary Susan Whaley, NEO choir director and instructor, was nominated for the 2016 Miami Area Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Award. This distinguished honor is awarded to area educators who demonstrate exceptional and innovative capabilities in their educational fields. Whaley represented NEO alongside a Miami Public School and a Northeast Technology Center educator.

Whaley has served at NEO for over 35 years in positions ranging from choir director, music theory instructor, and Meistersingers director, among many others. She has also served on the NEO Faculty Senate for over 20 years and is currently serving as the president of the faculty association. Above all, Whaley is dedicated to her students.

Any student of music has the ability to succeed – either on a personal level, a professional level, or both. It is my job to set the expectations high. Whether or not the student achieves the expectation is not the point. The journey to reach those heights is how the student discovers their ‘voice’, their art, and themselves. I provide the student with all of the information that I can to guide them through their journey.

Mary Susan Whaley, NEO choir director and instructor

In addition to her responsibilities on campus, Whaley also Volunteers her time with a variety of community projects including the Miami Arts and Humanities Council, All Saints’ Episcopal Church, United Way, Miami Little Theater, and many more.

“The first year I taught at NEO, it was necessary for me to step into the role of the Mother Superior in our production of The Sound of Music,” added Whaley. “From that point on, many of my students have called me Mama Whaley. I believe that name exemplifies the care and concern that I show for my students, both in the classroom and out. I have a relationship with many of my students outside of the classroom, which involves but is not limited to sending them for health care, helping them find mechanics for their cars, providing transportation, going to the emergency room with them, and cooking a home-cooked meal for students far away from home.”

Congratulations to Mary Susan Whaley for her nomination and service to NEO!