

CAMPUS MEMO

From Dr. Jim Utterback – President

April 20, 2011

May is almost here and the Spring semester will be coming to a close in a couple of weeks. As is often the case with our personal families, our college family has had its share of sad and happy news recently. I want to share my personal condolences on the loss of Paula Rutledge and inform the campus about some other matters.

Loss to Campus

Our entire campus has been deeply touched by the recent death of **Paula Rutledge**. Paula served our institution well as Chair of the Math, Science and Engineering Division and was an outstanding teacher. Her work inside and outside of the classroom was a shining example of someone who cared about student success and Seminole State College. She was a good friend and colleague who touched countless lives with her kind demeanor and smile. She will be greatly missed. In tribute to her place in our hearts and among the faculty of Seminole State College, I will ask that a rose be placed on an empty chair in the faculty section during our 78th Annual Commencement Exercises on May 13, 2011.

Congratulations

It is with great pride that I inform the campus of Math, Science and Engineering Instructor **Dr. Linda Goeller's** new title. Dr. Goeller recently completed the doctoral program at Oklahoma State University in Professional Education Studies – Mathematics Education. Since coming to SSC in 2009, she has been a leader among our faculty in instructional innovation. She is well-respected among students and her peers, and has been an active supporter of this institution. Her recent personal academic achievement is a positive reflection on her Division and on Seminole State College. Congratulations Dr. Goeller!

Title Changes

In light of recommendations made by the accreditation team of the Higher Learning Commission, we are taking steps to change some titles on campus. In their written final report, the team suggested that we consider creating a professorial academic ranking system for our faculty. This would align the titles for teaching faculty with comparable positions at universities. The team wrote, "Being consistent with universities may bring commonality for students understanding of the role of faculty at both the two and four year levels." I will be visiting with the Faculty Senate about this proposal next week, with the intent of proposing this change to the SSC Board of Regents when they meet in May. Similarly, in the tradition of academia, we are looking at changing two director positions to "Deans" to better reflect the duties of those positions. The position that we have called "Director of Enrollment Management" on many campuses is called "Dean of Students." On the academic side, we are combining several extra duty assignments with the vacant Director of Assessment position to create a "Dean of Instructional Compliance."

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Like "professor," the Dean title is more academic and prestigious. The "Dean" title changes should be budget neutral. The awarding of academic rank would cost a little money. Even through tough economic times, it is critical for us to continue to move forward and advance the College.

Farewells

Several employees have announced their intentions to retire this Spring. Coordinator of Maintenance Services **Kelly Chastain**, Educational Talent Search Advisor **Frank Washington**, and Math, Science and Engineering Instructor **Beverly Williams** will be leaving the institution after many years of service. These individuals will be formally recognized at the SSC Educational Foundation's Spring Recognition Banquet on Thursday, May 5, 2011. We want to express our appreciation to each of them and wish them the best in their retirements. Volleyball Coach **Amy Gillespie** has resigned to accept an assistant coaching position at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Coach Gillespie has had much success during her tenure at SSC. We wish her the best in this new venture.

Hall of Fame

In addition to special recognition of retiring employees and those reaching milestones in their careers at the College, two former students will be inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame at the upcoming Foundation Banquet. **Robby Trammell**, a reporter with the *Daily Oklahoman* and a former employee of the College, will be recognized for his outstanding career in journalism. Robby was also a longtime employee of the *Seminole Producer*. His father, **Dr. Bob Trammell**, served as Dean of the Evening College at Seminole Junior College in the 1970s and 1980s. Professional baseball player **Adam LaRoche** will also be inducted that evening. Adam, now playing with the Washington Nationals, had a stellar career as a Trojan and later with the Atlanta Braves, Pittsburg Pirates and Arizona Diamondbacks. Both of these individuals have brought pride to our institution through their accomplishments in their respective fields and in their service to their communities.

Outstanding Students

This spring, each of our academic Divisions was asked to select an outstanding student for their area. These six students and their guests have been invited to attend the May 5th Foundation banquet where they will be recognized as recipients of this new award. I appreciate the Division Chairs and faculty working to identify these students, and the Foundation Trustees for their desire to make this honor a part of their event. As **Foundation Chairman Kenny Pryor** stated at a meeting where this concept was discussed, "after all – students are what we are all about." I hope you will join the Foundation in congratulating the following "Outstanding Students": **Shawn Summy** - Business and Information Systems; **John Clark** – Health, Physical Education and Recreation; **Chantil Chaffin** - Language Arts and Humanities; **Eric Sutliff** - Math, Science and Engineering; **Samantha Darnell** - Nursing and Health Sciences; and **Daphne Vining** – Social Sciences.

Best wishes to each of you as we conclude another great year at Seminole State College. I look forward to our upcoming celebrations of student success at receptions, banquets, sports playoffs and ultimately our May 13th Commencement exercises. It is a busy, but exciting, time of year. Thank you for all you do for our College.