

Seminole State College
CAMPUS MEMO
From Dr. Jim Utterback – President
September 27, 2006

I hope your semester is going well. I want to update you on several items addressed in my recent memo of August 31st, as well as inform you about a couple of other matters.

UPDATE ON COACH MYERS

Trojan Baseball Coach Eric Myers has been re-admitted to Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City. He is undergoing additional surgery this afternoon in an effort to remove fluid and clean the area of his recent brain surgery. We are fortunate to work in an environment where sincere care and concern are expressed for our colleagues during difficult times. I know that the campus community, as well as the many friends and supporters of Coach Myers, will join me in keeping Eric and his family in our thoughts and prayers. We will keep you advised of his progress.

DIVISION CHAIR ROTATION

I received today the recommendations from Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Rebecca Kennedy** regarding Division Chair appointments. The Selection Committee, which included Dr. Kennedy, Social Sciences Division Chair **Pam Koenig** and Business/Information Systems Division Chair **Patricia Cokeley**, has concluded an extensive review process which included interviews with the candidates and input from all full-time faculty members in the respective divisions.

I am pleased to announce that **Jeff Cox** is being appointed to serve as Chair of the Language Arts and Humanities Division and that **Paula Rutledge** is being appointed to serve as Chair of the Math, Science and Engineering Division. Both of these appointments will be effective January 1, 2007. I again want to express my appreciation to **Kelly Kirk** and **Travis Qualls** for their service as Division Chairs and for their willingness to mentor Jeff and Paula as they begin learning their new assignments over the next couple of months.

DIRT IS BEING MOVED!

The residence hall project is moving forward. We will close on the sale of the bonds this week. Preliminary construction activity is occurring at the site. As part of the project, the small pond on the hill north of the Roesler Residential Learning Center, is being filled-in. It was seined this week and fish from that pond were moved to other campus ponds. As work progresses, a portion of Marie Austin Drive will be temporarily restricted for construction use only.

There are items – such as furnishings for the new residence hall – which are not included in the bond financing. The SSC Educational Foundation will be leading the charge over the next few months to raise funds for this project as well as scholarships and other capital improvements. They will be calling on everyone who loves this institution to provide special gifts to continue the growth of the College.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Meyer Architects are continuing to work on the plans for several of our bond projects. In particular, they have been on campus meeting with those working on the Title IX improvements to finalize the design on the softball complex and training area. We are about to embark on a construction phase which will transform this campus. With such major projects going simultaneously, we will be stretching our resources and our personnel to new limits. It will be challenging for us all to conduct normal business while working on these massive projects. Great things lie ahead for Seminole State College. I hope you will join me in enthusiastically supporting each other as we shape the future.

BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Next week we will be handing over the keys of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation's business incubator to the tenant, the AmeriContact call center. It is hoped that this purchase and renovation of the former Nichols Grocery will prove to be a profitable business investment for the Foundation, in addition to providing a vital need by securing jobs for this area. The call center will begin vacating the space they have occupied in the Haney Center since December, 2003. A ribbon cutting on the new facility is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2006 at 2 p.m. I hope you will make plans to join us in celebrating the success of this project on that date.

FALL CONFERENCES

Several state-wide higher education meetings are set for the coming months which may be of interest to you. On October 5-6, the Oklahoma Global Education Consortium will host its annual conference in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC) will provide professional development training for staff members on October 13 in a full-day session at the Moore-Norman Technology Center. Also, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will conduct a "Legal Issues in Higher Education" conference at the University of Oklahoma on October 17. Each of these programs promises to be informative, interesting and worthwhile. If you have an interest in attending any of these sessions, please consult with your supervisor, and then contact the President's Office at Ext. 200 to be registered.

FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The SSC Educational Foundation's annual golf tournament will be held on Monday, October 9th. We anticipate one of our largest tournaments ever. I am pleased that the Foundation elected to move the event to the Jimmie Austin Golf Course here in Seminole this year. The course is under the new management of several individuals with ties to Seminole State College, including **Curtis Morgan, Bobby Hammond** and **Tim Mathews**. Additionally, the golf director of operations for the course is former SSC Trojan baseball player **Kevin Riggs**, and the golf pro is former SSC golfer **Kris Noey**. We are very fortunate to have the support of this event by **U.S. Congressman Dan Boren, State Senator Harry Coates** and **State Representative Ryan Kiesel**. Corporate sponsors from across the state, as well as local golfers, are financially supporting our Foundation through this golf tournament. Thanks to all of these individuals for their help!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about any of the matters discussed in this memo. As always, I deeply appreciate your dedicated support of this institution – its people and its programs.

