

*Seminole State College*

# **CAMPUS MEMO**

*From Dr. Jim Utterback – President*

May 8, 2002

*As we bring the spring semester to an end, I would like to thank you for your role in making the past academic year a success. Seminole State College continues to grow despite funding challenges. I hope you share my pride regarding the accomplishments of Seminole State College. In the next few months, we will hire a new vice president, move into the Enoch Kelly Haney Center, and deal with budgeting for the new fiscal year – while continuing with our summer school activities and preparing for the fall term. It won't be a slow, quiet summer, but, I hope that each of you take time for personal relaxation and renewal. Before folks begin to "scatter" for the summer break or vacations, I want to update the campus community on the following matters.*

## **RETIREMENTS**

During recent banquets and receptions we have said our official "goodbyes" to several individuals with long-time ties to Seminole State College. **Dr. Jack Medlock**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, has announced his retirement effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. Since 1970, Dr. Medlock has ably served this institution as an instructor, Division Chair, Dean, Vice President and Interim President. **Dr. Jim Fowler**, who began teaching at SSC in 1977, and **Dr. Charles "Bud" Ousley**, who has been here since 1989, will both begin their retirement with the conclusion of the current term. Also, **Regent Thelma Lilly**, who has served on the College's governing Board since 1989, will be retiring in June. I want to personally thank each of them for the positive impact they have had in shaping the history and future of Seminole State College. They will be missed.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENT**

We have received notification from the Governor's Office that **Roger Nansel**, of Seminole, has been appointed to serve a seven-year term on the Seminole State College Board of Regents beginning July 1, 2002. Mr. Nansel serves as President of BancFirst Seminole and is currently a member of the SSC Educational Foundation Board of Trustees, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Kiwanis Club and the Seminole Economic Development Council. I would like to welcome him to our Governing Board.

## **PLAYOFF TIME**

Congratulations to **Coach Mark Dicus** and the **Lady Trojans Softball Team** for winning the NJCAA Region II championship and a trip to the National Tournament in Kissimmee, Florida! This is the third time the team has qualified in the four short years that the program has been in existence. The tournament will be held May 16-20. The **Trojan Baseball Team** begins their playoff season this weekend with the Region II tournament in Fort Smith, Arkansas. We are very proud of these outstanding teams and their coaches. I know you join me in wishing them much success.

### ***VICE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH***

I would like to commend the Search Committee that has been reviewing applicants to fill the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs. Fifteen individuals from across campus have been diligently working on this committee to review resumès and conduct interviews. The process of replacing such a position is a very tedious and time-consuming task. My leadership philosophy is that campus-wide involvement in such Vice Presidential searches is crucial in ensuring that the candidate that I choose to recommend to the Board will be a good fit for Seminole State College. I thank the Search Committee members for their time and their careful consideration of this important matter.

### ***NEW ASSIGNMENTS***

Several individuals are taking on different roles on campus in the coming months. **Carol Parker** has been named as Director of the Employment Readiness Program; **Frank Washington** will be the new Upward Bound Coordinator; **Pam Burnett** is moving to Upward Bound as an advisor; and **Norma Gillespie** is going to work as an advisor in the Talent Search Program. **Dr. Carmen Notaro** is going to be working half-time with the Title III Program and half-time as an instructor in Social Sciences. **Tracy Jacomo** will remain as Director of the Title III Program, but will also be assuming teaching responsibilities in the Criminal Justice Program. I appreciate the flexibility of these individuals in allowing us to utilize their talents to cover positions on campus. I think these will be good “fits” that will greatly benefit our students and the affected programs.

Two individuals have been named to serve as Division Chairs. **Brad Walck** will be replacing Dr. Fowler as Chair of the Social Sciences Division. **Travis Qualls** will head the Math, Science and Engineering Division – replacing Gerhard Laule who resigned as Chair in April. I look forward to working with Brad and Travis as they lead these Divisions in the coming years.

### ***VAN SAFETY ISSUES***

Over the past few weeks, the safety of 15-passenger vans has received great media attention. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has issued warnings about the dangers of these vans. It has always been the expectation of Seminole State College that persons riding in school vehicles will comply with the compulsory seat belt law. Not only should the speed limit be observed, but the vehicles should be driven slowly. When loading, it is also important that too much weight not be placed in the back of the vehicles. I am hereby asking that everyone involved in the transportation of individuals in our 15-passenger vans utilize extreme caution. In the meantime, the Administrative Council will be exploring other transportation options.

***Once again, best wishes for a restful and fun summer!***