

# NEO UPDATE



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



From left: Tim Taylor, Sabrina Terrell, Sydney Reynolds, Veronica Dzul-Garcia, Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, Chaney Scott, Breanna Barngrover, Mattie Moore, Hanna Minson, and Josh Warren



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

## NEO STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ATTEND HIGHER ED DAY

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

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Steve Bearden

## NEO welcomes Steve Bearden as new human resources director

Officials at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) are pleased to announce Steve Bearden as the new director of human resources. Bearden succeeds Evan Jewsbury, who took a job with Missouri Southern State University.

Bearden most recently served as program director for Preferred Family Healthcare in Joplin, Missouri. He served as the assistant administrator and director of human resources for Ozarks Community Hospital in Springfield, Missouri and Gravette, Arkansas.

Bearden spent the last 30 years working in the fields of medical and mental health serving as a therapist, assistant administrator, program director and human resources director. He attended Missouri Southern State University where he received his bachelor's in science degree in psychology and Pittsburg State University where he earned his master's degree in psychology. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Missouri.

"As director of human resources, I hope to emphasize the development of individual strengths and communication skills. I have a passion to see individuals and teams of people develop to create successful organizations," Bearden said. "My lifetime interest is in educating and developing individuals to be the best person and employee they can be. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the many employees of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and to assist in continuing to help the College achieve its purpose in our community."

Originally from southern California, Bearden's family moved to the Carthage, Missouri area during his freshman year in High School. He currently resides in Webb City, Missouri with his wife, Patti. They have two grown children, both married and three grandchildren. Bearden said he is an avid Royals baseball fan and sports fan in general, and his primary interests include reading, gardening and spending time with family.



**A dynamic web presence is critical to success in the highly competitive higher ed market. Kim Bunch and David Frazier deserve much credit for the new and improved NEO website along with our faculty and students who provided timely and useful feedback. I am very pleased with our collective effort and excited about the new launch.**

Dr. Jeffrey Hale, NEO President

## NEO LAUNCHES NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

Officials at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) are pleased to announce the launch of their fully-featured website: <http://www.neo.edu/>. The site officially launched Monday, Feb. 23 and features a new design with a fresh look and is more focused on the end-users' needs.

"Website redesign evolves much like technology changes. A redesign is standard every two to three years to keep up with the newest trends based on the behaviors of the individuals seeking information," Bunch said. "Our focus for this website goes with the trends of new students, existing students and parents. Everything else that was not essential to these three core groups we moved off to an intranet site or moved it out of the forefront. We hope you are pleased with the end result as we are."

The new website features the reorganization of webpages, a less congested homepage, navigation ease for new visitors and an updated design. The website has been a work-in-progress for more than a year.

College President Dr. Jeff Hale appointed a committee of faculty and staff to spearhead the website overhaul project. Leading the committee meetings were Kim Bunch, NEO's chief information officer, and David Frazier, webmaster and graphic designer.

"A dynamic web presence is critical to success in the highly competitive higher ed market," Hale said. "Kim Bunch and David Frazier deserve much credit for the new and improved NEO website along with our faculty and students who provided timely and useful feedback. I am very pleased with our collective effort and excited about the new launch."

NEO's Information Technology staff arranged multiple meetings on campus with different departments as well as Student Body Government. The meetings served as a preview of the new site, as well as an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to give feedback before the website went live.

NEO's website is designed to assist new students, parents, current students, faculty and staff navigate with ease to find the admissions page, financial aid, and D2L, the College's primary online teaching tool, plus so much more. The website focuses on multiple end-users or audiences. As part of its objective to provide critical information to students and parents who are shopping around for colleges, NEO is proud to introduce the new design that will serve as one of the college's leading recruitment tools.



**Jessica also worked tirelessly to restore the mural on the wall of Osborn Drugs in downtown Miami. Thanks to her efforts, the community will continue to enjoy a piece of our history. Jessica secured a generous donation for her work on the project that she has used to fund scholarships for deserving students and art supplies for students in need.**

Jennifer Hesse, NEO Foundation director



## NEO'S JESSICA STOUT NOMINATED FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

Jessica Stout, chair of the art program at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, was recently nominated for the 2014 Excellence in Education Award from the Miami Area Chamber of Commerce. To be nominated for this honor, the educator must have demonstrated exceptional and innovative capabilities in their educational fields. The eligible educators ranged from public, private, charter, and parochial schools. Stout has led NEO's art program since 2011.

One nominator wrote, "Under Jessica's leadership, the NEO Art Department has flourished. She has been instrumental in the formation of the Charles Banks Wilson Art and Cultural Education Center on campus. The Center includes a gallery which has hosted student art shows, as well as exhibits from nationally known artists for the entire community to enjoy. Because of Jessica's efforts, original artwork by Charles Banks Wilson is on permanent display at the gallery."

Stout's passion for education and teaching of the arts involves students ranging from those hoping to pursue a career in art to novice

students enrolled in Introduction to Art. She adapts to all levels of learning by engaging students in and out of the classroom. Stout takes her students to various field trips each year. Last semester she took them to glass-blowing classes and museum field trips to enhance the educational experience.

In addition to her regular responsibilities, Stout assisted the college in receiving a grant from the Sarkey's Foundation to host a weeklong art camp in the summer of 2013 for students in kindergarten through high school. More than 100 area students participated and received instruction from national teaching artists and enjoyed Crystal Bridges Museum. For many of these students, this was their first museum experience.

This summer she continued the camp for middle school and high school students interested in art. Prior to the art camps at NEO, for years Jessica assisted the Miami Arts and Humanities Council's Art for Fun summer program.

"Jessica also worked tirelessly to restore the mural on the wall of

Osborn Drugs in downtown Miami. Thanks to her efforts, the community will continue to enjoy a piece of our history," said Jennifer Hesse, NEO Foundation director. "Jessica secured a generous donation for her work on the project that she has used to fund scholarships for deserving students and art supplies for students in need."

As an active member of the Miami Arts and Humanities Council, Stout has volunteered her time to ensure the community has access to the arts. From the performing arts to the visual arts, the Miami community has been exposed to many forms of art not typically available in rural areas. As an advocate for the arts, Stout graduated in 2013 from the prestigious Oklahoma Leadership Arts program. She was one of only 32 individuals from across the state selected for the program.

"For her dedication to teaching and inspiring people of all ages, Jessica is very deserving of this recognition," said NEO President Dr. Jeff Hale. "She has exemplified the true meaning of an educator."

## NEO HONOR STUDENTS TO BE ADDRESSED BY CITY MANAGER DEAN KRUITHOF

Dean Kruihof, an entrepreneur and new Miami City Manager, will be this year's keynote speaker during the annual Honors Banquet on Monday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Calcagno Family Ballroom.

During the Honors Banquet, NEO will recognize those students who were named to the 2014-15 President's Honor Roll and Deans' Honor Roll, as well as those listed in the latest 'Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges' publication and the Top 10 Freshmen.

"NEO is a significant part of my life, not only from a professional perspective but from a personal one as well. The caring and welcoming environment found at the College, coupled with its academic excellence, often enhances a student's sense of self-worth that assists them with future success," Kruihof said. "That was certainly my experience."

Kruihof grew up in Miami and graduated from Miami High School. Afterward, he attended NEO where he graduated with his associate's degree and then Oklahoma State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science. Kruihof also



earned his master's degree in public administration from OSU.

Kruihof brings more than 30 years of government management experience to Miami including a stint as city administrator for the City of Branson, Missouri.

He was officially appointed Miami's City Manager in Oct. 2014.

Prior to his employment with the City of Branson, Kruihof served as deputy city administrator for the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he led a cooperative transfer of 8,000 acres to Fort Smith which had the immediate ability to facilitate development.

When he is not working, Kruihof said he enjoys bicycling, hiking, canoeing and snorkeling. He and his wife Cynthia have been married 35 years.

"It is an honor to have a former graduate of the college address NEO students who has excelled in academics, civic leadership and service," said NEO President Dr. Jeff Hale. "Dean is an excellent role model and attributes a great deal of his personal success to his Miami and NEO roots."

## NATIONAL, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR APPEARS AT NEO

Sam Kean, national best-selling author of the *Disappearing Spoon*, gave a presentation Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO). The event was free and open to the public.

According to his website, Kean spent years collecting mercury from broken thermometers as a kid, and now he's a writer in Washington, D.C. His stories have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Mental Floss*, *Slate*, *Psychology Today*, and *The New Scientist*, among other places, and his work has been featured on "Radiolab" and NPR's "All Things Considered," among other shows.

His books *The Disappearing Spoon* and *The Violinist's Thumb* were national bestsellers, and both were named an Amazon "Top 5" science books of the year.

**He was very thorough about his research and shed new light on how the human brain works and reacts during certain situations.**

Kyle Christian,  
NEO student

*The Disappearing Spoon* was nominated by the Royal Society for one of the top science books of 2010, while *The Violinist's Thumb* was a finalist for PEN's literary science writing award.

Kean spoke about many subjects related to neuroscience and more specifically brain injuries that affect daily function. The subject matter was intended to provoke thoughts about how the human brain effectively functions with everyday occurrences, such as being able to recognize a color or respond to fear or pain.

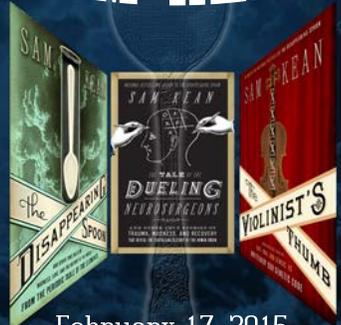
"He was very thorough about his research and shed new light on how the human brain works and reacts during certain situations," said student Kyle Christian who attended the presentation.

For additional information, contact Amy Ishmael at [aishmael@neo.edu](mailto:aishmael@neo.edu) or call 918-540-6212.



NATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE DISAPPEARING SPOON

# SAM KEAN



February 17, 2015  
7 pm - 8 pm  
NEO Fine Arts auditorium.



From left: Martin Doustou, Ashton Boettcher, Brooke Mareth, Whitney Force, Britani Disanti, Krista Wessels, Emily Akins, Evie Gates, Ariel Ryals, Bailey Burnett, Haley Teter, Brookelynn Baber, Johannah Richardson, Bailey Forester, Taylor Shoemaker, Ashley Chalfant, Sydney Reynolds (not pictured: Hanna Minson)

### NEO EQUESTRIAN WINS MISSOURI STATE HORSE SHOW

The equestrian team at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) traveled to Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri last weekend where they were named High Point Team on Saturday and Reserve High Point Team on Sunday. There were also several individual achievements.

One more regular season show will take place at Black Hawk College in Kewanee, Illinois Saturday, March 7. At this competition the riders who qualify will ride at Regionals that Sunday. Riders who qualify from Regionals will have the opportunity to show at semi-finals hosted by Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

“I am extremely proud of how hard all of the members have worked and how supportive they are of each other,” said Equestrian Coach Amanda Burrows. “I have enjoyed coaching every member of the team, and it’s so rewarding to watch them be successful inside the arena.”

This is the first year for Burrows to coach the team.

Riders obtain points with every placing they receive at the shows and

qualify for regionals when they get a total of 36 points. First place awards them seven points, second place awards five points, third place awards four points, fourth place awards three points, fifth place awards two points, and sixth place awards one point. Riders are able to carry over their points from semester to semester and school year to school year except open riders, who have to start over every school year.

The weekend’s results are below:

#### **Saturday rankings**

- Brookelynn Baber- fifth place
- Ashton Boettcher- second place
- Bailey Burnett- first place
- Ashley Chalfant- third place
- Britani DiSanti- sixth place
- Whitney Force- third place
- Bailey Forester- sixth place
- Evie Gates- first place
- Brooke Mareth- first place
- Hanna Minson- sixth place
- Sydney Reynolds- fourth place
- Johannah Richardson- first place
- Ariel Ryals- first place

#### **Sunday Rankings**

- Brookelynn Baber- fifth place
- Ashton Boettcher- second place
- Bailey Burnett- fourth place
- Ashley Chalfant- fifth place



Amanda Burrows, equestrian coach

- Britani DiSanti- fifth place
- Whitney Force- third place
- Bailey Forester- fifth place
- Evie Gates- fifth place
- Brooke Mareth- sixth place
- Hanna Minson- second place
- Sydney Reynolds- seventh place
- Johannah Richardson- first place
- Ariel Ryals- second place

#### **Reining-Saturday Rankings**

- Martin Doustou- third place
- Bailey Forester- fourth place
- Brooke Mareth- first place

#### **Reining-Sunday Rankings**

- Ashton Boettcher- fifth place
- Martin Doustou- second place
- Bailey Forester- fifth place
- Brooke Mareth- fourth place

# NEO LIVESTOCK SWEEPS DIXIE NATIONALS



## Team members include:

Michaela Branen – Collinsville, Okla.  
Travis Brewer – Guymon, Okla.  
Rachel Calvert – Rocky Comfort, Mo.  
Phil Collier – Vilonia, Ark.  
Brody Cridlebaugh- Princeton, Mo.  
Dylan Davis- Chatsworth, Ga.  
Canyon Dewey – Lavaca, Ark.  
Chelsea Ellington – Broadway, Va.  
Cole Kaufman- Weyers Cave, Va.  
Clay McGuire- Auburn, Ala.  
Jake Pickering- Oroville, Calif.  
Morgan Scroggin – Greenbrier, Ark.  
Deekota Williams – Walters, Okla.

## NEO'S LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM SWEEPS DIXIE NATIONAL

The Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) livestock judging team recently took top honors at the Dixie National contest along with numerous other accolades.

The Dixie National contest took place Saturday Feb. 14th in Jackson, Mississippi. This is the first time in the last decade for NEO to claim the title.

### Dixie National rankings:

NEO was named Champion Team and won first in steers, Continental cattle and British cattle and first in reasons. In addition to the team's accomplishments, the following names were called:

- Dylan Davis: fourth overall, first in market steers and second in reasons  
Clay McGuire: third overall, third in market steers, fifth in Brahman influence, seventh in Continental and fourth in reasons  
Jake Pickering: fifth overall, second in Brahman influence, fourth in market steers and third in reasons  
Cole Kaufman: eighth overall  
Brody Cridelbaugh: sixth place in British cattle  
Deekota Williams: sixth in the Continental breeds  
Morgan Scroggin: ninth overall

The team is coached by Tyler Dewey and Chris Hofschulte.

"This was a great victory for our group," Dewey said. "It's a great feeling to go into the final two contests with strong momentum."

### History of the Dixie National

According to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's website, the Dixie National Rodeo and Livestock Show has been outrageously successful since 1965. The event features cook offs, music festivities, the numerous rodeo competitions and the livestock shows that bring in more than 100,000 visitors to the state fairgrounds during the month-long event.

Close to 1,000 contestants enter to compete for close to \$250,000 in winnings in the multiple rodeo and livestock events.

The Dixie National Livestock and Rodeo Show is one of the popular events to attend when visiting Mississippi.

Various types of breeds of animals are shown at the Dixie National, and afterward most of the animals are auctioned off at the end of the event, awarding the highest bidder the ownership of some of the best beef, pork, lamb and poultry around.

**This was a great victory for our group. It's a great feeling to go into the final two contests with strong momentum.**

Tyler Dewey, livestock coach



**This was a great victory for our group. We have had tremendous success in smaller contests all year, but it felt great to get the monkey off of our backs at one of the major contests. I am truly excited about our upcoming contests.**

Tyler Dewey, livestock coach



## NEO'S LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM MAKES SIGNIFICANT STRIDES

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 Oroville, 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.

"This was a great victory for our group," Dewey said. "We have had tremendous success in smaller contests all year, but it felt great to get the monkey off of our backs at one of the major contests. I am truly excited about our upcoming contests."

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.



Willow Springs Classic 2015



2014-2015 Rodeo Team

**“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.”**

Kolby Ungeheuer, rodeo coach

### ALL-AROUND CHAMPION COWBOY MEMBER OF NEO'S MOST SUCCESSFUL RODEO TEAM

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 he won include being named Reserve Champion at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada where he took home close to \$10,000 in cash and prizes.



Tylen Layton

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, Quinten 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.

#### Spring Rodeos (2015)

Garden City, Kan. – Feb. 27, 28 and March 1  
 Fort Scott, Kan. – March 6, 7 and 8  
 Weatherford, Okla. – April 9, 10 and 11  
 Hays, Kan. – April 17, 18 and 19  
 Guymon, Okla. – April 23, 24 and 25



Presenting the award to Asia McCaskill, (from left) were Lady Norse Head Coach Jim Rowland, Lady Norse sophomore Asia McCaskill, the namesake of the award, Miss Dixie Woodall and Athletic Director Dale Patterson

## NEO'S ASIA MCCASKILL RECEIVES DIXIE WOODALL INSPIRATIONAL AWARD

The seventh annual Dixie Woodall Inspirational Award for Lady Norse Basketball was presented to Miss Asia McCaskill on February 19 after the Lady Norse game against Redlands.

**“Asia exemplifies all that is good about junior college athletics and the qualities that made Dixie Woodall successful on and off the court. Her work ethic, commitment to excellence and outstanding character make her a great choice to receive the Dixie Woodall Inspirational Award. Congratulations to Asia for receiving this award and for upholding the great tradition of NEO Athletics.”**

Dale Patterson, athletic director

McCaskill is a 5'9" guard from Union High School in Tulsa, Okla. She is the daughter of Mark McCaskill and Renee McCaskill.

Head Coach Jim Rowland said, “This young lady has been a part of the Lady Norse Basketball program for three years. She redshirted her first year due to a knee injury she sustained her senior year in high school. She represents the program with high integrity on and off the court and truly understands what it means to be a Lady Norse.”

Her plans are to graduate in May and attend a university majoring in natural sciences and to continue playing basketball.



Asia McCaskill, Dixie Woodall Award recipient



2014-2015 Lady Norse Basketball Team

## LADY NORSE CONFERENCE CHAMPS

Concluding the regular season in the same manner as last year, No. 22 ranked Northeastern A&M dropped a 65-58 decision Thursday night to the Seminole State College Belles in the Raymond C. Harber Field House.

Despite suffering their second loss in the Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference, coach Jim Rowland's Norse annexed their second consecutive regular season league title with a 16-2 record.

Last year the Belles upset the No. 10 ranked Norse 64-61 in the regular season finale at the NEO Field House. The loss was the only defeat NEO suffered in conference play.

The Norse enter the Women's Division 1 Region 2 Tournament on Thursday with a 22-7 season record.

Parings for the 11-team single-elimination tournament will be determined Friday during the annual coaches teleconference meeting. The top five teams in the OCAC receive a first round bye while the remaining six teams will play three elimination games on Monday on the home court of the No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 seeded teams.

Quarterfinal games start at 1 p.m. Thursday in the W.P. Wood Field House on the campus of St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.

"We never got into any rhythm offensively," Rowland said. "We missed a lot of open looks both on the perimeter and inside the paint.

**"We just couldn't ever get back in the game. I just felt like we weren't ready to play. I think they were satisfied with the fact that we had already clinched the conference crown and No. 1 seed."**

Jim Rowland, Lady Norse coach

"Not only did we not finish a lot of shots, but the ball just wasn't falling," Rowland said. "I thought we played well enough to win because we only gave up 65 points."

During the first 20 minutes, the Norse fell behind and trailed 33-22 going into the locker room at halftime.

"We just couldn't ever get back in the game," Rowland said. "I just felt like we weren't ready to play. I think they were satisfied with the fact that we had already clinched the conference crown and No. 1 seed."

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Lady Norse Coach Jim Rowland (pictured right) finished the season last Thursday, and the team is now 16-2 in the conference and 22-7 overall. NEO has now

won the conference title two years in a row and is the number one seed going into the region tournament starting Thursday, March 5.

NEO's Melinda Murillo was picked for first team All-Conference while Asia McCaskill was third team, and Yami Rodriguez and Treka Franklin received honorable mentions.



Jim Rowland, Lady Norse coach



2014-2015 Wrestling Team

## JACOB SMITH IS NATIONAL CHAMPION AT 174 Jim Ellis, Miami News Record

The Norsemen wrestling team finished in fifth place at the NJCAA National Championships in Des Moines, Iowa over the weekend, claiming five All-Americans. Iowa Central claimed the team title followed by Clackamas, Oregon; North Iowa CC; and North Idaho College.

Smith is a freshman from Muskogee, Oklahoma at 174 lbs. Jacobe won his finals match over Jared Johnson of Colby 6-2. Johnson was the returning National Runner-up having lost in the finals in 2014 to NEO wrestler Payne Hatter. Smith finished 5-0 over the two-day event recording two falls, a technical fall and two decisions. He completes his freshman season with a 36-4 overall record and is 13-2 vs. JUCO wrestlers. His two JUCO losses were to Johnson.

Sophomore Joshua Ailey 133 lbs. from Tonkawa, Oklahoma earned his second All-American award with a seventh place finish (placed eighth in 2014). He also won the NJCAA tournament award for the most falls in the least amount of time with four pins in 5:26. Josh finished the season with a 30-7 overall record and a school record since reinstatement of 22 pins on the season. He finishes his two year career with 40 pins and 57 career victories.

Mark Hobson, 157 lb. redshirt sophomore from Bonner Springs, Kansas also finished as a two time NJCAA All-American with his fifth place award. He finished third in 2014. Hobson finished the season at 22-12 overall and his two years at NEO with 53 victories and 20 pins.

Clay Archer 141 lbs. and Kristian Holguin-Mendez 149 lbs. also earned All-American status. Archer is a redshirt sophomore from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and finished in fourth place after advancing to the semi-final round. Archer finished the season with a 23-11 record and an NEO career record of 31-13. Holguin-Mendez is a freshman from Sapulpa, Oklahoma and finished on the awards platform in third place. Kristian began the

season as a redshirt, but during semester break he was removed from that status and became a starting wrestler in certain meets and tournaments. He earned third place with a 4-1 tournament record including avenging two earlier season losses to Labette CC wrestler Shea Conley with a 7-3 decision in the third place match. Holguin-Mendez finishes his first year with a 23-10 record including nine falls.

Other members of the fifth place Norsemen team were Dillon McCaleb; Brian Dutton; Brock Warren; Kenny Cleveland; and John Davison.

**“We didn’t accomplish our team goal of repeating as national champions, but we wrestled hard and I am proud of each and every member of this 2014-15 Norsemen wrestling team and program.”**

Joe Renfro, head coach



Jacobe Smith 174 lb. National Champion

# NEO SPOTLIGHT

## THEATRE NEO TO PRODUCE THE ADDAMS FAMILY

This spring the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) Fine Arts Department will present The Addams Family, a play chronicling the weird and wonderful family comes to devilishly delightful life. This magnificently macabre new musical comedy is created by Jersey Boys authors Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, Drama Desk Award winner, Andrew Lippa (The Wild Party). Performances will be March 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and students. Admission is free for NEO students, faculty and staff with ID.

According to The Addams Family the Musical website, The Addams Family features an original story, and it's every father's nightmare. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family...a man her parents have never met. And if that weren't upsetting enough, she confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep

a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

Play Director, Steve McCurley said, "The Musical is fun for the family. Our directing staff, Mary Susan Whaley, Ben Whaley and Lee Dell Mustain have made this a true team experience. This cast has been delightful to work with. There are so many talented college students in this production. I hope everyone will come and enjoy spending the evening with Gomez, Morticia, Lurch and the other members of the Addams family."

### The cast members include:

Directed by: Steve McCurley  
Music Direction by: Mary Susan Whaley  
Choreography by: Lee Dell Mustain and Ben Whaley  
Set Design by: Ben Whaley  
Lighting Design by: Art Whaley  
Stage Manager: Jennifer Woods  
Gomez Addams – Michael Rarrick  
Morticia Addams – Christina Roade  
Wednesday Addams – Justice Tamplen  
Pugsley Addams – Alana Holbrook  
Grandma Addams – Hannah Baker  
Fester Addams – Sarah Tanner  
Lurch – Daniel Hocker  
Mal Beineke – Riley Helton

Alice Beineke –  
Jessica Cryan  
Lucas Beineke –  
Jacob Turner

### Ancestors:

Austin Colombe  
Celeste Jameson  
Colton Woolfolk  
Elise Anderson  
Emily Bond  
Elizabeth Barton  
Hailey House  
Katie Loomis  
Keegan Wynn  
Mackenzie Shamblin  
Quinn Tilley  
Rebecca Harris

For more information, contact Steve McCurley at 918-540-6196.



The cast of NEO's The Addams Family  
Back row, from left: Justice Tamplen as Wednesday Addams, Christina Roade as Morticia Addams and Sarah Tanner as Fester Addams  
Front row, from left: Alana Holbrook as Pugsley Addams, Michael Rarrick as Gomez Addams and Hannah Baker as Grandma Addams

## 89<sup>TH</sup> PTK INDUCTION CEREMONY FEBRUARY 2015



Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College's (NEO) Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) inducted 46 new members into the prestigious international honor society. The keynote speaker for the evening was Jessica Stout, the director of NEO's art department. To gain admittance into PTK, which is an international honor society, students must complete at least 12 hours of courses and achieve a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Through their membership in PTK, students have access to scholarships and service opportunities.

