

Honoring Those Who Inspire

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall could be dedicated this fall. The Simmons School wishes to thank everyone who has contributed, especially the families pictured here who from the beginning gave us the momentum to build.



PAT NOEL (LEFT) AND WILL NOEL AND FAMILY HONORING VIRGINIA G. NOEL



DENNY AND B.R. HOLMAN, ANNE AND RICK HERRSCHER HONORING COACH BOB AND LORENE PREWITT (PICTURED IN FRONT).



FRED AND JILL LEACH HONORING SALLY ADAMS LEACH (CENTER)



R. GERALD TURNER HONORING GAIL TURNER (LEFT)



DAN STULTZ AND SARA STULTZ AND FAMILY HONORING ALICE STULTZ (CENTER)



CATHY AND BOB ZOLLARS (RIGHT) AND FAMILY HONORING WILLIAM MORAN

Thank You!

potential

Unlocking Human Possibilities



The Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall brightens the night before its dedication, September 24. For more on the event, see page 3.

Photo by Ian Aberle



Simmons Expands Education Policy and Leadership Programs

Uzma Kahn is among the first graduates of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development to earn its new Master of Education in Educational Leadership. "The program took us through what an administrator faces, step by step," says the new principal of a private religious school in Richardson, Texas. "The learning experience was immense."

The degree was launched by the Simmons School's Department of Education Policy and Leadership in 2009 to develop aspiring principals' analytical skills and help them lead transformative change in preK-12 schools. The Master's program, which can be completed in one year, includes management courses designed in collaboration with SMU's Cox School of Business. The focus of the program is designing and evaluating instruction in the classroom, while helping teachers achieve success with students.

"Everything our candidates learn is current and evidence-based and then immediately applied," says Lee Alvoid, department chair. "Our internship is simultaneous with coursework. We took great deliberation in how we laid out courses so that we could model the different tasks principals have to do during the school year."

Robyn Callahan, an assistant principal in Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District, earned her Master's in August. She says the immediate application of what she learned gave her an advantage in the workplace. "Everything I was doing for class was based on data of my current elementary school," she says.



The Simmons School is creating a degree specialty in urban school leadership by collaborating with the Teaching Trust, a nonprofit education organization. The Teaching Trust's Tracie Brown (right), Chris Bhatti and Ellen Wood meet Terry Flowers (left), headmaster of St. Philip's School in Dallas.

The Simmons School also is developing a Master's program specializing in urban school leadership, which presents unique challenges for principals. "There are no simple answers to the complex problems facing urban schools," says David Chard, dean of the Simmons School. "Often, these schools are in poor neighborhoods, lacking basic resources such as transportation, health care and safety. We know that a 'one size fits all' preparation program for school leaders isn't enough."

To create the specialized degree program, the School has partnered with the Teaching Trust, an education nonprofit organization formed by Rosemary Perlmeter, founder of Uplift Education charter schools in North Texas, and Ellen Wood, a financial and social

investments consultant. The partnership has resulted in a new Education Entrepreneur Center, housed in the School.

Perlmeter, who has a track record of building successful urban schools, brings a business perspective to the partnership. She and Lee Alvoid believe it's important for principals to acquire an entrepreneurial mindset. "Administrators of urban schools have to practice a lot of strategies used to turn corporations around," Alvoid says. "We'll be balancing the educational perspective with the business perspective."

The urban program, which launches in summer 2011, has a commitment from the Dallas Independent School District and the Uplift Charter Network to provide mentors – high-performing principals who will be trained to coach candidates during a yearlong residency within the schools.

Tracie Brown, a former DISD principal, is the Education Entrepreneurial Center's Director of Leadership Programs. "We want to home in on issues specific to the needs of communities in inner cities," says Brown, who also will teach in the program. "It is not unusual for urban schools to have higher attrition rates. We feel that if we equip the leaders going into these schools, they will stay longer because they will feel more prepared."

For more information about the Department of Education Policy and Leadership, visit smu.edu/Edleadership.

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For more information, contact
January 27, 2011
Simmons Luminary Awards

Join us in honoring organizations and
individuals who show extraordinary
commitment to improve people's lives
through education.

Upcoming
LUMINARY AWARDS
Events

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

Potential is published by the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development for alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff of the school. Letters and comments are welcomed. Send to: potential@smu.edu
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David J. Chard
Leon Simmons
Endowed Dean

Training in the 21st Century

Gone are the days of the one-room school-house, where one teacher would instruct children of all ages in unison. Today's classrooms are part of complex schools and school systems created to handle a large number of students while employing few adults to teach and provide supervision. What we have today was designed for efficiency over a century ago. Back then, schools were expected to develop good citizens and provide a safe place for children to stay while their parents were working in industry.

Though we haven't changed many things about our schools, we expect and need much more from them now. Society keeps changing with advancements in technology and we expect students to compete globally, graduate from college, and be career ready. Unfortunately, the efficiency model developed many years ago is no longer suitable for our schools.

To deliver what the 21st century requires, we acknowledge that schools must address the needs of each student, not just the collective whole. This means that rather than using the "one size fits all" approach we've employed in the past, we must shape teaching to respond to the needs of different kinds of children in different kinds of schools. Similarly, we can't assume there is one way to prepare all education professionals. To be effective, we must address the needs of our communities and that means fine tuning what we do to prepare the professionals our schools need.

For us in the Simmons School, it's important to be nimble and our small size allows us to move quickly. As you can read in our cover article, we created a Master's in education policy and leadership a year ago, and now we are adding an urban school leadership specialization to the degree. These programs allow us to prepare educators to work in a wider range of schools. We are doing this by collaborating with education institutions in greater Dallas. Consequently, we get great opportunities to hear what area schools need.

Making adjustments on how we prepare educators takes effort. In addition to examining evidence of what works in education, we need to keep our eyes and ears open to the needs of our community so we can equip our students to lead schools that our community's children deserve.



Researcher to Direct New Applied Physiology Lab

The new 3000-square-foot Applied Physiology Laboratory on the first floor of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development is quiet for now, and half-empty, waiting for students who will learn how to use it for research.

But by this spring when Scott Davis, assistant professor of applied physiology and the lab's director, gets it up and running, the space will be humming with activity. Davis, who joined the faculty of the Applied Physiology and Wellness Department in August, expects the lab's research component to be fully functional so that research and teaching can begin in January. The space includes three distinct lab areas connected though technology to give students hands-on experience with research.



Scott Davis (left), director of the new Applied Physiology Lab in Simmons Hall, brings his expertise in multiple sclerosis to SMU and will offer students opportunities to do research. Kristine Eikrem Engeset (right), an applied physiology major, runs on a tread mill in the lab to measure her oxygen and determine her aerobic fitness.



Davis completed a postdoctoral fellowship in integrative physiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, where he still maintains a laboratory in the Department of Neurology. There, he researches the workings of the autonomic nervous system—the part of the nervous system that controls the body's responses to environmental stimuli like heat, cold and stress. Much of Davis' research focuses on the problems multiple sclerosis patients have with autonomic functions, such as extremes in temperature, which profoundly affect them. Davis plans to invite his patients to participate in studies at the Simmons Hall lab.

The lab will feature a chamber that controls environmental factors such as temperature and humidity. It also will include a biochemistry lab for analyzing biological samples, as well as a DEXA, a device that measures body composition and bone density. Force plates, which measure the force athletes place on the ground when running and jumping, also will be built into the floor in one corner of the lab.

Davis looks forward to having both undergraduate and graduate students working with him. Sixty students currently are majors in the applied physiology and sport management program and 100 are enrolled in department courses.

"The opportunity at SMU got me into more of what I would consider a traditional university setting where I could do teaching, research and have access to students. I think it's a nice combination to be around students who want to learn and have them be part of the research," Davis says. Both he and Associate Professor Peter Weyand, an expert in human locomotion, will teach in the lab.

With his work on multiple sclerosis, Davis is bringing a new field of research to SMU. "The

students get access to some of the cutting-edge research that's going on and use some of the techniques that we talk about in class," Davis says.

Peter Gifford, department chair and associate professor of applied physiology and wellness, notes that up to 20 percent of students applying to institutions of higher learning, list the health industry as their career goal. "The applied physiology and sport management program at SMU attracts students wanting to advance careers in the health field," he says. "Having a researcher like Scott Davis is instrumental in achieving that goal." Gifford believes that through teaching, research and a state-of-the-art lab, the program will achieve national recognition.

To learn more about the applied physiology and sport management program, visit smu.edu/APSM.

Celebrating Our New Home

Dedicated on September 24, the Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall is a light-filled building drawing together programs that were once spread across the Dallas and Plano campuses in 11 different locations.

For the first time, the Departments of Teaching and Learning, Applied Physiology and Wellness, and Education Policy and Leadership, as well as the Master of Liberal Studies program, are assembled under one roof.

Hundreds of guests, including students, faculty and staff, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. A landmark \$20 million gift from Harold C. and Annette Caldwell Simmons '57 in 2007 provided an endowment for the school and its new headquarters.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the dedication of the Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall. Pictured from left are Kathy Hargrove, associate dean for academic affairs; R. Gerald Turner, SMU president; Annette Caldwell Simmons '57; Harold C. Simmons; Patricia Mathes, TI Endowed Chair of Evidence-Based Education; and David Chard, Leon Simmons Endowed Dean.



Karen Vickery, director of Learning Therapy (center), demonstrates a classroom video connection between Simmons Hall and SMU-in-Plano.



The Hillcrest High School Marching Band from the Dallas Independent School District adds a high note to the festivities.

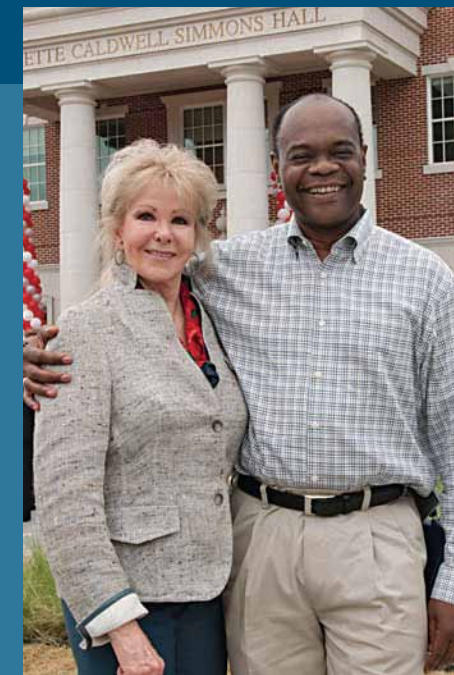


Continuing Adult and Professional Education staff prepares materials for the Simmons open house. Pictured from left are Elaine Bartlett, Suzanne Frank, Barbara Youngkin and Lindsey Lieberman.



Nancy Vincent Montgomery, a Simmons School lecturer, and her family pose for a photo in front of a seminar room they dedicated.

Annette Caldwell Simmons Links Past to Future



Annette Caldwell Simmons '57 and her former first grade student, Nishon Evans.

Nishon Evans was in the first grade when he met Annette Caldwell Simmons '57. She was his teacher at Clark Air Base in the Philippines in 1958, but little did he know he would see her again decades later at SMU. Evans was Simmons' special guest at the September dedication of the new hall carrying her name.

In a touching gesture of what teaching means to her, Simmons tracked down her former student through the internet and invited him to be with her for the campus event. Evans is a certified public accountant in Fairfax, Virginia, and serves on the board of directors of the Virginia Society of CPAs.

"It was a pleasant surprise and shock that she found me," he says. "I was very moved and honored that she wanted me to be a part of the dedication of Simmons Hall. She wanted to pay tribute to her early days of teaching and remembered my name."

Evans, in fact, attributes his career choice to the guidance he received from Simmons to master arithmetic -- proving that the power of a good teacher can never be underestimated.