

Submitting to The Collegian

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Students of the Month Recognized



SSC's November students of the month (pictured left to right): Rylee Bentley, Sydni Chilcoat, Lacie Moon, Aylin Salazar, Audrey McAdams.

Five outstanding Seminole State College students were recently honored for the month of November. Each academic division selected one student to recognize based on work ethic, academic standing and campus involvement. The students were awarded a certificate from the Academic Affairs Office, a gift certificate to use at the Student Union Grill and a special parking pass allowing them

access to park in any spot on campus for a month.

November's students of the month are: Rylee Bentley of Shawnee – Business and Education, Sydni Chilcoat of Ada – STEM, Lacie Moon of Shawnee – Language Arts and Humanities, Aylin Salazar of Madill – Social Sciences, Audrey McAdams of Shawnee – Health Sciences.



Stay up to date with campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

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Trojan Baseball Team Raises Money for Indoor Training Facility



Pictured (front row, l-r): Isaiah Keller of Tulsa, Caden Green of Tulsa, Pepe Casey of Tulsa, (middle row, l-r) Houston Russell of Midwest City, Kegan Magee of Ft. Worth, Larry Edwards of Tulsa, (back row, l-r) SSC President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback, SSC President Lana Reynolds, Head Baseball Coach Mack Chambers and SSC Educational Foundation Chair Lance Wortham.

The Seminole State College Trojan baseball team recently donated \$16,500 to the SSC Educational Foundation to help with the construction of an indoor training facility. The facility will be part of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports

Complex. To raise the money, the baseball team utilized eTeam Sponsor, a web-based, crowdfunding platform. The team created a video outlining the need for donations and reached out to alumni, friends, family and community supporters.

Student Column

Old Problems

by Georgia Ledford



On days where all the rooms have been cleaned spotlessly, the switchboards have somebody ready to answer the phones, and there's nothing else to do, student workers are handed a variety of odd tasks.

One of these tasks ensued when a math professor departed from Seminole State College this semester. The professor also so happened to leave behind their office, which contained many math-themed curios and oddities. We found several dust-ridden math textbooks containing a smorgasbord of problems that could probably baffle even the greatest of mathematicians. Fortunately, a pleasant assemblage of calculators, informative plastic graphs, mesh shapes for geometry, and even protractors had been left in the office as well.

Sorting through the stacks of graded assignments and quizzes is what piqued my interest the most. Since these papers could be shredded and were recyclable, the student workers in the STEM department were tasked with removing staples.

Cut to my boss, coworkers and I huddling over a trashcan, flinging little shards of metal left and right.

After peeling staple after staple from paper after paper for a long time, my brain kind of went on automatic mode. Gazing through the papers, I notice several details. There were loads of little red dashes and marks indicating a grade someone had received. These papers were so old that even the class Quantitative Reasoning used to be known by the name of Math in Society. If you

looked carefully enough toward the dates on the papers, you'd notice some of these people would presently be in their thirties and forties. Honestly, if you spoke to these former students today, they probably couldn't be able to tell you what the answer to question #12 was, or why the professor docked them half a point for question #7.

Going through the old office and sifting through so many people's grades made me think. In a weird way, it's a subtle reminder that one bad grade won't ruin the world or stop anyone from graduating college. One essay, project, lab, test— whatever it may be— doesn't define a person from an overall standpoint.

Personally, I'm a perfectionist—a self-loathing, hyper critical perfectionist. I consider failing one of my greatest fears. With finals week coming up, that isn't really helping my fear.

Occasionally, people let their grades, accomplishments, and academic success define them in moments of self-induced stress. However, what defined those people on all the papers from the professor's office wasn't the grade they made—it was their names. Like I said, neither they nor you will remember one particularly bad grade. Just relax.

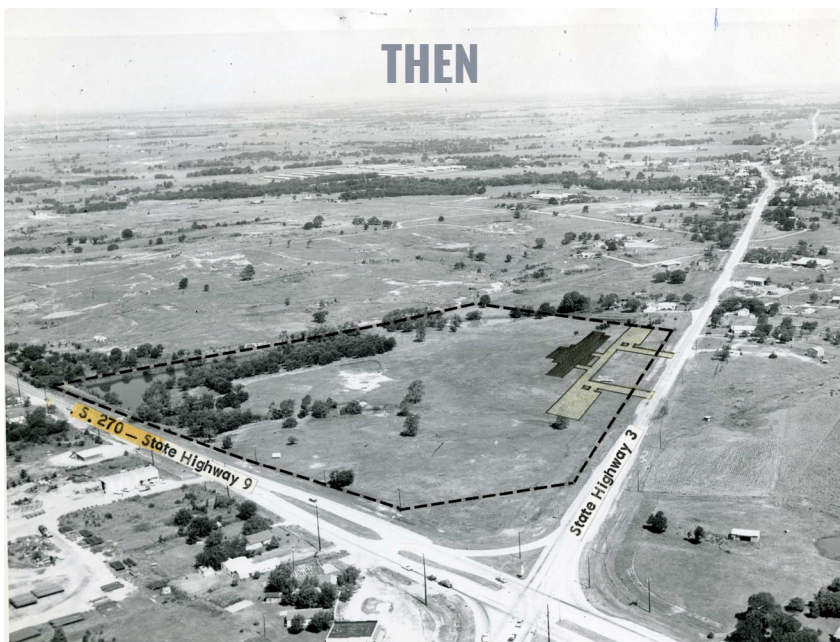
So, study hard, take a break when needed, and don't get yourself too worked up over final's week. I'm wishing everyone the best of luck on their last few days of this fall semester, and a very happy holidays!

Celebrating 90 Years



Editor's Note

For 90 years, this institution has helped students achieve their educational and professional goals. Throughout this fall, we've covered important moments from our history. On the cover of this edition, we recreated the masthead of *The Collegian* from its earliest days, and we hope you'll enjoy a selection of stories from our past.

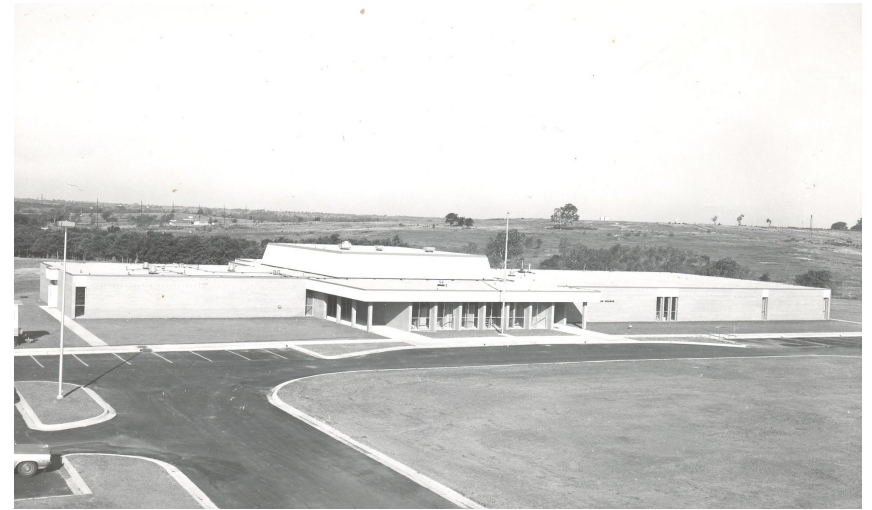


In 1969, Seminole Junior College – which had been operating as the 13th and 14th grades of the local high school and had held classes on the 3rd floor of that building – was required by the State to break away and become an independently governed college. The City of Seminole donated 40 acres of land at the intersection of Highway 9 and Highway 3 to begin construction on a dedicated site for then Seminole Junior College. In 1971, work was completed on the College's first classroom and administration building, which would later be named Tanner Hall in honor of SJC's first President Elmer Tanner.

Seminole State College Campus



In the 50 years since Tanner Hall was completed, Seminole State College seen an extensive expansion. Fourteen additional structures have been built on the original 40 acres, offering students academic, health, athletic and residential resources.



Local officials pictured breaking ground on the new campus were (left to right): Trustee Emery Magruder, Trustee Clarence Clark, Seminole Mayor Waldo Lilly, Oklahoma Chancellor of Higher Education E.T. Dunlap, Seminole Junior College President Elmer Tanner, Trustee Dr. Hubert Callaway and SJC Student Government President Richard "Dickie" Dollar.

The first building to be constructed on the current site of the College was an all-purpose classroom building later named Tanner Hall in honor of the first President, Elmer Tanner. Construction was completed in the summer of 1971.



Creating the Crest



During the first years of then Seminole Junior College's rebirth as an institution separate from Seminole High School, the Dean of Student Affairs Don Gill was instrumental in the design of the College's crest. Gill described the meaning of individual aspects of the crest as representing both the history and the future of the institution.

Along the side of the Trojan's helmet runs a laurel. "It's a representation of excellence — both athletic and academic," Gill said in an interview in 1996.

Below the Trojan on the crest is a shield that has four parts. The lower right quarter of the shield bears the ancient symbol of "the athletic" to represent the physical part of self. In

the upper left quarter of the crest is a depiction of an open book and torch that represents "the academic" part of self.

The other two quarters of the shield are dedicated to the community and heritage that was so instrumental in the survival of the institution. The map of Oklahoma marks the location of Seminole, and the oil derrick represents its growth and industry. The depiction of the Native American in headdress symbolizes the area's indigenous heritage that is a cornerstone of the community and the College.

The banner below the shield boldly reads "Seminole," and the year of founding of the College as a portion of Seminole High School is reflected

on the crest as 1931.

When Seminole Junior College's name was changed to Seminole State College in 1996, Hope Pickering, the graphics lead at TS & H Embroidery, Screen Printing and Advertising Specialties, volunteered to update the original crest. She was able to preserve the original illustration of the crest as she updated the name.

The College crest will continue to remind Seminole State students and staff of the heritage of the institution that, with the help of individuals throughout the state and community and with innovative and progressive leadership, began as an extension of the local high school and became a two-year education leader in the state.

Soccer Team Finishes Season Strong



The women's soccer team poses in front of the bus before making their departure on Nov. 12 for the NJCAA Division I National Tournament.

The Seminole State College women's soccer team placed in the top four at the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Daytona Beach, Florida. The competition was held from Nov. 15-20 at Daytona State College. They entered the tournament as the number two seed.

This marked the team's third consecutive appearance at the national tournament.

The SSC women's soccer team earned their place on the national stage after clinching the West-Plains District Championship in a

match up against Casper College of Wyoming 1-0 on Nov. 6 at Rogers State University in Claremore.

The College hosted a farewell event for the team on Nov. 12 in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union.

The team defeated Navarro College and Snow College to break out of pool play in the national tournament. Both games were decided in overtime.

In the semi-finals, the Trojans were ultimately defeated by Eastern Florida State College with a final score of 3-0.

SSC and Workforce Oklahoma Partner to Provide Winter Clothing

The Seminole State College Employment Readiness Program and the Workforce Oklahoma are providing hats, scarves, gloves and socks for those in need at their shared location in downtown Seminole. The clothing items are arranged on a Christmas tree outside of the Employment Readiness office and available to the public. The clothing items were donated by a YouTube crocheting community, SSC and Workforce employees.

SSC Director of Employment Readiness Veronica Taylor spearheaded the endeavor, called the Happy Holiday Tree. For 25 years, Taylor has worked in human services. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Taylor

launched a YouTube channel called Crochet by Night.

"I started the channel so I could continue to teach students how to crochet, and because we have so many students say they want to be a YouTube creator as a career. I wanted to see how it works," Taylor said.

Taylor put out a call for donations on her channel. Fellow content creators and followers of her channel mailed crocheted and knitted items from across the United States and Canada.

The Happy Holiday Tree is located at 229 N. Second in the east parking lot across from BancFirst. The tree will be up until December 26, 2021.



The Happy Holiday Tree, decorated with winter clothing items available to those in need, will be on display until December 26. Pictured (left to right): Workforce staffer Danita Williams, SSC Employee Readiness Assistant Job Skills Specialist Christina Parsons, SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller, SSC Director of Employment Readiness Veronica Taylor and Workforce staffer Scarlet Figueroa.

Organizations Partner Up to Offer Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs



Eric Rollerson, a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, speaks to attendees about equity and inclusion on campuses.

Seminole State College has recently developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force to address needs and goals of the campus. The task force is led by President Lana Reynolds and includes many faculty, staff and students.

Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services, two federal grant programs hosted by SSC, recently sponsored a week of diversity, equity and inclusion events to support goals of the task force and the grant programs. Damon Cravens, STEM Student Support Services Advisor, led the charge. Three events were presented for students, faculty and staff to attend.

“The goals of the week are to create conversation, educate and help students have a four-year experience at a two-year college. If the students can see it, they can be it. It is imperative they begin to see themselves taking part in events, organizations and purposes bigger than themselves,” said Cravens.

The first event was a general overview of diversity, equity and inclusion. It was presented by Cravens. Discussion ensued as to how the SSC

campus can become more inclusive of all persons on campus.

The second event was a panel discussion, featuring LGBTQIA+ students, faculty and staff and allies. Members of the panel included faculty/staff members: Dr. Deanna Miles, Damon Cravens and Janna Wilson-Byrd. The panel was moderated by Sarah Ledford, SSS Advisor. Panel members covered three main topics: Audience members were given the opportunity to ask questions of all panelists.

To wrap up the week, Eric Rollerson, graduate student at The University of Oklahoma and author of “Right Pieces, Wrong Puzzle,” presented over “Minority Equity and Inclusion on Campus.” Mr. Rollerson presented ideas to move beyond just creating diversity.

“Creating diversity is shallow marketing and does not create equity or inclusion. Diversity brings people to the table. Equity removes the barriers that cause restriction. Finally, inclusion empowers the voices of the diverse people at the table,” Rollerson said.

The Seminole State College SSS

Project is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$294,725 annually. The Seminole State College STEM SSS Project is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$261,888 annually.

For more information about SSS/STEM SSS, please contact Janna

Wilson-Byrd at 405-382-9642 or visit www.sscok.edu/sss.

For more information about the student organization P.R.I.D.E. at SSC, please contact Kimi Durr at pridesscok@gmail.com.

Shooting Sports Club Hosts Fundraiser Event



A participant at the SSC Shooting Sports Club fundraiser tournament takes aim at a clay pigeon on Nov. 12.

The Seminole State College Shooting Sports Club hosted a fundraiser tournament at Clay Bird Sports in Bethel Acres on Nov. 12. The student club was established this year, and this event marked their first tournament. More than 50 participants competed at the event—including high school teams as well as adults. The proceeds of from the fundraiser will help the club practice weekly and compete in regional and national shoots.

Club members include SSC stu-

dents Spencer Sturgill of Shawnee, Dassie May of Shawnee, Langston Yort of Shawnee, Preston Niccum of Stroud and Lyndon Burnett of Durant. Faculty advisors are Agriculture Professor Wendy Rich and Political Science Professor Jeffrey Christiansen. The event raised more than \$3,000.

“We’re so thankful for the enthusiastic support of our many sponsors and, in particular, SSC Regent Kim Hyden who attended and assisted with the event,” Christiansen said.



SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
2701 BOREN BLVD
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SSC Offices Closed
Dec. 20 - Jan. 2 for
Winter Holiday Break

SSC President's Leadership Class Lends a Hand at Food Bank



The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, located in Oklahoma City, on Nov. 9. The thirty-five students unloaded, weighed, and packaged food to help families facing food insecurity issues. The students split into two groups, one group prepared poblano peppers and the other packaged breakfast cereal. In total the students completed 214 cases of food, weighing nearly 3,000 pounds. When the students had finished, they had packaged enough food for 2,460 meals.



PLC students Colin Frederick (left), of Seminole, and Thomas Choate (right), also of Seminole, unload breakfast cereal at the Regional Food Bank.