



SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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CELEBRATING SSC ATHLETICS

The SSC women's basketball team takes a moment to snap a photo with Coach Rita Story-Schell (left) and SSC President Lana Reynolds (center) at the fall athletic cookout. **Story on page 3.** ►

Submitting to the SSC Collegian

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LAH Vice Chair Speaks at Cameron University

John Bolander joins professors from across the state to tackle a challenging problem.



Pictured (left to right): Donna Graves of East Central Univ., Matt Jenkins of Cameron Univ., John Bolander of Seminole State College and Stephen Phillips of East Central Univ. present on "Coping with Disruptive Students" at Cameron University on Sept. 8.

PLC Students Journey on the "Mother Road"



The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class took a tour of America's historic Route 66 highway Sept. 11. The group made a stop in Arcadia, Okla. to visit the Round Barn, an engineering marvel and attraction constructed in 1898.

Seminole State College Language Arts and Humanities Vice Chair John Bolander presented with a panel at the Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association fall conference on Sept. 8 at Cameron University.

Alongside instructors from East Central University and Cameron University, Bolander spoke on the topic of "Coping with Disruptive Students." He contends teachers must set the tone from the first day of class.

"Instructors set student expectations through the syllabus and the opening presentation at the beginning of class," Bolander said. "If you find you have a disruptive student that prohibits others from having a fulfilling learning experience, you need to consider various coping strategies."

The panel's audience consisted of both new and experienced instructors seeking

effective classroom management techniques.

"Our goals were to element the disruption and keep the student in class. This allows the teacher the opportunity to educate and to resolve conflict in the classroom through methods of resolution proven through time and experience," Bolander said.

Bolander has been teaching for 25 years. He also served as a high school principal and counselor before serving as an adjunct at SSC. He served as an adjunct for six years and has been a full time professor for the last three years. Last year, Bolander was the Faculty Senate President and is currently the degree program mentor for the Liberal Studies with a Speech Emphasis Associate in Arts program.

If you have questions about the degree program, you can reach Bolander at j.bolander@sscok.edu or 405-382-9249.

SSC Athletes Enjoy Fall Cookout

The athletic department serves dozens of student athletes and community supporters at annual event.



SSC President Lana Reynolds addresses student athletes at the annual fall athletic cookout on Sept. 25 at the softball complex.

Seminole State College hosted its annual fall athletic cookout Sept. 25 at the college's softball complex. Dozens of athletes, coaches and community supporters attended the event.

SSC currently has 154 student athletes attending the college. Oklahoma residents make up the largest portion of the group at 117 students. The second largest group is out of state students with 28 athletes from across the country, including Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Illinois, Iowa, New York and Florida. Nine international students, hailing from Brazil, England, Canada, France and Africa, make up the third and final group.

SSC President Lana Reynolds gave the welcoming address, and several coaches helped serve food to the student athletes.



Pictured (from left to right): Softball Coach Amber Flores, Athletic Services Coordinator Leslie Sewell and Women's Basketball Coach Rita Story-Schell pose outside of the SSC softball complex during the annual fall cookout.



SSC Athletic Department staff greet and serve student athletes.

SSC Achieves One of the Highest Community College Graduation Rates in the State

Since its implementation in 2015, the college's Student Success Initiative has garnered positive results.



Seminole State College graduates celebrate following the college's 2018 commencement ceremony.

Seminole State College's graduation rate has surpassed every community college in the state, save one, largely due to its recent Student Success Initiative.

In each of the three years of the Student Success Initiative, SSC accomplished its goal of increasing graduation rates by three percent per year over the previous three-year average. At the outset of the initiative, SSC's graduation rate averaged 23 percent for the preceding three years.

According to data reported by the In-

tegrated Postsecondary Education Data System, SSC's graduation rate rose to 27 percent in year one, 35 percent in year two and 39 percent in year three of the initiative. The IPEDS data shows the most recent first-time, full-time cohort reported was nearly double those of the cohort reported five years earlier.

Retention rates have also increased from 54 percent to 63 percent during the initiative.

"The faculty and staff are committed to

maintaining the upward trajectory of our graduation and retention rates. With that in mind, we are striving toward continuing increases to retention and graduation rates by three percent a year toward our five-year goal of reaching 70 percent retention and 50 percent graduation rates," Dr. Tom Mills, SSC Vice President of Academic Affairs, said.

The college officially branded and kicked off the initiative in the fall of 2015.

The overarching goal of the Student

Success Initiative was to build a campus culture that honors the standard of access to higher education and academic excellence, while providing a campus-wide focus on student engagement, completion and achievement.

"This initiative was successful due to the passion for student success demonstrated by the faculty and staff of SSC. Our professionals truly care about students and put their passion into action every single day," Dr. Mills said.

" This initiative was successful due to the passion for student success demonstrated by the faculty and staff of SSC. "

- Dr. Tom Mills, SSC Vice President of Academic Affairs

SSC Regents Convene for September Meeting

The Board of Regents discusses support animals, insurance and retirement benefits.



Seminole State College Regents present for the special September Board meeting were (back row, l-r): Secretary Ryan Franklin, Kim Hyden, Ray McQuiston, Bryan Cain and Paige Sherry; (seated, l-r): Vice Chair Curtis Morgan and Chair Marci Donaho.

At a special September meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved one new policy regarding emotional support animals on campus, and approved revisions to two existing policies on employee insurance and retirement benefits.

During the President's Report, Lana Reynolds discussed recent college activities and events, as well as personnel changes. She updated the Board on the College's renewed cultural and educational exchange program with College360° in Denmark – formerly known as Silkeborg Business College. Twenty students and two instructors from Denmark will arrive in late October for a week-long stay on campus. In turn, a group of SSC students and representatives will travel to Denmark during the summer of 2019 as part of the program.

Under the first item of business, Board members approved a new policy regarding emotional support animals on campus. This policy will allow the College to

determine, on a case by case basis, and in accordance with current law and regulations, whether a request to allow an animal in campus housing is a reasonable accommodation. This policy reflects discussions by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Council on Student Affairs, and implements wording of similar policies from other institutions. It has also been reviewed by the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, which serves as the College's legal counsel.

As the next action item, the Board approved revisions to current policy II-4-17 regarding employee insurance benefits. Changes to the policy were made that will now provide employees with a set amount of money to allow them to shop around for health plans that best fit their needs, and options for employees who select not to be included on the College's plan. Recent meetings have been held with employee groups on campus to explain and review the new changes, as well as options they will have during the upcoming en-

rollment period for personal selection of health plans.

Under the final item of business, revisions to policy II-4-16 regarding employee retirement benefits were approved by the Board. SSC has been one of the only institutions in the Oklahoma Higher Education system to pay health and dental coverage for full-time employees after retirement until they qualify for Medicare. Additionally, the College has also been awarding a retirement incentive payment of a percentage of the employee's annual salary. The approved changes to this policy will eliminate both of these benefits for full-time employees hired after January 1, 2019. Everyone currently employed full-time would not be affected by these changes.

"While these modifications in benefit policies change the culture of our institution, and are difficult to make, I believe they are fair, equitable, fiscally responsible and in the best interest of Seminole State College," said President Reynolds.

Members present at the meeting were: Chair Marci Donaho, Curtis Morgan, Ryan Franklin, Ray McQuiston, Paige Sherry, Kim Hyden and Bryan Cain.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018.



Ayscha Bui of Shawnee, a current social sciences major at SSC, spoke during the Board meeting. She will be the first in her family to graduate with a college degree and hopes to be a positive role model for her younger siblings.

Constitution Day Honored on Campus



Seminole State College hosted "Constitution Jeopardy!" in honor of Constitution Day at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Sept. 17. SSC Associate Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen organized the program and also served as the game show host.

The Constitution-themed game show, based on the popular television program "Jeopardy!," encouraged student contestants to answer questions covering a range of topics, including The Framers, Declaration of Independence, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch and the Bill of Rights.

Christiansen stressed the importance of civics and shared national history in his opening statements before the game began.

"We can preserve who we were, who we are, and who we want to be," Christiansen said.

SSC students Eric Hutchison of Moore, Taryn Washburn of Shawnee and Jordyn Moore of Shawnee competed in the game. Hutchison ultimately came away with the win following "Final Jeopardy."

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles, Chair of Social Sciences Dr. Steve Bolin, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Sam Rivera, Assistant Professor of Business Jeff Cheng and Professor of History Marta Osby assisted with the event, along with special support from the SSC President's Office. Students from Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Government Association also helped to produce the program.

SSC to Host State Poet Laureate and Purple Heart Recipient at Annual Creativity Symposium

Dr. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish and Jason Poudrier will be the featured speakers at this year's Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium.



Dr. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, Oklahoma Poet Laureate, will present at SSC's Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium on Nov. 9 as the keynote speaker.



Jason Poudrier, Purple Heart recipient and writer, will take to the stage on Nov. 9 as SSC's special guest.

The Language Arts and Humanities Division at Seminole State College will host Dr. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, Oklahoma Poet Laureate, and Jason Poudrier, Purple Heart recipient and writer, at its annual Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium on Nov. 8 and 9.

The free symposium will be held in the Jeff Johnson Fine Arts Center on the SSC campus. The event is open to the public, and area high schools and middle schools are welcome to bring their students to enjoy two days filled with an eclectic mix of musical performances, creative writings, dramatic readings, artistic presentations, and dances by both professional and emerging Oklahoma artists and scholars.

Dr. Mish will serve as the event's keynote speaker, taking the stage at 10 a.m. on Nov. 9. Dr. Mish's most recently published work is her 2016 poetry collection, "What I Learned at the War." Dr. Mish received the Oklahoma Book Award for her 2009 poetry collection, "Work is Love Made Visible." She is currently the director of the Red Earth Creative Writing MFA program at Oklahoma City University. She was named the state's Poet Laureate for 2017-2018.

Jason Poudrier, novelist, essayist, poet,

and Purple Heart recipient of the Iraq War, will be the event's special guest. He will present at 9 a.m. on Nov. 9. Poudrier has published two poetry collections, "Red Fields" and "In the Rubble at Our Feet." He has also published a number of short stories and flash fiction pieces.

The Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium was established by the faculty of the SSC Language Arts and Humanities Division in the spring of 2011 as a free, fully accessible celebration of Oklahoma creative expression, in all of its diverse forms.

"We hope this symposium will encourage all those who attend and participate to continue to find passion in their creative arts and appreciate the role the fine arts play in education and in Oklahoma culture," Jessica Isaacs, Symposium Director and Professor of SSC Language Arts and Humanities, said.

High school and middle school teachers or counselors wishing to bring students to the event, or anyone wishing to bring large groups to enjoy the Symposium, should contact Isaacs for information about bus parking and other necessary arrangements at 405-382-9209 or by email at j.isaacs@sscok.edu.

SSC Educational Foundation Hosts 22nd Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser



Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles, SSC Educational Foundation Trustee Doug Humphreys and former SSC Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Mark Ames stand by the grill. They were deemed the "weenie chefs" for the day and cooked hot dogs and brats for the participants.

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 22nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole on Sept. 20. This year's event set a fundraising record with more than \$30,000 raised for student scholarships and campus capital projects. A total of 114 players, comprising 27 corporate teams, took to the links to show their support for the college.

SSC Retirees Return to Campus

More than 30 SSC retirees visit campus for luncheon and informative meeting.



Former employees of Seminole State College met on campus in September for a luncheon in their honor.

Over 30 Seminole State College retirees returned to campus in September to attend a luncheon held in their honor.

SSC President Lana Reynolds, who hosted the event, said, "We were thrilled to see so many former employees who dedicated most, and in some cases all, of their professional careers to this College. They played an important role in the growth and development of the institution. We wanted to thank them for their service and invite them to reconnect and stay involved with SSC."

Following self-introductions and comments, Reynolds spoke to the group about

campus news and accomplishments of the past year. The group also heard from SSC Human Resources Director Courtney Jones about insurance matters.

The group included former administrators, as well as faculty and staff members. Those in attendance (pictured left to right) were: Kay Dotson, Ted Hurt, Bonnie Ritchie, Linda Moore, Katherine Benton, Dr. Jim Utterback, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, Rusty Beene, Norma Gillespie, Frank Washington, Beverly Williams, Kathy Hoover, Joy Blanton, Carol Hartman, Marie Dawson, Dr. Donna Hardin, Don Gill, Janet Waddell, Debbie Ham-

mond, Larry Vickers, Debbie Robertson, Kelly Chastain, Fred Bunyan, Dan Factor, Dr. Richard Wood, Dawna Hamm, Kelly Kirk, Patricia Cokeley, Tom Stephens, Dr. Jack Medlock, Cynthia Yerby and Judy Parks. Others attending, but not pictured, were: Annette Troglin Barnes, Larry Birdwell and Travis Qualls.

Reynolds said, "These former employees are an important part of the history of our College. We always welcome them as honored guests on our campus."

Cracking Oklahoma's Tax Code

Thirty area community members participated in a Town Hall Listening Session conducted by The Oklahoma Academy Tuesday afternoon at Seminole State College. The event was one of several being held across the state to collect input on aligning Oklahoma's Tax Code to the current economy. Participants took

a 22-question information quiz to gauge knowledge of tax-related issues before discussing challenges faced by Oklahoma's antiquated codes. Information gathered at the session will be compiled and presented at a three-day Town Hall meeting to be held on the topic in November in Tulsa.



Seminole Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Britt completes a quiz on tax codes during Thursday's Listening Session.








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Women's Soccer Schedule

For final scores and more sports' schedules,
visit sscathletics.com

OCTOBER

N	THU 04	vs	 Murray State College * @ East Central University	4:00 PM
A	THU 11	at	 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College *	5:00 PM
A	SUN 14	at	 Eastern Oklahoma State College *	2:00 PM
N	THU 18	vs	 Rose State College * @ East Central University	1:00 PM
A	SUN 21	at	 Northern Oklahoma College-Tonkawa *	1:00 PM
N	SAT 27	vs	TBD @ Red Robertson Field, NEO / Region II - Women's Soccer Tournament	TBA
N	SAT 27	vs	TBD @ Red Robertson Field, NEO / Region II - Women's Soccer Tournament	TBA
N	SUN 28	vs	TBD @ Red Robertson Field, NEO / Region II - Women's Soccer Tournament	TBA