



# *Seminole State College*

P.O. Box 351 – 2701 Boren Blvd. – Seminole, Oklahoma 74818-0351

Phone: (405) 382-9200 Fax: (405) 382-7912

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## *Office of the President*

January 19, 2012

Dear Regents:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we have traditionally reviewed past accomplishments made at Seminole State College. The following document provides an overview of 2011.

The highlights of the past year remind us how fortunate we are to have outstanding faculty, staff, regents and community supporters who are committed to making this College one of the best two-year institutions in the country. It is a privilege to work with people dedicated to helping individuals and communities improve themselves through the power of education.

This month I am completing my fifteenth year as President of this College. It seems incredible that the time has passed so quickly. A lot of things have changed since January 21, 1997. My daughters were ages 3 and 7 when we moved here. Sara is now a freshmen at SSC while Amanda is in her first year of Law School at Oklahoma City University.

Reflecting on these years at this institution, I recognize that there are so many things of which to be proud. Your support, and the support of the team of those with whom I work, has been critical in these successes. I appreciate your continued cooperation and encouragement.

With Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2012!

Sincerely,



James W. Utterback, Ph.D.  
President

# January

## College Observes Martin Luther King Day

Seminole State College students attended a presentation by **Ray Jordan**, in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Mr. Jordan is a retired educator, football coach and athletic director of over 42 years. The SSC campus was closed Monday, January 17 in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## Supporters Attend Regional Higher Education Legislative Briefing

**Dr. Glen D. Johnson**, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, met with 50 area legislators and friends of higher education in McAlester to discuss the importance of higher education in improving the economy and business climate of the state. Seminole community leaders and SSC administrators were among those in attendance at the Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing held at Pete's Place in Krebs. Oklahoma State **Senator Harry Coates** (R-District 28) and **Representative Tom Newell** were special guests of the SSC group.

## Alumni Return for 2011 Trojan "Kick-off" Banquet

The annual Trojan Alumni Banquet was held January 29 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center, to kick-off the 2011 Trojan Baseball Season. Former Trojan **Joe Jordan**, scouting director for the Baltimore Orioles, was the guest speaker of the event.

# February

## College Delegation Visits Capitol

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended "Higher Education Day" at the State Capitol, Tuesday, February 22 to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding. An afternoon session was held in the chamber of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Speakers included several students from across the state, as well as Oklahoma State System for Higher Education **Chancellor Dr. Glen Johnson**, Oklahoma Secretary of **Commerce David Lopez**, Oklahoma House of Representatives Speaker **Kris Steele**, Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore **Brian Bingman**, Oklahoma Secretary of Education **Phyllis Hudecki** and Council of Presidents Chair **Janet Cunningham**. Higher Education Day activities included office visits with area legislators at the Capitol.

### **Whithers Attends Nigh Leadership Conference**

Seminole State College student **Brittain Withers** was one of 30 Oklahoma college and university students selected to attend the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference recently held in Oklahoma City. Ms. Whithers received a 2011 George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship through the Nigh Institute program funded by the Oklahoma Legislature. During the leadership academy, students visited with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as attended sessions concerning Oklahoma's local government, government relations, the national election, public policy, and Oklahoma's economic future.

### **Regents Award Tenure to Faculty Members**

At their February meeting, the SSC Regents awarded tenure to several instructors. **Dr. Steve Bolin**, Social Sciences Division; **Annette Troglin**, Math, Science and Engineering Division; **Dave Helseth**, Math, Sciences and Engineering Division; **Rayshell Clapper**, Language Arts and Humanities Division and **Malinda Browning**, Nursing and Health Sciences Division, were approved for this academic status.

## **March**

### **SSC Hosts Annual Scholastic Meet**

More than 1,400 students from 34 area public schools competed in Seminole State College's 39<sup>th</sup> annual interscholastic meet in early March. Campus organizations and staff organized a number of events and activities for the high school students while they were on campus. A sweepstakes trophy was awarded to the top school in each division based on accumulation of points and medal placing. Byng won the Division I sweepstakes award, and Preston took the Division II award.

### **Students Recognized at OACC Conference**

Students **Tatum Colburn** and **Joel Penuel** were honored as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges annual conference in March. Jordan Bumgarner, also from SSC, was selected as an OACC scholarship recipient. The academic honors program provides statewide recognition to outstanding two-year college students.

### **SSC Students Featured in Who's Who**

Names of 89 students from Seminole State College were included in "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges." Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual national directory included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. They join an elite group of students from more than 1,400 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

### **Students Hear Holocaust Survivor**

Several members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended the Louise Young Diversity Lecture at East Central University in Ada to hear Holocaust survivor **Max Glauben**. Mr. Glauben spoke about his experiences as a young boy in Nazi concentration camps during WWII.

### **Students Surveyed on College Experience**

Students in randomly selected classes at SSC joined students from community colleges across the nation in participating in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). The survey questions focused on how students spend their time, the nature and quality of interactions with faculty members and peers and what they have gained from their classes and other aspects of their college experiences. The survey served as an anonymous suggestion box to benchmark the participating colleges' performance on key indicators related to teaching, learning and retention.

### **President Utterback Attends Community College Regional Summit**

**President Dr. James Utterback** attended the U.S. Department of Education's first Community College Regional Summit in Houston in mid-March. Dr. Utterback participated in the summit at the invitation of United States Under Secretary of Education **Martha J. Kanter**. The one-day summit brought educational leaders together to continue the conversation on boosting the number of U.S. college graduates that began the previous fall at the White House Summit on Community Colleges. Leaders who have been instrumental in developing and implementing strong initiatives that support the transition of youth and adult learners into community colleges were identified from across the nation. Dr. Utterback and other participants were asked to share successful practices from their colleges with other colleagues.



### **Long-time Faculty Member Passes Away**

Chair of the Math, Science and Engineering Division Paula Rutledge passed away in early April. In writing to the campus community about her loss, President Utterback said, "Her work inside and outside the classroom was a shining example of someone who cared about student success and Seminole. She was a good friend and colleague who touched countless lives with her kind demeanor and smile." At Commencement in May, faculty and staff paid tribute to Ms. Rutledge by placing white carnations by her picture during the processional.

### **SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Thirty-four SSC students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges in early April. Students were selected based on their scholarship, leadership and service qualities. Under the guidance of faculty advisors **Dr. Steve Bolin** and **Jeffrey Christiansen**, the chapter provides programs, activities and opportunities to participate in community service projects.

### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs **Melinda Sims** and Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division Chair and women's basketball coach **Rita Story-Schell** were recognized as "Staff Member of the Month" and "Educator of the Month" by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce. The employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber Forum luncheon.

### **PSI Beta Inducts Students**

Nineteen Seminole State College students earned the honor in April to be inducted into the PSI Beta Psychology Honor Society. Licensed Professional Counselor and former Oklahoma National Alliance on Mental Illness President **Karrie Utterback** was the special guest speaker for the induction ceremony. Ms. Utterback, who holds 30-years of psychology and mental health service experience, encouraged the students to continue their endeavors in psychology and challenged them to view the world through different perspectives.

### **President and AD Present at AACC Conference**

**Dr. Jim Utterback**, President, and **Dr. Tom Mills**, Athletic Director and Men's Basketball Coach, presented at the American Association of Community Colleges conference in New Orleans. Their presentation was entitled: "The Balanced Pursuit of Academic and Athletic Excellence in Intercollegiate Sports."

### **Medical Laboratory Technology Open House**

The Medical Laboratory Technology Department hosted an Open House on April 27 in celebration of National Medical Laboratory Week. The event, organized by MLT Director **Perthena Latchaw** and instructor **Malinda Browning**, provided an opportunity to find out what goes on behind the scenes in a laboratory. Aspiring MLT students were also invited to attend and find out what it takes to be a part of this program.

### **SSC Hosts State Economic Development Partnership Program**

Seminole State College was the site for a statewide Economic Development Recognition Program hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Chancellor of Higher Education **Glen Johnson** and college and university presidents and administrators from across the state, joined business leaders being honored for their partnership efforts with higher education. The Economic Development Partnership Recognition program honors outstanding partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing Oklahoma's workforce. Seminole State College and the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation were among the honorees at the event.

### **Students Help with Museum Event**

Members of the volleyball and basketball teams stuffed 8,500 eggs for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazzy's Egg Run at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum. According to Museum Executive Director **Marci Donaho**, it took these students only a few hours to complete the task that would have taken the Museum's staff days to complete.

### **Language Arts Division Hosts Creativity Symposium**

The Language Arts and Humanities Division hosted their First Annual Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium on April 29. The symposium showcased amateur and professional Oklahoma artists, musicians, actors, writers and dancers in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center. Students, faculty and community members presented a variety of musical performances, dances, creative writings, theatrical performances and artistic presentations. Student organizations sold breakfast items, baked goods, Indian tacos and hot dogs in the Cook Commons in the center of the campus. Vendors and art demonstrations were also on display in the Commons' gazebo areas.

### **Faculty Attend PCA/ACA Conference**

Five members of the English faculty presented at the national joint conference of the Pop Culture Association and American Culture Association of Southwest Texas in San Antonio, Texas in April. **Kelli McBride, Jessica Isaacs, Jim Wilson, Rayshell Clapper** and **Christian Morgan** attended the four-day conference that focused on promoting the study of popular and American culture. Presentations covered American culture, human relations, literature, material culture, music, science fiction, fantasy, teaching and professional and creative works. The SSC English faculty presented original creative works in their panel titled, "Invisibility and Oklahoma: Looking Beyond the Forgotten." Their fiction and non-fiction pieces discussed Oklahoma issues, experiences and people particularly focusing on invisibility.

### **SSC Sigma Kappa Delta Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Eight SSC students and one faculty member were inducted into the Upsilon Alpha chapter of the English Honor Society Sigma Kappa Delta. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds was the guest speaker for the evening.

# May

### **Concert Pianist Performs at SSC**

Concert pianist **Dr. Peter Simon** and his son **Saling** entertained students, area residents and local elementary school children during a week-long series of campus concerts. The "Simon and Son" presentations were hosted by the SSC Educational Foundation, the Seminole Chamber of Commerce, the Seminole Arts Council and **Melvin and Jasmine Moran**.

### **Banquet Honors Alumni, Students, Staff**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation's annual recognition banquet, held May 5, included recognition of college alumni, students, staff and supporters. Two former students, **Adam LaRoche**, first baseman for the Washington Nationals, and **Robby Trammell**, news director for *The Oklahoman* and its website NewsOK.com. were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. Two special awards were given to long-time College associates. Former SSC Regent **Ben Walkingstick** and his wife **Bonnie** received the "Founders Award" for their long-time support of student scholarships and numerous capital construction projects on campus. Former Trojan Baseball **Coach Lloyd Simmons** received the first ever "Distinguished Service Award" for his commitment to students and the institution.

### **Employees Recognized for Milestones**

Several employees were recognized for reaching milestones in their careers at the College. Chair of the Nursing and Health Sciences Division **Donna Chambers**, Business and Accounting Professor **Dawna Hamm**, Business Office Head Cashier **Mona Griffin**, Talent Search Program Director **Mary Ann Hill** and Vice President for Student Affairs **Dr. Brad Walck** were honored for 20 years of service to SSC. **Fred Bunyan**, Professor of Business, and **Kelly Kirk**, Art Professor, received awards for reaching their 35-year milestones. Maintenance Coordinator **Kelly Chastain**, Educational Talent Search Advisor Frank Washington, Science Professor **Beverly Williams**, and Veterans Upward Bound Coordinator **Cheryl Woods** all announced their retirement from the College in the Spring.

### **Student Receives First Harry E. Coates, Sr. Scholarship**

**Alicia Ramage** was awarded a scholarship from the newly-established Harry E. Coates, Sr. Entrepreneurial Scholarship program. Ramage, a full-time student and mother of four, graduated with a business degree in May. She was an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and helped with that organization's care packages for the military, book drive and "Hot Dog for the Homeless" projects. Ramage's plans were to continue her education at East Central University after graduating from SSC. She is interested in owning her own business one day.

### **Gonterman Speaks at SSC Commencement**

Seminole State College students completing degree requirements at the end of the spring and summer 2011 sessions joined fall 2010 graduates in the College's commencement exercises May 13. **Bryan Gonterman**, President of AT&T Oklahoma, was the featured speaker at the 78th Commencement Exercises for Seminole State College on May 13.

### **Goeller Receives Doctorate**

Math instructor **Linda Goeller** received her Doctorate in Professional Education Studies / Mathematics Education from Oklahoma State University in May.

### **Board Approves Academic Rank**

At their May meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a policy regarding Academic Rank. Based on recommendations made by the accreditation team of the Higher Learning Commission, **President Utterback** recommended creating a professional academic ranking system for the faculty of SSC to align the titles for teaching faculty with comparable positions at universities. The policy allowed the President to award status of “Assistant Professor,” “Associate Professor” and “Professor” based on tenure, years of service, academic credentials and other criteria.



### **SSC Offers Kids Camp Program**

Several sessions of “Kids Camp” began on campus in June. The two-week camps ran June 6 through August 11, Monday through Thursday and focused on pottery, swimming, archery and reading.

### **Koenig Named Dean**

**Pam Koenig** was named Dean of Instructional Compliance. Ms. Koenig has been at SSC for 15 years as a Social Science Instructor and was the former Chair of the Social Science Division. During her time at SSC she has served on Division Chair Council and on the Curriculum Committee. Koenig also chaired the Steering Committee for the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Self-Study.

### **PTK Students Help One of Their Own**

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society members presented **Rachel Callicoat**, fellow PTK member and 2011 SSC graduate, with a check for \$500. SSC teamed with local businesses Homeland in Seminole, Moore’s IGA in Wewoka and Firelake in Shawnee to help sponsor a fundraiser for the contribution. Ms. Callicoat and her two children lost their home in the EF-3 tornado that touched down in Tushka April 14 that left many businesses and homes destroyed.

### **Upward Bound Helps at Regional Food Bank**

SSC’s Upward Bound Project took 132 students to the Regional Food Bank in Oklahoma City and helped prepare 17,798 meals. The program participants helped pack boxes of dry goods during their trip.

### **U.S. Congressman Visits SSC**

Several community leaders, including Seminole City Councilman **D.D. Patterson**, Chamber Executive Director **Amy Britt**, Seminole School Superintendent **Jeff Pritchard**, **Pam Parks** of Blue Wave Boats, Seminole Nation Chief **Leonard Harjo**, Chamber President **Ray McQuiston** and Seminole Nation Assistant Chief **Ella Coleman**, attended a reception for U.S. **Congressman James Lankford** at SSC.

### **Student Receives Appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy Class**

SSC student **Courtney Dearth** of Shawnee earned an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015 through competitive nominations from both Oklahoma **Senator Tom Coburn**, and U.S. Congresswoman now **Governor Mary Fallin**. Ms. Dearth was a member of the Trojan Dance Team, served on the Student Activities Board and was on the President's Honor Roll. She competed with more than 10,000 applicants for admission to the United States Air Force Academy, and is one of approximately 1,500 applicants to receive an offer of appointment. Courtney will be joining an elite group of students to participate in one of this country's premier officer training programs for future leadership in the United States Air Force.

### **Global Studies Program Travels to Germany, Italy and France**

Students, faculty and community members travelled to Germany, Italy and France through the College's Global Studies Summer Program. Art Professor **Kelly Kirk** served as sponsor for the trip.

### **GEAR UP Hosts Summer Camps**

Seminole State College's GEAR UP program completed a series of summer camps for over 100 area high school students on campus in late June. Three day-camps were held for students from Bowlegs, New Lima, Varnum, Strothers, Seminole, Butner, Sasakwa, Justice and Paden students. The students participated in activities ranging from "Campus Cruising" tours, investigating crime scenes through Science, origami using Geometry concepts and engineering using Legos. Students also took weekly field trips to the Devon Boat House, Museum of Osteology, Tiger Safari and several campuses.

### **Board Approves Budget**

The annual budget approved for the coming fiscal year at the June meeting of the Board of Regents included a \$1,000 or 2% minimum salary increase for all full-time employees; raised hourly rate to a minimum of \$10.50 (living wage) for all classified staff; and provided additional salary increases for professorship titles. The Board was also informed that the College would end the FY11 fiscal year with an Educational and General (E&G) balance of \$966,373 and Auxiliary balance of \$389,941 – the highest in over a decade.



### **SSC Welcomes New Dean of Student Services**

Seminole State College welcomed **Dr. Mark Ames** as its new Dean of Student Services in July. Dr. Ames had served as the Dean of Student Services at Tulsa Community College since 1995. He brought over 25 years of experience in two-year college administration and supervision, with 15 years of leadership experience, to his position at SSC.

### **Area Students Participate in Upward Bound Summer Program**

Students from 21 area high schools had the opportunity to stay on the Seminole State College campus and learn about financial aid, preparation for college and improve their academic performance through the SSC Upward Bound Summer Program. For five-weeks, 130 students from Seminole, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties stayed on the SSC campus as a part of the college's Upward Bound summer residential program. The Seminole State College Upward Bound Projects are federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Butner Receives Honors for Layout and Design**

Seminole State College took top honors in class schedule layout and design at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association annual conference. SSC Coordinator of Media Relations **Dustie Butner** won the Achievement Award at OCPRA's three-day annual meeting which brought together representatives from 23 public and private higher education entities across the state.

### **Global Studies Program Travels to Costa Rica**

Students, faculty and community members travelled to Costa Rica through the College's Global Studies Program. Associate Professor of English **Christian Morgan** led the 13-day light backpack excursion trip. Travelers were able to swim in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, zip-line through a rainforest canopy in Manuel Antonio National Park, visit the Iruza volcano and sea kayak in the Pacific.

### **Staff Provided Professional Development**

Members of the college's classified and professional staff heard presentations from Channel 25 news anchor **Andrew Speno** and motivational speaker **Dr. Mac McCrory** during an afternoon training session held on campus July 21. An additional training session was offered to supervisors from various areas of campus earlier in the day featuring Oklahoma State University Management Department Head **Dr. Kenneth Eastman**.

### **Pond Project Improved Landscape at Seminole State College**

Major progress was made in July on the Educational Foundation's project to clean out the north pond and beautify the park area that surrounds it. A lead gift from **Darlene Wallace** and Columbus Oil of Seminole jump started the project. The Foundation donated proceeds from fundraising events to support the development of the north pond and park area. Ms. Wallace and **Kenenth Henderson**, both with personal interest and expertise in landscaping, began volunteering their time and resources to help coordinate the park development. **Mr. Henderson** and his wife **Rose** also provided a lead gift to purchase a 12-foot cast iron sculpture of a Trojan warrior on a horse which was mounted on the northeast edge of the park. The Trojan towers near the northern entrance to campus on Marie Austin Drive behind the David L. Boren Library. A 24-ft. gazebo was constructed on the east side of the park through the generosity of long-time SSC supporters **Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick**. The gazebo will honor the Walkingsticks' daughter, **Kimberlie Jean Austin**. Additionally, the area will include a large waterfall, an outdoor sitting and study area, a bridge and fountains.

### **Talent Search Grants Provide Services to Area Schools**

The College received notification of the renewal of a federal Talent Search grant and the awarding of another new grant. The renewal of “Talent Search Central” will serve 700 public school students from Bowlegs, Butner, Justice, New Lima, Paden, Sasakwa, Seminole, Strother and Varnum schools. The new “Talent Search West” grant will serve 500 students from Dale, Earlsboro, Macomb, Maud, Mcloud, Shawnee and Tecumseh. The two grants are funded for five years and will bring over \$2.6 million to the institution. Both applications received a perfect 100 score. President Utterback commended TRIO Programs Director **Kathy Hoover** and her staff on the success of these grant applications.

### **Employment Readiness Funding Renewed**

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program was renewed for the new fiscal year. The program, known as Employment Readiness at SSC, funded through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, was renewed for \$247,544.

## **August**

### **Staff and Faculty Brainstorm on How to Improve SSC**

Seminole State College faculty and staff brainstormed on ideas during the College’s in-service training in August. Employees participated in a session on “How Can We Make Our College a Better Place?” facilitated by **Frank Merrick** of Foundation Management, Inc.

### **SSC Welcomes Presidential Leadership Class V**

Twenty-four students were selected for Class V of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. The two-year scholarship program was created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities. School officials throughout the college’s service area of Seminole, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties are invited by SSC President Utterback to nominate high school seniors as candidates for the scholarship program each year. Participants are selected based on ACT scores, academic performance in high school and demonstrated leadership ability.

## **Utterback Selected Chair of OETA Board**

**Dr. Jim Utterback**, President of Seminole State College, was selected to serve as chair of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Board (OETA). The mission of OETA is to make educational and public television services available to all Oklahoma citizens on a coordinated statewide basis, through various educational and cultural agencies under the direction and supervision of the Authority Board. The Authority Board consists of thirteen members, including six ex-officios and seven appointed by the Governor with approval from the Senate. Other members of the Board are **Jean Hendrickson, Suzanne Lair, Lisa Harbison, Brent Houston, Elaine Hobson, Clarke Stroud, Dr. Cindy Ross, Dr. Glen Johnson, Burns Hargis, David Boren, Mary Ann Ferguson and Dr. Janet Barresi.**

# September

## **Students Elect SGA Officers**

**Lynnette Gomez** of Holdenville was elected by SSC students to serve as President of the Student Government Association for the 2011-2012 academic year. Shawnee student **Danielle Hobia** was chosen to serve as Vice President and Meeker student **Julie Wilson** was elected Secretary.

## **SSC Vice President Accepts Position in Ohio**

Vice President for Academic Affairs, **Dr. Paul Gasparro**, accepted a position as a Campus President with the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) system in Ohio in early September. Gasparro will serve as the President of the College's Eastern Campus in the Cleveland suburb of Highland Hills. As Vice President for Academic Affairs at SSC, Gasparro supervised faculty as well as academic programs of the institution. He joined the SSC administrative team in August 2008.

## **Constitution Day Observed at SSC**

In celebration of Constitution Day 2011, SSC hosted a public presentation featuring Oklahoma State University Associate Professor of History **Dr. Ronald Petrin** on campus Friday, Sept. 16. Dr. Petrin was invited to campus by SSC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter and by the Social Sciences Division faculty. Dr. Petrin discussed approaches to the interpretation of the United States Constitution, focusing specifically on that of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

## **SSC Invitational Golf Tournament a Success**

Seminole State College's Educational Foundation Golf Tournament held in late September at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole was a success with 21 teams helping raise money for scholarships and other capital projects at the college. Over \$13,000 was added to the Foundation's "Shaping the Future" capital campaign through the event.

### **Students Attend State Leadership Summit**

Several members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a state leadership summit sponsored by *Leadership Oklahoma* in Oklahoma City. The summit, part of the organization's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, featured comments by some of Oklahoma's top elected officials. **Governor Mary Fallin**, Lieutenant Governor **Todd Lamb**, Attorney General **Scott Pruitt** and State Treasurer **Ken Miller** spoke about their personal philosophies on leadership. The author of *Leadership In Action*, retired Rear Admiral **Greg Slavonic** of the U.S. Navy hosted a panel of four military leaders who were contributing writers to his book.

### **College Hosts Service Fair**

Students and faculty learned about goods and services available in the community during the college's 18th annual "Area Services Fair" held in conjunction with the annual "Back-to-School Ice Cream Social," on the SSC campus in September.



### **College Hosts Braided Paths Program**

Seminole State College hosted a unique Native American cultural program created by The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum on the evening of October 13. "Braided Paths: Conversations in Indian Country," a three-part series funded by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, concluded with a final program in Seminole following similar presentations on projects in Weatherford and Miami. The program explored the historic and contemporary contributions of the region's Native communities and shared stories and interviews on topics such as culture, tribal history, partnerships, and what tribes are doing today to perpetuate culture.

### **Groth and Thompson receive Langley Scholarship**

Two area students were selected to receive a new scholarship established by the family of the late **Bill Langley**. **Sydney Groth** and **Tyler Thompson**, both 2011 Shawnee High School graduates, were honored as the first recipients of the Langley Family Scholarship. The scholarship program was established by **Nancy Langley**, the wife of Bill Langley, and their children **Pattie Smith** and **Mike and Dana Langley**. The Langleys own and operate Langley Management Co. in Shawnee which manages commercial and residential properties and finance companies.

### **Nursing Program Recommended for Maximum Accreditation**

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), Inc. recommended the SSC Nursing Program for the maximum eight years "Continuing Accreditation" following their on-site campus visit. As part of the accreditation process, campus faculty, as well as members of the public were invited to meet the NLNAC accreditation team and the Oklahoma Board of Nursing representative during the visit.

### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum on October 13. Maintenance Technician **Dwayne Castle** and Assistant Professor of Psychology **Mona Ridley** were recognized as “Staff Member of the Month” and “Educator of the Month,” respectively.

### **Global Studies Program Travels to Ireland and England**

Under the direction of Art Professor Kelly Kirk, students, faculty and community members travelled to Ireland and England in the Fall through the College’s Global Studies Program. The eight-day trip, took place Oct. 13 through 21, and directed travelers through Dublin, North Whales and London with a stop at the birthplace of Shakespeare.

### **Downey Named to Board at Community College Leadership Congress**

Administrative Assistant to the President **Mechell Downey** was selected to serve on the Professional Board Staff Network at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress held in Dallas in October. Ms. Downey was nominated by the ACCT Board of Directors to represent the Western Region as a member-at-large on the Network’s Board. The organization serves as a national level resource for those who support governing boards at community colleges across the nation.

### **College Receives Clean Audit**

The College received an unqualified (clean) opinion with no findings following the FY11 external audit performed by representatives of Hinkle & Company, PLLC. **Jim Hinkle**, with Hinkle & Company, and Board Audit Committee members Regent Marci Donaho and **David Wilson** commended Vice President for Fiscal Affairs **Katherine Benton** and her staff for their work in managing these areas and for the positive outcome of the audit.

# November

### **SSC Offers Seminar for Area Educators**

Area high school officials had the opportunity to hear presentations on college admissions standards, updates on college programs and services, and legal issues in public education at a workshop sponsored by Seminole State College. **Mike Turpen**, a private practice attorney and political commentator on the Oklahoma City television program “Flashpoint,” addressed attendees at an opening breakfast for the event on November 1. Turpen served as a past Chairman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party and as the Attorney General of Oklahoma from 1983 to 1987. He was appointed by **Governor Brad Henry** in 2009 to serve as member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for a nine-year term.

### **College Hosts Oklahoma Literature Presentation**

Seminole State College hosted a public lecture on “Oklahoma Literature and the Oklahoma Voice” presented by publisher **Dr. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish** on the evening of November 1 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center Lecture Hall. During the public lecture and discussion Dr. Mish, publisher of *Oklahoma Literature* spoke to the public about contemporary Oklahoma literature. Following the lecture she read some of her own Oklahoma-infused poetry and held a public question and answer panel. The presentations were made possible through a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council written by Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair **Jessica Isaacs** and Associate Professor of English **Rayshell Clapper**.

### **Students Collect Food for Needy Families**

The Leadership Development Class collected canned food for the local Salvation Army during the Thanksgiving holiday season. The food drive was a service-learning project for the class. Students prepared and decorated collection boxes, distributed the boxes in buildings across campus, posted fliers advertising the drive, and worked with the college’s media relations office to alert the community about their effort. All non-perishable food items collected by the students were distributed to families in Seminole County. The class is taught by Social Sciences Division Chair **Marta Osby** and Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Lana Reynolds**.

### **SSC Receives Grant for Tree Program**

Seminole State College was awarded a \$25,000 Tree Enhancement Program grant from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Beautification Office. Grant monies totaling \$435,000 were available to award to communities ranging from \$1,875 to \$25,000 with a local 25% match requirement. Only 275 tree grants have been awarded since 1997. The purpose of the tree grant is to improve communities through the use of trees by purchasing and installing trees, large shrubs, tall ornamental grasses and drip irrigation systems or “gater bags” on public property or right-of-ways along any public roadway or public transportation corridor. The college will use the grant they received to purchase and plant 100 trees as well as install an irrigation system.

### **Students Attend Tribal Leadership Forum**

Members of the President’s Leadership Class at Seminole State College attended a leadership forum featuring administrators from the Chickasaw Nation at East Central University on Thursday. The SSC students, along with PLC students from Eastern Oklahoma State College, were invited by ECU President John Hargrave to join ECU PLC students for the leadership program. Chickasaw Nation Administrators **Patrick Neeley**, Commerce; **Jenny Trett**, Treasury; **Jalinda Kelley**, Administrative Services; **Deanna Hartley-Kelso**, Justice; **Lisa E. John**, Education; **Thomas L. John**, Self-Governance; and **Jay Keel**, Youth and Family Services were participants in the program.

### **PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Twenty-four SSC students recently were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges this Fall. Students were selected based on their scholarship, leadership and service qualities. The chapter provides programs, activities and participation in community service projects. SSC Dean of Student Services, **Dr. Mark Ames**, was the special guest speaker. **Mr. Jeffrey Christiansen** and **Dr. Steve Bolin** serve as the organization's faculty advisers.

### **Student Selected to Design Robotic Rovers**

Seminole State College student **Corbin Graham** was selected to travel to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL to develop a prototype vehicle to roam Mars. Mr. Graham participated in the three-day experience through the National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program. He was among 48 students from 25 states who visited Marshall in November and the only student selected from Oklahoma to participate. During his visit he established a team and formed a fictitious company pursuing Mars exploration. The team created a company infrastructure to design and develop a rover. The experience included a tour of NASA facilities and briefings from agency scientists and engineers.

### **Concert Pianist Returns to Seminole**

Concert pianist **Dr. Peter Simon** returned to campus for a week-long artist-in-residence program on Nov. 28. He entertained area residents at a free public concert, performed at a reception for Foundation donors and presented children's concerts to over 500 area elementary school students.

### **SSC Hosts Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program**

The College hosted a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Awareness Program on Monday, Nov. 28 in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. **Jim Riley**, former NFL and Oklahoma University All-American and **Calvin Prince**, former East Central University All-American presented the program to students, faculty and staff. Mr. Riley founded and directs Jim Riley *OUTREACH*, Inc. Mr. Prince is the Marketing/Community Relations Director of Oklahoma Families First, Inc. Both presented stories and provided information regarding addiction prevention and recovery resources.

# December

## Qualls and Whitley Retire from SSC

Long-time math professor and sponsor of the *Permanent Issue* college performing band **Travis Qualls** retired at the end of the Fall term. He had taught at the college since 1987. Mr. Qualls served as Chair of the Math, Science and Engineering Division from 2002 to 2006. **Mary Whitley** began working at the College in 1994 in the David L. Boren Library. She later transferred to the Business Office and concluded her career in December as Cashier.

## Student Bank Board Visits Federal Reserve

Members of the First National Bank of Holdenville and Shawnee Student Bank Boards who participated in a special class offered through Seminole State College visited the Federal Reserve bank in Oklahoma City. SSC Business and Industry Training Coordinator **Carol Hartman** accompanied the group on the Dec. 6 trip, which was sponsored by the College. Students toured exhibits and were provided information about the Federal Reserve which they were tested over in a game show format - complete with prizes.

## Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs **Sharon Smith** and Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair **Donna Chambers** were recognized as "Staff Member of the Month" and "Educator of the Month," respectively at the December Chamber of Commerce Forum.

## To Tax or Not to Tax...

Over 80 people attended a joint meeting of the Seminole Rotary and Lions Clubs Wednesday at Seminole State College to hear a debate on the proposal to abolish the Oklahoma State Income Tax in mid-December. Rotarian **Dr. Jim Utterback**, SSC President, moderated the debate between leading experts on both side of the issue. **Dr. David Blatt**, Director of the Oklahoma Policy Institute, spoke against the proposal and **Jonathan Small**, Fiscal Policy Director for the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, presented arguments for abolishing the tax.

## Regents Authorize Employee Stipend

The Seminole State College Board of Regents authorized a one-time stipend for faculty and staff at the College of 1% of their annual salaries, with a minimum of \$250, to be paid in early January.