SSC Foundation Golf Tournament a Success

The Seminole State Collegian is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Shannon Webb.

The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. The collegian is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to over 200 friends of the college.

This publication, printed by the SSC Print Shop, is issued by Seminole State College as authorized by the President of the College. At a cost of $180.00, 1,000 copies have been prepared and distributed.

College Receives $2.5 Million Grant

Seminole State College is set to receive the largest grant award in the institution’s history. Over the next six years, SSC will be awarded over $2.5 million dollars for a new federal GEAR UP program.

The first year of the grant award will total $432,000. Area schools and businesses, along with SSC, will provide matching funds for the grant. The College received official notification of the award from the offices of U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, and U.S. Rep. Ernest Istook.

GEAR UP is a federally-funded program that works to encourage first generation college students. The program is intended to provide services to improve academic performance and preparation for college among fifth and sixth graders. It will work to increase the knowledge of both students and their families on college options, preparation and financing.

Approximately 540 students from nine area school districts will partner with SSC for their Dream Catcher program. The program at Seminole State College can be considered as the equivalent of bringing a new business to the area.

Additionally, the benefits of this new program are far-reaching. The lives of hundreds of young students in the area will be positively affected through the SSC Dream Catcher GEAR UP program. Additionally, there will be a tremendous economic impact of this grant on the College and on Seminole and surrounding communities.”

“The lives of hundreds of students in the area will be positively affected through the SSC Dream Catcher GEAR UP program.”

– Dr. Jim Utterback, President

Utterback continued by saying that establishing the GEAR UP program at Seminole State College can be considered as the equivalent of bringing a new business to the area. GEAR UP will focus on three major areas of learning for its participants: PALS, Fish! and professional development for faculty. The PALS program, which stands for Play and Active Learning Sessions, is designed to provide tutoring, mentoring, cultural field trips, summer camp and college/career advisement for students and their parents. The Fish! program will work to create more effective classroom learning environments for students. Science and math curriculums will be redesigned, and new learning technologies will be introduced into classrooms as part of GEAR UP’s faculty development program.

According to Hoover, funding for the new program became available Sept. 1. "We are in the process of hiring individuals to work with the program. We are anxious to get things up and running - and to begin delivering services to the students in our partnering schools,” Hoover said. GEAR UP will be the fifth federal grant program currently operating through Seminole State College. Upward Bound offers a six-week residential camp on the SSC campus and provides the skills and motivation necessary for students to succeed in secondary and postsecondary education. Talent Search, or FOCUS, provides academic services to students in the sixth through 12th-grade in nine area schools. Veterans Upward Bound offers veterans the services necessary to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Additionally, the SSC has a Student Support Services program that provides academic support for qualified college students. These programs employ 13 full-time and three part-time people and have a combined annual operating budget of $1,137,614.
Seminole State Begins Fall Semester with Crowded Hallways and New Faces

Parking lots overflowing with cars are a sure sign that school is back in session at Seminole State College. On Wednesday, SSC welcomed both old and new students for the new academic year.

New students aren’t the only new faces on campus. The College has welcomed a new Regent and has also hired new faculty and staff members.

Seminole resident Marci Donaho joined the SSC Board of Regents this summer. Donaho was named to serve on the Board by Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry this spring. Donaho succeeds Ben Walkingstick, whose term expired in June. Donaho’s seven-year term will expire in June 2012.

Bill Knowles, of Seminole, joins the College’s Social Sciences as a new instructor. Knowles, a 1991 graduate of Seminole State College, went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in law enforcement administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1993. He received his master’s of criminal justice administration from Oklahoma City University. Knowles has served as an adjunct instructor for SSC since 1999.

Greg Maphet will serve as the new Employment Readiness Director. Bryant comes to SSC from the Davis Correctional Facility where she was the Addictions Treatment Counselor. Bryant holds a master’s degree in Human Resources from Midwestern State University. Maphet is currently completing his Ph.D. in U.S. history from Oklahoma State University.

Kelli McBride joins the SSC faculty as an English instructor. She earned an associate of science degree from Seminole State College in 1990 and a bachelor’s degree from East Central University in 1993. She went on to earn a master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and is currently working on a doctoral degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Several current SSC faculty members will take on new roles in the coming year. Pam Koenig, who has been a faculty member in the College’s Social Sciences Division for nine years, will serve as the Division’s new chair. For the past five years, she has served as the Title III Multicultural Curriculum Coordinator. Koenig earned her bachelor’s of arts degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1989. She went on to earn a master’s of arts in history from Oklahoma State University and is currently working toward her doctoral degree.

Earlier this summer, changes in the SSC administration took effect. Brad Walck was selected as Vice President for Student Affairs and Lana Reynolds was named Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Walck, who has been employed at the College since 1991, has held several positions including women’s basketball coach, history instructor and chair of the Social Sciences Division. Reynolds previously served as Associate Vice President for Business and Community Relations, was hired as the College’s Public Information Officer in 1989 and has served as Assistant to the President and Director of Public Relations.

Students who attend SSC continue to receive a quality education from outstanding instructors and exceptional academic programs.

Several of the College’s faculty and staff members were honored in 2003-2004 by “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” To receive recognition, a teacher must be nominated by former students who have been cited for academic excellence themselves in Who’s Who in American Junior Colleges and The National Dean’s List. Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers 2004 honored only five percent of the nation’s teachers.

SSC instructors and staff members honored in the publication included Business/Accounting Instructor Dawn Ham, Director of Human Resources Mona Ridley; Vice President for Student Affairs Brad Walck; Social Sciences Division Chair Pam Koenig; Director of Enrollment Management Chris Lindley; Employment Readiness Skills Instructor Normal Gillespie; Business/Information Systems Division Chair Patricia Cokely; Government Instructor Marta Oby; History/Government Instructor Dr. Richard Wood; Language Arts and Humanities Chair Kelly Kirk; Biological Science Instructor Tony Yates; Psychology Instructor Dr. Jacqueline Stewart; Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds; and Nursing Instructor Donna Chambers.

Although the fall term is underway and enrollment for regular semester classes ends Tuesday, Aug. 30, the College will continue to offer mid-term and short-term courses throughout the coming months. The courses will be offered at times to accommodate working adults. The offerings will be announced throughout the semester.

For more information about SSC courses and admissions, contact the College’s Office of Admissions at (405) 382-9950 or view the College’s Web site at www.sscok.edu.

Fall Calendar

Labor Day
Monday, September 5
NO CLASS

Mid-term Classes Begin
Thursday, October 13

Fall Break
Thursday-Friday, October 20-21
NO CLASS

Thanksgiving Break
Wednesday-Friday, November 23-25
NO CLASS

Last Day to Withdraw
Wednesday, November 9

Final Exams
Friday-Wednesday, December 9-14

Semester Ends
Wednesday, December 14

Library Hours
Monday-Tuesday: 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bookstore Hours
Monday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Utterback has been selected as chair- man of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education’s Council of Presidents. Utterback was elected to the position for the 2005-2006 academic year by his col leagues—the Presidents of all public two year and four-year colleges and university in the state.

In addition to presiding at monthly meetings of the Presidents at the State Regents’ Office, Utterback will serve as the Council’s representative to OSRHE on a variety of educational and legislative issues. He will also represent the Presidents at various state meetings, conferences and special events.

Utterback, who is in his eighth year as President of Seminole State College, has presented at national and international conferences speaking on subjects related to economic development, student development, community service, and legal issues in higher education.

He has established a strong record of civic involvement and community ser vice having served as President of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce on the executive board of the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum, as a member of the Seminole Rotary Club and as a founding member of the Seminole Economic De velopment Council. He was honored last January as Seminole’s 2004 “Citizen of the Year.”

Utterback’s involvement in economic development efforts includes his work in Kansas while he was Dean of Students at Dodge Community College. He served on the Legislative Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Board of the Dodge City / Ford County Economic Development Corporation and the local Business-Education Roundtable.

He is active in state higher education organizations and has served as co-chair of the Council of Presidents’ Legislative Committee. He served two terms as chair of the Council of Two-Year College Presidents, and one term as vice chair of the Council of Presidents for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Utterback is the fourth president of Seminole State College. He came to SSC after more than seven years as Dean of Student Services at Dodge Community College in Kansas.

Utterback graduated from Carl Albert High School in Midwest City and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in 1978, and a Master of Science in Applied Psychology in 1979 from Southwestern.

He received his Doctor of Phil osophy in College Student Person nel Administration in 1992 from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo. While at the University, Utterback’s distin guished achievements were recog nized by his selection for the Graduate Dean’s Citation for Ex cellence.

 Psi Beta Student Wins Third with Paper

Seminole State College student Jami Schevetto won third place in the 2005 Allyn & Bacon Publishers Research Paper Award competition. Schevetto will receive a one-year membership into the American Psychological Society.

Schevetto attended the 185 American Psychological Association convention on August 19, in Washington, D.C. Schevetto was honored with special certificate and $200 check for her achievements at the celebration.

Schevetto was eligible to receive this award through her membership in Semin olo State College’s chapter of Psi Beta. According to its official Web site, “The mission of Psi Beta honor society is professional development of psychology students in two-year colleges through promotion and recognition in scholarship, leadership, research and service.”

Schevetto has attended SSC for the past two years. She has served as Psi Beta president from 2003-2005. Schevetto plans to attend Oklahoma State University, where she will major in psychology.

Donaho Sworn in as Regent in July

Utterback also updated the board on the progress of the Rural Business and Resources Center. He said that SSC is completing its first year of partnership with Rural Enterprises, Inc. As part of this partnership, the Rural Business and Resources Center was established last spring, and six businesses in SSC’s five-county service area on eco nomic development.

Next, the President presented recommenda tions from the SSC Building Sub Committee on the construction of a resi dence hall and business incubator. The sub-committee recommended that Archi tects in Partnership of Norman be selected as the architectural firm for these construction projects. The sub-commit tee also recommended the new business incubator be constructed near the Sarkeys Dormitory on the east side of Hwy 3.

The President then presented the board with a housing feasibility study, which was commissioned by the SSC Educational Foundation.

Utterback informed the Board of former SSC housekeeper Jimmy Underwood’s retirement. He also in formed the Regents of four new employ ees. The Sarkeys Foundation had hired an instructor in both history and government; Kellie McBride was hired to teach English; Sharon Bryant was chosen as the new Employment Readiness Direc tor; and Bill Knowles was hired as a gov ernment instructor.

Utterback informed the board that the Regents had recommended the board had been chosen by the American As sociation of Community Colleges, to serve a three-year appointment as a Commissioner on “Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.”

The President updated the Regents on the College’s Business and Industry Training Program. He presented the Re gents with a 2005-2006 annual report of the program’s growth and enrollment. The program’s headcount enrollment and credit hours generated have increased dramatically and have been accelerated by having the Enoch Kelly Haney Center available for classes and seminars. This year, Business and In dustry provided 1,453 credit hours of in struction during the academic year. The program and credit hours were approved by SSC Business and Industry Training Coordinator Carol Hartman.

SSC Regent Marci Donaho

Schevetto (left) and other Psi Beta winners in Washington, D.C.
SSC International Studies Visits Europe

At their June meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved the College’s FY 06 fiscal budget. They also said good-bye to outgoing chair Ben Walkingstick, and Seminole State College President Jim Utterback gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the College’s significant achievements over the past year.

Under the first item of business, the Regents approved the College’s FY 06 Educational and General Budget. The budget included a 4 percent raise across the board for all College employees. It also provided increases in adjunct and overload pay, increases pay for Division Chairs, and provided merit increases for outstanding classified staff, as well as longevity pay for employees who have been at SSC several years.

“The first raise package we have been able to give in many years. As always, increasing salaries remains a major priority,” said Utterback. “It is important that our salaries stay competitive among other institutions in order to attract and keep quality employees. I am pleased that we were able to do everything requested by the faculty welfare committee.”

Next, the Regents approved the purchase of approximately one acre of land across from Highway 9, south of the SSC campus for $4,000. The land is located adjacent to the 18.59 acres the College purchased several years ago.

The Regents then approved an agreement with the International School of Nursing to accept students from their new campus on the island of St. Kitts, British Virgin Islands, as transfer students into the second year of Seminole State College’s nursing program. The first transfer students will be admitted to SSC in May 2006. The partnership has the potential to dramatically increase enrollment in nursing and provide financial support for the SSC nursing program.

On the Consent Agenda, the Regents approved the College’s 2005-2006 monthly schedule. They also approved annual contracts with: Eiwerer & Cadenhead for legal services for $250 monthly fee plus hourly rate; the City of Seminole for use of Oiler Park Baseball Facility for $1; Pleasant Grove School for use of softball field for $1,000; Novell for computer software maintenance agreement for $15,498; Symantec/Norton for campus-wide anti-virus software for $4,000.25; Web CT for on-line course software in the amount of $11,000 utilizing federal funds; Avaya, Inc., for Telephone Systems maintenance for $26,662.68; Microsoft for computer software agreement for $8,800; computer software maintenance agreement/perpetual license with Campus America Incorporated of Tulsa, Okla., for $88,174; Kaycee Software Inc., for bookstore software for $4,260; and Business Imaging Systems maintenance agreement for $2,626.

Regents Chairman Ben Walkingstick receives a plaque of recognition from Dr. James Utterback.

Over 30 individuals participated in SSC’s Global Studies tour this summer. The group toured England, Ireland and Wales. Two trips are scheduled for 2006: a Spring Break trip to London and Paris, as well as a tour of the Mediterranean, Rome and Athens in June. For more information about upcoming tours, contact Language Arts and Humanities Chair Kelly Kirk at 405-382-9251.

Walkingstick Retires at June Meeting

Projects Approved at May Meeting

The Board also approved two ground lease agreements with the SSC Educational Foundation. The agreements will allow the Foundation to proceed with plans for constructing a business incubator and a residence hall. Utterback reminded the Board that the Roaster Residential Learning Center was financed by bonds through a public trust. The same type of financial structure is planned for the proposed residence hall project.

Next, the Board voted to approve a contract with the Central Oklahoma Economic Development District. During the February Board meeting, the Regents entered into a contract with COEDD to accept a special appropriation of $300,000 for the construction of a business incubator. Because the SSC Foundation has agreed to proceed with the project, the Regents voted to assign the COEDD contract to the Foundation.

In its final order of business, the Board voted by consent to approve the Fiscal Year 2006 Campus Master Plan project for submission to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, to approve the annual lease agreement with the SSC Educational Foundation for office space for the Oklahoma Employment Readiness program for $7,200 annually, effective July 1, 2005; and to approve the Graduate Opinion Survey Report for 2003-2004.

“Our first and foremost priority is our people.”

– Dr. Jim Utterback, President