

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

APRIL 2025 | SEMINOLE, OKLA. | VOL. LIV • ISSUE 8



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Submitting to The Collegian

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NEVER MISS A GAME OF **SSC SPORTS**

Students and employees can attend every SSC athletic home game for free with a campus ID. View sports schedules at sscathletics.com.

SSC JOINS READ ACROSS AMERICA TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG READERS



From March 3-7, Seminole State College employees and students shared their love of reading with Mrs. Donna Marley's second-grade class at Wilson Elementary School in Seminole during Read Across America Week. The nationwide initiative encourages children to explore literature, fostering empathy and a broader understanding of the world. Pictured: SSC Assistant Volleyball Coach Bobbi Leitha and Softball Head Coach Amber Flores pose for a photo with Mrs. Marley's class following their reading on March 6.



SSC women's and men's basketball players also volunteered their time reading. Student-athletes on the back row (pictured left to right:) Kylie Hewitt, Haddie Lindley, Aija Carter, Camden Brock, Marco Smith and Dylan Golightly.

BOGLE NAMED FULL-TIME COACH OF MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM



SSC named Austin Bogle full-time men's basketball Head Coach just prior to the teams appearance at the Region II Tournament in March.

Seminole State College named Austin Bogle as the full-time Head Coach of the men's basketball team, removing the interim tag just prior to the Trojans' postseason play in the NJCAA Region II - Division I Tournament.

Bogle, who guided the Trojans throughout the 2024-2025 season, led the team to a 19-12 overall record and the No. 3 seed in the Region II Tournament. SSC opened tournament play with an 89-83 victory over Redlands Community College on March 12. The team then faced Northeastern Oklaho-

ma A&M College in a hard-fought semifinal matchup on March 14, ultimately falling 77-70.

Under Bogle's leadership, the Trojans averaged 80 points per game and showcased a disciplined, fast-paced style of play that helped them become one of the top teams in the region. The team's performance this season marked their first appearance in the Region II semifinals since 2019.

Bogle brings a wealth of collegiate coaching experience to the full-time role. His background includes stints as

a Graduate Assistant at the University of Hawaii, Special Assistant to the Head Coach at Southern Utah University, and Assistant Coach at Northeastern State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Utah Valley University, where he served as a student manager under University of Kentucky Head Coach Mark Pope and two-time NBA champion Mark Madsen.

"Austin has done a tremendous job leading this program, and we are excited about the direction he is taking our men's basketball team," said SSC Athletic Director Leslie Sewell. "His energy,

strategic approach and dedication to our student-athletes make him the perfect fit for this position."

Bogle expressed his gratitude and optimism for the future of the program. "I'm incredibly thankful to President Reynolds, Athletic Director Sewell and the entire SSC community for their support," Bogle said. "This season laid a strong foundation, and I'm excited to build on it with a culture of toughness, unity and accountability. I'm proud of our student-athletes and the work they put in every day."

UPWARD BOUND KICKS OFF COMMUNITY CLEANUP PROGRAM



Seminole State College's Upward Bound program recently launched the UB Cleans initiative, providing students with the opportunity to give back to their community. Participants volunteer alongside the Seminole Arts Council, cleaning various locations around Seminole. Senior students meet every Thursday after school to help beautify the community while working toward their volunteer goals for their Bridge Trip this summer. Upward Bound is 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Pictured (L to R): Upward Bound Coordinator Anna Skender, Upward Bound students Sosie Tucker, Marissa Massey, Jace Fitzgerald and Noah Higgins.

LOCAL STUDENTS HONORED AT STATEWIDE AWARDS CEREMONY

Three area high school seniors were recognized by Seminole State College at the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Presidents' Tuition Waiver Awards Ceremony on March 25 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

This year, SSC honored Savana Sims, Emelia Bronson and Felicity Hamilton with the OACC President's Tuition Waiver for their academic achievements and community involvement.

Sims, a senior at Prague High School, is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Teen Board. She has also volunteered as a little league cheer coach since 2021 and currently captains the Prague cheer team. Her honors include selection for the Oklahoma Youth Tour, participation in Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) program and recognition on the Superintendent's Honor Roll. Sims' goal is to become a chiropractor and open a mobile practice serving both humans and animals.

Bronson, a senior at Shawnee High



Presidents' Tuition Waiver recipients pose for a photo alongside their mothers at the OACC awards ceremony on March 25. Pictured (left to right): Emelia Bronson of Shawnee, Shelby Bronson, Felicity Hamilton of McLoud, Jennifer Hamilton, Savanna Sims of Prague and Melinda Sims.

School, is active in band, tennis, Senior Leadership, and a peer mentoring program called Leadership through Mentoring. Her accolades include receiving an

academic letterman jacket, being named Student of the Month in April 2024 and Outstanding Social Studies student. Following college, Bronson plans to pursue a career as a librarian.

Hamilton, a senior at McLoud High School, participates in Business Professionals of America, drama productions, Link Crew, and the National Honor Society. She has earned numerous honors, including the Janis Stotts Academic Letterman Jacket, being named a One Act Regional Champion and Archery National Qualifier in both 2023 and 2024. Hamilton aims to manage her own small business in the future and will begin her college journey this fall.

The OACC Tuition Waiver Award provides a \$1,000 scholarship, split between the fall and spring semesters, and is awarded at the discretion of each community college president.

CONGRESSWOMAN BICE MEETS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS



U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice visited Seminole on March 7 to meet with community leaders in Seminole State College's Haney Center Board Room. Bice updated the group on activities in Washington, D.C., and heard about the impact proposed cuts in federal funding would have on the college and community, as well as challenges being faced by financial institutions. Pictured (left to right) are: Debbie Kuykendall, President of BancFirst; Steve Saxon, Seminole City Manager; Mark Schell, President of Security State Bank and Seminole Public School Board; Lana Reynolds, President of Seminole State College; Danny Morgan, Director of SSC's Rural Business Center; Cory Crabtree, Mayor-Elect; and Adam Baker, Vice President of First United Bank.

SSC EARNS MILITARY FRIENDLY STATUS

Seminole State College has been designated a 2025-2026 Military Friendly School by Viqtory, earning Silver Status for its commitment to supporting military-affiliated students.

The Military Friendly designation honors colleges that meet high standards in student retention, graduation, job placement, and support services specifically tailored to veterans, active-duty servicemembers and their families. SSC's Silver Status places it among the top institutions nationwide recognized for outstanding service to military students.

"We deeply appreciate the service and sacrifice of our military community," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "This recognition reflects our commitment to providing accessible, welcoming and supportive educational opportunities for veterans, active-duty personnel and their dependents."

SSC has recently expanded its military support initiatives. Through the Oklahoma National Guard Educational

Assistance Program, the College now offers textbook waivers for eligible servicemembers. Additionally, SSC hosts an annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair, connecting attendees with more than 40 organizations offering services such as benefits counseling, job placement, healthcare access and mental health resources.

VA School Certifying Official Stacey Foster emphasized the College's hands-on approach.

"From navigating G.I. Bill benefits to connecting students with vital resources, we offer personalized support every step of the way," Foster said.

Foster was recognized at the March 27 meeting of the SSC Board of Regents for her efforts in helping the College receive the Military Friendly designation. President Reynolds and the Board commended her dedication and advocacy on behalf of SSC's military and veteran students.

The Military Friendly School list is



SSC Board of Regents Chair Curtis Morgan (left) presents the Military Friendly Silver Status Award to VA School Certifying Officer Stacey Foster (right) during the Board meeting on March 27. Foster was recognized for her instrumental role in helping the College earn the national designation.

compiled annually through a data-driven evaluation by Viqtory, a veteran-owned company that provides resources for military transition into civilian life. SSC's designation was based on public data and responses to the organization's proprietary survey.

For more information on military and veteran services at SSC, visit sscok.edu/admissions/military-and-veteran-benefit-services or contact Stacey Foster at s.foster@sscok.edu or (405) 382-9510.

SOUTH CENTRAL INDUSTRIES PRESENTS TO BUSINESS CLASS



South Central Industries, Inc. CEO Tina Hanna and Chief of Staff Jessica Mathews Nickerson spoke to Seminole State College Assistant Professor Brad Schatzel's macroeconomics class on March 25. Their presentation, "Confidence is Key: A Guide to Presenting Yourself with Strength and Authenticity," covered professional greetings, attire, networking, interview strategies, and the role of humor in stressful situations.

AG PROFESSOR MAKES DEMONSTRATION AT 4-H MEETING



Seminole State College Associate Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich guides a Seminole County 4-H student through a hands-on livestock demonstration using "Susan the Sow" at the club's monthly meeting on March 24. The interactive lesson taught participants about wildlife and livestock husbandry. The piglet delivery simulation proved to be a highlight for students and parents alike.

SIMMONS TO BE HONORED AT NJCAA LEGACY AWARDS



Former Seminole State College Head Baseball Coach Lloyd Simmons will be honored at the NJCAA Coaches Legacy Awards on June 17 in Charlotte North Carolina. (File Photo from the 2024 Trojan Baseball First Pitch Banquet.)

Former Seminole State College Trojans Head Baseball Coach Lloyd Simmons will be recognized at the National Junior College Athletic Association Coaches Legacy Awards. The event, which celebrates the winningest coaches in NJCAA history, will take place on June 17 at the Hilton Charlotte University Place in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Simmons led the Trojans from 1975 to 2001 and again from 2012 to 2016. Over the course of his career, he amassed 1,804 wins, cementing his status as one of the most successful coaches in NJCAA history.

Under his leadership, SSC made 13 appearances at the NJCAA World Series, finishing as the national runner-up on four occasions. His teams also secured 16 NJCAA Region II titles and 13 NJCAA District championships.

Throughout his time coaching at the College, Simmons mentored and developed 41 NJCAA All-Americans. More than 200 of his players went on to sign professional baseball contracts, with 43

of those athletes reaching Major League Baseball.

In recognition of his contributions to the sport, Simmons has been honored with numerous accolades throughout his career. He was named the Oklahoma Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year eight times and was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2019, he received one of the highest honors in college baseball when he was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

SSC further cemented Simmons' legacy by dedicating its baseball field in his honor. Lloyd Simmons Field was officially named on May 3, 2024, in recognition of his impact on the College's baseball program and the broader athletic community.

"We are incredibly proud of Coach Simmons and all that he has achieved," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "His dedication to his players and the game of baseball is truly inspiring, and this recognition by the NJCAA is well deserved."

PROFESSOR NAMED FINALIST FOR OKLAHOMA BOOK AWARD



Seminole State College Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz was recently named a finalist for the 2025 Oklahoma Book Awards. The event will take place on May 16 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz has been named a finalist for the 2025 Oklahoma Book Award in poetry for his latest collection, "The Fires of Heraclitus."

Presented by the Oklahoma Center for the Book, the Oklahoma Book Award recognizes outstanding literary works by authors with ties to the state. Winners in each category will be announced at the annual awards banquet on May 16 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Juhasz's nominated work, "The Fires of Heraclitus," explores themes of change, impermanence, and transformation, drawing inspiration from the ancient Greek philosopher. Known for his belief in fire as a symbol of constant flux, Heraclitus viewed struggle and opposition as essential forces shaping existence—ideas reflected in Juhasz's poetic

work.

At SSC, Juhasz teaches English and creative writing, helping students develop their literary voices. His previous works include "Fulfillment: Diary of a Warehouse Picker," a creative nonfiction account of his time at an Amazon Fulfillment Center; "Ronin: Mostly Prose Poems," a finalist for the 2022 Oklahoma Book Award; "The Inner Life of Comics," and "As If Place Matters." He is also a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee.

"It's an incredible honor to be recognized among such talented Oklahoma writers," Juhasz said. "The literary community in this state is full of passionate, skilled storytellers and I'm grateful to have my work included in this tradition."

The Oklahoma Book Award, now in its 36th year, highlights excellence in fiction, nonfiction, children's literature, design and poetry.

GOV. STITT SPEAKS AT CHAMBER EVENT, TOURS SSC



Student leaders from Seminole State College and Seminole High School were special guests at a Seminole Chamber of Commerce breakfast with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt on March 27 in the Utterback Ballroom on SSC's campus.



Following his presentation, SSC Student Government President Adisen Williamson and SHS Superintendent's Advisory Council President Kassidy Baker presented the Governor with a gift basket filled with items from the Seminole community.



During Gov. Stitt's visit, he spoke with SSC Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair Dr. Misty Gray and helped test vitals on a infant manikin in the nursing department's new simulation lab.



Gov. Stitt took a break from his tour to get in some batting practice at the Trojan baseball training facility, located within the BCM Sports Complex.

SSS HOSTS UNIVERSITY TRANSFER SESSION

Seminole State College students had the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the university transfer process during an informational session hosted by SSC's Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services on March 12. The event featured guest speaker Theresa Richardson, Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions at the University of Oklahoma.

Richardson provided attendees with an overview of the transfer process, covering key topics such as university applications, financial aid, advisement, scholarships and transfer fee waivers available

through SSS. Following the presentation, she met with individual students to discuss their specific academic goals and provide personalized guidance for those considering a transfer to OU after completing their studies at SSC.

SSC sophomore psychology major Joy Belshe attended the session and found it highly beneficial. "I learned a lot about the transfer process and the cost of attendance at OU," Belshe said. "I also appreciated the opportunity to ask about housing, scholarships and my major. It was great to have a representative from the largest university in the state come to

campus and share this valuable information."

SSC's SSS Project is 100% federally funded, receiving an annual allocation of \$306,514, while the STEM SSS Project is funded at \$272,364 annually. Both programs provide academic and personal support services to first-generation, economically disadvantaged and disabled students to enhance their success in higher education.

For more information about SSS and STEM SSS, contact Director Janna Wilson-Byrd at (405) 382-9642 or visit the SSC website at sscok.edu.



Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions at the University of Oklahoma Theresa Richardson speaks with SSC students about the transfer process on March 12.

BOARD OF REGENTS AWARDS EMERITUS STATUS TO FORMER DIVISION CHAIR

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met March 27 to conduct business including the ratification of emergency expenses, the approval of policy revisions and the awarding of emeritus status to former Health Sciences Division Chair and Assistant Professor of STEM Dr. Noble Jobe.

During the meeting, SSC President Lana Reynolds provided updates on personnel changes, campus activities and student accomplishments. She also highlighted upcoming events.

In the first item of business, the Board ratified emergency expenses incurred during the repair of a college bus that broke down near Lubbock, Texas en route to a student athletic event. The emergency repair ensured the continuation of spring sports travel and student activities.

The Board next reviewed and approved revisions to two policies. The first updated SSC's purchasing policy to raise bid limits in accordance with state law and other higher education institutional practices, reducing the burden on

staff and vendors. The second aligned academic rank and tenure review processes in the Faculty Handbook with existing Board policy, clarifying language and expectations.

Concluding the meeting's business, the Board awarded emeritus status to Dr. Noble Jobe, recognizing his years of service and positive impact at the institution.

"Dr. Jobe was a passionate educator and a thoughtful leader. His contributions to the STEM and Health Sciences Divisions have had a lasting effect on our students and faculty. We are grateful for his dedication and are pleased the Board has chosen to honor him with emeritus status," President Reynolds said.

Dr. Jobe served at Seminole State College for 12 years. During his tenure, he held several roles including Assistant Professor of STEM, STEM Assistant Division Chair and Health Sciences Division Chair. His leadership and mentorship were instrumental in enhancing academic programs and supporting student success.



Dr. Noble Jobe poses with members of the Seminole State College Board of Regents following their decision to award him emeritus status at the Board's March meeting. Pictured (left to right): Robyn Ready, Bryan Cain, Dr. Jobe, Curtis Morgan, Marci Donaho and Teresa Burnett.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Science in Zoology from Oklahoma State University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (Biology) from East Central University in Ada. Prior to joining SSC, Dr. Jobe served as President of Murray State College and held various teaching and administrative positions at other institutions.

The Regents also approved several

consent agenda items, including minor program modifications to several associate degree offerings that will now be submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for final approval.

Board members present included Chair Curtis Morgan, Teresa Burnett, Bryan Cain, Marci Donaho and Robyn Ready. The next meeting of the SSC Board of Regents is scheduled for Thursday, May 15.

LEADERSHIP STUDENTS VISIT OKC MEMORIAL



Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class visited the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum on March 13. Students were guided on a tour by a National Park Ranger, who explained the symbolic significance of the memorial and provided insight into the events of April 19, 1995. The group also toured the Memorial Archives and participated in the Uncover-Discover STEM Lab, which integrates investigative techniques used in the aftermath of the bombing.

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