



# ***Seminole State College***

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*Office of the President*

January 17, 2013

Dear Regents:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we have traditionally reviewed the highlights of the previous year at Seminole State College. This document provides an overview of 2012.

The items that made news for the College last year reflect a vibrant campus community. Students and employees were recognized for their accomplishments. Politicians and other dignitaries visited campus – including a delegation of educators from Denmark. Community members, students and employees travelled the world through our Global Studies Program. Campus organizations reached out to help individuals in need by giving of their time and money. It was a fun and productive year!

This month, I begin my seventeenth year as President. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have participated in the growth and development of our institution. We have made progress on many long-range goals and have seen dreams become reality. Working together we truly are “shaping the future” of Seminole State College.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



James W. Utterback, Ph.D.  
President

## 2012 Year-in-Review

### JANUARY

- **SSC Students Featured in “Who’s Who”**  
It was announced that the 2011-12 edition of *Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges* will include 57 students from Seminole State College who have been selected as outstanding campus leaders.
- **AT&T Supports SSC President’s Leadership Class Program**  
To help Seminole State College prepare students for leadership roles in their communities and the State, AT&T made a \$5,000 contribution to support activities of the President’s Leadership Class activities.
- **SSC Supporters Attend Regional Higher Education Legislative Briefing**  
**Dr. Jim Utterback** and several supporters of Seminole State College were guests at the Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in McAlester. **Dr. Glen D. Johnson**, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, met with the group of 90 area legislators and friends of higher education to discuss the importance of higher education in improving the economy and business climate of the state.
- **SSC’s Got Talent**  
Seminole State College employees gathered Thursday in the newly-renovated E.T. Dunlap Student Union meeting room to watch their colleagues participate in a “Talent Showcase.” Members of the administration, faculty and staff shared literary readings, a photography montage and performed musical numbers during the lunch-time presentation.
- **Sharing MLT Trade Secrets**  
The Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology Program had visitors from the directors of a new MLT program in Southeast Oklahoma. Eastern Oklahoma State College is granting college credit for the new program which is set up in Idabel at the McCurtain County Memorial Hospital. The program administrators were on campus to view the SSC laboratory and gather information about the program and its clinical operations.

# FEBRUARY

- **Dr. Nero Speaks in Celebration of Black Heritage Month**  
Former Connors State College President **Dr. Donnie Nero** was on campus to help celebrate Black Heritage Month. Dr. Nero gave a presentation entitled, “Walk a Mile ‘N’ My Shoes,” in which he discussed growing up in Oklahoma during the height of the Civil Rights movement. He talked about the roles that education, perseverance and encouragement from others have played in his personal success.
- **Baseball Kicks-off with Banquet**  
Former SSC baseball players, along with community supporters and members of the 2012 Trojan squad, gathered on the SSC campus for the annual Trojan Season Kick-off Banquet. Representatives from teams celebrating 10-year, 20-year and 30-year anniversaries returned to the College to look back on their years at SSC and to encourage the newest class of Trojans to be successful as they open their regular season of play.
- **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**  
Two employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum on Feb. 9. Communications Clerk **Becky Moreland** and Assistant Professor of Speech and Communications **Marie Dawson** were recognized as “Staff Member of the Month” and “Educator of the Month,” respectively.
- **Area Students Participate in SSC Upward Bound Super Saturday Program**  
Students and parents from 21 area high schools had the opportunity to visit campus and learn about recruitment, financial aid, and preparation for college through the SSC Upward Bound Projects. **Dr. Brad Walck**, Vice-President for Student Affairs welcomed students and parents to the informative meeting held in the Enoch Kelley Haney Center. Upward Bound Director **Jeanie Nix**, Upward Bound I Coordinator **Leslie Sewell**, Upward Bound II Coordinator **Karan O’Dor**, Upward Bound Math and Science Coordinator **Richard Thorton** and Upward Bound I Advisor **Theran Hernandez** presented information regarding the Seminole State College Upward Bound projects.
- **English Professors Present at Albuquerque Conference**  
Four Seminole State College English professors presented their creative writing at the annual Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Associate Professor of English, **Rayshell Clapper**, Associate Professor of English **Kelli McBride**, Associate Professor of English **Christian Morgan** and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair and Associate Professor of English **Jessica Isaacs** presented at the conference.
- **SSC Delegation Visits Capitol**  
A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended “Higher Education Day” at the State Capitol, Tuesday, Feb. 21. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.

- **SSC Chili Cook-Off Benefits Family**  
 The SSC Classified Staff Association sponsored a chili cook-off with proceeds going to benefit the family of **Mike Bender**, a co-worker who lost his battle with cancer in early February. Contestants were encouraged to decorate and promote their chili with a creative name. The event was open to public with a \$5 donation to receive a ballot kit that included a bowl, spoon, desert, drink and voting ticket. Additional votes could be purchased for a \$1. Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Institutional Advancement **Cindy Guinn** was the trophy winner with her *Kickin' Cowgirl Chili*.
- **NASA Members Tour Cultural Center and Museum**  
 Members of the Native American Student Association were invited to tour the unfinished Oklahoma City American Indian Cultural Center and Museum. The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum will bring together 39 different American Indian Tribal Nations, in the heart of Indian Country, where international tourists and visitors can be immersed in cultural celebrations, contemporary events and activities both inside the Cultural Center and across the 300-acre Cultural Park.
- **Alum Selected as part of NASA Team Program**  
 SSC Alumnus **Corbin Graham** was selected to be part of a team to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program. The team allowed 48 students from 25 states to participate in a three-day experience through the National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program. Graham was the only student selected from Oklahoma to participate in NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center program.
- **Women in Leadership Program Visits Campus**  
 Several members of the President's Leadership Class attended a luncheon meeting to learn about the National Education for Women's Leadership Institute (N.E.W.) at the University of Oklahoma. **Autumn Wiles**, a graduate of Butner High School and Seminole State College, spoke to the students about the program. Those attending the luncheon included: **Chelsea Smith**, Seminole; **Brooke Gamble**, Seminole; **Jane Toungtong**, Thailand; **Julie Wilson**, Meeker; **Autumn Wiles**, OU; **McKenzie Debter**, Seminole; **Kelsy Riley**, Hartshorne; **Sara Utterback**, Seminole; **Callie Kirk**, Chandler; and **Haley Perry**, Davenport.
- **Blair Attends Nigh Leadership Conference**  
 Seminole State College student Kate Blair of Chandler was one of 30 Oklahoma college and university students selected to attend the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference held in Oklahoma City. Blair received a 2012 George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship through the Nigh Institute program funded by the Oklahoma Legislature.
- **SSC collaborates with other Colleges for Transfer Day**  
 Seminole State College students interested in learning more about four-year colleges had the opportunity to meet with college representatives during "Transfer Day." Four-year institutions represented at the event include East Central University, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma Baptist University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Liberal Studies Online, Southeastern University, Mid-America University and St. Gregory's University.

- **High School Students Experience College Life at SSC**  
A group of Holdenville High School students interested in attending Seminole State College had the opportunity to spend a day on the SSC campus shadowing as a College student. The students were brought to campus by **Ms. Shawn Richmond**, a math teacher at Holdenville High School, to show them the difference of on-campus college learning and their high school classes. The students were able to observe two morning classes and one afternoon class. Enrollment Management Specialist, **Deedra Eldredge**, discussed the degree programs offered at SSC and gave the group a tour of the campus.

## MARCH

- **English Professor Presents at AWP Annual Meeting**  
Seminole State College Associate Professor of English **Jim Wilson** presented on a panel during the Associated Writers and Writing Programs Annual Meeting held in Chicago, IL. Mr. Wilson presented in a panel discussion on “Writing the Middle East, Crossing Genre, Crossing Borders.”
- **Students recognized as All-Oklahoma Academic Team Members**  
Students **Janis Hart** of Seminole and **Chun Fu “Jeff” Cheng** of Hubei Province, China were selected as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. The students were recognized at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges’ (OACC) recognition ceremony at Rose State College March 6.
- **Students Enjoy Concert in the Park**  
The SSC Student Activities Board and Sodexo Food Service hosted an outdoor cookout and concert performed by Shane Henry from Oklahoma City for the campus community in Henderson Park.
- **Students Participate in Oklahoma Academic Mind Games Challenge**  
Five students participated in “Mind Games,” an Oklahoma Academic Challenge that aired on KSBI 52 television station. The program brings together 16 teams of students from Oklahoma colleges and universities in a weekly battle of the brains. Students competing for the SSC team were **Lynnette Gomez, Jordan Bumgarner, Dillon Trevizo, Tom Buckman** and **Thomas Kordsiemon**. Student Government Advisor and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice **Bill Knowles** served as the team coach.
- **SSC Representatives Present at BBCB Conference**  
Upward Bound Advisors **Theran Hernandez** and **Marissa Lightsey** gave a presentation on “Educating Educators: Becoming More Culturally Aware” during the Black, Brown and College Bound Conference hosted by Hillsborough Community College in Tampa Bay, FL. The theme of the four-day conference was “And Still We Rise: Turning Hurdles into Triumphs.” Holdenville High School Senior, **Samantha Fox** and Seminole High School Senior **Justine Tilley** also attended the conference representing SSC.

- **Students Volunteer at Food Bank**  
Members of the President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. The group re-packaged 120 cases of frozen potatoes into two pound bags to be distributed to soup kitchens and shelters throughout Oklahoma. The students re-packaged 3,600 pounds of potatoes.
- **Area Students Participate in SSC Upward Bound Spring Trip**  
Students from 19 area high schools had the opportunity to travel to Oklahoma City for an overnight visit with the Seminole State College Upward Bound Program. During the stay 88 eligible students went on a tour of the Oklahoma City Community College, toured the Harn Homestead, attended an OKC Barron's Hockey game, rock climbed at Rock Town, toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial and attended a movie.
- **PLC Group Visits Historic Sites**  
The President's Leadership Class toured former Governor E.W. Marland's "Mansion on the Prairie" in Ponca City. The group also visited the Pioneer Woman Statue and Museum, and ended their trip with dinner at Eskimo Joe's in Stillwater where they met owner Stan Clark.
- **SSC Phlebotomy Program Approved by NAACLS**  
The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) has awarded approval status to the Seminole State College Phlebotomy Certificate Program. NAACLS is the premier international agency for accreditation and approval of education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences and related health care professions.
- **SSC NASNTI Student Development Center Hosts Open House**  
The Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Student Development Center hosted an open house to educate the campus community about their program and the services they offer. The federally funded grant programs objectives are to increase student retention and graduation rates.

**APRIL**

- **Congressman Hosts 'Tuesday Talk'**  
Oklahoma 5th District U.S. **Congressman James Lankford** was on campus April 10 to speak to area citizens as a part of his "Tuesday Talk" series of town hall meetings. A crowd of approximately 80 people gathered in the Haney Center Lecture Hall to hear updates and ask questions about issues such as health care, Immigration, the Keystone pipeline, postal service consolidation, and the proposed budget.

- **SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**  
 Thirty-five SSC students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges. Students are selected based on their scholarship, leadership and service qualities. The chapter provides programs, activities and participation in community service projects. Associate Professor of History **Dr. Steve Bolin** and Assistant Professor of Government **Jeffrey Christiansen** serve as the organization's faculty advisers.
- **Language Arts Hosts Creativity Symposium**  
 The Language Arts and Humanities Division hosted its annual Creativity Symposium on April 27. This year's program featured award-winning Choctaw scholars and writers **Greg Rodgers** and **LeAnne Howe** as keynote speakers.
- **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**  
 Two employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum Thursday, April 12. SSC Business Services/Maintenance Director **Braden Brown** and Maintenance Technician **Mike Holder** were recognized by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.
- **Grady Inducted into Alpha Delta Kappa**  
 Spanish Instructor **Alayna Grady** was inducted into Alpha Delta Kappa and elected to serve as secretary of the Theta Chapter. The organization promotes educational and charitable projects and activities. Ms. Grady volunteers her expertise in technology to the community and this sorority.
- **SGA Supports American Cancer Society**  
 The Student Government Association formed a team and participated in the Spring American Cancer Society Relay for Life.
- **Donaho, Ervin to Serve as Seminole State College Regents**  
 Seminole County Residents **Marci Donaho** and **Mike Ervin** were appointed by **Governor Mary Fallin** to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents. Their nominations were approved by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee during a hearing Monday, April 2, 2012 at the Capitol. Regent Donaho, who will complete her first seven-year term as an SSC Regent on July 1, 2012, was reappointed to serve through July 1, 2019. Mr. Ervin was appointed to a new seven-year term, ending July, 2018.
- **Global Studies Program Returns from Travel**  
 Seminole State College's 2012 Global Studies excursion program traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland as part of its spring program. Students and faculty **Misty Doner, Tyler Beddo, Chelle Wright, John Beddo, David Kitson**, Associate Professor of English **Rayshell Clapper**, **Christian Alyea**, Associate Professor of English **Christian Morgan**, **Brandi Tucker**, **Rachel Wilson**, **Ryanne Wright**, Nursing and Health Science Chair and Professor of Nursing **Donna Chambers** and **Marisa Deloera** participated in the nine-day trip, March 17-26 that directed travelers through London, Oxford, St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland.



- **SSC Hosts Mental Health Awareness Day**  
 Over 150 SSC students had the opportunity to learn about mental illness, recovery and stress management through a Mental Health Awareness Day sponsored by Seminole State College Psychology Professors **Mona Ridley, Kendall Rogers** and **Christal Stevenson** and the SSC Psychology Honor Society Psi Beta. Presentations featured special guest speakers from Oklahoma City's Unity House, an outpatient facility for those who suffer from mental illnesses.
- **Professional Development Day Features Diversity Speaker**  
 Employees across campus had the opportunity to attend a variety of programs as part of an organized professional development day on April 20. The keynote speaker for the training day was Oklahoma educator **Joyce Henderson** with the Respect Diversity Foundation. Ms. Henderson was an active participant in the "sit-in" demonstrations in Oklahoma City during the 1960s, and a student of Civil Rights leader **Clara Luper**.
- **Students Inducted into Psi Beta**  
 Twenty-six Seminole State College students earned the honor in April to be inducted into the College's chapter of the Psi Beta National Psychology Honor Society.
- **Sigma Kappa Delta Honor Society Inducts New Members**  
 Twenty-three students were inducted into the Upsilon Alpha chapter of the English Honor Society Sigma Kappa Delta. President of SSC, **Dr. Jim Utterback** was the guest speaker for the event. During the evening he spoke to students about seizing the day and making an impact on the lives of others.
- **PLC Students Travel to Broken Bow**  
 Members of the President's Leadership Class travelled to Southeast Oklahoma to learn about the importance of tourism and the forestry industry to Oklahoma's economy. The group toured the Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center, the Museum of the Red River and Huber Engineered Woods. The educational outing was sponsored, in part, through a grant from AT&T.
- **Wallace and Columbus Oil Recognized at Economic Development Program**  
 Seminole State College, **Darlene Wallace** and Columbus Oil were among education and business partnerships honored during an Economic Development Partnership Recognition program held April 24 on the OSU-OKC campus. The Economic Development Partnership Recognition program honors outstanding partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing Oklahoma's workforce.

# MAY

- **Regents Convene for Special Meeting**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents convened for a special meeting to meet top candidates for the Vice President of Academic Affairs position and to meet the newly-appointed **Regent Mike Ervin**. The Board retired to Executive Session to meet with the VPAA candidates, and then reconvened in Open Session. No other action was taken by the board.
- **Croy Selected Vice President of Academic Affairs at SSC**

Seminole State College announced that after an extensive and inclusive search process, **Dr. Melanie A. Croy** was hired as Vice President for Academic Affairs beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year. Dr. Croy has over 26 years of experience in higher education, 16 of which have been served in an administrative capacity.
- **Cokeley and Latchaw Retire from SSC**

Seminole State College honored two retiring employees, **Patricia Cokeley** and **Perthena Latchaw** with a reception celebrating their careers at the college. Ms. Cokeley taught adjunct for three years before becoming a full-time business instructor for 22 years. She served as the Chair of the Business and Information Systems Division. Director of the Medical Laboratory Technology Program and Assistant Professor Perthena Latchaw began her career at SSC over 30 years ago.
- **Softball Finishes Second**

The Trojan Softball team finished in 2nd Place in the NJCAA Region II tournament Held at Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City in early May. The Trojans won games against Eastern, Connors and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (NEO). However, NEO came back to defeat the Trojans in back-to-back games on Sunday afternoon - winning the Regional title. **Coach Kristina McSweeney** and her team finished their season with a record of 44-13.
- **Melvin Moran Speaks at SSC Commencement**

**Melvin Moran** was the featured speaker at the 79th Commencement Exercises for Seminole State College held Friday, May 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Raymond Harber Field House. Following Mr. Moran's address, **Pam Koenig**, Dean of Institutional Compliance, presented 130 degree candidates, which were conferred degrees by President **Dr. Jim Utterback**. Graduates of the SSC Nursing Program ended the day of graduation activities with a special "Pinning Ceremony" at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.
- **Women's Tennis Places in National Tournament**

SSC Women's Tennis placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the NJCAA National Tournament held in Tyler, Texas May 6-11.

- **Upward Bound Programs Receive Grants**  
 The Seminole State College received word that it will receive over \$2.9 million in grant money over the next five years from the U.S. Department of Education to fund two Upward Bound programs. The grants will provide \$334,873 annually for one program and \$250,000 annually for the other. The programs are 100 percent federally-funded and serve 165 students from Bowlegs, Earlsboro, Shawnee, Tecumseh, Seminole, Strother, Varnum, Wewoka, Butner, Okemah, Holdenville, Paden, Macomb, Calvin, Weleetka, Dale, Dustin, Wetumka and New Lima schools.
- **Coach Simmons to Return to SSC**  
 Former SSC Baseball **Coach Lloyd Simmons** will return to the helm of the Trojan program as its new head coach. Simmons, who built a dynasty in collegiate baseball over his 26 years at Seminole, left the program in 2001. He served as the Rookie Manager for the Kansas City Royals for six years, and then worked three years as the pro team's area scout for Oklahoma, Arkansas and Western Tennessee. In February, 2011, he became the area scout for the New York Yankees organization – covering Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas. During his tenure at Seminole, he established a record of 1,643 wins and 312 losses. His teams made 13 trips to the NJCAA national tournament – JUCO World Series – in Grand Junction, Colo., where they returned home as runners-up four times. His teams were consistently ranked in the top 15 in the nation. Along the way, Simmons produced 41 NJCAA All-Americans and 165 of his former players signed professional baseball contracts.
- **Men's Tennis Finish 9th in NJCAA National Championship**  
 The men's tennis team finished 9th at the 2012 NJCAA National Championships in Plano, Texas in late May. This was the fifth straight year that the men's program had a top 10 finish. The men's team finished 5th in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.
- **Hamm Named Chair of SSC Business Division**  
 Long-time Professor of Business and Accounting **Dawna Hamm** was named Chair of the College's Business and Information Systems Division. Ms. Hamm follows **Patricia Cokeley** who served as Chair and retired on May 15, following a 22-year career with the College. Ms. Hamm has been employed at SSC for more than 20 years. She has served as the Assistant Division Chair for Business and Information Systems.
- **Writing Specialist Visits SSC Writing Center**  
 English Faculty and NASNTI Grant Staff had the opportunity to hear **Dr. Michele Eodice** speak about how to launch an effective, successful Writing Center during a visit to the SSC campus. Dr. Eodice is the Associate Provost for Academic Engagement and Executive Director of Learning, Teaching, and Writing at OU.
- **Golfers Qualify for National Tournaments**  
**Alejandra Arellano** and **Danielle Rhodes** qualified for the NJCAA Women's Golf National Championship held in Daytona Beach, Florida on May 14-17. **Tyler Carlson** qualified for the NJCAA Men's Golf National Championship held in Plymouth, Indiana, May 22-5.

- **SSC Graduate Receives Scholarship to OCU**  
SSC Graduate **Chun Fu (Jeff) Cheng** received a \$5,000 scholarship to attend Oklahoma City University courtesy of BancFirst Executive Vice President and Regional Executive **Karen James**, of Seminole. Ms. James, a SSC graduate, was recognized as one of “50 Making a Difference” in the *Journal Record*’s 2011 Woman of the Year recognition program. As part of the honor, James received a \$5,000 scholarship to the Meinders School of Business at OCU, which she requested be transferred to Jeff Cheng.

## JUNE

- **English Professors Publish their Works**  
Seminole State College’s Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair **Jessica Isaacs** and Associate Professor of English **Rayshell Clapper** received notice that they will be published in the next edition of Sugar Mule Literary Magazine. This edition focuses on Woman Writing Nature. The online magazine will be available in July 2012.
- **Browning Appointed Director of MLT Program**  
Long-time Associate Professor of Medical Laboratory Technology **Malinda Browning** was appointed Director of the program. Ms. Browning follows **Perthena Latchaw** who was scheduled to retire on July 1, following a 30-year career with the College. Ms. Browning has been employed at SSC for more than 20 years. She has been serving as the Associate Professor of Medical Laboratory Technology.
- **Kids College Tackles Math with Legos**  
Students enrolled in the children’s Lego camp tackled math, science and physics problem-solving and critical thinking projects during Kids College summer camp. Classes in reading, archery, piano, digital photography and swimming continue throughout June and July at the College.
- **Flores Named Head Softball Coach**  
Stony Brook University Assistant Softball Coach **Amber Flores** was named head coach of the softball program at SSC. Coach Flores, a three-time All-American and three-time contender for “National Player of the Year” while a student-athlete at the University of Oklahoma, had been coaching at the university in Stony Brook, New York for the past year. She replaced **Kristina McSweeney** who accepted a position as the Head Softball Coach at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Ark. – an NCAA Division II school.

- **Students Receive Scholarship Honoring Dan Wallace**  
**Destine O'Brien** and **Dylan Barnes**, both graduates of Seminole High School, were selected as recipients of the Dan Wallace Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Wallace, a former Seminole oil man and “Citizen of the Year,” passed away in 2004, after a short battle with lung cancer. The memorial scholarship was established through donations made by his wife, **Darlene Wallace**, and their company, Columbus Oil.
- **Area Students Participate in SSC Upward Bound Summer Program**  
Students from 21 area high schools had the opportunity to stay on the Seminole State College campus and learn about financial aid, prepare for college and improve their academic performance through the SSC Upward Bound Summer Program. For six-weeks, 140 students from Seminole, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties stayed on the SSC campus as a part of the college’s Upward Bound summer residential program.
- **Seminole State College Hosts Emergency Training on Campus**  
Seminole State College campus hosted the Local Emergency Planning Committee training for an active shooter on campus exercise on June 6-7 and 20-21. Instructors with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation taught the two-day courses. The LEPC consists of local emergency agencies from Seminole State College, City of Seminole, Seminole Nation, City of Wewoka, Seminole County and representatives from the private sector who are working together to prepare for this type of emergency.

**JULY**

- **SSC Selected for “Top 100 Degree Producers: American Indian Associates”**  
The College was honored with recognition by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* in the publication’s listing of the “Top 100 Degree Producers: American Indian Associates – All Disciplines Combined.” This is the third consecutive year the College has received the recognition. SSC was been honored in the 2009, 2010 and 2011 May issues of the publication.
- **Butner attends OCPRA Conference and Receives Award**  
Coordinator of Media Relations **Dustie Butner** was recognized for her work on the College’s Annual Report at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association’s annual conference. The banquet was the highlight of the organization’s three-day annual meeting which brought together representatives from 26 higher education entities across the state. Colleges and universities of all sizes, from two-year, regional four-year, and comprehensive four-year tiers, as well as public and private institutions submit entries in the competition.

- **Reynolds selected as “50 Making a Difference” by Journal Record**  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Lana Reynolds** was selected by the *Journal Record* as one of their “50 Making a Difference” in the State of Oklahoma for 2012. The “50 Making a Difference” publication and the Woman of the Year awards gala honor Oklahoma’s most influential female business and community leaders in their fields. Ms. Reynolds has been employed at the college for the past 25 years, working as Public Information Officer, Director of Public Relations and Assistant to the President. She served as Associate Vice President for Business and Community Relations prior to being named the Vice President for Institutional Advancement in May, 2005.
- **Area Students Participate in SSC Upward Bound Hawaii Trip**  
Sixteen Upward Bound Bridge students took a week-long global studies class trip to Hawaii the first week of August. The recent high school graduates had participated in the College’s Upward Bound summer residential program prior to taking the trip.

## AUGUST

- **Allen Johnson Speaks to Faculty and Staff**  
Motivational speaker **Allan Johnson** spoke on “Positive Vibes: Creating a Positive Environment for Students and Colleagues” during the College’s in-service training.
- **Hosts Area Services Fair**  
Seminole State College students and faculty had the chance to learn about goods and services available in the community during the college’s 19th annual “Area Services Fair” held on Wednesday, Sept. 19. The fair was held outside the E.T. Dunlap Student Union in conjunction with the annual “Back-to-School Ice Cream Social.”
- **Senator Inhofe Visits Seminole**  
**U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe** visited Seminole and the SSC campus on Aug. 21. The Senator spoke to campus and community members during a “Congressional Update” in the Haney Center Lecture Hall.
- **Mills Named Dean of Instructional Compliance**  
**Dr. Tom Mills** was named the Dean of Instructional Compliance in August. Dr. Mills replaced **Pam Koenig** who returned to her former position of Social Science Instructor at the College. In this role, Dr. Mills will provide leadership and management for both internal and external academic programs including faculty professional development, as well as student and academic assessment. He will act as the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Liaison Officer. Dr. Mills’ academic background consists of a bachelor’s degree in Biology from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Houston.

- **Quinn Named Head Basketball Coach**  
Assistant SSC Basketball Coach **Ryan Quinn** was named Head Coach for the Trojans. Coach Quinn assumed direction of the SSC program immediately replacing **Dr. Tom Mills** who accepted the position of Dean of Instructional Compliance at the College.

## SEPTEMBER

- **Walck and Bunyan receive “Lion of the Year” Awards**  
Vice President for Student Affairs **Dr. Brad Walck** and Professor of Business **Fred Bunyan**, were each presented with the “Lion of the Year Award” from the Seminole Lions Club. Recipients of the award were selected by the members of the club for their outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to “Lionism.”
- **Constitution Day Observed at College**  
In celebration of Constitution Day 2012, Seminole State College hosted an interactive public presentation on campus Monday, Sept. 17. The program was held in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union Meeting Room. An “open mic” invitation was extended to students, faculty, staff and members of the community to express in one to two minutes “What the Constitution Means to ME!”
- **Seminole State Names Assistant Athletic Director**  
**Sadiaa Jones** was named Assistant Athletic Director to oversee the day-to-day operations of the athletic department including supervising personnel and compliance issues. Ms. Jones a native of Elk City, Okla. is a graduate of SSC where she was a member of the Belles Basketball Team.
- **Softball Team helps GEAR UP Students get Prepared for Class**  
Members of Seminole State College’s Trojan’s Softball team led by Coach **Amber Flores** teamed up with the SSC GEAR UP program to prepare 500 graphic calculators for distribution to area schools. GEAR UP is a federally-funded program serving a cohort of students from 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, parents, and teachers in 15 schools. The mission of GEAR UP is to prepare students for college through workshops, cultural and educational field trips and professional development for teachers and educational supplies.
- **College Offers Tobacco Cessation Class on Campus**  
SSC hosted a tobacco cessation class on campus for employees and students to have the opportunity to learn how to successfully stop using tobacco. The class was offered as the campus promoted a tobacco-free campus policy that went into effect in June.

# OCTOBER

- **Students Visit Bombing Memorial**

Members of the President's Leadership Class toured the Oklahoma Bombing Memorial. Several students placed their wet handprints on the memorial's west gate wall in memory of the victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, and others placed flowers on the memorial chair honoring child bombing victim **Baylee Almon**. The students also had the opportunity to hear firsthand experiences from the day of the bombing from former KOCO-TV Channel 5 reporter **Terri Watkins**.
- **SGA President attends National Summit**

Student Government Association President **Haley Perry**, of Chandler, along with Faculty Advisor **Bill Knowles** attended the National Student Government Summit in Washington D.C. Sept. 27-30. While attending the four-day training conference students and advisors from across the nation shared ideas, networked and received training from the American Student Government Association staff.
- **Faculty Present at OACC Conference**

Associate Professor of Mathematics **Dr. Linda Goeller** and Mathematics Instructor **Jamie Mills** presented at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference held in Midwest City. The pair presented together on the topic "*Attendance: What Works?*" Dr. Goeller presented "*Developmental Mathematics: Students' Perception of the Placement Process.*"
- **Professor Wins 'Great Ideas for Teaching' Award**

Associate Professor of Mathematics, **Dr. Linda Goeller**, received recognition for her entry in the Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) contest at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference. The contest is designed to encourage faculty from across the state to share their teaching ideas.
- **Perry Receives OACC Scholarship**

**Haley Perry**, of Chandler, was selected as an Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges scholarship recipient and recognized at the organization's annual conference. The OACC Scholarship program honors one outstanding student from each of Oklahoma's community colleges with a \$1,000 tuition waiver scholarship.
- **Student Leaders Attend Conferences**

Student Government Association members **Haley Perry, Callie Kirk, Jade Riley** and **Kristian Brown** attended the Fall 2012 Leadership Retreat sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Fall Oklahoma Student Government Association Fall Congress in October.
- **Leadership Students Tour Prison**

Members of the President's Leadership Class toured the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester as part of their leadership development activities. The leadership students visited with prison officials and toured the maximum security facility in an effort to learn about challenges the State of Oklahoma faces in funding and operating its corrections system.



- **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**  
Two SSC employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum on Thursday, Oct. 11. Groundskeeper **Darryn Lewis** and Assistant Professor of Government **Jeffrey Christiansen** were recognized as “Staff Member of the Month” and “Educator of the Month,” respectively.
- **Academic Offices Attends HLC Assessment Workshop**  
Dean of Instructional Compliance **Dr. Tom Mills** and Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Melanie Croy** attended the Higher Learning Commission Assessment Workshop in St. Charles, IL on Oct. 17-19. The workshop focused on how making assessment a core strategy can make a difference in student learning.
- **Students Participate in Oklahoma Academic Mind Games Challenge**  
Four SSC students participated in “**Mind Games**,” an Oklahoma Academic Challenge that airs on the KSBI 52 television station. Students who competed for the SSC team were: team captain **Tom Buckman**, Seminole; **Callie Kirk**, Meeker; **Destine O’Brien**, Wewoka; and **Kate Kordsiemon**, Norman. Student Government Advisor and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice **Bill Knowles** served as the team coach.
- **Trojan Baseball Day Scheduled at Sonic**  
Seminole area residents were invited to welcome home **Coach Lloyd Simmons** at “Meet the Trojans Day” hosted by the local Seminole Sonic. Coach Simmons and players from the 2012 SSC Trojan baseball team greeted the community and signed autographs on Friday, Nov. 2, at the Seminole Sonic.
- **Downey Attends ACCT Conference**  
Administrative Assistant to the President **Mechell Downey** participated in the Association of Community College Trustees - Leadership Congress in Boston, Mass. Downey, attended the ACCT Professional Board Staff Network group workshop and business session Oct. 10-13. This group provides information and training for individuals at community colleges who support governing boards and presidents.

## NOVEMBER

- **Pro Players Return**  
Trojan baseball alumni returned to Seminole the weekend of Nov. 2-3 to participate in a golf tournament, homerun hitting contest and an alumni vs. current players baseball game. Among the many former Trojans who came back to visit their alma mater were former professional players **Joe Nelson**, **Ryan Franklin** and **Kyle Denney**. Nelson played for the Boston Red Sox, Tampa Bay Rays, Florida Marlins, Atlanta Braves and the Kansas City Royals. Franklin played for the Seattle Mariners and Philadelphia Phillies, and became an All-Star as a closer with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was a member of the 2011 Cardinals World Series Championship Team. Denny played for the Cleveland Indians.

- **Lady Trojan Tennis Earns Highest National Ranking in Program History**  
 The Lady Trojan tennis team received their highest national team ranking in program history, entering the 2012-2013 season as the fifth ranked team in the USA. The rankings, done by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), came out on Nov. 8. Tyler Jr. College from Texas was ranked #1, State College of Florida #2, ASA from New York #3, Collin College from Plano, Texas #4, and Seminole State #5.
- **SSC Welcomes Denmark Guests**  
 Three higher education leaders from the Silkeborg Business College in Denmark arrived in Seminole to spend the week visiting Seminole State College. The visitors, **President Torben Jessen; Vice Dean of Instruction Kristian Stride;** and **Vice Dean of the University Entrance Program Ann-Grethe Jensen**, were in Seminole to learn about the college, the community and the State of Oklahoma. The group examined educational systems, as well as the culture of the area, with plans to develop a possible student and faculty exchange program.
- **Student Enjoy Pizza and Politics**  
 SSC residential students enjoyed “Pizza and Politics” as they watched Presidential election results in the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center Nov. 7. Over 100 students participated in the activity. The event was organized and sponsored by the SSC President’s Leadership Class.
- **President Hosts Campus Coffee**  
 Faculty and staff took a break early on the morning of Nov. 8 to enjoy coffee and hot apple cider with **President Jim Utterback**. The “Coffee with the President” event allows employees from across campus a chance to visit with each other and the President and enjoy a few treats before the end of the fall semester. In attendance were three higher education visitors from the Silkeborg Business College in Denmark.
- **Beans, Beans and More Beans...**  
 Members of the President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma Nov.8. The students repacked 4,608 pounds of bulk pinto beans into two-pound packages to be distributed to soup kitchens and shelters. According to officials with the Regional Food Bank, one in six Oklahomans are at risk of going to bed hungry each night.
- **Upward Bound Welcomes New Members**  
 Seminole State College’s Upward Bound Projects program welcomed 120 new students at their new member orientation. Vice President of Student Affairs **Dr. Brad Walck** was the guest speaker. Upward Bound Projects are 100 percent federally-funded by the U.S. Department of Education annually. Several projects have been developed through the program to help the students understand the value of group sharing and cooperative learning, including the six-week summer residential camp. Over 235 students from 21 high schools are currently being served under the Upward Bound projects.

- **SGA Organizes Canned Food Drive**  
The Student Government Association organized a canned food drive to benefit area families during the Thanksgiving holiday. Over 500 cans were collected on campus for distribution through the Salvation Army.
- **Former Trojan Fans Honored at Ballpark**  
Baseball **Coach Lloyd Simmons** honored the memory of former Trojan baseball fans with the installation of 8-foot red weather-proof benches at Oiler Park. The benches carry the names of **Eugene and Frances Warrenburg, John Conn, Jay McAlvain** and **Jayce Sheffield**.
- **SSC Representatives Attend European Global Studies Fair**  
Associate Professor of English **Christian Morgan** and Associate Professor of English **Rayshell Clapper** attended the Gaudeamus Central European Study Abroad Fair in Brno, Czech Republic. The three-day study abroad fair was attended by over 28,000 Central European students who are considering college and co-tech type schools over Europe and the United States.

## DECEMBER

- **PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**  
Twenty-five SSC students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges. Students are selected based on their scholarship, leadership and service qualities. The chapter provides programs, activities and participation in community service projects.
- **Scruggs Accepted to Leadership Academy**  
Seminole State College's Health Sciences Student Support Services (HSSSS) Director, **Yashanda Scruggs**, was notified by **Chancellor Glen D. Johnson** that she has been accepted as a member of the inaugural class of the Council on Student Affairs (COSA) Leadership Academy. Ms. Scruggs graduated with her undergraduate degree from Langston University in 2004 and received her master's degree in 2008. She is currently a doctoral student in the Adult and Higher Education program at the University of Oklahoma.
- **SSC Students De-Stress**  
Students had the opportunity to participating in "De-Stressor" activities on campus as the Fall semester came to an end. Students received free massages in Tanner Hall and snacks and relaxing stress balls were given away in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. The events are sponsored by the Campus Activities Board.
- **Leaders Learn about Dealing With Organizational Change**  
Personnel in leadership roles at the College attended a training luncheon hosted by SSC President **Dr. Jim Utterback**. The President discussed creative ways to initiate and respond to change in an organization. Participants were given copies of the best-selling book, "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson.

- **Student Bank Board Visits Federal Reserve**  
 Members of the First National Bank of Holdenville and Shawnee Student Bank Boards who were participating in a special class offered through Seminole State College visited the Federal Reserve bank in Oklahoma City. SSC Business and Industry Training Coordinator **Carol Hartman** accompanied the group on the Dec. 4 trip, which was sponsored by the College. Students toured exhibits and were provided information about the Federal Reserve which they were tested over in a game show format - complete with prizes.
- **Lady Golfer Ranked 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 After a successful fall season, the Lady Trojan Golf Team earned the number eight ranking in NJCAA December National Poll. The team, led by **Head Coach Nathan Jahn**, includes: **Alejandra Arellano, Ali Christian, Brittany Pyles, Josephina Jenkins, Madison Snowden, Payton Taylor, Rachel Winscott and Sydney Guinn.**
- **Campus Staff Serve as Santa's Helpers**  
 Members of Seminole State College Classified Staff Association organized a campus-wide effort to provide Christmas gifts for “Little Angels” identified by the Salvation Army and the Department of Human Services. The gifts were distributed to children in the Seminole County area. The college organization sponsored 25 Salvation Army and eight DHS angels. Donations were received from various offices and individuals on the SSC campus.
- **Baker Attends Emergency PIO Training**  
 Seminole State College Coordinator of Media Relations **Dustie Baker** attended the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management Basic Public Relations Officer Course December 10-11 in Oklahoma City, OK. Attendees participated in group activities to prepare for large emergency situations and heard from an Oklahoma media panel. Ms. Baker serves on the SSC campus Critical Incident Team and has completed all of the required FEMA NIMS PIO trainings.
- **Six Trojan Baseball Players On ‘Top 100’ 2013 JUCO Prospects List**  
 The December issue of *PerfectGame* published the Top 100 prospects for the 2013 MLB Draft and listed six Seminole Trojans, led by the #4 over all prospect **Teddy Stankawiecz**. Stankawiecz, a University of Arkansas signee, was a 2nd round draft pick by the New York Mets in the 2012 MLB Draft. **Other Trojans and their number on the list were: #52 – Jorge Perez, #62 – Cisco Factor; #74 – Tyler Kruse; #95 – Matt Fultz; and #98 – Caleb Simpson.**
- **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**  
 Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum on Dec. 13. Business and Information Systems Instructor **Heather Kreeger** and Sodexo Food Service Director **Chad Noyes** were recognized as “Educator of the Month” and “Staff Member of the Month,” respectively.