

Honoring Those Who Inspire

Two dynamic SMU alumni are recruiting young professionals to participate in the Young Leaders in Education Council, a new group advising the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.



Nima Baha '02, '05 (left) and Erik Nikravan '06 co-chair the new Young Leaders in Education Council.

Co-Chairs Nima Baha '02, '05 and Erik Nikravan '06 met at the University while Baha attended Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering and Nikravan was a student at Dedman School of Law. Fueled by their mutual passion for education, in 2003 they formed Scholastic Success, a company dedicated to the mentoring and instruction of struggling students.

Now Baha is CEO of the company, which is based in Dallas, and Nikravan assists in developing new markets for their business. Nikravan also works for a private equity firm in New York.

As Council leaders, their mission is to organize young alumni and community members to meet and discuss educational issues and intellectually contribute to school initiatives. The first event was April 13, when the group gathered to meet David J. Chard, the school's Leon Simmons Endowed Dean.

For more information, contact Patricia Addington, Director of Development, paddington@smu.edu.

Donors Contribute to New Hall



Jerry and Gigi Poglitsch '69, '72 from Dallas, Texas recently named a seminar room in the new Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall. They stand in front of the building construction with Patti Addington (middle), development officer for the school. The hall will house classrooms and seminar rooms, an exercise physiology lab and offices for the dean, faculty and staff.



To make a gift to the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, please call Patricia Addington, Director of Development, at 214-768-4844 or email simmons@smu.edu.

potential

Unlocking Human Possibilities



Bush Institute Spotlights Education

Education research and reform took a leap this spring with the arrival of the George W. Bush Institute at SMU. Partnering with the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, the Bush Institute sponsored its first conferences to examine issues important to the former President and First Lady, including education leadership and the education of women and girls in Afghanistan.

In welcoming audiences and participants to the conferences held on campus, George W. Bush explained the Institute's mission to conduct independent research and then to transform the results into action. The Institute, which will be part of the Bush Presidential Center, will focus on education policy, economic growth, global health and human freedom.

During the first conference March 3, Bush discussed his passion for education reform, which took shape as policy when he served as Texas governor and evolved into the No Child Left Behind Act early in his presidency.

Joining him was James B. Hunt, Jr., former governor of North Carolina, who gave the keynote address on education leadership. Hunt chairs the board of the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of North Carolina. Effective principals are the key to attracting the best teachers to low performing schools, he said. "When surveyed by the Hunt Institute, teachers said, "We will go and teach under good principals and we'll stay there."

David J. Chard, the Leon Simmons Endowed Dean of the Simmons School, opened a discussion with Hunt and the Institute's two Fellows in Education Policy, James Guthrie and Sandy Kress. Guthrie holds a concurrent appointment with the Institute and SMU, serving as a senior fellow with the Bush Institute and as Professor of Education Policy and Leadership in the Simmons School. Kress is an attorney specializing in public law and policy. They identified steps for creating better school leaders, including: widen the talent pool, replace current professional preparation,

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First Lady Laura Welch Bush '68 (right) and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova welcome 300 participants to "Educating and Empowering the Women and Girls of Afghanistan," a Bush Institute conference held on March 19, co-sponsored by the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council and the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.



Sakena Yacoobi, founder and director of Afghan Institute of Learning (right), discusses women's literacy in her country. Also pictured is panelist Connie Duckworth, founder and CEO of ARZU, Inc.



Pictured from left, Dean David J. Chard moderates a panel with former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., and Bush Institute Fellows James Guthrie and Sandy Kress.



Education leadership topped the agenda of the first Bush Institute symposium March 3. The conference was co-sponsored by the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.



Husn Ghazanfar, Minister of Women's Affairs in Afghanistan, attends the Bush Institute conference on educating Afghan women and girls.

News, research and people from SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development

Upcoming Events
The Transformation of the City...through the Arts and Technology
Hosted by SMU's Master of Liberal Studies program
Annual Conference
Liberal Studies Program 2010
October 7-9, 2010
The Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, TX
For more information, contact the MLS program, mls@smu.edu

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David J. Chard
Leon Simmons
Endowed Dean

On the Road to Reform

In this issue, we highlight two recent events that are important to the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. We've formed a partnership with the newly launched George W. Bush Institute, the research and policy arm of the Bush Presidential Center. Consequently, we're working with the Institute's Senior Fellow in Education Policy, James Guthrie, who also serves as Professor of Education Policy and Leadership on our faculty.

Dr. Guthrie is a highly regarded scholar known for his research in education reform, an area critical to the improvement of our nation's schools. We look forward to a strong collaboration with him and other fellows who'll join the Institute.

Also, as noted in our cover article, we co-sponsored two of the Institute's inaugural conferences at SMU: one on education leadership and the other on educating women and children in Afghanistan. These opportunities are aligned with the objective of our school to identify challenging questions in our field and to study them and provide answers.

Another step we're taking is to shine a light on education reform. To do this, we created the Simmons Luminary Award, an annual award to recognize individuals and groups who have the courage to push for education improvement for all learners. This fall we honored Margaret Spellings, the former U.S. Secretary of Education; Geraldine "Tincy" Miller '56, a member of the Texas State Board of Education; and Terry Flowers, headmaster of the St. Philip's School in Dallas.

These individuals have challenged the status quo with ideas that may create discomfort or disagreement, but that's what it takes to generate change. I'm proud our three honorees lead by example and shine as models of leadership our school holds high.

So we invite you to learn more about our work and ask you to keep in touch with us by becoming a fan of SMU Simmons on Facebook, or by visiting our website, smu.edu/Education. We are eager to include you in new things to come.

The Simmons Luminary Award



Former U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings (left) joins Annette Caldwell Simmons '57, Geraldine "Tincy" Miller '56 and Terry Flowers at the Simmons Luminary Award dinner last fall. The Simmons Luminary Award honors individuals or organizations showing extraordinary commitment to improving people's lives through education. Spellings, Miller and Flowers are the first recipients of the award.



Margaret Spellings

Margaret Spellings, former U.S. Secretary of Education, implemented the No Child Left Behind Act. Because of her, setting high standards and measureable goals for learning are part of determining education outcomes. She continues to push for strong accountability methods to close the achievement gap.



Geraldine "Tincy" Miller '56

Geraldine "Tincy" Miller '56 is a statewide advocate for students with reading disorders. As an elected member of the Texas State Board of Education and also as a reading and academic language therapist, she champions the use of scientifically based instructional practices for students with a range of reading difficulties.



Terry Flowers

Terry Flowers is the executive director and headmaster of the St. Philip's School and Community Center in southern Dallas, where he instills the values of learning and self-empowerment to all students. His strategies are so effective that nearly all of his elementary school students graduate from high school. In addition, 88 percent of them go on to higher education.

To learn more about the Simmons Luminary Award, visit smu.edu/Education.

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equip principals with data to impact student outcomes, and give them full authority to make changes.

Guthrie will work with Simmons faculty to evaluate how a changed leadership model impacts schools. "There are a number of extraordinary leaders in American education, but not enough of them to propel the system further," he said.

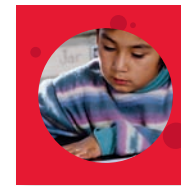
The March 19 conference on educating women and girls in Afghanistan was part of the Institute's Women's Initiative, chaired by Laura Welch Bush '68. She invited the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council,

which she helped create after Sept. 11, 2001 to co-sponsor the discussion with the Institute and the Simmons School. "We know that today more than ever, Afghanistan's future depends on literate, educated women and men," she said. Afghanistan has the lowest literacy rate in the world.

World leaders including Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General; Said Jawad, Afghan Ambassador to the U.S.; and Melanne Verbeke, co-chair of the US-Afghan Women's Council and Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, noted progress in Afghanistan, but agreed that education for women and children remains a huge challenge.

Panelists discussed advancements in private and public partnerships, exchange programs, literacy centers, as well as ongoing tough conditions. "The first important thing is we need security," said Sakena Yacoobi, founder and director of the Afghan Institute of Learning. "To overcome 33 years of war and problems is not easy; it takes time, be patient with us. Don't feel sorry for us, but be with us."

The Bush Institute concluded its initial programming with conferences on natural gas and on cyber-dissidents.



Alumni Celebrate Bilingual Education's 30th Year

SMU's bilingual education programs have made a powerful impact during the past three decades. The proof can be seen throughout North Texas and beyond, with hundreds of the programs' alumni playing important roles in the lives of children and their families.

An enthusiastic group of those graduates are planning a major celebration this fall to mark the 30th anniversary of the Master of Bilingual Education and bilingual certification in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

"The number of past students who are currently bilingual program directors at the district level or school principals and department heads are all evidence of the level of commitment and dedication resulting from true leadership training offered at SMU for the past 30 years," says Viviana Hall '01, a program graduate who is a bilingual curriculum specialist at a Dallas technology company.

The program also has inspired many Hispanic, African American and Asian students to go on and earn their doctoral degrees so they can serve the country's increasingly diverse schools, Hall says.

The anniversary event, scheduled for Oct. 10, will include as many of the 700 program graduates as possible. Hall notes that graduates of what they call "Dr. Pulte's program" have remained professional colleagues.

"Dr. Pulte" is William Pulte, associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Pulte has coordinated the bilingual teacher



William Pulte, associate professor, directs SMU's Master of Bilingual Education and bilingual certification, programs that have shaped teachers and administrators for 30 years.

certification program since 1975 and has been director of nine teacher training projects in bilingual education funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Pulte believes the programs do more than teach theory, pedagogy and linguistics. "It's not just classroom instruction, but also providing teachers information about the Latino culture and history of the Latino," he says.

Rene Martinez '69, an administrator in the Dallas Independent School District, credits Pulte with producing a program that has had a lasting effect in the community. Martinez has taught a Community and Culture class for the program. "Bill Pulte has really been a front runner in the field of bilingual education, especially in obtaining federal funding for teacher training," Martinez says. "The program has had a tremendous impact and filled a void."

For more reunion information, contact Viviana Hall '01 at vivianah@smu.edu. To learn about the programs, visit smu.edu/BilingualEd.

A Writer's Triumph

Shilpi Somaya Gowda, a 2007 graduate of the SMU Continuing and Professional Education Creative Writing Program, broke through the publishing world this spring with her first novel, *Secret Daughter*. Published by Harper Collins, the novel depicts two families - one in the slums of India and the other in privileged Northern California - who are linked by an adopted child. Gowda delves into themes of culture, identity and family.

Reviews are excellent, ranging from the Associated Press calling her prose "achingly touching" to Texas Monthly noting that the book's "gentle rhythms seduce and win the reader over to this moving look at two faces of motherhood, oceans apart."



Secret Daughter is the first novel by Shilpi Somaya Gowda (right), a graduate of the school's Creative Writing Program. Her book was released this spring.

Gowda, who lives in Dallas, says her training and contacts through the Creative Writing Program helped her get published. The program is part of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Development.

For more information about the Creative Writing Program, visit smu.edu/Creative Writing.

Making A Mark On History



Teacher Andrea Norris Kline '08 (left) and Christa DeLuzio, associate professor of history in Dedman College, stand by the new historical marker for which they provided research. The marker, outside of the Old Red Courthouse in Dallas, commemorates the right for women to serve on juries.

Andrea Norris Kline '08 brings her enthusiasm for history to her eighth-grade Elise Robertson Middle School students in Lancaster, Texas dressing as a pioneer woman for her unit on westward expansion and wearing a three-pointed hat during discussions about Colonial times.

She also draws on her SMU experiences to make history come alive for her students. "SMU opened opportunities for me to share with the kids," she says.

Kline studied education at the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development and majored in history.

Last fall Kline and Crista DeLuzio, associate professor of history, were honored at the unveiling of a historical marker at the Old Red Courthouse in downtown Dallas. Kline's research under DeLuzio led to the establishment of the marker commemorating Texas women's fight for the right to serve on juries.

Although the 19th amendment gave women in 1920 the right to vote, it left to each state the decision to grant a woman's right to jury service. Texas women gained the right to jury service in 1954, 34 years after receiving the right to vote. Kline's students gave her their approval when she told them about her role in the historical marker dedication - a standing ovation.

A History Department scholarship enabled her to spend a summer in England at SMU-in-Oxford. "A lot of my students have never been past Lancaster," she says. "When we talk about the English colonies, I show them my photos of Buckingham Palace, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. I like to give them something personal so they know they can go and see the world, too."

Just in her second year of teaching, Kline is head of the history department at the Lancaster school for 1,400 sixth-through-eighth graders.

"My education courses and hours of classroom observation gave me the preparation and confidence I needed," she says.