

SEMINOLE
STATE COLLEGE

COLLEGIAN

VOL. XLX • ISSUE NO. 6

MARCH 2021

DIGITAL EDITION

SEMINOLE, OKLA.



Repairs begin
following
February's extreme
winter weather.

PAGE 3

WEATHERING THE WINTER STORM

Submitting to The Collegian

"The Seminole State Collegian" is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Josh Hutton. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. "The Collegian" is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to more than 300 friends of the college.

Seminole State College, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and other Federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, handicap, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services. Questions and concerns can be directed to Josh Hutton at 405-382-9283.

Braving the Cold for COVID-19 Vaccines



The Oklahoma State Department of Health continued its efforts to deliver COVID-19 vaccines through its partnership with Seminole State College on Feb. 12. Despite extreme cold weather and snow flurries, 640 people were scheduled to receive their second shot of the COVID vaccine at the SSC Haney Center

Pod. Approximately 2,500 shots have been administered at SSC. The OSDH plans to continue with the Friday clinics for the next several months. Scheduling to receive the vaccine is done online at vaccinate.oklahoma.gov.



Stay up to date with campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



Repair Efforts Underway Following Winter Storm

Seminole State College experienced an extensive amount of damage across its campus due to the recent winter storm. The College's maintenance and custodial staff have identified many issues and addressed a number of repairs over the past week, but some cleanup and restoration efforts will span the next few months.

Flooding due to frozen and busted water pipes occurred in several classroom buildings. A number of science labs and classrooms were flooded on south end of the Tanner Hall, resulting in approximately one-third of the campus' largest classroom building to be closed for repair.

The Milt Phillips Building, located near the center of campus, had extensive damage from water flooding classrooms and offices. Although originally thought to be one of the hardest hit areas, the building is now scheduled to be reopened next week.

Damages to two classrooms and offices in the David L. Boren Library was also caused by flooding. Those areas are being dried and carpets replaced.

Both of the College's large residence halls were affected by the storm. The Roesler Residential Learning Center was without heat and hot water for several days, but those issues have been corrected. During the extreme temperatures, sprinkler pipes broke in the Seminole Nation Residence Hall. The sprinkler system was repaired, but flooring and other interior damages in isolated rooms are still being addressed.

The SSC Softball Sports Complex suffered broken water lines, drainage issues and frozen valves. Repairs are



Due to flooding caused by frozen and busted water pipes, carpet and other damaged materials were removed from several classrooms in Tanner Hall.

expected to be completed on facilities at the Complex soon. A minor leak has been repaired in the Raymond Harber Field House and frozen pipes in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union restrooms have been fixed. In the Enoch Kelly Haney Center, multiple sprinkler lines were broken. The lines have been repaired, carpets have been dried and some minor damage to interior walls will be addressed soon.

All areas with water damage have been treated for abatement of issues related to mold and mildew.

SSC President Lana Reynolds said there were a number of residential students on campus during the storm. She said their efforts in responding to these incidents was extremely helpful in containing a lot

of damage to limited areas of the residence hall.

She also said that SSC Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety Ed Lemmings and SSC Police Chief Shane Marshall, and their staff and officers, worked diligently and tirelessly during the crisis to protect the students and SSC facilities.

"I cannot stress enough how lucky we were to have Campus Police and members of our maintenance and custodial services crew on hand last week to find leaks, fix plumbing and gas problems, organize clean-up efforts and begin repairs," Reynolds said. "While a lot went wrong last week – I saw much that went right. We want to thank everyone for their help, patience and their positive comments and support."

The College is continuing to assess and document all damages and repairs needed in each building on campus. While repair and replacement costs are mounting, the College has been in contact with the State's Risk Management insurance and will have their assistance in the recovery efforts, according to Reynolds. Additionally, financial relief through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is expected.



SSC Professor of Social Sciences Marta Osby prepares to temporarily move out of her office in the Milt Phillips Building.

Offices reopened on Feb. 22 following the storm, but classes were held virtually through Feb. 24 to allow for cleanup and repairs to occur with limited traffic on campus. In-person instruction resumed on Feb. 25.

Gateway to Prevention and Recovery Donates NARCAN Kits to SSC



SSC Police Chief Shane Marshall (left) thanks Gateway to Prevention and Recovery Coordinator David Holland (right) for the donation of 10 NARCAN kits to Seminole State College on Feb. 2.

Gateway to Prevention and Recovery recently donated 10 NARCAN drug overdose response kits to Seminole State College. NARCAN is a nasal spray containing the medication naloxone. The kits are designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.

Since 2016, SSC campus police officers on duty have carried a NAR-

CAN kit in case of emergencies. With this donation, kits will be placed in buildings throughout campus and designated employees will be trained on how to administer the treatment.

“The earlier the NARCAN is administered during an overdose, the more effective it is,” SSC Police Chief

Shane Marshall said. “This donation allows us to respond quicker in case of an emergency.”

From 1998 to 2018, nearly 450,000 people died from overdoses involving opioids in the United States. The federal government launched a campaign in 2015 to tackle the crisis. The campaign has helped schools and businesses take precautions in the form of NARCAN and other methods involving naloxone.

“I’m happy to say we’ve never had to use NARCAN on campus, but we still want to be prepared in case the need arises,” Chief Marshall said.

Gateway to Prevention and Recovery, headquartered in Shawnee, offers multiple programs to assist people struggling with addiction and behavioral health issues. These programs include education, prevention activities, support, case management and treatment. It has been a certified alcohol and drug treatment program since 1985.

SSC President Lana Reynolds said the College was grateful for the partnership with Gateway to Prevention and Recovery.

“We appreciate Gateway reaching out to us and providing a vital resource to our campus. These kits have saved many lives and having greater access to them further reinforces our commitment to student and employee health on campus,” President Reynolds said.

Laptop Loan Program Launches



Seminole State College’s Boren Library has launched a new laptop loan program to assist students with their technology needs. With a growing number of students enrolling in online or hybrid courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College wanted to offer the program to remove a financial barrier that students may face. The devices were purchased with funds SSC received from the federal CARES Act.

Laptops are checked out on a semester-by-semester basis. To be eligible to receive a laptop, students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours. Students may recheck laptops for up to one calendar year if they are consistently enrolled in at least six hours. After the one-year point, students will be able to reapply for the program. All laptops are in good condition and include a charger.

The computer loan program was announced to students the afternoon of January 7, 2020. Eight students contacted the College within the first few hours of the program expressing need and inquiring about how to sign up to receive a computer.

The Boren Library has a limited number of devices available to students. Any student in need of a device is encouraged to contact the Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller by email at lgoeller@sscok.edu or by phone at 405-382-9513.

Potter Awarded Nigh Leadership Scholarship

Area Seminole State College student Hannah Potter of Seminole, Okla. recently received the George and Donna Nigh Leadership Scholarship for 2021.

Potter received this public service scholarship through the Nigh Academy funded by the Oklahoma Legislature. Typically, the scholarships are provided to the scholars at the conclusion of a five-day Leadership Academy in Oklahoma City. Due to the challenges of COVID, the full-conference was not held this year. Instead, the honorees from each college gathered for a one-day virtual event to visit with each other and discuss their roles as student leaders.

"I'm very thankful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the virtual Nigh Academy event and that I was selected for this scholarship. It was awesome to listen to what my peers are doing to make changes on their campuses across the state," said Potter.

Potter is a 2020 Varnum High School graduate. At SSC, she is a freshman member of the President's Leadership Class.

The 1999 Oklahoma Legislature authorized the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to establish the George and Donna Nigh Scholarship Program. The goal of the scholarship is to provide opportunities to outstanding students who are preparing for careers in public service. Each student is selected and nominated by their institution's president and receive a one-time



Hannah Potter

\$1,000 Leadership Scholarship.

During the history of the academy, more than 600 students have been awarded the title of Nigh Scholar. Past students have become members of the State Legislature, county commissioners, mayors, city councilman, lawyers, doctors, teachers, federal and state officials, businessmen and higher education administrators and professors.

Wrangler/Kontoor Makes Donation to Food Pantry



Pictured (l-r): SSC student Hannah Potter of Seminole, who works as a volunteer at the pantry, is pictured with Wrangler/Kontoor employee Ruben Culley, SSC Regent and Fulfillment Center Director at Wrangler/Kontoor Ray McQuiston and Wrangler/Kontoor employee Alice Whitaker.

Employees from Wrangler/Kontoor made a large donation of canned and other non-perishable food items to the Seminole State College Food Pantry recently. Members of the company's Distribution Center Activities Committee organized the canned food drives for the SSC Food Pantry and Seminole's community Interfaith Food Pantry. Addition-

ally, the group participated in a Christmas toy drive and in an effort to assist local nursing home residents. Wrangler/Kontoor's donation to SSC, alongside many other community donations last year, allowed the campus to help 228 households and 516 individuals with food insecurity issues in 2020.

DISCOVER 8-WEEK COURSES THAT FIT YOUR SCHEDULE
MARCH 8 - MAY 6

SPEAK TO AN ADVISOR TODAY

Morgan Named to Rural Business Center Position

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation has announced the hiring of former state representative Danny Morgan to direct the SSC Rural Business and Resources Center (RBRC). The Center, established in 2004, is funded through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to provide economic development assistance in the College's five-county service area. Morgan will begin his work with the SSC Educational Foundation on March 20.

The RBRC has been led for the past 15 years by Larry Smith. Smith stepped down from the position in January, but he is remaining with the SSC Educational Foundation on a part-time basis to oversee special projects.

The RBRC assists business owners and individuals pursuing entrepreneurial projects by providing counseling services and directing them to other business resources. Additionally, the director serves as an economic development liaison for the Department of Commerce and Seminole State College.

"I'm excited about the people I'll get to work with in this position," Morgan said, "both people at the College and the entrepreneurs in the five-county service area."

From 1981 to 2020, Morgan worked for his family's small business Morgan Well Service in Prague. Morgan began his career in field operations and sales. He served as president of the company from 1995-2002 and served in the position again from 2012 to 2020.

Morgan was named to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2002. He served as the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives from 2006 to 2010. While in office, Mor-



Danny Morgan

gan was the Vice Chairman of the Energy and Utility Regulation, the Vice Chairman of the Tax and Revenue Committee, a member of the Insurance Committee and a member of the Economic Development and Financial Services Committee. He was also a ranking member of the Appropriations and Budget Committee. He was named Legislator of the Year by both the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma and the Rural Health Association. He concluded his time in office in 2012.

In 2014, Morgan was appointed to the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) by Gov. Mary Fallin. He served on the board for six years. In that time, he served as OERB Chairman.

He was selected as a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class XVIII. He also was a board member of the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals.

"With Mr. Morgan's background as a small business owner and state legislator, we believe he'll be a great fit at the SSC Rural Business and Resources Center. We know he will be a valuable asset in helping businesses and communities in this area grow," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

Enrollment Open for Second Eight-Week and Summer Semester Classes



Seminole State College is currently enrolling for the second set of eight-week courses and the upcoming summer semester.

The second eight-weeks will begin on Monday, March 8. Courses offered include Business Ethics, Introduction of Microsoft Office, General Chemistry, Composition I, Composition II, Wellness and human Development, American National Government, American History to 1877, Modern Western Civilization Since 1660, Old Testament, Pre-Calculus for Bus-Bio, Special Topics in Algebra, General Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, Speech and Learning Strategies.

Enrollment for summer begins Monday, March 1 and the semester begins on Monday, May 10. There are several sessions available within the summer semester, including 10-week and 5-week options. A complete course schedule can be found online at the college's website at www.ss-cok.edu under "schedules."

"Our advisors are ready and avail-

able to help students enroll. We offer a second set of eight-week courses to provide more flexibility and the opportunity to complete an extra class or two within the semester. We really do have something for everyone here. We realize students have other life responsibilities and we are always working to create a schedule that meets the needs of each individual," said Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Student Affairs.

For help with enrollment, students may visit with advisors inside the Walkingstick Student Services Center or call 405-382-9797. Current students may enroll with their academic advisor. Students must enroll before classes begin.

Regular office hours at the College are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. For questions about classes or enrollment at Seminole State, contact the SSC Admissions Office at 405-382-9230 and Financial Aid at 405-382-9247.

One SSC Soccer Player's Journey from Germany to Oklahoma During a Pandemic

by A-Yo Jones, SSC Student

In January of 2020, against the thread of convention, fate brought Sophie Augustin to the small, rural town of Seminole, Oklahoma. Destiny began to unfold quickly for Augustin in March of that same year, which after consulting with her personal advisor, who then got in touch with the SSC Women's Head Soccer Coach Daniel Hill, the exciting adventure began to develop. The documentation process began with signatures and progressed forward into various aptitude tests measuring a multitude of basic academic proficiency levels; Augustin learned that earning a chance to experience life in America is not a right, but a hard-fought for privilege.

Germany experienced the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus earlier than the United States, which made Augustin's journey to America less straightforward than usual. For Augustin, the subsequent government shutdown in Germany meant that finding a legitimate facility to administer the required aptitude tests that go along with obtaining a visa would be next to impossible. Augustin, never one to let temporary roadblocks discourage her, let her inner guide lead her and reminded herself that when one door closes another one opens. The same attributes that make Sophie Augustin an important defensive weapon and all-around stand-out for SSC Women's Soccer served her well at this critical juncture. Grit and resiliency thoroughly embedded in her spirit, Augustin realized at this point that

she had come too far and did not stop until she not only found a testing facility but passed the tests with undeniable efficiency.

What faced Augustin next was both a colossal and crucial task; enter the process of obtaining a student visa for official entry into the United States. There are three major embassies located in Germany, located respectively in Frankfurt, the capitol city of Berlin, and Augustin's hometown of Munich. Augustin's first appointment at the Munich embassy to begin the process of acquiring a visa was in the summer of 2020 but was rescinded due to the rapidly expanding number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases during the pandemic. A follow-up appointment in June also fell through. After the considerable discouragement of encountering multiple roadblocks in the form of dashed hopes, Augustin found a source of fuel to relight her fires self-empowerment; she earned her Bavarian high school diploma, which is both prestigious and a testament to her strong-willed character.

The high school diploma turned out to be a case of blessings preceding blessings as the door suddenly opened with a third appointment to another embassy, this time in Berlin. The long trip to Berlin, although 6 hours in length, upon arrival into city limits, makes up for any tedium with the beautiful atmosphere that exists within the capitol city's borders. Days of intensely focused preparation for visa acquirement led to a less than intensive 5-min-

ute interview in which the only hint Augustin received about her future destination was if she knew the geographic location of Oklahoma in relation to the coasts. Prepared and ready for a rigorous visa exam, Augustin, true to form, had done well to overprepare herself for this life changing assessment; she easily earned her visa. Ever reflective, taking nothing for granted, and continually grateful, Augustin recognizes that others seeking to obtain their visa have been less fortunate.

The small-town American culture of Seminole, Oklahoma is in stark contrast to the cities that Augustine grew up in and around. Cities like Munich, Berlin, and Recife, with their population numbering in the millions, can make a person feel small and out of touch. Augustine brings with her to Seminole not only a major passion for life, love, sports, and her teammates, but an appreciation for the small community lifestyle that growing up in a huge metropolis could never afford. Sophie's time in Seminole has been defined by the kind of small-town love and kinship that gently wraps its arms around whosoever decides to stay. She explains that the people here, the businesses, and the college itself have all grown on her heart.

Upon thoughtful reexamination of where life has led her, as well as the triumphs she has experienced along the way, Augustin recalls fondly how swiftly things fell into place as she received her high school diploma on July 17, 2020, earned her



Sophie Augustin

visa on July 22, 2020, and made her victorious entry into the states on August 1, 2020 and then started her first semester at SSC two weeks later. Augustine beseeches her precious teammates to never take for granted the greatest gift of all: Freedom. The ability to study freely and participate in the sport they love while not having to sacrifice one for the other is truly a blessing. Such is the wisdom of a young international student, looking to impact hearts and minds in the best way she knows how; through gratefulness, tenacity, a sense of adventure, and paying forward the same soul empowering acceptance that she receives without conditions from the tribe she loves: The Seminole State College campus community.



SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
2701 BOREN BLVD
SEMINOLE, OK 74868

SSC Offers Free Counseling to Students

Seminole State College is now offering free counseling services to all its students. Beginning March 3, Licensed Professional Counselor Heather Annis will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. These counseling services are organized and scheduled by the SSC Help Center and made possible through federal funding from the CARES Act.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the College recognizes a need for more mental health support on campus. Students facing emotional difficulties, struggling with anxiety, dealing with relationship problems, having adjustment issues, in need of crisis intervention or have any other mental health concerns are encouraged to make an appointment.

The counseling sessions are confidential. Health insurance is not required. Virtual sessions are also available to students. Counseling services will be provided through the remainder of the spring semester.

The SSC Help Center was established in the fall of 2019 to provide support and information in many



*Licensed Professional Counselor
Heather Annis*

areas, including mental health, counseling referrals, safety, academic success, resume writing, career planning, student organizations, scholarships and campus activities.

Students interested in counseling services may stop by the SSC Help Center, located in Room 102 in the David Boren Library or contact the Help Center at helpcenter@sscok.edu.

Great Western Dining Honored by Seminole Chamber of Commerce



Seminole State College Food Service company, Great Western Dining, was honored recently by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce with an annual Director's Awards in recognition of efforts to safely serve meals at the Chamber Forum and other community events during 2020. Outgoing Chamber President Mike Roberts announced the award at the Feb. 23 Chamber Banquet. Roberts commented, "The Great Western

Dining staff managed to keep up with the policies, protocols and best practices of the CDC, Seminole State College and the many groups that they served. Thank you for all that your company did to keep us safe and still be able to meet."

Members of the Great Western Dining staff (pictured l-r) Amber Martin, Katy Hall, Mark Hudson, Leonard Walker and Jamal Hart accepted the award.