SSC Receives Grants to Further Assistance to Students in Coming Year

During the fall, SSC students will see new faces in the classroom and on the basketball court. In the coming year, the College will also be able to further its mission of educating students through several federal grants geared to help disadvantaged nursing students and displaced workers.

This fall, Dr. Thomas Mills will take the court as the head coach of the SSC Trojans Men’s Basketball Team. Mills will also serve as a biology instructor in the College’s Math, Science and Engineering Division.

Mills took over the Seminole State basketball program at the conclusion of the spring semester replacing J.T. Locklear who announced his resignation in March.

“I am extremely excited to assume the helm of a program with both a storied tradition and abundant promise,” Mills said. “My family and I look forward to becoming integral assets to Seminole State College and the community.”

Mills’ comes to SSC from Rose State, where he garnered two NJCAA Region II, Division II titles; two NJCAA District titles; and two national tournament appearances. In 2000, the Rose State team finished as NJCAA Division II national runner-up. This past year, the Rose State men finished fifth at the Division II national tournament.

Mills’ academic credentials include a bachelor’s degree in Biology from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Houston.

In the Tanner Hall Administration Building, SSC students will also see a new face in the classroom. In August, the College welcomed Dr. Donna Hardin of Seminole as an English instructor. Hardin has been employed with the Oklahoma State Department of Education as the Executive Director for Title I School Improvement for the past several years. She also worked in the Seminole Public Schools System for over 18 years as a teacher and principal.

Hardin is the daughter of Eugene and Frances Warrenburg, both SSC Hall of Fame members. Frances Warrenburg served as a reading instructor at “Seminole Junior College” from 1970 to 1981.

Hardin earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary language arts in 1964 from East Central University in Ada. At ECU, she went on to earn two master’s degrees in elementary education and elementary education administration, in 1974 and 1991, respectively. In 2001, she completed her Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Over the summer, the College’s Federal TRIO Programs hired several new professional staff members. Jamie Mills was hired as Talent Search Advisor and Kay Scarberry was hired as Upward Bound Activities Coordinator.

Mills earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond in 1988 and has worked as a math instructor for the Choctaw Public Schools System.

Scarberry earned an associate’s degree from “Seminole Junior College” in 1994 and went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees from East Central University.

In the coming year, the College will also be able to further its mission of educating students through several federal grants geared to help disadvantaged nursing students and displaced workers.

In February, the College was notified...
SSC Regents Convene for Summer Meetings

At their monthly meeting in June, the Seminole State College Board of Regents heard about the College’s FY04 budget in relation to the statewide budget shortfall and gave a fond farewell to a member of the Board.

SSC Vice President for Student Services Dr. Sean Fox assisted Chair Dorothy Forth in conducting the meeting in the absence of SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback.

During the President’s Report portion of the agenda, Fox updated the Regents on the College’s personnel and the progress on preparations for the upcoming site visit on assessment by the Higher Learning Commission of North Central.

Fox informed the Regents that the College was able to reinstate a professional staff position that was slated for elimination due to budget concerns. Fox noted the College was required to notify employees of employment contracts prior to the State Legislature appropriating funds for Higher Education last month. Once funding decisions were made, the College was able to reinstate the position and reassign the employee with the restructuring of the College’s former Interdisciplinary Studies Division.

Fox then told the Regents of the College’s preparatory work toward the Higher Learning Commission of North Central campus visit slated for November. A document detailing evaluations of courses by the faculty within each academic discipline was presented to the Board. Fox told the Regents that the information gathered from the process will be used to make changes in curriculum and methods of instruction to enhance student success.

Under the first item of business, the Regents approved the College’s Educational and General (E&G) Budget for FY04 (see graph above).

Over the past two years, the College’s E&G appropriations have decreased more than $460,000. In FY02, the College’s appropriations were $4,694,015. That amount decreased to $4,326,700 in FY03. The appropriations will decrease again in FY04 to $4,224,932.

Despite the decrease in the amount of money the College receives in state appropriations, the College’s expenditures continue to increase due to mandatory costs. In FY02 the College’s total expenditures were $6,496,335. Projected expenditures for FY03 stand at $6,613,311 and for FY04 the total expected expenditures are $7,087,624.

Outside funding sources, such as federal grant monies and Congressional appropriations have been utilized to supplement state funding.

Fox told the Board that there is little-to-no room to trim the College’s budget. Nearly half of the College’s total budget is spent on classroom instruction. The remaining money is spent on operation and maintenance, institutional support, academic support, student services and scholarships.

“Over the past several years, we have been tightening our belt financially,” Fox told the Board. We have been conservative across campus in filling vacant positions, in travel expenditures and in holding down expenses. Every department on our campus continues to discuss ways to cut expenditures while continuing the growth and progress of the institution,” Fox said.

On the next item of business, the Regents formally accepted a $653,400 federal grant from the Department of Human Services for

See Board, page 3
Flowers Joins SSC Board of Regents

Shawnee Attorney Jon D. Flowers, who was appointed by Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry to serve as a Regent for Seminole State College, officially began his term in July.

The appointment was confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate in late May. Flowers, who was sworn-in during the July 17 Regents’ meeting, will succeed Dorothy Forth.

Flowers’ seven-year term will expire in July, 2010.

Flowers is a 1969 graduate of Tupelo High School in Tupelo, Okla. He went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from East Central University in Ada and from there, earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma.

The Seminole State College Board of Regents consists of seven Regents. Members of the Board are appointed by the governor for seven-year terms. The Regents serve as the College’s governing body and have the supervision and management responsibilities for the College.

Other members of the Board, listed by order of appointment include Dale Nichols of Wewoka, Ben Walkingstick of Chandler, Derrill Cody of Norman, David Wilson of Seminole, William Harrison, Jr., of Justice, and Roger Nansel of Seminole.

“We are pleased to have someone involved in the Shawnee community named to the College’s Board of Regents,” noted SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback.

“Each semester, approximately one-third of our students come from the Shawnee area. That number grows each year. It is fitting to have a Regent also representing Shawnee. I look forward to developing a strong working relationship with Regent Flowers to enhance the College’s service to our students,” Utterback said.

Flowers and his wife Delores have one son, David, who is student at the University of Oklahoma.
**Mission, from page 1**

that it would receive $225,000 in special federal appropriations for the advancement of the College’s “Fast-Track” Nursing Program and the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

The funding for the “Fast-Track” Nursing Program will enable the College to offer state-of-the-technology, web-based instruction and assist in transporting low-income nursing students to their clinical assignments.

SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback said the funding comes at a critical time for the institution and the field of nursing.

“I am excited about this award. This special federal appropriation will enable Seminole State College to continue to expand vital services,” Utterback said.

The College’s “Fast-Track” program is an accelerated transitional nursing program enabling Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to become Registered Nurses (RNs).

Utterback also commented that $174,000 of the appropriation has been earmarked for technology enhancement for the Haney Center.

“The part of this special appropriation targeted to support the Enoch Kelly Haney Center is vital to the growth of the economy in this area,” Utterback said.

“This award will enable us to offer special courses for the training and retraining needs for a variety of companies. We are looking forward to working with local businesses and industries to help stimulate and enhance the economy of the entire area,” he said.

The SSC Nursing Program will also receive over a half million dollars in federal funding through a Department of Health and Human Services grant. Seminole State is the only higher education institution in Oklahoma chosen to receive the award.

The special appropriations will total $653,400 for the advancement of “Nursing Workforce Diversity.” The College will be allocated approximately $200,000 annually for three years and will fund programs for disadvantaged and minority nursing students.

SSC Nursing Division Chair Nina Kirk said the grant will help prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds for entry into the College’s nursing program.

“The grant will help ‘Nursing Workforce Diversity’ in four key areas: pre-education, pre-entry preparation, student stipends and retention activities. The grant will help us provide academic and financial assistance to minority and disadvantaged students to help ensure culturally competent care in the College’s service area.” Kirk said.

In addition to helping disadvantaged nursing students, the College will be able to provide free educational assistance to former employees of VF Jeanswear through a Workforce Investment Act National Emergency Grant.

The grant, awarded to East Central Workforce Development, can pay for tuition, books and fees for a wide variety of WIA approved programs. Over $500,000 has been set aside to provide these services to area citizens affected by layoffs and plant closings.

Seminole State College, along with area vocational technology centers, has been designated as a service provider for the grant. Eligible participants in the grant program may enroll for fall classes, as well as in short-term courses offered by the College’s Business and Industry Program throughout the year. Eligibility is restricted to those who have been laid off, and not recalled to work, at area VF Jeanswear Plants. The grant will be effective through June 30, 2005.

Additionally, the College will offer business and industry training courses, as well as general core educational courses, for displaced workers and SSC students. The courses will be offered at times to accommodate working adults. The offerings will be posted on the College’s website at www.ssc.cc.ok.us and will be announced throughout the semester.

For more information about SSC courses and admissions, contact the SSC Office of Admissions at (405) 382-9950.

**National Honor Society Recognizes Gillespie**

The National Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society recognized Seminole State College’s Educational Talent Search Advisor Norma Gillespie for her work as the organization’s Southwestern Regent.

Gillespie serves as the faculty advisor to the College’s SKD chapter, Upsilon Alpha, a SSC student organization she helped create in 1998.

“As the Southwestern Regent, Norma Gillespie has attended every board meeting, contributed priceless ideas, corresponded with over one hundred prospective chapter sponsors, and brought several of her students to the International English Honor Society’s convention in Boise, Idaho,” SKD National President Dr. Linda Kraeger said.

“Norma’s leadership and enthusiasm trigger the enthusiasm of others, making the whole truly ‘greater than the sum of its parts,’” she said.

Gillespie has been with Seminole State College since 1989. She instructed English Literature courses until 2001 when she became a Talent Search Advisor in the College’s TRIO programs.

Gillespie has been active on the Seminole Arts Council. She is a member of the Associated Press Association, the Wewoka Writers Club, and the Youth Family Services Board of Directors. In 1996, Gillespie was chosen as Teacher of the Year by SSC students and from 1995 through 2002, she was also named to Who’s Who Among American Teachers and Who’s Who Among American Women.

“I would like to join the National English Honor Society of Sigma Kappa Delta in recognizing Norma’s leadership and stewardship in the development of the Seminole State College Chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta,” SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback said.

“The SKD organization has become a vital part of campus. Their activities have greatly contributed to the cultural development of Seminole State College and our surrounding communities,” he said.

Gillespie earned an associate’s degree from Seminole Junior College in 1987. She also earned a bachelor’s degree from East Central University in 1989 and went on to earn a master’s degree from University of Central Oklahoma in 1993.

She and her husband, Lewis James Gillespie, make their home east of Seminole and own Wewoka Masonry. They have three children: Scarlet McCoy of Arlington, Texas, Cassandra Humble of Seminole and Clay Gillespie of Corpus Christi, Texas. They have four grandchildren.
SSC Host Engineering Summer Academy

Over 40 junior and senior high school students from across the state participated in Seminole State College’s “Peek Into Engineering” (P.I.E.) Academy this summer.

The week-long academy was one of 44 of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education summer math, science and multidisciplinary academies held this summer at various higher education institutions across the state.

Under the direction of the College’s Math, Science and Engineering Division, the P.I.E. summer academy demonstrated what it takes to be an engineer during a six-day residential camp.

As a part of the academy, students joined a team to design a fully functioning town. They experienced various aspects of design, including how to build streets, infrastructure, buildings, landscapes and railroads. Participants also took part in field trips to Tinker Air Force Base, the University of Oklahoma’s engineering labs, East Central University’s Observatory and Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum.

“We wanted the students to have fun while learning important aspects of engineering and at the same time, strengthening their math and science skills,” said Richard Walcott, SSC Math, Science and Engineering instructor and P.I.E. director.

“The students apply what they learned in order to receive a hands-on learning experience. We also wanted to give them a chance to visit important Oklahoma engineering industries in an effort to bridge the gap between industry and the classroom,” he said.

The students received personal attention from several Seminole State College Math, Science and Engineering Instructors, including Walcott, Math and Science Instructor Larry Birdwell, Science Instructor Beverly Williams, Adjunct Math Instructor Jarrod Tollett and Central Oklahoma Technology Consortium Coordinator Dale Donaho.

The group also had the opportunity to hear from special guest speakers in the fields of math and science, including retired NASA engineer Tom Wickle, of the Apollo 13 space mission. Wickle was on the controls when the astronaut uttered the famous words, “Houston, we have a problem.” Guest speakers also included engineers from Oklahoma Department of Transportation, OG+E, Gordon Cooper Technology Center, and Holcim Cement.

“We were very fortunate to have such knowledgeable and diverse speakers at the academy,” Walcott said. “By relating their experiences to the students, they have shared a wealth of knowledge to future generations.”

SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback noted that the PIE academy provided students a unique opportunity to learn about Engineering.

“The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education summer academies grant program provided a wonderful opportunity for Seminole State College to make a positive impact on the youth of our state,” Utterback said.

“This project was a huge undertaking. Mr. Walcott and his colleagues did an excellent job in planning and conducting this week-long program,” he said.

The students were chosen to be a part of the academy based on academic merit. Walcott noted that the students are among Oklahoma’s best and brightest future engineers.

The students participating in the academy represented 17 counties and 23 schools from across the state. The schools included: Sulphur, Macomb, Bowlegs, Moore, Prague, Oklahoma City, Kingston, Shawnee, Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Hydro, Guthrie, Piedmont, Sayre, Edmond, Enid, Moss, Ponca City, Coweta, Purcell, Norman, Maud, and Muskogee.

SKD Announces Writing Contest Winners

Seminole State College’s Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society announced the winners of the organization’s prose and poetry writing contest.

Entries in the contest will be printed in Active Voices.

Cheryld Lynne Lucas of Seminole placed first in the prose competition for her work, “Let Me Go!” Steve Abelli of Ada finished second with “Liberty and Justice for All” and Jake Brock of Cushing placed third for “Judging through Language.”

In the poetry division, Tony Yates of Seminole won first for “Commitment.” Vicky Misa of Shawnee placed second for “Confrontation with Guilt” and Yates also finished third for “Kitty Caught a Birdie.”

First place winners received $50. Second and third place finishers received $25 and $15 respectively.

To receive a copy of Active Voices or for more information about SKD honor society, contact SKD sponsor Norma Gillespie at (405) 382-9289.
SSC Lady Trojans: Region II Champs and 3rd in the Nation

The Lady Trojan Softball team claimed the Region II Tournament Title in May and went on to place third in the nation in the NJCAA National Softball Tournament in Clermont, Florida.

The Region II victory sealed the team’s fourth Region II win in the program’s short five-year history.

During the first day of national competition, the team defeated Chattanooga Community College of Tenn., 10-3 and defeated Cowley County Community College of Kansas, 2-1. The next day, the team entered the loser’s bracket with a loss to Central Arizona, with a score of 7-5. The came back in their next game to defeated Indian River of Florida by 10-1. On the last day, the SSC team beat Briarcliff Community College of New York by 5-4, but lost their final game to Blinn College of Texas by 2-1.

Three SSC players were selected to the 2003 All-Tournament Team: Pitcher Sarah Hausner of Cushing, Okla., Pitcher Marianella Castellanos of Venezuela, and Outfielder Mairet Perez of Venezuela.

The 2002-2003 Lady Trojans
3rd in the Nation & 4-time Region II Champs

Graduating Belles Continue Education

Seven graduating members of the SSC Belles Basketball team have signed with four-year institutions to continue their education toward bachelor degrees. They are:

(l-r) Candice Milton of Oklahoma City signed with Langston University in Langston, Okla.; Leah Bowman of Sperry, Okla., signed with Mid-America Bible College in Oklahoma City; Shawn Graham of Oklahoma City signed with the University of Science and Arts in Chickasha, Okla., Dorota Klat of Lowicz, Poland signed with North Texas University in Denton, Texas; Dawnee Cheadle of Roswell, N.M. signed with the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas; Peta Kneen of Sydney, Australia signed with the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I.; and Mindy Headrick of Turpin, Okla., signed with Friends University in Wichita, Kan.
Seminole State College 2003 graduate Jeff Morgan of Seminole has been around SSC baseball his whole life. As a young child, he served the Trojans as a bat boy and dreamed of pitching one day for the team. In 2002, Morgan realized his dream as a freshman. As a sophomore pitcher in 2003, he compiled a 22-2 record and was selected as a NJCAA First-Team All-American.

“We are really proud of Jeff and his accomplishments as a Trojan pitcher,” said Trojan Head Coach Eric Myers. “Over the past two years, Jeff has matured more than any other player on the team. He brought that maturity to the field, and as a result, had the rare opportunity to be selected as a First-Team All-American.”

Over the years, Morgan has accumulated several baseball honors. As a senior at Seminole High School, he was selected to the Oklahoma Junior Sunbelt Team. He also was All-State and Stroud Tournament Most Valuable Player.

“It has been an honor for me to play for the Seminole State College Trojans and Head Coach Eric Myers,” Morgan said.

“I have learned a lot, not only about baseball, but also about life. My experience as a Trojan player will help me both on and off the field, and the memories will last a lifetime.”

Morgan is attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. He signed to play baseball for the Red Raiders this summer.

Morgan is the son of Doug and Jenny Morgan, both of Seminole.

Seminole State College Trojan Baseball Pitcher Jeff Morgan of Seminole was selected as a NJCAA First-Team All-American. Morgan was joined by his family and friends as he signed to play baseball and to continue his education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Seated (l-r) Mason Morgan, Jenny Morgan, Jeff Morgan and Ruby Morgan. Standing (l-r) Doug Morgan, SSC Head Baseball Coach Eric Myers, Krystal Bernhardt, Matthew Morgan, Sean Morgan and Christian Morgan.

The Seminole State College Women’s Golf Team finished their 2003 season ranked ninth in the nation by the NJCAA Women’s Golf Coaches Association Poll. In Division II, the Lady Trojans finished in second place, just behind Tyler, Texas.

Board, from page 3

lege is the only higher education institution in Oklahoma chosen to receive the award. This speaks highly of our nursing program and will help us continue to expand vital services to minority students in the field of nursing. We are particularly appreciative of U.S. Congressman Ernest Istook and his staff for helping us identify this source of funding,” Fox said.

Next, the Regents approved the purchase of projectors and multi-media equipment in the amount of $13,972.22 from Projections Now. They also approved the purchase of WebCT on-line course software for $10,000. The purchases will utilize the federal funds from the Title III program.

The Regents then approved the selection of Baird, Kurtz & Dobson of Tulsa to perform internal audit functions for the College for FY04.

Next, the Board approved a computer software maintenance agreement and a perpetual license with Campus America Incorporated of Tulsa for $81,196.50. The College currently uses the company for SSC’s administrative management information system. The cost for the perpetual license will be spread over a three-year period.

On the consent agenda, the Board approved the College’s holiday schedule for 2003-2004. They also approved annual contracts for:

- Elsener & Cadenhead for legal services for $250 monthly fee and hourly rate
- Novell for computer software maintenance agreement for $11,800
- Symantec/Norton for campus-wide antivirus software for $4,375
- Avaya, Inc. for telephone system maintenance for $21,586
- Microsoft for computer software agreement for $8,000
- Lease agreement with the City of Seminole for the use of Oiler Park Baseball Field for $1
- Lease agreement with Pleasant Grove School for the use of softball field for $1,000
- Great Western Dining for food services operation

Before adjourning, Fox recognized outgoing Chair Dorothy Forth for her service and commitment to the SSC Board of Regents. Forth, who completed her term on the Board in June, was appointed by former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating in July 1998.

Fox presented Forth with a gift and plaque in appreciation for her years of service.

Shawnee Attorney Jon Flowers was administered the oath of office by the College’s legal counsel Ed Cadenhead (see related story on page 3).

Under the first item of business, the Regents elected new officers for the coming year. Dale Nichols of Wewoka was elected chair; Ben Walkingstick of Chandler as vice chair and Derrill Cody of Norman as secretary.

Next, the Regents approved the internal audit reports by Carlson and Cottrell, C.P.A. They also authorized the President to purchase athletic insurance for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Utterback informed the Regents that the College solicited bids from potential insurance providers in order to explore options to keep down costs.

The Board approved the purchase of student athlete insurance from Student Athlete Protection, Inc., for $50,000.

During the President’s Report, Utterback updated the Regents on the preparation for Higher Learning Commission of North Central Assessment’s November campus visit. He also updated the Board on the Washington D.C. activities done by Susie Brewster and Associates on behalf of the College.

Regents present for the July meeting were: Cody, Flowers, William Harrison, Jr., Roger Nansel, Nichols, and David Wilson.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2003.

Check Out These SSC Volleyball Home Games!
Homes games are played in the Raymond Harber Field House on the SSC Campus

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Triangular vs. North Central Texas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>vs. Mid-America College</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Labette CC vs. Seminole</td>
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<td>Neosho County CC vs. Seminole</td>
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<td>Triangular vs. Allen County CC</td>
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<td>vs. Collin County CC</td>
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