College Honors Distinguished Alumni at Recognition Banquet

Tom Condict

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation’s annual recognition banquet, set for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 4, in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center, will include recognition of outstanding college alumni, students and staff.

Former students, Tom Condict, a long-time educator from Okemah; Dr. Chris Waddell, Shawnee chiropractor and community volunteer; and President/CEO of Unity Health Center of Shawnee, Charles “Chuck” Skillings, will be inducted into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame.

Condict graduated from Seminole State College in 1972. He went on to receive his bachelor’s degree from East Central University in Ada and a master’s degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Condict has worked in the Oklahoma secondary school system for 32 years. During this time he has served as a teacher, coach and administrator. An active member of the community, Condict has held membership in both the Kiwanis and Lions clubs. He has also been a member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association, the Okfuskee County Health Board, Oklahoma Association of School Administrators, and American Association of School Administrators.

Condict also serves as a deacon in the Okemah First Baptist Church.

Tom Condict, and his wife, Pam, have two sons: Dale of Wagoner, Okla., and Scott of Houston, Texas. They also have four grandchildren.

Dr. Chris Waddell

Waddell graduated from SSC in 1994. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and earned his doctorate from the Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas, Texas. Waddell is a licensed funeral home director. He worked at Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole for 10 years. Waddell is currently serving as the president of the Shawnee Rotary club. He is a board member for the Shawnee YMCA, a member of the World Chiropractic Alliance and the Gonstead Chiropractic Society.

Waddell, and his wife, Terrie, have two children: Sidney, age 5, and Luke, age 2. They make their home in Shawnee.

Chuck Skillings

Skillings attended Seminole State College from 1975-1977. He earned his degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and earned his doctorate from the Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas, Texas. Waddell is a licensed funeral home director. He worked at Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole for 10 years. Waddell is currently serving as the president of the Shawnee Rotary club. He is a board member for the Shawnee YMCA, a member of the World Chiropractic Alliance and the Gonstead Chiropractic Society.

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Students Inducted into Psi Beta

Ten Seminole State College students were inducted into the Psi Beta National Psychology Honor Society on April 18. Students inducted were: Mary Brewer of Seminole; Micah Hamilton of Tecumseh; Leah Hayes of Stroud; Debbie Lee of Stuart; Phyllis Moore of Prague; Michelle Perryman of Prague; Karen Roberts of Tecumseh; Vicky Bryan of Shawnee; Kandyce Jimcoyl of Dallas; and Debra Tucker of Tecumseh.

To become members of the honor society, the students must have had an overall GPA of 3.0 and at least a “B” average in psychology. They must also have completed at least 12 semester hours including one semester of a psychology or a psychology-based course.

Dr. Katherine Row and Carol Parker currently serve as the faculty advisers to the chapter. The organization provides opportunities to present research papers at regional meetings, attend national meetings and compete for national awards. Psi Beta chapters also sponsor programs, activities and participation in community service projects.

Psi Beta is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Education Association. Currently, Kirk holds several official positions within the organization.

Nursing Students Undergo Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Training

Twenty-three of Seminole State’s sophomore nursing students recently participated in disaster preparedness training conducted by the American Red Cross. The training allows nursing graduates to respond to local, state and national disasters like fires, floods, ice storms, etc.

Students who complete additional training hours will be recognized with an American Red Cross pin and designated as an American Red Cross nurse. This is the third year the SSC nursing program has participated in disaster training. SSC nursing faculty and registered nurses, Donna Chambers, Pamela Jackson and Valerie Watts are trained as disaster responders and members of the American Red Cross Nursing Committee.

Registered Nurse Janet Calley, of the American Red Cross, provided the six-hour information and training session. She was assisted by American Red Cross members Jeanine Bickerstaff and Mary Schneider.

The American Red Cross provides training to the public on how to respond to and prepare for disasters. For more information on disaster preparedness contact the Seminole State College Nursing Division at (405) 382-9205.

Chamber Honors Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during April’s Chamber of Commerce monthly Forum. Kelly Kirk, SSC Language Arts and Humanities Division chair, and Edith Cathey, vice president for Fiscal Affairs secretary, were recognized as the “Educator of the Month” and “Staff Member of the Month.”

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognizes SSC employees during Forum twice each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators, chairpersons and other directors of campus services to receive the honor. Kirk was recognized as the “Educator of the Month” by the local Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Kirk holds an associate of arts degree from Crowder Junior College; a bachelor of science degree in art education from Southwest Missouri State University; and a master of teaching arts degree from Crowder Junior College. Kirk has taught and promoted art at SSC for the past 30 years. She has served as the SSC chair of the Language Arts and Humanities Division since 1994. Kirk is also in charge of the SSC Global Studies program, which has taken students and community members to Mexico, England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Greece.

Kirk has served as the chair for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Student Transference Initiative in the fine arts area and received the Governor’s Art Award for Excellence in Education in 1997. He is a member of the National Art Education Association. Currently, Kirk serves on the governing board of the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum and is an active member of St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Shawnee.

Kirk’s wife, Nina, is the chair of the Seminole State College Nursing and Health Sciences Division. Edith Cathey was selected as the college’s “Staff Member of the Month.” The award is presented as a joint project of the Seminole Chamber’s Education Committee and Century 21 Blue Ribbon Realty of Seminole.

Cathey has been employed at Seminole State College for four years. She began work at SSC in the campus bookstore and David L. Boren Library. In August 2003, she moved to Fiscal Affairs, where she currently serves as secretary to President for Fiscal Affairs Katherine Benton.

Cathey is a graduate of Bowlegs High School. She received her associate of science in business administration from Seminole State College in 1999. Cathey earned both her bachelor of science in business administration and bachelor of science in computer information systems from Mount Olive College in 2002.

Cathey served as the vice president of the SSC Classified Staff Association for two years. Currently, she is serving as the organization’s president.

Cathey and her husband, Shannon, who serves as the night supervisor for the SSC maintenance department, have a 3-year-old daughter, Alley.

Cathey and her family are active members of the Seminole Holiness Church. She and Alley are members of the “Mommy and Me” program at Seminole Dance Company and are involved in the Shawnee YMCA Wee-ball program.

Region II Playoffs!

Softball May 5-7 Hall of Fame Stadium, OKC

Baseball May 11-14 Bartlesville, OK

Call SSC 9600 for score updates: (405) 382-9600

Seminole State College COLLEGIAN

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.

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Seminole State College, in compliance with the letter and spirit of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and other Federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services.

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CONTACT:
Shannon Webb
Coordinator of Media Relations
405-382-9252
webb_s@ssckok.edu
bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma City University in 1992. He has served as the EMS director for Shawnee Regional Hospital, Director of Physician Relations and Vice President/Chief Operating Officer before the hospital became Unity Health Center. Currently, he serves as Unity’s President/CEO. Skillings has received the Oklahoma EMT Association President’s Award and been recognized by the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce with the “Neil and Mary Wiley Award.” Skillings is currently a member of the Rotary club, the Shawnee Economic Development Foundation, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce board, the Oklahoma Trauma System Improvement & Development Advisory Council, and the Greater Oklahoma City Hospital Council. He is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class XVII and serves as chair of the Heartland Risk Retention Group. Skillings is also a trustee for St. Gregory’s University and the Seminole State College Educational Foundation.

Skillings and his wife, Jeanie, have two sons: Brady and Parker, who are both students at Grove Elementary in Shawnee.

Student Government Association has been Miranda White, a sophomore from Shawnee.

Proceeds of the banquet will go to the SSC Educational Foundation. Individual tickets for the banquet are available for $25 each. Corporate sponsorships for the dinner are available for $300 per table of eight.

The SSC Educational Foundation, Inc., was created in 1972 “to supply aid for charitable, benevolent, educational, scientific and literary purposes,” according to the foundation’s articles of incorporation.

Members of the foundation’s Board of Trustees are: Chair Harvey Robinson, Vice Chair Dorothy Forth, Vice Chair Sue Snodgrass, Steve Bagwell, Linda Capps, Dale Elsener, Craig Froelich, John Gibbs, Chief Kelly Haney, Jim Hardin, John Hargrave, Blake Hargrove, Kenneth Henderson, Gary Kinslow, Philip Landers, Tim Mathews, Curtis Morgan, Kenny Pryor, Jeremy Rich, Chief Kay Rhoads, Mark Schell, Chuck Skillings, Bob Swearingen, Linda Thompson, Ben Walkingstick and Bob Weaver.

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Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin will be the featured speaker at the 73rd commencement exercises for Seminole State College to be held Saturday, May 13, at the college’s Raymond Harber Field House.

Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin will address Seminole State graduates at the 10 a.m. ceremony.

As lieutenant governor, Fallin has initiated several economic development events including the first ever Oklahoma Aerospace Summit and Expo and Small Business Day at the Capitol. She also hosts the Lt. Governor’s Invitational Turkey Hunt.

On the national level, Fallin serves as the Honorary Chair of the Energy Advocates as well as former National Chair of the Aerospace States Association and has served as chair of both the Republican Lieutenant Governors Association and the National Lieutenant Governors Association.

Following Lt. Gov. Fallin’s address at the Seminole State commencement, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs will present the degree candidates, and SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback will confer degrees.

After the commencement ceremony, graduates and their families will be invited to attend a reception at the E.T. Dunlap Student Union.

Graduates of the college’s Nursing Program will begin their day of graduation activities with the program’s special “Nurses’ Pinning Ceremony” at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The nursing ceremony is scheduled for 8 a.m.
A partnership between Seminole State College and the AmeriContact call center was recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on April 26, in Oklahoma City.

The program honored higher education institutions and businesses for their outstanding partnerships which lead to furthering the education of Oklahoma’s workforce.

The event, held at the Presbyterian Health Foundation Conference Room, was attended by State Regents, Chancellor Paul G. Risser, college presidents and representatives from the 17 institution and business partnerships being recognized.

Attending on behalf of SSC and AmeriContact were: SSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds; Director of the SSC Rural Business and Resources Center Larry Smith; President and Founder of AmeriContact Joesy Crowder and Chief Operating Officer of Kiamicchi Development Company Charles Cayton.

The call center was recruited to Seminole in late fall of 2003 by the Seminole Economic Development Council with assistance from Seminole State College. A temporary business incubator was created for the company in the Haney Center on the SSC campus.

After opening on Dec. 15, 2003, the company quickly grew to 50 employees and began extended shifts to accommodate business contracts. The Seminole business employs over 100, and has plans to expand to 200 before the end of 2006.

Through the efforts of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation, a vacant grocery store building in Seminole was purchased last fall to provide a facility for the company’s expansion. Renovation of the building is currently underway.

Financial assistance for the project was acquired by former State Representative Dan Boren through the Central Oklahoma Economic Development District (COEDD). The college was also awarded a competitive economic development grant through the State Regents in December, 2005.

The Rural Business and Resources Center of Seminole State College sponsored a Regional Economic Development Breakfast program April 11 to provide information about New Markets Tax Credits.

The program featured Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. (REI) Executive Vice President Kenny Simpson, Financial Services Director Debbie Partin and REI Community Development Specialist Dena Sherrill.

The RBRC, a partnership program of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation and REI, hosted the event in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on the SSC campus.

Larry Smith, RBRC Director, said the event was designed to provide networking opportunities for community leaders from Seminole, Pottawatomie, Hughes, Lincoln and Okfuskee counties. Representatives from area banks, investment companies, city economic development offices, Congressional offices and private businesses attended the Wednesday morning program.

“The RED Breakfast was a way that our grant could bring these leaders together to focus on a topic that should be very beneficial to rural Oklahoma – economic development through the New Markets Tax Credits Program,” Smith said.

REI New Markets Investment LLC, a subsidiary of Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc., administers the New Markets Tax Credits program. The program is designed to meet the challenges of stimulating the economy in low-income rural and urban communities. The program was specifically created to bring new investments into eligible, underserved areas by offering investors a 39 percent federal income tax credit. Oklahoma State Tax Credits of 20 or 30 percent are also available in conjunction with the New Markets Tax Credits program.

The College’s RBRC program operates as a non-profit organization aimed at aiding economic development in the region. By offering individual counseling and free training opportunities, the RBRC works to assist individuals in exploring the opportunities of starting a business or expanding and improving an existing business.

The program is funded through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For more information, contact Smith at the SSC Rural Business and Resources Center at (405) 382-9544 or smith_l@sccok.edu.