

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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SSC Board Grants Tenure to Instructor Tracy Jacomo



Dr. Jim Utterback (left) and SSC Board Vice Chair Jon Flowers (right) congratulate instructor Tracy Jacomo on receiving tenure Thursday following the Board of Regents meeting.

The Seminole State College Board of Regents convened March 26 for their monthly meeting. At their March meeting, the SSC Board heard reports on campus activities, granted tenure to a faculty member, approved changes to school policies and accepted a bid for the

Student Services Center construction project.

During the President's report to the Board, Dr. Jim Utterback gave an update about SSC's Educational Foundation Spring Recognition Banquet that will take place May 5, and Commencement ceremonies scheduled for May 15. Additional announcements included preparations that are being taken for the Higher Learning Commission accreditation and a recap on the Higher Education Day at the Capitol that was held on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

As their first item of business, the board approved a request to grant tenure for Social Sciences instructor Tracy Jacomo.

Jacomo has been a part of Seminole State College since 1989 where she began as an Academic Counselor and currently is a full-time Sociology and Criminal Justice Instructor. She holds a Master's in Human Resources and Counseling from East Central University.

She is actively involved in several campus committees including the Nursing Admissions Committee and SSC Faculty Senate where she served as President in 2007.

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Rodgers and Barlow Named All-Oklahoma Academic Team

Seminole State College students Natasha Rodgers and Cody Barlow have been selected as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. The students were recognized during a luncheon in mid-March as part of the Oklahoma Association of Community College annual conference.

Rodgers is a sophomore from Tecumseh. She is currently president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at SSC. She is on the President's Honor Roll and was named to "Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges and

Universities."

Rodgers received an OACC schol-



arship last year and participates in the Neil Molleur Leadership Volunteer scholarship program at SSC.

She serves as the special projects coordinator for United Way of Pottawatomie County.

Rodgers is majoring in business at SSC and plans to attend Oklahoma State University next fall where she will major in agricultural business / marketing.

Barlow is a sophomore from Hartshorne. He was valedictorian of his senior class at Hartshorne High School and a delegate to Boys State.

At SSC, he is a member of the President's Leadership Class,

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Seminole State College celebrates Homecoming

Katie Sanderson, sophomore from Sanger, Texas, was crowned the 2009 Seminole State College homecoming queen during the half-time of the men's basketball game against Northern Oklahoma College.

Sanderson is a member of the women's basketball team and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Her major is exercise science. She was

majoring in computer science. Barlow is the son of Clyde and April Barlow of Hartshorne.

Six candidates were vying for the title. A vote of the student body determines the queen and runner-up.

Other candidates were Hannah Herrstrom, Kerri Larney, Becky Tiger and Dani Trueblood.

Herrstrom is the daughter of

Her escort was Chris Little, the son of Ellis and Nancy Little. He is a member of the Seminole and Creek Tribes majoring in athletic training. His hometown is Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Tiger is the daughter of Albert and Brenda Tiger of Seminole. She is a member of the Presidential Leadership Class, a Student Government Association representative, a member of the Campus Activities Board, and secretary of the Native American Student Association. She was escorted by Chris Conway, the son of Freeda Conway of Seminole. He is a health and physical education major.

Dani Trueblood is from Hartshorne, and the daughter of Danny and Dana Trueblood. She is a member of the SSC Elite Dance Team and the Presidential Leadership Class. She is majoring in nursing. Trueblood was escorted by Ky Burgess, the son of Kyle and Susan Burgess. He is from Broken Arrow and is a member of the Trojan baseball team. He is majoring in business.

The flower girl for the homecoming ceremony was Kali Kasterke, the six-year-old daughter of Derrick and SSC financial aid advisor Tammy Kasterke of Shawnee. She attends South Rock Creek School.

Crown bearer was Luke Waddell, the five-year-old son of Chris and Terri Waddell of Shawnee and the grandson of Larry and SSC admissions clerk Janet Waddell of Seminole.

Seminole State College's homecoming is sponsored by the Student Government Association. Presentation of the flowers and awards were made by SGA.



The 2009 SSC Homecoming Court (pictured left to right): Runner-up Cassandra Kleber, Cody Barlow, Dani Trueblood, Ky Burgess, Hannah Herrstrom, Ryan Coffey, Queen Katie Sanderson, Reggie York, Becky Tiger, Chris Conway, Kerri Larney and Chris Little, (front row) flower girl Kali Kasterke and crown bearer Luke Waddell.

escorted by Reggie York of Fort Worth, Texas. York is the son of Reginald and Millicent York. He is a member of the Trojan baseball team and is majoring in business management.

Cassandra "Cassie" Kleber, a member of the women's tennis team, was runner-up in the homecoming contest. She is a language arts and humanities major from East London, South Africa. She is the daughter of Steven and Mandy Kleber. Her escort was Cody Barlow, a member of the President's Leadership Class

Jim and Susan Herrstrom. She is from Tonganoxie, Kansas and is a member of the volleyball team and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Herrstrom is majoring in nursing. She was escorted by Ryan Coffey – the son of Ken and Dianne Coffey. He is a member of the men's tennis team from Cairns, Australia.

Larney is a member of the Seminole and Absentee Shawnee Tribes. She is the daughter of Walter and Rebecca Larney of Wewoka. She is a member of the SSC Native American Student Association.

Study Abroad Opportunities Available for SSC Students



The SSC Global Studies program took students and community members to Egypt over Spring Break.

Travel dates for the Seminole State College Global Studies summer trip have changed and spots are still available for students and community members interested in going with the group to England and Scotland.

The 2009 summer excursion is now slated for June 3-15.

The trip will begin in London where travelers will explore the city's famous streets and walk along the River Thames, see the lion's and the fountains of Trafalgar Square, and view some of Europe's most important and treasured art and artifacts — such as Van Gogh's Sunflowers at the National Gallery and the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum.

Travelers will have a guided sightseeing tour of Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Houses of

Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Tower Bridge and St. Paul's Cathedral. A tour of Windsor Castle, the Queen's home, is an additional option. From London, it's on to York and the city's famous cathedral. Along the way, travelers can tour Stonehenge and the ancient Roman city of Bath.

The tour will cross Hadrian's Wall on the way to Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh. One of Europe's most beautiful cities, this one was home to both Robert Lewis Stevenson and Alexander Graham Bell. Daring travelers in the mood for local fair can try the haggis and the deep-fried Mars bar. An extension to the Scottish Highlands and famous Loch Ness will also be offered on the tour.

The cost for the tour is approximately \$3296 to \$3681

depending on age, college credit for the tour, and tour options.

SSC English instructor Christian Morgan, who is helping coordinate the trip said that non-students are invited to travel with the group. "You need not be a SSC student to enjoy this trip. Openings are limited, so apply for your passport—if you don't already have one—and reserve your place now on this tour full of history and culture," he said.

The SSC Global Studies students just got back from an Egypt Kingdom Tour March 13-26.

For more information about the Global Studies program at SSC contact Kelly Kirk at (405)382-9251 or by email at k.kirk@sscok.edu or Christian Morgan at (405) 382-9207 or by email at c.morgan@sscok.edu.

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Art Student, Janet Hicks, Shares Talent on Campus



By: Ashley Owens

Janet Hicks, a sophomore SSC art student, is using her talent to make the campus more artistically appealing. Hicks recently created a work of art on English instructor Christian Morgan's office wall.

Her impressionistic chalk piece is titled "Scream at a Book." Hicks said she created the drawing in the hope that it would inspire students.

Hicks, a sophomore from Wellston, Oklahoma, said, "I never had an art class before I came to SSC, my school was too small."

Since Hicks has arrived at SSC, she has taken many art classes and tried many different art mediums. Her favorite

however, is painting and drawing.

Hicks plans on continuing her education at ECU where she wants to receive a degree in Art Education and a Minor in World History. Her goal is to eventually go to a small school and start an art department.

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SSC Students Named All-Oklahoma Academic Team

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publications officer of Phi Theta Kappa and serves as sophomore in the Student Government Association.

He is on the President's Honor Roll and was selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges and Universities."

The All-Oklahoma Academic Team program provides statewide recognition to outstanding two-year

college students.

To be eligible, students must be nominated by their college president to the All-USA Academic Team. Nominees must be eligible to graduate during the 2009-2010 academic year and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5.

Medallions and certificates were presented to all team members at the OACC luncheon held March

12 at the Reed Center in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma is one of 35 states participating in the State Academic Team Program. The State Academic Teams were introduced in 1994 as a way to provide scholastic recognition to community college students for their academic achievement, leadership and service, while promoting excellence at two-year colleges.



Former Israeli Ambassador Yoram Ettinger to Speak on Campus

On Tuesday, April 21 at 2:30 p.m. Ambassador Ettinger will be on campus to speak about the situation in the Middle East in the Boren Library Auditorium. Considered an expert in U.S.-Israel relations he will be available to answer questions after his presentation.

Seminole Chamber of Commerce Honors SSC Personnel



Blakenship

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during February's Chamber of Commerce Monthly Forum. Christian Morgan, English Instructor, and Donnie Blakenship, SSC Police Officer, were recognized as "Educator" and "Staff Member" of the month.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognizes SSC employees, as well as employees of the Seminole Public School System, periodically at Forum during the school year. SSC individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by administrators, chairpersons and other directors of campus services to receive the honor.



Morgan

Christian Morgan was recognized as the "Educator of the Month." The award is sponsored by the local Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Morgan began his career at SSC in August, 2002.

He teaches English Composition I and II, Journalism, Mass Communications, British Literature and Introduction to Literature. Morgan is also the Writing Program Coordinator for the Language Arts and Humanities Division and assists with the Global Studies Program.

He has served on numerous committees of the Faculty Senate and currently serves as President of that organization.

Morgan attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in

Weatherford, where he received his bachelor's degree. He also holds a master's degree in English from the University of Tulsa.

He is the son of Jenny Morgan of Seminole, and he has four brothers – Sean, Matt, and Jeff who live in and around the Seminole area.

Donnie Blakenship was selected as the College's "Staff Member of the Month." The award is presented as a joint project of the Chamber's Education Committee and Century 21 Blue Ribbon Realty of Seminole.

Blakenship is a 35-year law enforcement veteran. He began his career in 1973 with the Wewoka Police Department and transferred to the Seminole County Sheriff's Department in 1978.

He began working at Seminole State College in October, 1996.

Blakenship is a certified police officer with over 400 hours of special law enforcement training. He was recently certified as an Incident Commander through the National Incident Management System to provide leadership should a major catastrophic incident occur at SSC.

Blakenship is a life-long resident of Sasakwa. He and his wife, Norma, have one son and daughter-in-law – David and Kim Blankenship – and four grandchildren.

Psi Beta helped out local families during their Spring Cleaning Drive April 2-3

Seminole State College's Psi Beta students collected items to help local families in need during their Spring Cleaning Drive.

The College's Psychology national honor society, Psi Beta, collected clothing, kitchen utensils and hygiene products for the Seminole Family Resource Center in Tanner Hall on the SSC campus. Items were donated on Tuesday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednes-

day, April 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"If you are doing a little spring cleaning and don't know what to do with your old and unused items this is a great way to help out the local community. Any and everything families need to survive these hard times was accepted," noted Psi Beta Sponsor and SSC Psychology Instructor Kendall Rogers. "All in-kind donations are tax deductible."

The Seminole Family Resource

Center was founded in 1997 to offer services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The organization is funded by governmental funds and local contributions. They are staffed by professionals and trained volunteers who provide confidential counseling and referral services.

Anyone wanting more information about Psi Beta may contact Rogers at (405) 382-9529.

SSC Board Approves Naming of Henderson Park

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Utterback said, “Tracy is a truly exceptional instructor who is most deserving of this important status.”

The Board then reviewed and approved the addition of an employee retirement incentive program as a college policy. The program helps the College prepare for the retirement of employees in key positions and stabilizes institutional finances through potential net savings in personnel costs.

Utterback thanked the board for approval of the policy. “This is a great program, a great service and a great benefit for our employees,” Utterback said.

The drug-free workplace policy was reviewed and the minor changes made to the bi-annual review were approved. The college is required by the U.S. Department of Education to review this policy

every two years.

Next, the bid on the glass package for the new Student Services Center was approved. The lowest bid by Shawnee Glass Company was approved not to exceed \$66,194.00 which included internal and external store front glass and automatic external doors.

The final action item was the approval of naming the newly remodeled park area “Henderson Park.”

The recognition was made in honor of Kenneth and Rose Henderson, who Utterback commented have given an immense amount of time, money and energy to the improvements in the park surrounding the campus pond. They provided partial funding to rebuild the pond dam, purchase a 40-foot walking bridge, build sidewalks, construct a small foot bridge and purchase nine bronze statues for

the area.

“The Henderson’s have also traveled the state purchasing over 200 trees and shrubs which they personally helped plant on campus,” Utterback said.

In addition to the naming of Henderson Park, the President told the board that recognition will also be made of gifts by the J. Smart Family Foundation and the Dennis and Leslie Roesler family.

One item was approved on the consent agenda: the acceptance of the Fall 2008 Course-Embedded Assessment Report.

Board members present at the meeting included: Vice Chairman Flowers, Jeff Miller, David Wilson, Bill Huser, Marilyn Bradford and Marci Donaho.

The SSC Board of Regents’ next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28.

SSC Students Named among Who’s Who in America

The 2009 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges will include the names of 47 students from Seminole State College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continues success.

They join an elite group of students from more than 1,400 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1966. Students named this year from Seminole State College are:

<u>Ada</u>	<u>London, UK</u>	Yuphin Cheewinkulthong	Holly Neely
Theresa Martin	Joseph Ikhinmwin	Jenny Crelia	Linda Qualls
<u>Broken Bow</u>	<u>Prague</u>	Brenda Deise	Angele Slagtand
Ky Burgess	Melissa Hinkle	Brett Gowdy	Carrie Stokes
<u>Collinsville</u>	Elizabeth Morgan	Kyler Johnson	Julie Taylor
Amy Schultheiss	Alyssa Wright	Kimberly Parks	<u>Tecumseh</u>
<u>Cypress, Texas</u>	<u>Norman</u>	Jenny Pearson	John Clark
Mary Cox	April Putman	Kennedy Robertson	Sylvia Copeland
<u>Earlsboro</u>	Jennifer Putman	Judy Scott	Natasha Dugan
Heather Watson	<u>Okemah</u>	Luke Yates	Tiffany Flower
<u>Hartshorne</u>	Tamara Nelson	Arisara Yenjai	Kristen Frair
Cody Barlow	<u>Seminole</u>	<u>Shawnee</u>	Elizabeth Lyle
Larry Morgan	April Allison	Sandra Balderas	David Northrip
<u>Mt. Waverly, Melbourne.</u>	Cassandra Beene	Amy Brannan	Oliver Petree
<u>Australia</u>	Brooke Belles	Virgie Cochran	
Andrew Carter	Angela Burton	Janice Moore	

SSC Delegation Visits Capitol for Higher Education Day



Seminole State College students join SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback on the Capitol steps during Higher Education Day activities. Shown from left are: (front row) Cody Barlow, Hartshorne; Brooke Belles, Seminole; Ashley Owens, Shawnee; Larry Morgan, Hartshorne; Dani Trueblood, Wilburton; Steven Gomez, Shawnee; (second row) Jared Whitlock, Seminole; Chance Marsey, Depew; Raven Campbell, Depew; Matt Smith, Savanna; Kim Parks, Seminole; Calli Wood, Seminole; (third row) Cherise Taylor, Holdenville; Annie Daniel, Prague; Autumn Wiles, Seminole; Jalisa Miles, Wewoka; Betty Tiger, Seminole; (fourth row) Bill Hobia, Shawnee; Nash McMurtrey, Hartshorne; Taylor Wasam, Seminole; Brett Gowdy, Seminole; Stephanie Pollock, Seminole; (fifth row) Siah Scott, Seminole; Jessica Schimmel, Meeker; John Tonubbee, Chandler; (sixth row) Addisun Austin, McLoud; Shalan Tyra, Wetumka; and Dr. Utterback.

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended “Higher Education Day” at the State Capitol, Tuesday, Feb. 10.

The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate grass-roots support for Higher Education funding.

An afternoon session was held in the chamber of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Speakers included several students from across the state, as well as Oklahoma State System for Higher Education

Chancellor Dr. Glen Johnson, Oklahoma State House of Representatives Speaker of the House Chris Benge, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate Glenn Coffee and Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins.

Higher Education Day activities included office visits with area legislators at the Capitol.

Prior to the afternoon program, community and campus leaders representing Seminole State College, hosted a luncheon for area legislators at the Faculty House in Oklahoma City. State Senator Harry Coates (R-Seminole), Senate Minority Leader Charlie Laster (D-Shawnee), Representative Ryan Kiesel (R-Seminole), House Minority Leader Danny Morgan (D-Prague) and Representative Shane Jett (R-Tecumseh) were guests at the luncheon.

Following introductions by SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback, the legislators spoke to the SSC delegation about their support of higher education and their outlook on the new legislative session.

Community supporters in attendance included: Melvin Moran, Roger Nansel, Kenneth Henderson, Jim Hardin, John Hargrave, Jeremy Rich, Ed Smith, Bob Weaver, Amy Britt, Sassy Swearingen, Dr. Donna Hardin, Karrie Utterback, Karel Brewster, Malia Bennett, Tom Seth Smith, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy and Harrel Kennedy.

Campus representatives included a large delegation of students, as well as: Dr. Jim Utterback, Larry Smith, Dr. Paul Gasparro, Lana Reynolds, Chris Lindley, Mona Ridley, Pam Koenig, Braden Brown, Sheryl Noey and Cindy Guinn.



Trojan Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Wednesday, April 8	Connors	Warner	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 9	Connors	Seminole	4:00 p.m.
Friday, April 10	Connors	Warner	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 11	Connors	Seminole	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 15	Eastern	Seminole	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 18	Eastern	Wilburton	1:00 p.m.
Monday, April 20	Grayson	Seminole	2:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 23	UAFS	Seminole	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 25	UAFS	Ft. Smith, AR	1:00 p.m.
Monday, April 27	Cowley County	Arkansas City, KS	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 29	Rose	Midwest City	3:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 30	Rose	Seminole	3:00 p.m.
Friday, May 1	Rose	Midwest City	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 2	Rose	Seminole	1:00 p.m.
May 7-8	NJCAA Region II Tournament	Bartlesville, OK	
May 15-17	South Central District	@ Region II Winner Site	
May 23-30	NJCAA National Tournament	Grand Junction, CO	

Trojan Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Thursday, April 9	Carl Albert	Poteau, OK	2:00 & 4:00
Friday, April 10	Northern	Tonkawa, OK	5:00 & 7:00
Monday, April 13	Carl Albert	Seminole	2:00 & 4:00
Tuesday, April 14	Connors State	Seminole	2:00 & 4:00
Thursday, April 16	Eastern	Wilburton, OK	2:00 & 4:00
April 17-18	Seminole State Invitational	Seminole	
Friday April 17	Eastern		2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 18	Carl Albert (Win play @ 4:00 p.m.; Lose play @ 12:00 p.m.)		10:00 a.m.
Monday, April 20	Neosho	Chanute, KS	2:00 & 4:00
Tuesday, April 21	Northern	Seminole	2:00 & 4:00
Thursday, April 23	NEO	Seminole	6:00 & 8:00
Saturday, April 25	Western	Altus, OK	12:00 & 2:00
May 1-3	NJCAA Region II Tournament	Oklahoma City	
May 14-16	NJCCA National Tournament	Plant City, FL	

