

*Seminole State College*

# **CAMPUS MEMO**

*From Dr. Jim Utterback – President*

July 7, 2005

*I hope this memo finds each of you having a wonderful summer. I wanted to update the campus community on several items of interest resulting from recent meetings of the Seminole State College Board of Regents.*

## **EMPLOYEE RAISES**

I am very pleased to announce that the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved salary increases for College employees at their June meeting. The FY 06 budget includes a four percent (4%) raise across the board for all full-time College employees. It also provides increases in adjunct and overload pay, increases in pay for Division Chairs, and provides merit increases for outstanding staff, as well as longevity pay for employees who have been at SSC several years. This raise package is the best we have been able to give in many years. As I have maintained throughout my tenure at SSC, I believe that it is important that our salaries stay competitive among other institutions in order to attract and keep quality employees. I would like to thank the members of the Faculty Welfare Committee for their thoughtful input into this salary program. This has truly been a team effort.

## **FALL BREAK**

As part of the Holiday Schedule for the new fiscal year, the Board of Regents approved the closing of campus for Fall Break – October 20-21, 2005. While faculty and students have received this break for several years, campus offices have remained open and staff members have been required to work or take vacation leave. This often caused hardships on staff with children due to the closing of public schools. This change will put us in line with most of our sister two-year institutions in the state.

## **NURSING AGREEMENT**

An exciting development that has occurred this summer is the Board's approval of an agreement with the International University of Nursing (IUON) to accept students from their new campus on the island of St. Kitts, British Virgin Islands, as transfer students into the second year of Seminole State College's nursing program. We will be joining several other community colleges in the United States in working with the IUON program. The first transfer students could be admitted to SSC as early as May 2006. The IUON has an impressive program and incredible new facilities. This partnership has the potential to dramatically increase enrollment in nursing and provide financial support for the SSC nursing program.

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## **GOODBYES**

The Board bid a final farewell to **Regent Ben Walkingstick** as he presided over his last meeting in June after serving as a Regent for the past seven years. During Chairman Walkingstick's tenure on the Board, the College campus has doubled in size, we have constructed two new buildings, continued to set enrollment records, increased faculty wages, dramatically increased the size of the SSC Educational Foundation, and put new roofs on the entire campus. Following the presentation of a plaque commemorating his service, Chairman Walkingstick received a standing ovation before adjourning for the last time. On a personal note, I am thankful for his leadership, commitment, and support. Ben was a great Regent. I already miss him.

In May, we received notification from several long-time employees regarding their retirement plans. Employment Readiness Director **Sherley Reaves** retired effective June 30, 2005; instructor **Carol Hamm** will be retiring upon completion of her 2005-2006 contract; and **Dr. Carmen Notaro** retired effective June 30, 2005. Dr. Notaro will be continuing to work on a part-time basis for the College. The College has also received notice from long-time housekeeper **Jimmy Underwood** that he will be retiring effective July 31, 2005. We wish the best to all of these employees.

*As a final reminder, Fall In-Service dates have been set for **August 15-16, 2005**. The In-Service Committee, under the leadership of Faculty Senate President Nina Kirk, has met and started planning for this official start of the fall term. Please mark your calendars for these dates. A detailed agenda will be provided to you as an insert with your July paycheck.*

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