Technology Center Groundbreaking

Thursday, November 9, 2000 will be a momentous occasion for the future of our instructional programs. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Technology Center has been set for at 1:15 p.m. on that date. The 43,000 square-foot Technology Center will provide classroom and laboratory areas for our Business and Industry Training Program as well as expanded and improved facilities for our outstanding nursing program.

This event will bring together a number of people who have worked extremely hard on this project. Local community and civic leaders were responsible for planting the seed with the Legislature that such a facility was needed on our campus. Senator Kelly Haney worked diligently to help secure funding to build the facility. While standard awards to two-year colleges statewide from the capital bond issue were $500,000, Seminole State College received $3 million. A number of faculty, staff, administrators, community leaders and SSC Regents developed the initial plans for the facility and set goals for the project through our annual College planning retreats. The SSC Board of Regents supported the project from the selection of the architect to the formal approval of the plans. Just recently the Regents boldly endorsed the $3.7 million project with the selection of the construction company.

Prior to the groundbreaking ceremony, the Seminole Chamber of Commerce monthly forum luncheon will be held in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. Guest speaker for the program will be Senator Cal Hobson, who will be introduced by Senator Haney. Both of these Legislators have been true champions for higher education funding.

I would very much appreciate your making every effort possible to attend the Forum luncheon and the groundbreaking ceremony. This is an opportunity for us to say thank you to community leaders, Legislators, and the SSC Regents for their support of Seminole State College. You can help by attending these functions and expressing your personal appreciation to our guests.
“A Celebration of Cultures”
A unique multi-cultural program was presented yesterday on campus thanks largely to the efforts of history instructor Pam Koenig and Title III director Tracy Jacomo. “A Celebration of Cultures” was sponsored by Title III, Student Services, the Student Government Association and the Oklahoma Arts Council. Events included: food booths, Indian Flute playing, Indian Dance and Martial Arts demonstrations, and guest performances of African American Dramatic Folk story-telling, a Latino guitarist and Dr. Ronald Paddack of the University of Central Oklahoma – presenting a lecture on diversity. The very act of having this event on our campus makes an important statement about how we value various cultures. It was a truly wonderful day.

Delegation to China
A delegation will represent Seminole State College in China next month: Dr. Jorge Neuhaus, Chair of the Nursing Division and her husband - Dennis D’Amico; Kelly Kirk, Chair of the Language Arts and Humanities Division; Nina Kirk, Vice-Chair of the Nursing Division; Brad Walck, History Instructor; and State Representative Bob Weaver of Shawnee. The group will leave Nov. 18 and return Dec. 1. They will be the College’s third delegation to participate in this educational and cultural exchange with China. I appreciate their willingness to help further develop this important international program.

Olympic Gold Medal Winner
Congratulations to former Seminole State College baseball player, Ryan Franklin, a member of the USA Olympic baseball team that brought home gold medals from the Olympic competition in Sydney, Australia last month. Ryan, who pitched on the USA team, received credit for three wins in the Olympics. Ryan played for Coach Lloyd Simmons and the SSC Trojans in 1992 and 1993 where he accumulated a 20-0 record and was named “All-American” before signing with the Seattle Mariners. He will return to campus next week for the Trojan Alumni Weekend activities. During that visit, he will be honored by the Student Government Association on Friday, Nov. 3, at 11 a.m. in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center during “Ryan Franklin Day.”

Personnel Changes
Long-time instructor Jack Morris has announced his retirement from the Math, Science and Engineering Division effective at the end of the fall term. Jack has been with the College since 1979. He is an excellent instructor and will be greatly missed. We bid farewell this week to Jo Kilgore who has accepted a public information job with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority in Oklahoma City. Former SSC Coordinator of Media Relations Mona Ridley, who has been employed with the University of Oklahoma Alumni Affairs Office, will be returning to the College to serve in our media position. In addition to hiring Mona at the October meeting, the SSC Board of Regents, also hired Frank Washington as the Upward Bound Advisor. We welcome them to campus.