75th ANNIVERSARY
On Monday, December 11th, Seminole State College will celebrate its 75th anniversary. We have a wonderful early afternoon program planned featuring music, food and brief comments from three individuals who have been very important in this institution’s history – Melvin Moran, Dr. Jim Cook and David Boren. At the close of the program there will be an indoor groundbreaking ceremony for the College’s future building projects. We anticipate that many retired administrators, faculty and staff members, as well as former Regents and community supporters 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.

THE GUARDIAN STATUE
Thanks to the support from several donors, we have a new crown jewel on campus. A bronze sculpture by Enoch Kelly Haney now graces the peninsula of the campus pond. Efforts to renovate and beautify the area around the pond are on-going, due to the generosity of Leilani Roesler. The new sculpture is the seven-foot version of “The Guardian” which sits atop the dome on the Oklahoma State Capitol. Private funds for the purchase of this artwork were raised through the Seminole State College Educational Foundation – and include a lead gift from the Smart family of Wewoka, as a memorial honoring the late Jo and Jearl Smart. Other major contributors for this project are Melvin and Jasmine Moran and Kelly and Nina Kirk. It is great to see students and employees enjoying the improvements around the pond. We look forward to further developing this project as additional funds become available.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING
Several times over the past decade, the College has held long-range planning sessions to help shape the future of the College. These comprehensive sessions have helped focus College resources in particular areas and have led to many exciting programs on campus. This spring, we hope to continue putting planning recommendations in place with the implementation of new programs throughout the campus. Our goal will be to develop new mechanisms for reaching out to prospective students, to provide a collegiate atmosphere of social engagement to enhance the quality of extracurricular activities at SSC, and to provide academic programs that are needed for our global society. While more specifics will be announced this spring, action is already underway. At the December meeting of the Board of Regents, we will be requesting the purchase of new computers for all full-time members of the SSC faculty. This action is designed in part to support our efforts to implement a “wireless campus” by next fall with internet access from anywhere on the main campus. Please watch for more exciting announcements.
HOLIDAY RECEPTION
The Seminole State College Educational Foundation is sponsoring a Holiday Party for employees and friends of the College on the evening of Friday, December 15, 2006 at the Old 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. Three years ago, the Executive Committee of the Foundation, decided that a holiday party would be a great way for employees and supporters to get together for a fun evening --- while helping raise money for the Foundation. Several major donors have stepped forward to help sponsor the event – including the Seminole State College Faculty Senate. I hope you will be able to join the fun as we celebrate the end of the fall term and the holiday season. The planning committee for the event includes representatives from the faculty, staff and administration, as well as Foundation Trustees. If you have any questions about this event, please contact a member of this committee: Tracy Jacomo, Bill Knowles, Diana O’Connell, Cindy Guinn, Debbie Hammond, Mark Schell, Kenny Pryor, Larry Smith, or Lana Reynolds.

RETIREMENT
As was officially announced last spring, Dr. Jacque Stewart will be retiring at the end of the fall term after serving this college as a psychology instructor for over 14 years. During her professional career at Seminole, she has been instrumental in organizing and promoting the SSC Chapter of Psi Beta - National Honor Society of Psychology Students at Community and Junior Colleges. She has also been active in partnering with community agencies and organizations to create intern programs for psychology students. Her future plans include returning to her home state of Kansas. Please join me in expressing our appreciation to her for her years of dedicated service to our students and to this institution. We wish her the best.

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 continue to count my opportunity to work with you in serving students, each other and our communities among my greatest blessings. I wish you much happiness, good health and peace throughout the holiday season and the coming year.