NEO’s President’s Partners donated the funds for new recreational tables in the Student Activities Center. NEO’s Chad Davis accepts the donation from President’s Partner Jackie Kreeger.

NEO Honored Seven Distinguished Alums at an Alumni Banquet

NEO Department of Public Safety Finds New Home
NEO Hosts Parent Day

Former NEO Championship Coach Glen Wolfe Dies

Sam Wells Scholarship Endowed
Tom Osborne Event Raises over $20,000

Former NEO Coach Donnie Bigby Passes Away

NEO Honored Veterans During Patriot’s Night
NEO Volleyball on a Roll

McKenzie Nygren Named as Interim Chair of the Agriculture Dept.

NEO Holds Equestrian Academy

NEO Equestrian Team Claims Several Awards in First Season IHSA Horse Show

Lady Norse Soccer Going Strong

NEO crowned the Homecoming Royalty at a coronation ceremony during halftime of the NEO homecoming football game on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015.

“I’m really surprised and thankful,” said Justice Tamplen, homecoming queen. “Thank you to the Masquers (NEO theater and drama) Club for being there to support me.” Tamplen is from Frisco, Texas and represents the Masquers Club. She is the daughter of Susan and Mathew Tamplen.

“I’ve loved my time here at NEO. I’m very blessed,” added Homecoming King Caleb Cox. Cox is from Miami, Okla. and represents the Native American Student Association. He is the son of Billy and Marjie Sly and Jason and Geri Cox.

Contestants were scored on grade point average, references, quality of digital projects, and pageant presentation. The winners each received $250 scholarships and the runners up received $100 scholarships.
The NEO Development Foundation sponsored an Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015, to honor outstanding NEO Alumni. Six awards were given, with new awards for Outstanding Young Alumnus and Outstanding Retired Faculty.

**Award of Merit – Art Cousatte**

Art Cousatte received his associate degree from NEO in 1965. He received his graduate degree from SMU in Dallas and earned certification to oversee trust and estate planning. He soon became the assistant vice president at Security Bank in Miami, Okla. and served for 30 years, reaching the position of senior vice president. Cousatte joined Welch State Bank in 1997, where he still serves as vice chairman of the board/chief executive officer and co-owner.

Cousatte is heavily active in serving the communities of Northeast Oklahoma. He has volunteered time to the Lions Club, Northeast Oklahoma Council on Alcoholism, Downstream Development Authority, and the Ottawa County Industrial Finance Committee, among others. Cousatte is married to Vickie, his wife of over 25 years.

**Outstanding Alumni from the College of Liberal Arts – Dan and Kathy Call**

Dan and Kathy Call met at NEO on the set of “Hello Dolly.” Kathy received her associate degree in 1971 and the couple moved to attend the University of Tulsa, where they received their bachelor’s degrees. Both taught music in the Tulsa area.

The couple continues to share music with the Tulsa University Gifted and Talented Program. They also serve as director and associate director of music ministries at the University United Methodist Church in Tulsa.

**Outstanding Alumni from the College of Human Environmental Sciences – Bo Reese**

Bo Reese received his associate degree at NEO for computer science in 1990. While at NEO, Reese was active in clubs and organizations including the Computer Science Club and student government. He then transferred to Oklahoma State University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree.

Reese later served as chief operations and accountability officer for the Information Services Division at the Oklahoma State Office of Management and Enterprise Services. In 2014, Gov. Mary Fallin appointed Reese as the state government’s chief information officer. As CIO, Reese oversees the information technology services of all state agencies.

**Outstanding Alumni from the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences – Paula Monroe-Aldridge**

Paula Monroe-Aldridge is a 1991 graduate of NEO, where she received her associate degree in applied biology. She transferred to Oklahoma State University and completed her bachelor’s degree in agricultural science and natural resources animal science in 1993. She earned her doctorate of veterinary medicine from Oklahoma State University in 1996.

Dr. Monroe-Aldridge focuses on feline medicine and serves as an associate veterinarian at River Trail Animal Hospital. Her work with the hospital earned it the title of Oklahoma’s first Gold Level Feline Friendly Practice. In 2007, Tulsa’s Humane Society awarded her the title, “Veterinarian of the Year.”

**Outstanding Retired Faculty – Jim Grover**

Jim Grover is an alumnus of NEO and a former computer science instructor. Grover also served as the department chair for the Technology Department. Although he retired from full time teaching in 2009, he continued to teach part time at NEO for five more years. He currently holds the record for the longest standing instructor at NEO.

Outside of the classroom, Grover and his wife Beverly have been very active in NEO athletics. For over 20 years, the Grovers have been basketball boosters. He is also in his 50th year volunteering for the community-wide high school basketball tournament.

**Outstanding Young Alumni – Bryan Clift**

Bryan Clift was awarded NEO’s first Outstanding Young Alumnus award. He receive his associate degree in 1999. He also met his wife Jana on the campus. After NEO, Clift completed his bachelor’s degree at Oklahoma State University. He then began a career in Texas land brokerage with his father’s Clift Land Brokers.

Clift has volunteered extensively in his Texas community. He not only oversees the Stratford Youth Sports Program, he also serves on the Texas Wheat Board, the Stratford ISD School Board, the Sherman County Development Committee, and the Sherman County Advocates for Ag.
The NEO Department of Public Safety has moved to a new location on campus. The change will allow officers more room to conduct daily business. The office moved from the basement of the Library/Administration building to the former Baptist Collegiate Ministries building. While most of the funding came from NEO’s capital budget, a portion was provided through the Title III grant program.

“The new location allows us to better serve students in a more efficient manner,” said Mark Wall, campus safety director. “We also have a room for training and individual offices that allow us to visit with students, faculty, and parents in a more private setting.”

The NEO Department of Public Safety has also received the National Incident Management System Compliance Certification. The certification from the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security marks the successful completion of the objectives outlined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

NEO held Parents’ Day on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015 starting at 10 a.m. Parents were welcomed by President Hale and then enjoyed activities throughout the day. Lunch was provided and the day concluded with a Golden Norse football game.

This is our second year having a special day dedicated to our current students’ families,” said Scott Donaldson, assistant vice president of student affairs and director of recruitment. “It was a great day of events, tailgating, and football. Our parents got to see firsthand how their kids were settling into college life.”

The day began with a continental breakfast for parents. They then heard a presentation from Dr. Bethene Fahnestock, vice president of academic affairs. She discussed the academic calendar, midterm grades, the add-drop policy, and the first year experience program.

Following Dr. Fahnestock, housing director Jim Rowland shared the rules and regulations of housing on NEO’s campus. Director of Financial Aid David Fisher then discussed the financial aid application process for the 2016 school year.

Finally, Deputy Chief of Campus Security Mark Wall led a short discussion on campus safety and NEO’s dedication to making students’ learning experience safe and comfortable. After a tailgate lunch, Parents were able to join their students around the fountain for a pep rally before the 2 p.m. football game.
FORMER NEO CHAMPIONSHIP COACH GLEN WOLFE DIES

Former NEO football coach Glen Wolfe died Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 after an illness. Wolfe served as head coach from 1978-90 and won two NJCAA national titles (1980, 1986). He was also the second winningest football coach in NEO history with a record of 109-19-3. Only Red Robertson compiled a better record at 162-49-7 from 1942 to 1966.

“I came here as a young coach and a lot of the things I used in my coaching came from him,” said Dale Patterson, former assistant to Wolfe and current NEO athletic director, in a Miami News-Record report. “He needs to be remembered as one of the great men who helped shape our football program.”

Wolfe spent much of his early career in central Oklahoma, coaching in Pawnee, Holdenville, and Alva, Okla. In 1978, he began his tenure as NEO’s football coach. “NEO won a lot of games because he wanted you to be both mentally and physically tough,” said Patterson. After only a few years at NEO, Wolfe brought home the NJCAA national title in 1980. During his tenure, Wolfe coached over three dozen junior college All-Americans. He also had players go on to the NFL.

In 1980, Wolfe was selected as the Outstanding Fellowship of Student Athletes Coach of the Year. He was also inducted into the NEO Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. “When you stop to consider that he was the second-winningest coach in one of the most prestigious junior college programs in the country, that’s quite a feat,” said Patterson. “You also have to take into consideration the number of kids he was able to help during his entire coaching career, it’s just phenomenal.”

Wolfe retired in 2010 at 70 years old. His wife, Elaine, and their two sons, Greg and Mike, survive him.

SAM WELLS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED

A scholarship has been dedicated in the name of the late Sam Wells, a physical sciences teacher and soccer coach while at NEO. Wells, or “Doc Rock” as he was known to students, taught physical science and geology at NEO from 1965 until 2007. He also coached the NEO soccer team for two years in the late 1970s. In 1980, he founded what is now the Miami Regional Soccer Association.

The scholarship has been designated to assist an NEO soccer player who is in need of financial assistance. Each year, the Norse and Lady Norse soccer coaches will select one recipient for the $500 award. As an endowed scholarship, the funds will be invested to ensure the continuation of the Samuel Wells Jr., Scholarship offered through the NEO Development Foundation.

TOM OSBORNE EVENT RAISES OVER $20,000

As part of NEO’s Legend Series, former Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne was awarded a bronze Norseman. Osborne, a friend of former NEO coach Chuck Bowman, was the head coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers from 1973 to 1997. During his tenure, the Cornhuskers won three national championships and 12 Big Eight titles. He posted an overall head coaching record of 255-49-3.

Osborne was the first guest of the NEO Legend Series, a fundraiser for the NEO Athletic Department. The banquet was held at the Calcagno Family Ballroom on NEO’s campus and was attended by several community members and alumni. The event raised over $20,000 for the Athletic Department.
FORMER NEO COACH DONNIE BIGBY PASSES AWAY

Donnie Bigby, former NEO football coach, passed away this past June. He was 55 and died after a heart attack. Starting in 2001, Bigby served as the Golden Norse offensive line coach. During his tenure at NEO, Coach Bigby served as both head football coach and chair of the physical education department. He was devoted to ensuring student success both in the classroom and on the field, and thus exerted a very positive influence on both athletes and students. As a result, Bigby coached more than 20 Division I offensive linemen, eight All-Conference players, seven All-Americans and two NFL players.

“He was an outstanding offensive line coach, but an even better person,” said NEO Athletic Director Dale Patterson in a Miami News-Record interview. “Donnie was my offensive line coach during the SWJCFC championship seasons of 2002 and 2003 and was a great part of our success.”

Bigby also served as interim head coach after Rob Green’s resignation. After NEO, Bigby served at Baxter Springs High School and Carl Junction High School. In Carl Junction, he worked with Doug Buckmaster as an offensive line coach.

“He was a great teacher”, added Buckmaster. “Donnie’s glass was always half full. He lived life to the fullest and was one of the most positive people I have ever met. We had problems and he always told me we would get them fixed. He always had a smile on his face.”

Bigby is survived by his wife Cindy, sons Josh, Mitch, and Grant, and his four grandchildren Anya, Zegen, Brelynn, and Kaiden. NEO held a tribute to Coach Bigby in late August of this year.

NEO HONORED VETERANS DURING PATRIOT’S NIGHT

The athletic department at NEO honored Veterans and Military personnel during Patriots’ Night. The event was held on Sept. 6 at Red Robertson Field in conjunction with the first home football game against Southeast Prep.

The individuals who were honored during game day festivities included Brent Judd, Angela Randol, Brian Randol, Stan Beesley, Bill Tritthart, and Jim Boyd.

Dale Patterson, NEO athletic director said, “This is a great opportunity to pay tribute to members of our community who have dedicated their service to our country.”

NEO VOLLEYBALL ON A ROLL

NEO volleyball is on a roll this season with a record of 16-2. The Lady Norse are ranked 15 in the NJCAA Division II polls. The high hitting percentage (how often a spike results in a point) has led the team to be ranked number four in points per set.

The Lady Norse are also perfect at home, winning all nine games played in the Student Activities Center on NEO’s campus. With under ten games left in the regular season, the team will again meet Coffeyville and MCC-Longview, their only two loses.

“We feel the first half of the season has put us in a really good position coming down the stretch, confidence is good, and we are healthy,” said Eric Iverson, head volleyball coach. “We are blessed to have a very mature team so the road games don’t worry us a whole lot.”

Leading the team’s offensive attack is sophomore Juliana Tomasoni. Her 175 season kills brings her an average of 3.5 points per set. Sophomore Madison Sherman’s 341 defensive digs support the Lady Norse high-powered offense.

Iverson added, “Consistency has been the trademark of this team and simply getting a little more consistent will be huge for us at the end.”
McKenzie Nygren has been named interim chair of the agriculture department at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO). Nygren teaches agricultural economics and business courses, leads the Missouri State University Agriculture Pathways Partnership, and sponsors the Agriculture Ambassadors, NEO’s prestigious leadership program. Her appointment was effective Sept. 14.

It is commonplace to appoint an interim chairperson when a vacancy occurs. The interim position may take anywhere from six months to one year until the position has been appointed.

“As interim, I am confident in McKenzie’s ability to lead the college’s agriculture department and maintain her commitment to her colleagues, the Agriculture Ambassador program and her students in the classroom,” Dr. Bethene Fahnestock, NEO Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Nygren is an NEO alumna who earned her associate’s degree in agriculture in 2008. In 2010, she graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness. Nygren is now in the final stages of her master’s degree in agriculture education from Iowa State University. Her expected completion date is May 2016.

Under her direction and through a cooperative agreement with Missouri State University, the NEO Pathways partnership enables students to achieve a bachelor’s degree in general agriculture while remaining on campus in Miami. There are currently 20 students in the program—an increase of more than 50 percent since 2013.

“I am humbled and excited to have the opportunity to serve the NEO agriculture department in the role of department chair,” Nygren said. “I hope to build upon the tradition of excellence that continues to make NEO agriculture both successful and competitive among junior college agriculture departments across the nation.”

Nygren is active on several NEO and community committees including NEO curriculum/articulation, NEO assessment and Rodeo Miami. Additionally, she also serves as superintendent for the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event.
Riders for the NEO equestrian team participated in their season’s first Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Horse Show on Sept. 26 and 27, 2015 at Truman State University. NEO riders scored enough points in individual competition to earn the Reserve High Point award both Saturday and Sunday behind Black Hawk College in Moline, Ill.

The team travelled to Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo. and competed against 11 schools including Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, and Missouri State Universities. Before the competition begins, riders must draw a horse to ride that is provided by the hosting school. Riders are then judged on their ability, or equitation, to ride and control an unfamiliar horse.

The competition is both individual and team based. Riders compete in events and score points for their team. Points are awarded to first through sixth place. After each day of competition, a High Point award goes to the team with the highest cumulative point total and a Reserve High Point award goes to the team with the second highest total.

SATURDAY RESULTS:

Open Division:
Brookelynn Baber – first in Horsemanship
Ashton Boettcher – second in Horsemanship, third in Reining
Brooke Mareth – sixth in Horsemanship, Reserve in Reining

Advanced Division:
Taylor Carpenter – first in Horsemanship
Brittany Abernathy – second in Horsemanship

Novice Division:
Bailey Burnett – fourth in Horsemanship

Intermediate II Division:
Sydney Schaefer – first in Horsemanship
Johannah Richardson – first in Horsemanship
Karli Jones – second in Horsemanship
Emily Haak – second in Horsemanship
Taylor Carpenter – third in Horsemanship

Beginner Division:
Cole Enloe – first in Horsemanship
Cheyenne Lindsey – fourth in Horsemanship

SUNDAY RESULTS:

Open Division:
Brookelynn Baber – third in Horsemanship
Ashton Boettcher – fourth in Horsemanship, sixth in Reining
Brooke Mareth – fifth in Horsemanship
Martin Doustou – second in Reining

Advanced Division:
Brittany Abernathy – first in Horsemanship
Dylan Price – first in Horsemanship
Taylor Carpenter – fifth in Horsemanship

Novice Division:
Bailey Burnett – second in Horsemanship

Intermediate II Division:
Jessica Rupp – first in Horsemanship
Karli Jones – first in Horsemanship
Alex Spratt – second in Horsemanship
Johannah Richardson – second in Horsemanship
JT Morris – third in Horsemanship

Beginner Division:
Cole Enloe – second in Horsemanship
Myranda Alford – second in Horsemanship
Cheyenne Lindsey – fourth in Horsemanship
Martin Howard – fifth in Horsemanship
Lady Norse Soccer is on a six game winning streak with an overall record of 13-2. Currently ranked 19th in the NJCAA poll, NEO’s high-powered shooting has led them to victories over Paris, Rose State, and MCC-Maple Woods. The Lady Norse have shut out their opponents ten times behind the goalkeeping of Demi Schlageter (So) and Darista Herrera(Fr). The pair has a save percentage of 85.7% and Demi Schlageter was recently named the Division I Women’s Soccer Goalie of the Week after saving five shots on goal.

“We’re really excited with the progress we’ve made and we think the season is going really well,” said Lisa Bell, head women’s soccer coach. “We’ve consistently been ranked in the top 20 this year and we recently climbed to number 18.” Coach Bell has led the Lady Norse soccer program since its inception in 2008.

The soccer team ranks twelfth in the division in shots. Sophomore forward Paige Logsdon leads the team with 50 shots on goal. Combined with freshman midfielder Mariam Bartlett’s 35 shots on goal, the pair has put more shots on goal than all NEO’s opponents combined.

“We still have our kinks to work out, but the girls are working really hard,” Bell added. “We have another big conference game against number 12 ranked Northern Oklahoma Tonkawa, so that’s our next big challenge.” NEO has two more regular season games including the Oct. 22 Tonkawa game.