There is definitely much uncertainty in 2009. However, what is certain is that SCC is even more vital to the well-being of our Central Florida community, and your support is more important than ever. While we had been seeing double-digit percentage increases in enrollment for several terms running, even I was amazed with the nearly 20 percent increase in credit enrollment this Spring. With the budget cuts we’ve just experienced, we all owe our faculty and staff a huge round of applause for stretching themselves to make sure that those who need us the most found a place at SCC!

Student success is what we are all about, and I would like to “introduce” you to two of our successful graduates...

This fall, while in New York City for a board meeting, I met Paula Pellicone, Staley. Paula, a graduate of Lyman High School and SCC, is one of the lead writers at “Saturday Night Live.” Over coffee, Paula named specific faculty members who had made a difference in her life. When she mentioned Sara Daspin, Paula’s speech and theater professor, I noticed a tear in her eye because, you see, we lost Sara not too long ago. Paula and her career are certainly part of the rich legacy that Sara left behind at SCC. Yes, our SCC faculty continue to make a lasting difference by instilling confidence to achieve things – like being one of the first female “SNL” writers!

After breakfast, Paula escorted me to the set of “SNL” and left me there to watch the comings and goings of some incredibly talented actors. Her only warning was, “Don’t embarrass me. Ben Affleck is due here shortly!” It was an amazing few hours observing how that show comes together each week!

Many of our students succeed despite incredible odds. You’ve heard me speak about Lalita Booth, who was a single mom fighting homelessness and dreaming of a better life when she arrived at SCC to get her A.A. degree. In 2008, as a UCF senior, she became the only student in Florida’s university system to be named a ‘Human Scholar’ Award, Lalita’s story is still being written as she was just accepted into Harvard’s Business School. If you ask her, Lalita will tell you that it all started at SCC and that she needed every service that we had to offer!

While I know that these are uncertain times for all of us, for our students, you represent their best hope. Thank you!

E. Ann McGee

SCC’s first construction management cohort inducted

The Wharton-Smith Center for Construction at SCC held a formal induction ceremony on Oct. 24 for the first cohort of students who will graduate with an Associate in Science degree in construction management.

The 35 students will move through the curriculum together, forming the program’s first graduating class in 2010. “We wanted to get the best and brightest students to recruit into this program,” said Mike Staley, dean of Economic Development and Employer Services at SCC. The introduction of the construction management program – housed at SCC’s Center for Economic Development at Heathrow – began with input from local companies who recognized the College’s service to the construction industry, Staley said. Those businesses then partnered with SCC to develop the curriculum.

The tipping point came, Staley said, when “George Smith and Ron Davoli of Wharton-Smith shared their vision with us and belief in what could be, and invested not just money and time, but their reputation as well.” Wharton-Smith’s contribution, combined with a state match, netted $900,000 toward the fundraising goal of $1.5 million for the program. Donations from partners such as HuntBond Architects, Palmer Electric Company, S.I. Goldman Company, Inc., Balfour Beatty and SCC Trustee Charles “Chick” Smith raised the total seed money by another $500,000. The construction management induction ceremony included the presentation of an “honorary professor” plaque to Smith, a first for SCC.

“This really nice is that now we’re able to give back to the community and to this school,” Smith said, “to help not only us but all the other contractors in the area, and to increase the professionalism of our business.”

Honors student recognized at national competition

Focus and determination are touchstones for Trishelle Copeland-Johnson, 19. The honors student from Apopka dreams of becoming a chemical engineer and studying and developing alternative fuels. With the help of Bright Futures and SCC scholarships, and the guidance of her SCC professors, her dream is coming true.

After a research internship at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory last summer, Copeland-Johnson was selected to present her findings in the prestigious Science and Energy Research Challenge held in November at Oak Ridge. Competing against 17 students from schools such as MIT, Carnegie Mellon University and the University of California, Trishelle won second place and $1,500 in prize money. The focus of her research was making lightweight vehicle components to improve mileage.

The competition’s judges were scientists from all over the country, and included patent holders and those working for national laboratories. Copeland-Johnson represented one of the only community colleges in the competition.

Copeland-Johnson says she is glad she chose SCC for her first two years of college. “I’m in a very comfortable environment for learning,” she says. “SCC is a very good school for people like me who want small classes and a lot of interaction with professors.”

After graduating from SCC, Copeland-Johnson plans to transfer to the University of South Florida to complete her bachelor’s degree. She will then pursue a master’s degree and Ph.D.
Tom Moore recognized as SCC’s Fall 2008 Distinguished Alumni

Tom Moore, president and CEO of Sunniland Corp., was awarded Seminole Community College’s Distinguished Alumni Award during the Fall 2008 Commencement on Dec. 12. He was also the guest speaker at the ceremony.

SCC has been the foundation for higher education for Moore, a 1976 SCC graduate, and his entire family. His wife, Sally, is also a graduate of SCC, and two of their children attended the College. His youngest son, Steve, is a current SCC student.

Under Moore’s leadership, Seminole Corp. has become the 10th largest family-owned business in Central Florida. The roofing and fertilizer company has long supported the College’s nursing students, creating the Ann Wiggins Moore Memorial Nursing Center, the Altamonte Springs Campus’ Ann Wiggins Moore Center for Nursing and Healthcare Professions, and the Ann Wiggins Moore Memorial Endowed Nursing Scholarship, all named for Moore’s mother.

Sunniland and the Moore family are also longtime supporters of the Foundation. They have attended the annual Dream Gala since its inception in 1984, and are active participants in the Foundation’s Dream Cup Challenge golf tournament.

New Presidents’ Club Members

Individual Memberships

- Jane Ashley
- John Hillenmeyer
- Mark Ornstein
- Paul Reecer
- Skip Senkarik
- Karen & Richard Sweat

New Representatives

- Robert Burke
- Mike Cardis
- Colonial Properties Trust
- Kirt Myost
- Insight Financial Credit Union
- Richard Summerton
- Insight Financial Credit Union

Staff Profile: Dorothy Palkovic
Foundation Accounting Specialist

Dorothy Palkovic has been with the SCC Foundation since 2005. Before transitioning into accounting, she spent 17 years as a programmer/analyst in information technology for corporate manufacturing, retailing and brokerage/investment firms.

Palkovic graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Consumer Services Business. She returned to school in 2003, earning a Certificate in Accounting Applications from SCC in May 2005. While at SCC, Palkovic maintained a 4.0 GPA and graduated with honors and distinction. Two weeks after graduating, she became the SCC Foundation’s senior accounting clerk.

Palkovic was promoted to foundation accounting specialist in April 2008. She considers the position the “most rewarding and worthwhile” of her career and says that she “truly saved the best for last.”

Palkovic met her husband, Jim, while both worked for a brokerage firm on New York City’s Wall Street. The couple share a love for animals – particularly cats - and cite the up-close feeding of a 7-month-old Bengal tiger as one of their most memorable recent experiences.

Presidents’ Club Advisory Council Update

Designed to bring together leaders from Seminole County and Central Florida, the Presidents’ Club Advisory Council has been actively working to promote the Presidents’ Club and SCC for the past year.

This fall, the Council has:
- Created an e-newsletter to allow timelier, more frequent communication between the Foundation and Presidents’ Club members.
- Supported the Business Etiquette Dinner, an event that allowed 30 SCC students and eight Presidents’ Club members to interact and improve their etiquette.
- Held a successful event on Nov. 6, which introduced SCC to 11 prospective Presidents’ Club members.
- Created the Membership Pin, a new recognition program for longtime supporters of the Presidents’ Club.

The Presidents’ Club Advisory Council is committed to expanding Presidents’ Club memberships, improving social and networking events, and further developing membership benefits. The Council is open to any interested member of the Presidents’ Club.

Presidents’ Club nearly $1 million in donations

The SCC Foundation paid tribute to nearly $1 million in donations during the annual Presidents’ Club Dinner at the Lake Mary Events Center on Sept. 25.

Since its creation in 2001, the Presidents’ Club – made up of individual donors who contribute a minimum annual unrestricted gift of $1,000 - has raised $950,000 for SCC.

“There’s not a program at SCC that has not been touched by the SCC Foundation,” said Vice President of Institutional Advancement Matthew Hodge, who introduced the theme for the evening, “Access and Excellence.”

During the dinner, the Foundation presented Darden Restaurants with a Corporate Champion Award for its ongoing support of the Foundation and SCC. The Foundation also recognized Maurizio Mass for his service and leadership to the Presidents’ Club and the Presidents’ Club Advisory Council.
Blue & Gold Circle campaign exceeds goal

Thanks to overwhelming support from faculty and staff, the SCC Foundation’s annual Blue & Gold Circle campaign exceeded its $65,000 goal, in spite of the struggling economy.

The campaign, which drew to a close Oct. 31, brought in $67,635 in payroll deductions and one-time gifts.

Overall, 3.28 percent of SCC employees contributed to the campaign, benefiting the College’s programs, scholarships and areas of greatest need. Although the employee participation rate declined slightly this year, the average amount of individual gifts increased nearly 12 percent.

Other campaign highlights include a 42 percent increase in giving at the $60 Mentor Level and a 27 percent increase in giving at the $150 Scholar Level.

Matthew Hodge, the College’s Vice President of Institutional Advancement, says the Blue & Gold Circle’s success speaks volumes about employees’ commitment to the College.

“The Blue & Gold Circle campaign sends an amazing message to our community,” Hodge said. “The amount of money raised and the level of participation shows that SCC faculty and staff believe in the mission of Seminole Community College and are willing to contribute to its success with gifts of their time, talent and treasure.”

The Blue & Gold Circle campaign’s success is largely attributable to the work of 17 faculty and staff volunteers. The Blue & Gold Circle volunteer team - led by co-chairs Dan Gilmartin and Linda Cowels - worked tirelessly to educate SCC employees about the Blue & Gold Circle and the benefits of contributing.

In addition to Gilmartin and Cowels, the Blue & Gold Circle volunteer team consisted of: George Bernard, Laura Carlin, Matthew Christo, Crystal Clark, Doreen Collins-McHugh, Mark Davis, Laura Dickinson, Lucia Dzikowski, Nikki Hall, Dorothy Lange, Liz Lawson, Mark Morgan, Rita Nuesca, Beverly Smith and Jay Spalding.

SCC honors county’s Rotary Clubs

Seminole County’s Rotary Clubs, longtime College supporters, have contributed more than $130,000 in endowed scholarships to SCC.

On Oct. 13, the Foundation held an appreciation breakfast honoring the clubs and celebrating their partnership with SCC. The event was attended by representatives from every Rotary Club in the county.

“Both of us have missions to make a difference in people’s lives through collaborations locally and around the world,” said Dr. Carol Hawkins, Vice President of Educational Programs at SCC and a past president of the Seminole County South Rotary Club.

In addition to Rotary-funded scholarships, the Rotary-SCC partnership has resulted in:

- Three separate Rotary Group Study days at the College in the past five years: a delegation from Brazil, one from Russia and one from the Philippines. The exchange days give the GSE Team an opportunity to learn about community colleges and meet faculty and students; SCC students have an opportunity to learn about the language, customs, culture and institutions of the delegation’s country.
- A seven-week trip to India for Humanities Professor Maribel Irizarry: Irizarry was one of five young professionals selected to participate in the Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange in early January. The group explored India’s culture and institutions, observed how their vocations are practiced abroad, developed professional relationships and exchanged ideas.

University Club Foundation scholarship

SCC students (from left) Lisa Bottinelli, Matthew Palmeira, Melissa Lee and Dushray Acampey were each awarded a $2,500 scholarship by the University Club Foundation. The recipients were chosen based on financial need and academic merit.

25th Annual Dream Gala

Featuring a live auction, raffle and entertainment by renowned comedy satire group The Second City

Saturday, February 21, 2009 • 5:30 p.m.
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary Conference Center
1981 International Parkway • Lake Mary, FL 32746

For more information:
www.scc-fl.edu/dreamgala • 407.708.2410

CFADA donates $25,000 for scholarships

The Central Florida Auto Dealers Association, Inc. (CFADA) continued its support of Seminole Community College with $25,000 in scholarship donations.

CFADA was chosen for this year’s CFADA President’s Award, which will fund $10,000 in scholarships for first-generation college students. First-generation scholarships are the only type to receive state matching dollars this year.

Longtime SCC supporter Mike Collier, the CFADA president, selected SCC for this award. For the 12th consecutive year, the CFADA also donated $15,000 for automotive student scholarships. The awards were announced during the CFADA-sponsored Central Florida International Auto Show, which ran Nov. 26-30 at the Orange County Convention Center.

Mike Collier (left), president of the CFADA, presents a $10,000 check to SCC President Dr. E. Ann McGee during the SCC Foundation’s Presidents’ Club Breakfast on Dec. 3.
Grants Update

SCC has received the following grants since July 1:

- National Science Foundation: $279,992, Tri-Regional Information Technology (TRI-LT) Program
- National Science Foundation: $150,000, Mathematics
- Florida Department of Education: $566,704, Perkins Postsecondary
- Florida Department of Education: $64,491, Adults with Disabilities
- Florida Department of Education: $52,170, Perkins Consoritum
- Florida Department of Education: $45,122, College Reach Out Program (CROP)
- Florida Department of Education: $115,089, Farmer’s Workforce’s Jobs and Education Program
- Florida Department of Education: $74,509, English Literacy and Civics Education
- Florida Department of Education: $133,687, Adult Education/Corrections
- Florida Department of Education: $315,789, Adult General Education
- U.S. Department of Labor: $2 million, Nursing and Healthcare
- National Science Foundation: $279,992, English Literacy and Civics Education
- Florida Department of Education: $64,091, Adult with Disabilities
- Florida Department of Education: $566,704, Perkins Postsecondary
- Florida Department of Education: $52,170, Perkins Consoritum
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- Florida Department of Education: $315,789, Adult General Education
- U.S. Department of Labor: $2 million, Nursing and Healthcare

Foundation News & Notes

- Seth and Marie Bernstein welcomed daughter London over the Thanksgiving holiday. Congratulations!
- Randy Berridge, President of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, has been appointed to the Workforce Florida Board of Directors by Governor Charlie Crist. He was also recognized for the second straight year by TechJournal South Magazine as one of the 25 most influential people in the Southeast technology community.
- Meg Crofton, of Walt Disney World, was appointed Vice Chair of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission Board of Directors for 2008-09.
- Patty DeYoung, of Darden Restaurants Foundation, received the Arts Education 2008 Leadership Award from the Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education.
- Presidents’ Club member Miranda Fitzgerald, of Lowndes, Druskick, Doster, Kantor & Reel, was named one of Florida Trend’s Legal Elite.
- John Hillemeier, of Orlando Health, was appointed Board Chair of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission for 2008-09.
- Presidents’ Club member Carole Hingtgen was recently promoted to Director of Marketing of TIC Engineering for Architecture.
- Workforce Florida Inc. appointed Marrieke Mass, of HuntonBrady Architects, to the Industry Advisory Council for the statewide Employ Florida Banner Center for Digital Media at SCC’s Center for Economic Development at Heathrow.
- SCC President Dr. E. Ann McGee has been appointed to the Florida College System Task Force by the Commissioner of Education.
- Presidents’ Club member Sheryl Meatin was named the 2008 Harriet Gusburg Woman of the Year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.
- Joseph A. Melbourne, Jr., of Deloitte & Touche, received the Arts Education 2008 Leadership Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09.
- Presidents’ Club and Foundation Board of Directors member, has been appointed to the State & Local Government Expert Panel for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for 2008-09.
- Presidents’ Club and Advisory Council member Paul Parryka, of NAJ Realvent, Orlando, has joined the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center Board of Directors.
- Consensus Communications’ Roy Reid received the Frank R. Standyberry Ethics Award from the Public Relations Society of America’s Orlando chapter.
- Dale Schaffner, a member of the SCC District Board of Trustees, received the Woman of the Year Award from the Boys & Girls Club. She was also named Seminole County Public School Board Chair.
- Presidents’ Club member Richard Simonston, Sr. was promoted to President and CEO of Insight Financial Credit Union. Presidents’ Club member Kirby Moore, also of Insight Financial Credit Union, was promoted to Chief Communications Officer.
- Helen Von Dobeneck Fournier, of Asia Law Firm and Asia Financial Advisors, received a 2008 Summit Award at the Central Florida Women’s Resource Center’s 24th annual Salute to Women event.

Dr. Kay Delk receives Foundation Chairman’s Award

The SCC Foundation Board of Directors recently presented Dr. Kathryn K. Delk with the 2008 Chairman’s Award for her ongoing contributions to the College and the Foundation.

Delk, a computer programming professor and former Foundation board member, has been a member of the Seminole Community College faculty for nearly 30 years and served as the Faculty Senate representative to the SCC Foundation Board of Directors from 2003-2008. She is a founding member of the Foundation’s Presidents’ Club and sits on the Presidents’ Club Advisory Council.

Delk also spent several years on the Foundation’s Constituent Giving/Leadership Giving Committee. She is heavily involved with the Foundation’s annual Dream Gala and served on the planning committee for the first SCC Women’s Golf Day.

“Kay has served SCC and the Foundation with tireless enthusiasm over the years,” Foundation Board of Directors Chair Barbara Miller said. “Since her term on our board recently ended, we thought it was a perfect time to recognize her for everything she has done.”

Delk was selected for the Chairman’s Award by Miller and Vice Chair David Moxon.