

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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Submitting to The Collegian

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NEWS SSC CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY



Students, employees and community members attended Seminole State College's Constitution Day event on Sept. 15 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event featured a special presentation by Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen titled "James Madison: Father of the Constitution."

NEWS REYNOLDS TO LEAD COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS



Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds (center) will serve as Chair of the Council of Presidents for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the 2023-2024 academic year. Southeastern Oklahoma State University President Thomas Newsom will serve as Vice Chair (left) and Connors State College President Ron Ramming will serve as Treasurer.

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds has been selected to lead the Council of Presidents for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the 2023-2024 academic year. Reynolds, who is in her seventh year as President of SSC has been a member of the COP Executive Committee for the past two years.

The COP is composed of presidents of all 25 public higher education institutions in the state. Officers for the organization assumed office in July 2023 but had their first official meeting of the new year during a retreat at the Chickasaw Nation Oklahoma City Community Center on Sept. 13.

The COP retreat featured presentations by OSRHE staff regarding 2024 State System Budget and Legislative Priorities, House and Senate Interim Studies and Concurrent Enrollment.

The agenda included an update from Lt. Gov. and Secretary of Economic and Workforce Development Matt Pinnell and a question-and-answer segment with a legislative panel composed of Representative Kyle Hilbert, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma House of Representatives; Representative Anthony Moore, Chair of the House Higher Education and CareerTech Committee; and Senator Adam Pugh, Chair of the Senate Education Committee. The Presidents also heard from Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond about legal issues in higher education.

The Council of Presidents serves as an advisory group to the Chancellor for Higher Education and the State Regents to promote and encourage collaboration among state system institutions. It also provides a forum to discuss issues impacting Oklahoma Higher Education.

LEADERSHIP STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT FOOD BANK



The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, located in Oklahoma City, on Sept. 14. Twenty-five students unloaded, weighed and packaged food to help families facing food insecurity issues.



PLC students worked together to package 2,679 pounds of food, totaling 2,228 meals for those in need.

MOBILE PETTING ZOO MAKES STOP AT SSC



The Little Bitty Acres Mobile Petting Zoo brought a wide variety of animals to Seminole State College on Sept. 26. Students and employees interacted with the animals in the courtyard outside of the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. The event was hosted by SSC Campus and Activities.



Information Technology Technician Teresa Norman holds a chicken at the petting zoo on SSC's campus on Sept. 26.



“Killers of the Flower Moon” author David Grann presents on his writing and research at Seminole State College on Sept. 21.

Hundreds gathered in the Jeff Johnston auditorium to hear Grann present and answer questions from the audience.

FEATURE THE DEVIL, THE OSAGE AND A CRUEL CONSPIRACY AUTHOR SHINES LIGHT ON DARK HISTORY AT SSC EVENT

“Killers of the Flower Moon” author David Grann presented his research and writing process to a capacity crowd inside Seminole State College’s Jeff Johnston Auditorium on Sept. 21. The event was sponsored by the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program. Students, employees, tribal leaders and community members listened as the writer spoke about the journey of crafting the book, which began with a tip from a historian friend about the Osage Nation Museum.

While touring the museum in Pawhuska, a chance encounter altered the course of Grann’s life, steering him toward the narrative that would later become his nonfiction novel “Killers of the Flower Moon.” It was a pivotal moment,

the kind that storytellers and journalists often dream of—a moment when the veil was lifted, revealing a glimpse at a history so shocking that it demanded to be brought to light.

While taking in the museum’s photography collection, Grann fixated on a large panoramic photograph. The photograph, taken in 1924, captured a group of Osage members standing alongside white settlers.

“It looked very innocent,” Grann said. But then he noticed a portion of the photograph was missing. He asked then-Director of the Osage History Museum Kathryn Red Corn what had happened to the missing piece.

“She said it contained a figure so frightening that she decided to remove

it. She pointed to the missing panel—and I’ll never forget her voice—she said, “The devil was standing right there.”

The devil, in question, was William Hale, a white cattle rancher who had amassed a fortune through insurance fraud and unfair trade with the Osage. He had deep political connections, and, in 1921, he conspired with his nephews, Ernest and Bryan Burkhart to murder several Osage people for their oil headrights.

At the time, The Osage Nation sat atop one of the largest oil deposits in the country. Under tribal law, each member received a headright, or a share of the mineral trust. In the early 1920s, the Osage were the wealthiest group of people in the country per capita, but

members of the tribe were often deemed “incompetent” by the government and forced to enter guardianships, where their own money was controlled by their white neighbors.

Newspapers at the time called the string of unsolved Osage murders the Reign of Terror. Upwards of 60 full-blood Osage members were reported killed from 1918 to 1931, with many historians believing the number to be much higher, given the misreporting and coverups that occurred.

“At the beginning of the process, the question for me wasn’t, should I write this book? The only question was, could I write this book?” Grann said.

The writer recognized that crafting the story required a substantial founda-



Grann (right) autographs a copy of his nonfiction novel for SSC Student Government President Benjamin Parker (left).



SSC President Lana Reynolds (left), Grann (center) and Seminole Nation Chief Lewis Johnson pose for a photo following the event.

“YOU CAN’T FULLY ERASE HISTORY. IT IS ALWAYS THERE. IT’S UP TO US TO DECIDE HOW WE WANT THE PAST TO SHAPE US.”

tion of underlying materials, oral histories and documents. So, he embarked on a five-year-long journey, tirelessly collecting every fragment of evidence and insight he could find. Freedom of Information Act requests, tribal records, court records, Department of Interior records, prison records, correspondence and establishing connections with descendants were all part of the process.

One of the most daunting obstacles Grann encountered was that the scale of the tragedy was met with deliberate obscurity—records were neglected, hidden or never documented. In these cases of suspicious deaths, the victims had long since passed away, but so had the

suspects, eyewitnesses, and even proper investigations.

Gaps in historical documentation underscored the vital importance of interviewing the descendants of those who had endured the Osage murders. Grann recognized that without their firsthand accounts and oral histories, the full scope of the story would remain incomplete.

“The descendants of both the murderers and the victims, many of whom still live in the same neighborhoods side by side, talking to them really drove home to me how recent these killings were. You see how these crimes just devastated the families, how this history still reverberates today,” Grann said.

With the imminent release of the film adaptation of “Killers of the Flower Moon,” directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro and Lily Gladstone, Grann is grateful that this often-overlooked aspect of history will be shared with a broader audience.

“What I hope will happen is that more and more people will learn about this history. The movie, the book, all these things should just be beginnings of conversations,” Grann said.

When asked if the upcoming film had any changes on his personal life, Grann responded, “For at least two days, my kids thought I was cool. If you have teen-

age children, that’s pretty good.”

Since the book’s release, Grann has made many return trips to Oklahoma for speaking events and to catch up with friends. He admires how vibrant and thriving the Osage Nation is today despite the cruelty the tribe has endured and the efforts to erase important parts of their history.

“You can’t fully erase history. It is always there. It’s up to us to decide how we want the past to shape us. We all need to be historians, to be inquisitive. We all need to learn from our past, both personally and nationally, to become the people we want to be in the future.”

WOMEN'S SOCCER CELEBRATES 100TH WIN



Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds presents women's soccer Head Coach Dan Hill with a plaque commemorating the team's 100th win at a celebration on Sept. 20 at the BCM Sports Complex. The women's soccer program began in the fall of 2016 with Hill at the helm. In the last four consecutive seasons, the team has advanced to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament. The team is presently ranked third in the nation with a win-loss record of 10-0.



PHOTOGRAPHER TO ILLUMINATE NATIVE CULTURE AT EVENT

Photographer Matika Wilbur will take to the stage to present "Celebrating Native Language and Culture" at Seminole State College's Jeff Johnston Auditorium on Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event is sponsored by SSC's Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) federal grant program.

Wilbur, a visual storyteller hailing from the Swinomish and Tulalip peoples of coastal Washington, embarked on a journey in 2012 to change the way people perceive Native America through the power of photography.

Wilbur, initially a fashion and commercial photographer in Los Angeles, honed her craft at the Brooks Institute of Photography. However, she was drawn to the remarkable personalities within

indigenous communities, often misrepresented or overlooked in mainstream media.

The result was a shift in focus, leading to multiple acclaimed exhibitions of her portraits of Pacific Northwest and other Native peoples.

She would go on to launch Project 562, where she would photograph and collect stories from members of every federally recognized Native American tribe in the United States, thereby creating comprehensive visual curricula and publications that authentically represented contemporary Native America.

Wilbur travelled to 300 sovereign nations throughout 40 states, from the Tlingits in Alaska to the Pima in Arizona, the Pomoos in California to the

Wampanoags on Cape Cod. Through her lens, she captured the diversity, vibrancy and authenticity of the tribes.

SSC's NASNTI grant program is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually. In addition to hosting cultural experiences on campus, the grant also provides support for students with disabilities by training faculty and staff in best practices, implementing assistive devices and technology and redesigning foundational courses to ensure they best support online students with disabilities.

For more information or questions, contact SSC NASNTI Director Kay Wallace at 405-382-9646 or k.wallace@sscok.edu.



Photographer Matika Wilbur will present on Native language and culture at an event at SSC on Oct. 5.

FALL COMMUNITY COURSES LINEUP ANNOUNCED



Aby Young (standing, left), the Director of Food Services at SSC, helps students decorate cupcakes during the College's Kids on Campus event in June of 2023. Young will lead a series of cooking community courses throughout the fall that are open to the public.

Seminole State College's Business and Industry program will host a diverse lineup of educational community courses throughout the fall. Courses take place on a single day, are open to the public and include self-defense, culinary arts, first aid and CPR, as well as crafting.

The College's Women's Self-Defense course will take place on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Raymond Harber Field House. The course focuses on techniques specifically tailored to women with the goal of boosting confidence and safety. The course is free for ages 14 and up. The maximum class size is 15 students. The defense training will be led by Shawn Estey. Estey has studied martial arts since 1988, beginning with traditional taekwondo, hapkido, and jujitsu. In 1997, he moved

to Olympic-style taekwondo to train for the 2000 Olympics. Since that time, he has studied mixed martial arts Brazilian jujitsu, Mui Thai kickboxing and karate. During his journey of learning self-defense, he has worked in numerous security positions and has helped train different law enforcement agencies in open-hand combat, edged weapons and firearms training.

The College will also host one culinary class each month through December. The cooking courses will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union at a cost of \$70. All supplies will be provided, and the maximum class size is 15 students. As the Halloween holiday approaches, the College will host a Spooky Food course on Oct. 28. Thanksgiving Foods will be taught on Nov. 18, and

Christmas Candy will be the subject of Dec. 2's session. All courses are taught by Aby Young, an employee of Great Western Dining and the Director of Food Services at SSC. She specializes in creating pastries and confections in her personal time and has more than eight years of experience as a chef.

The First Aid and CPR course will take place on Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. Participants will learn life-saving skills and will receive American Heart Association certification upon the completion of the course and testing. SSC nursing faculty will lead the session. The cost is \$75 per student and the maximum class size is six students. This community course is also available to groups upon request.

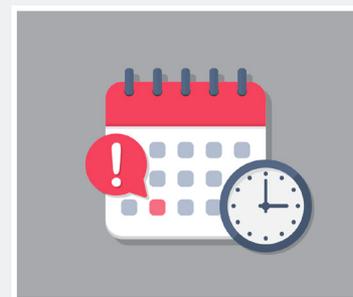
The College will host two crafting community courses this fall. The first, Make and Take Potholders, will take place on Nov. 18. The second course,

Make Your Own Aprons, will occur on Dec. 2. Both events will be held in Tanner Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$25 per course with a materials kit available for an additional \$25. Participants are encouraged to bring their own sewing kits, with only a limited number available during class. The crafting courses will be taught by Denise North. North has been teaching quilting for 20 years and has won numerous awards for her quilting and sewing projects. She loves fabric art and teaching individuals of all skill levels.

To register for any of the community courses, visit sscok.edu, click Academics and then Community/On-Demand courses.

For more information about these courses or registration details, contact Business and Industry Coordinator Scarlet Figueroa at 405-382-9546 or s.figueroa@sscok.edu.

CAMPUS CALENDAR



For all upcoming events, visit sscok.edu/events or scan the QR code.



SSC AND SEMINOLE POLICE PARTNER FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING



Seminole Police Department officers enter SSC's Tanner Hall. The officers assisted in an active shooter and shelter in place drill on Sept. 21.

Seminole State College employees participated in an active shooter and shelter in place training session on Sept. 22. Two training drills were held in partnership with the Seminole Police Department.

On the morning of the training, classes were dismissed. The first session took place in Tanner Hall, where faculty and staff spread out in classrooms across the building. At 9:00 a.m., a campus alert was issued through text messages, emails and desktop notifications. Employees locked the doors to each classroom.

During the drill, an officer from the Seminole Police Department entered the building and simulated an active shooter situation. The officer walked through the

building and discharged blank rounds, replicating the sound of gunshots without actual bullets. Additionally, the officer tested doorknobs to determine if any doors were left unlocked. Following this, other police officers entered the building to simulate apprehending the shooter. An "all clear" alert was issued a few minutes after the completion of the drill.

The second drill was held in the Walkingstick Student Services building at 10 a.m. The drill followed the same procedure as the Tanner Hall session.

"The safety of our campus community is our top priority. These drills are designed to better prepare us for potential emergency situations.

We appreciate the participation of our employees, and we're grateful to the Seminole Police Department for making this training possible," Dr. Bill Knowles, SSC Vice President for Student Affairs, said.

To receive campus alerts directly, students and employees are encouraged to

sign up for text alerts using the College's Rave Alert System. Throughout the year, reminder emails are sent out to the campus community to sign up for the alerts. Signups can also be completed by visiting sscok.edu and selecting "Life at SSC" and then "Police/Campus Safety."

NEWS SSC AND ECU COME TOGETHER FOR TO DISCUSS PARTNERSHIPS



Administrators from East Central University and Seminole State College met this week in Seminole to discuss possible collaborations, partnerships and opportunities for shared services between their institutions. The meeting was organized by former ECU President John Hargrave who serves as a Trustee for the SSC Educational Foundation. Pictured (left to right) are: Dr. Sarah Peters, ECU Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies; Dr. Amanda Estey, SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs; Darrell Morrison, ECU Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance; Melanie Rinehart, SSC Vice President for Fiscal Affairs; ECU President Wendell Godwin; SSC President Lana Reynolds; ECU President Emeritus Hargrave; Dr. Bill Knowles, SSC Vice President for Student Affairs and Dr. Denver Stickrod, ECU Vice President of Enrollment Management.

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