

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

COLLEGIAN

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DIGITAL EDITION

SEMINOLE, OKLA.



**SSC Participates in
Higher Ed Day**

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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.

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

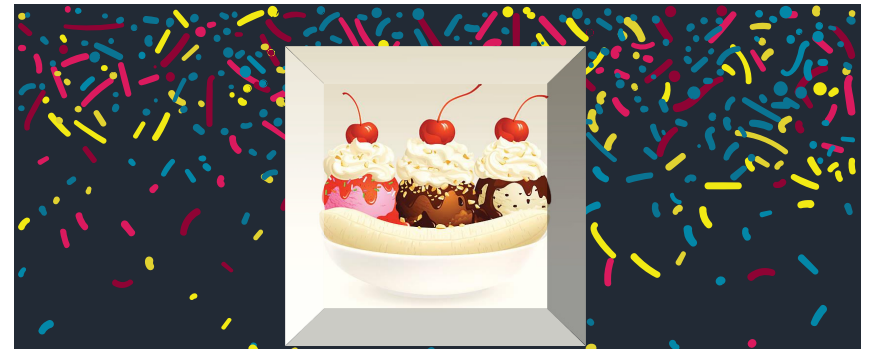
Here you'll find important updates, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)



Spring Break • March 14-18



Before You Split — for Break —

COME GET FREE BANANA SPLITS

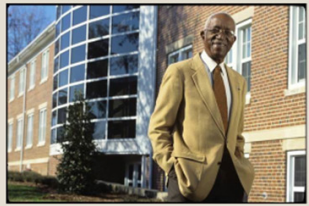

WHEN
March 10
11:00am – 1:30pm

WHERE
The Student Union

Sponsored by Student Activities & Great Western Food Service

DEI Highlights Historical Figures in Black History Month Campaign

Black History Month



John Hope Franklin.

Courtesy of The Daily Oklahoman

Rentiesville, Okla., is historical for many reasons, two of them being: It's one of the original 50 all-black towns in the state, and it's the birthplace of civil rights activist and historian **John Hope Franklin**.

Franklin was alongside many other people during the voting rights march in Selma, Ala., and he rose above racism to earn a doctorate from Harvard.

He also wrote the important historical text "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans," which looks at American history from the black perspective.

He went on to become the first black person to lead the American Historical Association and, in 1995, President Bill Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force created an email campaign to highlight the achievements of notable black icons of the Civil Rights movement. Once the campaign launches, a message was sent each day containing a photo and biographical information on important figures.

Social Sciences Division Hosts Presidents' Day Presentation



Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen gave a presentation in honor of President's Day on Feb. 18 in the Utterback Ballroom. The title of the presentation was "Theodore Roosevelt: The First Modern President." Professor Christiansen discussed Roosevelt's childhood, military and political careers.

SSC Educational Foundation Trustees Tour Sports Complex



Several Trustees of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation toured the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex following their quarterly Board meeting on Feb. 16. The Trustees toured indoor facilities and the Trojan baseball field. Pictured in Center Field (left to right) are: Jim Hardin, Lance Wortham, Jeramy Rich, Doug Humphreys, Sue Snodgrass, Steve Degraffenreid, Suzanne Gilbert, Darren Frederick, David Wilson, Billy Norton, Rhonda McKee, John Hargrave, Haley Coates and Mark Schell.

SSC Delegation Attends Higher Education Day

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended “Higher Education Day” at the Capitol in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Feb. 15. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state.

Speakers included Gov. Kevin Stitt, Sec. Ryan Walters, Speaker Charles McCall, Sen. Roger Thompson, Rep. Kevin Wallace, Sen. Adam Pugh, State Regents chair Jeffrey W. Hickman, and Chancellor Allison D. Garrett.

Hailey Wallace, a freshman from Seminole State College, was one of four students who also spoke at the event. Others were: Angelita Winter, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Katelynn Lewis, Connors State College; and Beyonce Hammond, University of Central Oklahoma. The student speakers shared how pursuing an education at an Oklahoma public college or university has positively impacted their lives.

Prior to the afternoon program, community and campus leaders representing Seminole State College were guests at a luncheon held at the Oklahoma University Faculty House. Those present included State Representatives Danny Williams, Dell Kerbs, Danny Sterling and Logan Phillips.

Following introductions by SSC President Lana Reynolds, the elected officials spoke to the SSC delegation about their support of higher education and their outlook on the new legislative session.

Community supporters in attendance included: Karel Brewster, Brewster and Associates; Haley

Coates, Gary Davidson, Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Executive Director; SSC Foundation Trustee; Marci Donaho; SSC Regent; Dale Donaho; Suzanne Gilbert, SSC Foundation Trustee; Randy Gilbert, Gilbert & Sons Trucking; Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, SSC Vice President Emeritus; Harrell Kennedy, Retired Higher Ed Administrator; Ray McQuiston, Chair of the SSC Board of Regents; Jeramy Rich, SSC Foundation Trustee; Steve Saxon, Seminole City Manager; and Mark Schell, SSC Foundation Trustee.

SSC Student Government President Georgia Ledford, a freshman from Seminole, attended, along with members of the President’s Leadership Class.

PLC participants were: Ava Adams, Seminole; Laney Anderson, Stratford; Frank Bourlon, Bethel; Erin Bronson, Shawnee; Caryssa Bui, Shawnee; Cynthia Bui, Shawnee; Rebekah Choate, Seminole; Thomas Choate, Seminole; Colin Dulaney, Davis; Colin Frederick, Seminole; Jenna Harrison, Tecumseh; Marlee Hunter, Del City; Jaycee Johnson, Prague; Anna Kelsey, Tecumseh; Jordan Lewis, Varnum; Kendra Lewis, Bowlegs; Kaitlyn Matlock, Noble; Brynna McAlvain, Seminole; Uriah McPerryman, Wetumka; Kaden Morris, Holdenville; Blake Parrick, Stroud; Allyson Randall, Okemah; Ayzia Shirey, Tecumseh; Abigail Shook, Bixby; Hailey Wallace, Wellston; Brent White, Dale; Cepado Wilkins, Seminole; Sydney Winchester, Prague; and Hunter Winn, Earlsboro

College representatives present were: Dr. Linda Goeller, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Student



SSC President’s Leadership Class students Colin Frederick (left) and Thomas Choate (right), both of Seminole, arrive outside the state capitol.

Affairs; Danny Morgan, Director of Rural Business and Resources Center; Kristie Newby, Vice President for Student Affairs; Brooks Nickell, Marketing and Web Coordinator;

Kim Pringle, Director of Community Relations; Lana Reynolds, SSC President; and Brad Schatzel, Faculty Senate President.

SSC Student Delivers Address at Higher Education Day

EDITOR'S NOTE: Seminole State College freshman Hailey Wallace, of Wellston, was one of four students representing colleges and universities across the state selected to speak at the 2022 Higher Education Day at the Capitol on Feb. 15. Wallace's father, House Appropriations Chair Kevin Wallace, introduced her during the program held in the Oklahoma House of Representatives Chambers. Her speech is printed below:

I want to take you back in time. So, picture this, it is 2014. I am at the Capitol with my dad and sister taking a tour because he had just been newly elected to office. As a little girl of 10 standing at this podium, I did not realize the importance of being here at the Capitol nor the significance of meeting such important people. I was strictly focused on my adorable polka dot Easter dress and my flat shoes that I was convinced were heels. Now that years have passed, I see that growing up around the Capitol and in this political atmosphere has taught me many valuable life lessons – and has given me the unique opportunity to observe the work of the many dedicated elected officials and the staff who lead our State. Until recently, I never thought much about how important their work is in providing quality education to me personally – and to students across Oklahoma.

I am a 2021 graduate of Wellston High School. I was always extremely active in sports throughout high school which is what piqued my interest in attending Seminole State. I received quite a few athletic scholarship offers to go play softball - but for some unknown reason, my attention always gravitated towards Seminole State College over my other options throughout the recruiting process. I

was very hesitant at first about going to Seminole because I knew I had already taken nearly my first full year in concurrent classes. Having known that SSC was a two-year college worried me because I wanted to be able to play both of those two years along with also progressing in my academic track. But after talking with many advisors and figuring out a way I could do both; I decided this is where I wanted to be. Not only did SSC have an excellent athletic program, but it was close to my family. That sealed the deal for me.

This past semester sadly did not turn out the way I wanted, but it has led me down another track at Seminole. Upon my arrival, I was very excited to kick off my softball season but just shortly into the semester I became very sick. Last Fall was filled with doctors' appointments, biopsies, seizures, and an overwhelming lack of strength and energy. Although I had specific plans for my college experience – and for my life – those things changed. I was filled with so much discouragement because I could no longer do the thing I loved. But I finally came to the realization that all athletes must hang it up at some point and my time just happened to be sooner than I thought it would be. While this time was very scary, College has opened

Continued on Page 6



Hailey Wallace delivers her Higher Education Day Speech at the State Capitol on Feb. 15.



Ten-year-old Hailey Wallace (seated) poses with her father in the House Chambers when he was first sworn in as a State Representative in 2014. Pictured (standing, left to right): former Representative Don Arms (R-District 63), Representative Kevin Wallace (R-District 32) and Ashlynn Wallace.

Students of the Month Recognized

SSC Student Delivers Address Cont.

other doors and led me down a different path.

Now that my sole focus is not softball, I have been able to invest my time elsewhere. I am currently focused on my business degree, activities through the President's Leadership Class, and now my new job in the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Education has opened many new doors for me that will carry me into the next chapter of my life. It has shown me that even though I can no longer play, that doesn't mean I can't take what I love and turn it into a career. Once I graduate from Seminole State, I plan on attending OSU and getting a degree in sports management.

Attending Seminole State is a lot like the story I told of standing in this place when I was younger. When I arrived at Seminole, I didn't fully realize the impact Higher Education would have in my life. Growing up

in my house, attending college was an expectation – just like going to kindergarten. I quickly discovered it wasn't just my next step after high school – it was a giant leap toward my future goals. I am learning more about the important work that faculty and staff do on our campus to prepare students for life, and I have a deeper appreciation of the work my Dad and his colleagues do to ensure that Oklahoma colleges and universities receive the funding and resources they need to change lives and change our State.

College has shown me what career path I want to pursue along with how to handle mental and physical battles. I am no longer that little girl in the polka dot Easter dress, but a young lady who is being prepared for personal and professional success – thanks to Higher Education.

To everyone helping on my journey – thank you for investing in me.



Five outstanding Seminole State College students were recently honored for the month of February. Each academic division selected one student to recognize based on work ethic, academic standing and campus involvement. The students were awarded a certificate from the Academic Affairs Office, a gift certificate to use at the Student Union Grill and a special parking pass allowing them

for a month.

February's students of the month are (pictured left to right): Mohamad Al Ali of Wewoka – STEM, Elizabeth Thomlinson of Shawnee – Social Sciences, Reyna Alvarado of Shawnee – Language Arts and Humanities, Anna Beth Fehrle of Mustang – Business and Education and Alexa Newton of Seminole – Health Sciences.



Leadership Students Discuss Etiquette

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class had a lesson in business and social etiquette on March 1. Carey Sue Vega, owner of Etiquette Expert in Oklahoma City, spoke to the group at the Shawnee Country Club.

The group heard tips on cell phone usage, email and telephone etiquette, job interview tips, the importance of hand-written thank you notes, ideas on how to network and how to make appropriate small talk.

Vega is a native Oklahoman who has done etiquette consultant work for businesses, attorneys, doctors and organizations around the world. For ten years, she served as a cruise director for the Norwegian Cruise Line. Vega has been featured in numerous radio and television shows and magazine articles, sharing her etiquette expertise. She prides herself as being a "regular person" who tries to use professionalism to her advantage.

Seminole Chamber Recognizes College Employees



Faculty Member of the Month Paul Juhasz and Staff Member of the Month Lauren Earley were recognized at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum Feb. 10.

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Dec. 9. Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz was honored as Faculty Member of the Month, and Testing Center Coordinator Lauren Earley was honored as Staff Member of the Month.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Blue Ribbon Realty, recognize SSC employees several times during Forum each year.

Juhasz began working at the College in the fall of 2021. His duties on campus include teaching composition and American literature. He

also serves as co-sponsor of the Sigma Kappa Delta honor society.

He received his bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Illinois, his master's degree in English Literature from Illinois State University and his master of fine arts degree from Oklahoma City University.

He currently serves on the coordinating committee for the Woody Guthrie Poets. He has previously published two books, *Fulfillment: Diary of a Warehouse Picker*, a creative non-fiction work, chronicling a six-month stint working for Amazon, and *Ronin*, a collection of poetry. His third book, *The Inner Life of Comics*, which is also a poetry collection, will release this summer.

Juhasz resides in Oklahoma City.

Earley has been employed by SSC for nearly three years. As the Testing Center Coordinator, she proctors placement tests, proctors applications to health science programs and sets up online testing for students who need to test from home.

She received her associate degree from Miami Dade College in Florida.

She is a member of the Classified Staff Association, where she serves on the community service and social committees.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, taking hikes with her dog and snorkeling. She and her husband Steve reside in Konawa.



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SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
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Walkingsticks Honored at Chandler Chamber Banquet

Former Seminole State College Regent, Foundation Trustee and long-time supporter Ben Walkingstick and his wife Bonnie were recently recognized at the Chandler Chamber of Commerce banquet by the Oklahoma National Guard with the Thunderbird Medal, honoring their “lifetime of exceptional service.” The Walkingsticks’ efforts to save the community’s local Armory and preserve it as the Route 66 Interpretive Center, as well as their financial support and political influence were credited as improving the City of Chandler and the State of Oklahoma. Lt. Col. Jack Vaughan, battalion

commander for the 1-160th, said the Walkingsticks represent the National Guard motto “Always Ready, Always There.” Bonnie Walkingstick, a local business owner and civic worker, was also honored at the banquet as Chandler’s “Citizen of the Year.”

The Walkingsticks were recognized at Seminole State College with the prestigious “Founders Award” in 2011 for their support of the college. The Walkingstick Student Service Center is named in their honor and annual scholarships are provided to area citizens through their generosity.

