

potential

Unlocking Human Possibilities

Breaking New Ground

Moments of celebration warmed the brisk day when SMU broke ground December 5 on the building that will house the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.



With a turn of the shovel, ground is set for the new Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall. Pictured from left are Dean David J. Chard, Ph.D candidate Beverly Weiser, Harold Simmons, Annette Caldwell Simmons '57, President R. Gerald Turner and Board of Trustees Chair Carl Sewell '66.

Students from Maple Lawn Elementary School sang as part of the festivities and in honor of Mrs. Simmons, who taught at the Dallas school after graduating from SMU in 1957. The children presented her with roses to symbolize the rose garden that will enhance the new Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall. A \$20 million gift from Mrs. Simmons and her husband, Harold, endowed the Simmons School and provided the lead gift for the building to house the school.

The hall, positioned prominently on the east side of campus, is designed with gracious touches for students, faculty and visitors. Those features include an atrium and meeting areas on the first and third floors to foster the conversations and collaborations that are vital to a productive academic life.

In addition, the hall will house classrooms, a reading room and research laboratories including a physiology and biomechanics lab

for the new undergraduate major of Applied Physiology and Sports Management.

"Supporting the Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall is a great way to honor teachers," President R. Gerald Turner said, encouraging those at the groundbreaking to step forward to name every room in the new building in an educator's honor. Turner announced plans to donate \$100,000 to honor a teacher who changed his life — his wife, Gail.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Simmons said, "It just seems like a minute ago we were talking about the building and it was a drawing...In just another minute it will be a building with hundreds of students going in and out. And what a day that will be!"

The Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall is targeted for completion in 2010.



SMU | ANNETTE CALDWELL SIMMONS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



David J. Chard
Leon Simmons
Endowed Dean

Going Beyond Bricks and Mortar

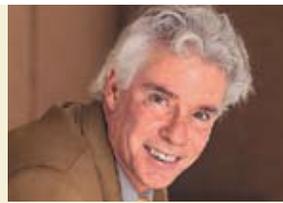
In an ideal world, all children would be above average, knowledge would flow like water from underground springs, and all adults would be well-adjusted and exist peacefully. That's not the world we live in, however. At the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, our mission is to do research to better understand how to solve the problems people experience and to translate that research into practices that help people reach their potential.

We are the newest school at SMU and though many of you may not know it, you graduated with certifications and degrees that are now offered through our school. We prepare students in teaching, counseling, dispute resolution, applied physiology and sports management, and educational leadership. Our nationally recognized faculty conduct significant research in wide areas of human development. Their work allows us to reach out to our communities and help address crucial needs. We actively share new knowledge with schools and communities in Dallas, North Texas and sites throughout the country.

Building a new school that can make the kinds of contributions I've described above is costly. Fortunately, Harold and Annette Simmons '57 share our interest in helping people develop and communities grow. With their support, we have been able to hire faculty members, support graduate students, and begin planning for a new Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall. Through this initial newsletter and subsequent ones, we look forward to sharing our work with our alumni and friends.



Influential Researcher Directs Educational Leadership Program



As the former chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the National Institutes of Health, Distinguished Professor G. Reid Lyon brings vast experience to the Educational Leadership program.



When G. Reid Lyon failed as a third grade teacher 30 years ago, he vowed to devote the rest of his career to helping students succeed.

“I saw in the eyes of my students the pain and the fear, and the embarrassment of not learning how to read or do math,” recalls Lyon. the Distinguished Professor of Education Policy and Leadership.

Lyon joined the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development in September to help create the new Master’s degree in Educational Leadership. The program will prepare school leaders to employ pertinent research to help students overcome educational barriers.

During the last three decades, research has identified strategies that help surmount learning problems. Some of that work has been done by the school’s Texas Instruments Foundation Endowed Chair in Reading, Professor Patricia Mathes. Her studies demonstrating effective early interventions for struggling readers are highly regarded in the field, he said.

Lyon served more than 10 years as a research psychologist and Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, part of the National Institutes of Health. While at NIH, he developed, directed and managed research on developmental and cognitive neuroscience, reading development and learning disabilities. The author of several books on those subjects, he also testified before Congress and worked as an advisor to the Bush White House.

“We know a lot about why kids do not learn, and we know a lot about what to do about it. The problem is there is a huge gap between what we know and what we do in schools. And the job of the Educational Leadership program at SMU will be to close that gap.” Lyon said.

The program will help school leaders create the academic environment necessary to put research results into practice—even if that means restructuring the school day for struggling learners, he said.

“It’s not just the quality of instruction, but also the quantity,” he explained, saying that it takes a strong school leader to insist that the necessary time is spent on rectifying learning problems. It will be time well spent, he added.

“If you don’t make it in school you do not make it in life. And that is a fact,” he said.



Dallas Arboretum Teams Up with School on Children’s Garden



Mary Brinegar ‘69, President and CEO of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, is launching a new children’s garden to strengthen science education for young students. The school’s faculty will evaluate all teaching and learning components of the exhibits.

A new partnership between the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society represents a winning opportunity for SMU students and school children throughout North Texas.

The Arboretum plans to begin construction in early 2010 on the new \$43 million, seven acre Rory Meyers Children’s Adventure Garden. The area will be the largest science education garden in the country, filled with concepts that correspond to state and national standards in earth science and life science for kindergarten through sixth grade, says Arboretum President and CEO Mary Brinegar ‘69, who holds an elementary education degree from SMU.

“One of the best days we ever had was when we had an opportunity to talk with Dean David Chard about having a working relationship with SMU. We are very interested in making sure that we have the latest in evaluation techniques and are up to date with the latest ways of teaching,” she said.

The school and its students will rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of the garden’s teaching activities to make sure the lessons are retained, she explained.

Chard put Brinegar in touch with Professor Peter Raad, executive director of SMU’s Guildhall Academy, the graduate program in videogame design. Guildhall students, education students and Arboretum educators will work together to design technology-based activities that will reinforce the outdoor lessons and be located in a new teaching building within the garden, she said.

The Arboretum’s staff of degreed teachers currently presents formal lessons to more than 70,000 students a year. Brinegar hopes the partnership with SMU will help the garden become a national tourist destination like the famous Exploratorium science museum in San Francisco.

The new garden will include water tables to study erosion and deposition, as well as an elevated walkway through the tree canopy so that visitors can see the ecology at treetop level and even experience a simulated cloud walk, like in a rain forest. In addition, the garden will contain a Secret Garden Maze that will require visitors to answer science questions correctly in order to reach the Secret Garden: a spot from which it will be possible to view all five waterfalls in the exhibit. Incorrect answers lead to dead ends, which will make visitors rethink their answers, retrace their steps and relearn the material, she said. The questions and even the path through the maze will change periodically, she said.

“We can make science teaching come alive with the garden, but technology raises all of that to the next level,” she said.

Designs for New Hall Accentuate Learning

Now that ground has broken for the new Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall, architectural floor plans and renderings give shape to the building that in 2010 will accommodate the school's administration, faculty, staff, classrooms, research laboratories and meeting areas.

When visitors walk through the main entrance, they will enter a large atrium designed to serve a variety of functions. One of the highlights of the space is a moveable, expansive glass wall that opens into the pavilion and creates an inviting area for public events and gatherings. The innovative architectural plan makes it an aesthetically pleasing environment in which learning can take place. The first floor also contains an exercise physiology/biomechanics lab, an important facility needed to teach undergraduates enrolled in the School's new major, Applied Physiology and Sports Management.

The focal point for program direction and leadership will be on the second floor, where the dean, the executive staff and several faculty members will have offices. Classrooms are featured on the first and second floors.

The third floor will house the Department of Teaching and Learning, the Institute for Reading Research and the Center for Child and Community Development. Graduate students and faculty will have opportunities to conduct research and exchange ideas in offices and conference rooms, but also find oasis in the quietude of a reading room.



The northwest view of the Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall.



The atrium on the first floor accommodates visitors entering the building.



The third floor reading room houses books and research materials for graduate students and faculty.

Annette Caldwell Simmons Creates Legacy of Service



Annette Caldwell Simmons' parents could not attend college themselves, but they made it a priority for their daughter, sending her to SMU from Tyler, Texas. She graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and taught at Dallas' Maple Lawn Elementary School.

Mrs. Simmons' service to SMU includes being on the board of the Willis M. Tate Distinguished Lecture Series and participating in the Women's Investment Series and Godbey Lecture Series. As a civic leader, she has served on the boards of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Parkland Foundation and provided leadership to numerous other organizations. She has received several awards including the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas' Centennial Award, which recognized her as one of the 100 Dallas women who made lasting civic contributions.

Center for Family Counseling Provides Community Services

For Collin County and other North Texas residents feeling the emotional strains of the sagging economy, personal relationships or everyday life, a new source of affordable help is available at SMU's Center for Family Counseling in Plano.

Operating as part of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, the Center opened last October to meet community needs and to provide training to graduate students. Experienced doctoral-level licensed faculty and staff members direct the Center and supervise the students.



"When our Master of Science Degree in Counseling was approved three years ago, we made a promise to the students, our corporate neighbors, the judiciary and fellow mental health practitioners that we would deliver a state of the art family counseling center that would serve us in all walks of life." said Tony Picchioni, chair of the school's Department of Dispute Resolution and Counseling.

The Center serves Collin County residents of all income levels, charging minimal fees for counseling. In less than a year, 100 clients have been assisted either in individual, family or group sessions. Misty Solt, a licensed professional counselor-supervisor and adjunct professor, directs the clinic.

Expansion into Dallas has a jump start, thanks to a collaboration with the Resource Center of Dallas, a non-profit organization serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. The Center for Family Counseling now places staff and supervised graduate students at the Resource Center to help underserved clients in the Oak Lawn area.

For more information about the Center, visit www.smu.edu/education/counseling/FamilyCounselingCenter

Honoring Those Who Inspire

By building a space to house the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, SMU is renewing and expanding its commitment to provide the best training and research for teachers, counselors and therapists and to create the new knowledge that will advance our understanding of human learning and growth.



Make a gift today in honor of a spouse, parent, family member, friend, mentor.

SMU invites you to make a gift in honor of an educator who has transformed your life and the lives of others. By naming a classroom, lab or other area of the building after an educator today, you can pay tribute to the lasting impact of that individual while you also contribute to the education of the next generation of teachers and important leaders in the field of education.

This special invitation is in the legacy of the historic gift of Harold C. Simmons and Annette Caldwell Simmons '57 that provided the lead commitment for the building, as well as funds to enhance faculty excellence and student quality. The Leon Simmons Endowed Deanship and Faculty Recruitment Fund, named in honor of Harold Simmons' father, endows the dean's position and provides resources for faculty recruitment and innovative research.

The Fairness Simmons Graduate Fellowship Fund, named in honor of Mr. Simmons' mother, establishes a minimum of 10 endowed fellowships for Master's and Ph.D. students.

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 e-mail simmonsgiving@smu.edu.

Upcoming Events

April 14 - May 19
Investments for Individuals
 Informal Courses for Adults
www.smu.edu/education/informal

April 30
7th Grade Gifted Girls Conference
 Hughes-Trigg Center, SMU
www.smu.edu/education/gst

June 8 - August 7
Summer Youth Program
 SMU in Plano
www.smu.edu/education/youth/
summeryouth

June 21 - July 3
Etruscan Art and Archaeology in Italy with Dr. Greg Warden
 Master of Liberal Study Abroad
www.smu.edu/education/youth/liberalstudies/mis

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

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