

# NEO UPDATE

**NEO**

The Newsletter of NEO A&M College • April 2015 Edition



Officials paid tribute to the Osborn family during the celebration of NEO's 96th birthday

From left: Anna Milligan, Chairwoman of the NEO Development Foundation Board; Rick Davis, Chairman of the OSU/A&M Board of Regents; Jane Osborn, honoree, and Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO president



## FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION HONORS OSBORN FAMILY

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The 2014/15 academic year at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, (NEO) marks the institution's 96th anniversary. The college planned a dedication ceremony of the NEO Lab Sciences building in honor of Willie and Jane Osborn. In addition, NEO announced the sixth annual James Mabon Award winner. The event took place Friday, March 27 in the lab sciences courtyard.

The Founders' Day celebration featured Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO president, Dean Kruithof, Miami's City Manager and a tribute to the Osborn family, as well as the release of the second volume of the History of NEO A&M College. The event concluded with the dedication of the NEO's lab sciences in honor of the Osborn family.

Willie and Jane Osborn have been lifetime supporters of NEO. Graduates of Miami High School, they married in 1956 after graduating from college. Willie graduated cum laude from the University of Kansas City School of Pharmacy and returned to Miami in 1958 to work at Wiley Rexall Drug. Jane attended NEO where she discovered a love of vocal music performance. She then graduated cum laude from

the University of Tulsa with a degree in psychology.

In 1971, the couple founded Osborn Drugs, Inc., which now includes affiliated locations in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. In true partnership, Willie and Jane developed a thriving business, participated in church and community activities and raised five children. For more than five decades, Willie served the Miami, Oklahoma community as a dedicated pharmacist. Throughout his career, Willie was honored with numerous statewide and national professional awards.

Jane's grandfather, Representative James S. Mabon, who was instrumental in the founding of the Miami School of Mines (later NEO A&M College), inspired a lifetime of community service in his granddaughter. Together Willie and Jane were instrumental in the twenty-year restoration of Miami's Historic Coleman Theatre Beautiful. Jane was named the 1999 Woman of Distinction by the Ozark Area Girl Scout Council, and NEO's Outstanding Alumnus in 1996.

In 2009, the Osborns

were honored with the prestigious Award of Merit for their dedication to NEO A&M College. For years, Willie served on the NEO Foundation Board of Trustees, the President's Advisory Council, and was inducted as a contributor to the NEO Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014. Willie and Jane were loyal supporters of the NEO Foundation's annual fundraiser. In addition they provided scholarship funding to the men's basketball program, and established two scholarships: the JoAn Taylor Scholarship for women in business and the Sam Wynn Scholarship for construction management. The Osborn family continues to believe that education for all is the hope for the future.

"Willie, Jane and the entire Osborn family exemplify what it means to be supporters of NEO A&M College

Hale said. "They have generously given of their time, energy and financial resources to support our athletic teams, academic programs and the Development Foundation. Their contributions have deeply impacted the college and will continue to do so for years to come."



From left: Riley Helton, SBG representative, Anthony Freeman, vice president of scholarship, Karen Johnston, Mackenzie Shamblin, President Katie Loomis, vice president of Fellowship Kolton Kitterman, vice president of fellowship and communications, Jennifer Wood and Emily Bond

## NEO'S PTK HONOR SOCIETY NAMED FIVE STAR CHAPTER



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) received the prestigious Five Star Chapter status from the national organization during the regional convention in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Such an accomplishment highlights those chapters that have proven themselves to be exceptionally strong as they strive to meet the four hallmarks of PTK: leadership, service, fellowship and scholarship.

NEO's Mu Chapter has grown to more than 230 students, all of whom are led by LaShawna Powers and Rob Rea, club advisors.

PTK is an international honor society. To gain admittance, students must complete at least 12 hours of courses and maintain a 3.5 grade point average. Mu Chapter has a long-standing connection with Phi Theta Kappa. In the 1930s, it was the first chapter outside the state of Missouri to be formed.

Not only did NEO's Mu Chapter receive the highest honor, but the group took home six additional regional awards including:

- Spirit Award
- Top Five Honors-in-Action projects
- Distinguished Honors-in-Action project (theme eight)

- Top Five College Projects
- Top Five Distinguished Officer Teams
- Top Five Distinguished Chapters

Chapter officers Ana Diaz, Kolton Kitterman, and Katie Loomis, and Powers were recognized for participating in the first Oklahoma-Arkansas Regional Honors-in-Action Project.

Additionally, several graduating Mu Chapter members and alumni were elected to positions in the Regional Alumni Association: Cheryl Fox (current Regional vice president for the Central District) was elected vice president of the Alumni Association. NEO alum Candy Watson was elected treasurer of the Alumni Association. NEO alum Linda Lee will continue as treasurer, and Powers was elected secretary of the Advisor's Association.

**“These awards prove what can be achieved when a group of students is motivated and cooperative.”**

LaSawna Powers, PTK Co-Advisor



Back row, from left: Colton Landrum, Kelly Johnson, Brandi Black and Dion Rolle  
 Middle row, from left: Nina Burrows and Canyon Dewey  
 Front row, from left: Deon Hilligoss and Jason Larson

## NEO'S PBL HONOR SOCIETY EXCELS AT STATE COMPETITION

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) recently excelled in the state competition. This year's competition took place in Tulsa, Oklahoma at Tulsa Community College. PBL members earned their winnings based on excellent business knowledge, ideas, professionalism and leadership skills.

PBL is a national business fraternity which strives to promote business and the free enterprise system. The organization also provides opportunities for state and national competitions in business related areas. This is the college level of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

NEO's PBL sponsor is Brenda Lucas.

"I am very proud of our students and our department," Lucas said. "We placed in 12 of the 15 competitions we

entered. This shows the dedication of our students and the quality of learning in the business and technology department."

This competition is an opportunity for students from two and four-year colleges and universities across the State of Oklahoma to showcase their business understanding and skills. Students who place first, second or third at the state level qualify for the PBL national competition this summer in Chicago.

Listed below are NEO's individual PBL State Awards for 2015:

*Accounting Principles*  
 Colton Landrum – Second Place  
*Business Communications*  
 Jason Larson – First Place  
*Business Law*

Brandi Black- Third Place  
*Computer Applications*  
 Dion Rolle – Third Place  
*Contemporary Sports Issues*  
 Deon Hilligoss- First Place  
*Hospitality Management*  
 Nina Burrows – Second Place  
*Macroeconomics*  
 Colton Landrum – Third Place  
*Networking Concepts*  
 Dion Rolle – Second Place  
*Sports Management & Marketing*  
 Deon Hilligoss – Third Place  
*Statistical Analysis*  
 Canyon Dewey – First Place  
*Word Processing*  
 Taylor Weaver – Second Place  
 Kelly Johnson – Third Place



## 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.



From left: Sydney Reynolds, Ag. Ed. Club president, Alisen Anderson, club sponsor, and NEO President Dr. Jeff Hale



Alisen Anderson, Tim Taylor, Sydney Reynolds, Hanna Minson and Tyler Dewey, department chair of agriculture



Hanna Minson, Tim Taylor and Sydney Reynolds enjoy their new student center in Ables Hall

**“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's James Mabon Award Winner, receiving \$2,000 is a student led organization, which is the first time in the award's history where students have submitted a proposal and won! Congratulations to NEO's Agriculture Education Club for their proposal to outfit a student lounge in Ables Hall for students to hold meetings, study, have proctored exams for the Pathways Program and fellowship. This group is under the leadership of Alisen Anderson and Club President Sydney Reynolds. The students have already spent much of their own dollars to outfit the lounge.



# CLAUDIA LITTLE AXE NAMED OUTSTANDING — ROLE — MODEL

## NEO'S CLAUDIA LITTLE AXE RECEIVES THE OUTSTANDING ROLE MODEL AWARD FROM ONASHE

Director of the American Indian Center for Excellence and Native American Student Association organization sponsor, Claudia Little Axe, of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) was recently selected by the Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education (ONASHE) to receive the Outstanding Role Model Award honoring someone who has inspired others to achieve successes through selflessness.

This year's conference theme was "A New Breed of Warriors: Native American Students for Change."

**"As director of the American Indian Center for Excellence at Northeastern A&M, you essentially embody the idea of the ONASHE Role Model Award by helping to empower Native American students, not only on the NEO campus, but also within the community. The critiques of the award are that the nominator submits your work resume, two letters of recommendation, and a CDIB if applicable. After serving as last year's host for the**

**ONASHE Conference, NEO and AICE had set the bar extremely high for future host schools."**

Michael Meeks, president of H.O.P.E. Native American Club at the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribal College.

The award was presented February 21, 2015 during the ONASHE conference at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Cheyenne Arapaho Tribal College in Weatherford, Oklahoma. A recipient for the award is selected annually to recognize exceptional educators, faculty, staff and advisors in their particular educational professions.

Little Axe was nominated to receive the award for her part in leading the American Indian Center for Excellence and sponsoring the Native American Student Association. She was also credited with increasing NEO's Native American community and student led activism. She is a strong supporter and champions for Native American Education.

"Claudia works tirelessly to make sure our students are well prepared to ensure their success. She genuinely has their best interest at heart and is

very deserving of this recognition. She is a great role model for many students on campus. I'm proud of Claudia and pleased she has been recognized for her important work," said Dr. Jeff Hale, NEO president.

The Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education provides superb networking opportunities for Native Students in trade schools, college, and university settings—from both public and tribal institutions in Oklahoma and beyond.

Little Axe has also presented at conferences on the American Indian Center for Excellence on the state, national and international level and most recently at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Honolulu, Hawaii. Little Axe is in her fourth year at NEO and has held the positions of cultural specialist and director for American Indian Center for Excellence.

For more information, email [rlloyd@neo.edu](mailto:rlloyd@neo.edu).



**“I give all the glory to God for everything that is happening to me. I am very honored for this selection and want to do my best to represent my teammates and coaches. Right now I am just concentrating on the rest of our season and looking forward to going after that national title. Then I will focus on the All-Stars.”**

Raven Campos, softball player

### NEO'S CAMPOS ONE OF 16 NATIONWIDE SELECTED FOR NJCAA ALL-STARS

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) is pleased to announce that Raven Campos was selected as a 2015 softball player for the NJCAA All-Stars at the 2015 Canadian Open Softball Tournament. The tournament will be in Surrey British Columbia, Canada from June 30-July 14, 2015. There are only 16 ladies from across the nation who are selected for this prestigious honor, this is the first time in NEO's history a player has been selected for the All-Stars.

Last year Campos was selected for the NJCAA All-American team, which made her eligible for the All-Stars.

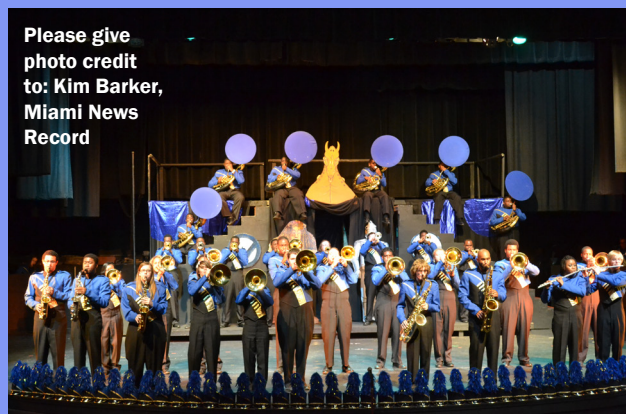
Eric Iverson, NEO head softball coach said, “Raven is the type of athlete who coaches dream about. Last year as a freshman she was chosen for the All-American team which is a huge honor, but to be selected for the All-Stars is an honor and an experience that is second-to-none. This is the first time NEO has had a player selected for the All-Stars, and I am so proud of Raven. She is an excellent student, athlete and all around great young lady.”

Campos is from Adair, Oklahoma and is the daughter of Jesse Campos and Jo Littledave. This was her second year playing softball for NEO. She has helped lead the Lady Norse to a 43-17 season record and a 451 batting average, while claiming 73 hits of her own.

“I give all the glory to God for everything that is happening to me,” said Campos. “I am very honored for this selection and want to do my best to represent my teammates and coaches. Right now I am just concentrating on the rest of our season and looking forward to going after that national title. Then I will focus on the All-Stars.”

Campos will participate as an infielder for the All-Stars and will play against teams such as Team USA, Team Japan, Team Spain and numerous other elite teams during her visit to Canada.

“I attribute my success to God for blessing me with the talents he did, my coaches past and present for molding me into the player I am, and my teammates and family for supporting me in everything I do,” Campos said.



Please give photo credit to: Kim Barker, Miami News Record

### NEO PRESENTS RAGNAROK

The NEO Music Department and the Norwegian Legion Marching Band were proud to present “Ragnarok.” In Norse mythology Ragnarok is the battle at the end of the world. This show featured various assortments of music and movement. The production consisted of marching music, concert music, jazz music and more, and it was all set on the stage at the NEO Fine Arts

building. The show took place April 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m.

This was not an ordinary concert. The production featured amazing soloists, lights, stage sets and effects with everything from quiet, beautiful moments to pounding drums. It was the culmination of the entire school year. Audiences laughed, cried and cheered.



## IVERSON FIELD

Officials at Northeastern A&M College (NEO) have named the softball field in honor of its winningest coach.

It was announced at the end of dedication ceremonies for the renovated complex that it would be called Iverson Field, in honor of longtime Norse softball coach Eric Iverson, and Alumni Stadium.

“I really don’t know what to say,” said Iverson, who was caught off-guard by the event, which was moved into the NEO Field House after rain washed out Saturday’s scheduled Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference double-header against Northern Oklahoma-Enid.

More than \$140,000 was spent on the improvements, which included covered stands and a new press box.

An “Iverson Field” sign with two plaques featuring a photo of Iverson and background information on Coach Iverson’s accomplishments will be added to the front gate of the complex.

“With the new facility we have, we really believe that this will give us, if not the best, but one of the best junior college softball facilities in Oklahoma,” Athletic Director Dale Patterson said.

Invitations to the event included the stipulation that Iverson not be told of what was happening. But he thought something special might happen because of those in attendance.

“I knew when my brother, Danny, showed up that something was going on,” Iverson quipped. “It was a little bit of a gimme.”

Iverson, in his 20th season at NEO, is the winningest coach in school history with an 880-213 record.

He ranks fourth nationally among active NJCAA Division-1 coaches and is 10th on the all-time win list. Iverson ranks first among active coaches in winning percentage at .817.

The Norse softball program has played in 13 Region II championship games under Iverson, qualifying for the national tournament six times. NEO finished third in 2000, fourth in 2007 and fifth in 2012 and ‘13.

Since Iverson took over the NEO program in 1996, there have been 82 Region II first-teamers. He’s coached 23 NJCAA All-Americans, including three first team selections (Candace Handley, 2007; Megan Sullivan, 2012, and Raven Campos, 2014). In 2007 NEO tied a NJCAA national record with five All-American selections.

Iverson, who was inducted into the NJCAA Softball Hall of Fame in 2009, has served as both president and vice president of the NJCAA National Softball Coaches Association.

“To think that forever, my name is going to be part of this campus is so humbling and so awesome,” he said. “I can’t thank Dr. Hale (NEO President Dr. Jeff Hale) and the administration and the people of NEO who I have come in contact with enough. It’s a huge honor.”

The NEO program was launched in 1977 by the late Rose Wilkins. Tim Livesay, John Kurtz, Bob Maxwell and Woody Morrow were the coaches before Iverson took over.

In 39 years, the school has played 1,828 games, winning 1,409 of those.

# NEO SPOTLIGHT



NEO students cleaning out a garage during the 2015 'Big Event' where students volunteer their time to the community as a way of saying

## NEO GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THIS YEAR'S SIXTH ANNUAL 'BIG EVENT'

The students of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) gave back in a big way. Tuesday, April 21 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., NEO hosted 'The Big Event,' which is a student-led community service project. This one-day event was an occasion for the students of NEO to express their gratitude to the community for its support of the college. Students were available throughout the course of the day to perform tasks such as yard work, painting, housework and other common household tasks.

'One BIG day, one BIG thanks, one BIG Event.' Residents were asked to fill out a job request form no later than Thursday, April 16.

Residents were asked to provide the materials for each job. Students will complete jobs like yard work, painting, cleaning, organizing, etc.

"It's a day for students to give back to the community and say thanks," said Event Coordinator Lisa Bell. "Students volunteered to do community service as their schedule allowed throughout the day."

Since students were transporting themselves to and from locations, NEO asked that the job sites be no more than 30 minutes from campus.

Students worked until every job was finished. After applications were submitted, applicants received a call letting them know who would coming to work and when would arrive.

Those with questions may contact Lisa Bell, coordinator of student activities, at (918) 540-6169 or by e-mailing [lbell@neo.edu](mailto:lbell@neo.edu).

**"It's a day for students to give back to the community and say thanks. Students volunteered to do community service as their schedule allowed throughout the day."**

Lisa Bell, event coordinator

