

Seminole State College

CAMPUS MEMO

From Dr. Jim Utterback – President

November 29, 2010

WALKINGSTICK DEDICATION

Tomorrow afternoon, **Tuesday, November 30**, Seminole State College will honor long-time friends and supporters of the College with the formal dedication of the **Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick Student Services Center**. A brief ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of the new facility with the unveiling of a plaque honoring the Walkingsticks. Refreshments and tours of the facility will follow.

As you are aware, the building which opened last Spring was officially named for **Ben and Bonnie** by the SSC Board of Regents in July. This was done in recognition of their significant financial contribution to the SSC Educational Foundation's "Shaping the Future" Capital Campaign and the establishment of the Galela Walkingstick trust scholarship. Ben is a former SSC Regent and currently serves as a Trustee of the Foundation. We anticipate that a number of family and friends of the Walkingsticks, as well as community supporters of the College, will be on campus to help us commemorate this occasion. I hope that you will make every effort to be a part of this special celebration.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

During a meeting of the SSC Educational Foundation Board last month, the Trustees elected officers and added two board members. **Kenny Pryor** was elected to a two-year term as Chair of the Foundation. **Mark Schell** and **Bob Swearingen** will serve as Vice-Chairs and complete the Executive Committee. The Board welcomed **Dr. Vickie Carter** and **Gordon Melson** for three-year appointments to serve as Trustees of the Foundation. The Foundation has become a major force in assisting students with scholarship awards and the College with special projects. We are excited about the new leadership for the Foundation.

POND RENOVATION PROJECT

Following a suggestion by SSC Regent and major sponsor of the Henderson Park project, **Kenneth Henderson**, we are moving forward with an exciting effort to renovate and develop the north pond on campus. This park area is east of the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center. During last month's meeting, the Educational Foundation voted to adopt this project. Immediately following this meeting, Trustees **Curtis Morgan** and **Doug Humphreys** stepped forward to offer in-kind donations of equipment and labor, and Trustee **Darlene Wallace** made a significant financial contribution to kick off the effort. Other lead gifts have been received from Trustees **Tim Mathews** and **Gordon Melson**, and from **Melvin Moran**, **Larry Smith**, **Tracy Jacomo** and **Congressman Dan Boren**.

In mid-November, a task force for the pond renovation project was formed with members of the Board of Regents, Educational Foundation, Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Association, Classified Staff Association, Student Government Association and various groups that work with student activities on campus. The group has been developing

some great ideas for the area. Several members of the committee will travel to Shawnee and Norman later this week to look at similar projects. If you have thoughts or ideas about the pond renovation project, please contact me or other members of the committee: **Regent Kenneth Henderson, Kenny Pryor, Mark Schell, Bob Swearingen, Darlene Wallace, Dave Helseth, Braden Brown, Dustie Butner, Sharon Smith, Lana Reynolds, Bill Knowles, Tracy Lucas, Charlie Duvall, Jason Ramos, Kelly Chastain, Kailyn Parker, Christina Davalos-Gonzales, Lynette Gomez, Paige Hannabas and Jordan Bumgarner.**

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation is sponsoring its annual Holiday Event for employees and friends of the College on the evening of **Monday, December 13, 2010 at the Shawnee Country Club.** Invitations have been distributed on campus and to many of our friends and supporters in the community. Each year about this time, the Foundation solicits end-of-year contributions for the many worthwhile projects it supports at the College. This year, the funds raised from this event will be dedicated to the pond renovation project.

In regard to this, **Chris Lindley and his family** have donated a lodging package to the Foundation for a three-night stay (3 bedroom – sleeps 8) at The Cabins at Grand Mountain in Branson, Missouri. The Branson trip will be given away at the Foundation Holiday Event. Chances are \$5 each and are being sold now through December 13, with the funds also being dedicated to the pond project. If you would like more information about the package or know someone who would like to purchase tickets, please contact **Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds** at Ext. 218.

The evening will be a great time to relax, enjoy good company, holiday food and special music provided by long-time Oklahoma City music celebrity Ronnie Kaye. I hope you will be able to join the fun as we celebrate the end of the fall term and the holiday season.

CONGRATULATIONS

I was honored to participate in the Inauguration ceremony for **President John Hargrave** at East Central University the Friday prior to the Thanksgiving break. President Hargrave has been a long-time friend of Seminole State College – especially during his tenure as Mayor of Wewoka. He continues to serve as a Trustee of the SSC Educational Foundation and is a great advocate for cooperative efforts between SSC and ECU. His inauguration comes on the heels of a ceremony in Durant honoring the new president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University **Dr. Larry Minks.** A third new president, **Randy Beutler,** will be inaugurated during a ceremony at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford next week. It is an exciting time for higher education in Oklahoma. I am proud to be associated with these new leaders and look forward to working with them for the betterment of our students and the State System of Higher Education.

As the end of the term and the beginning of the holiday break quickly approaches, I want to again thank each of you for your contributions to Seminole State College. I wish you much happiness, good health and peace throughout the holiday season and the coming year.