The Art and Science of Teaching

Through the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, SMU provides exceptional training for teachers, counselors and therapists.

By providing research-based solutions to today’s most pressing issues, the Simmons School has gained both regional and national recognition. The Simmons School is now creating a tradition of honoring family members, teachers and others through the naming of faculty offices at the school.

This special initiative provides donors the opportunity to pay tribute to educators or loved ones who made an impact on people’s lives, while supporting the extraordinary faculty members of the school.

To make a gift to the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, please contact Patricia Addington, director of development, paddington@smu.edu.

Meeting and Greeting in Waxahachie

This spring Sandra H. Wilkinson ’63, ’71 hosted a reception for alumni and friends to meet David Chord, dean of the Simmons School. Wilkinson welcomed guests to her historic home in Waxahachie, Texas. The reception marks the first of several upcoming events designed for individuals to learn more about the Simmons School.

Affiliation with Mediators Beyond Borders Expands Horizons for Dispute Resolution

Simmons’ Center for Dispute and Conflict Management may reach well beyond its borders of the SMU-in-Plano campus next fall.

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When the idea of the two groups joining efforts came up, Gary Robinson, senior lecturer and the center’s director, says he thought it was the perfect fit. “It was a great way we could work together and build something special.”

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Finally, we in Simmons are always seeking easier as they develop the communication Bachelor's in applied physiology and sport For the first time since our school was our spring 2011 semester and graduated human needs: cognitive, linguistic, moral, the best possible preparation in addressing is dedicated to providing our students with The word communication is derived from For counselors, listening, understanding and mediation is to create the well-rounded citizen who can globe. Facilitating communication is paramount to preparing our students for the real world that she hadn’t been prepared to teach. “So many things are relevant to our students that I didn’t learn in my teacher prep program because it wasn’t even in the world then,” she says. Young jumped at the chance to acquire new knowledge by participating this year in the Global Education and Leadership Program for Teachers designed by the Department of Continuing and Professional Education in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. It’s the brain child of D Harrington Orr, superintendent of Highland Park Independent School District. He believes understanding a complex society demands a fresh approach to classroom instruction.

Dancy Young, a veteran Highland Park High School teacher, shies when she talks about preparing the next generation of students. Although confident of her teaching skills, she knows her students need new information about the contemporary world that she wasn’t prepared to teach. “So many things are relevant to our students that I didn’t learn in my teacher prep program because it wasn’t even in the world then,” she says. Young jumped at the chance to acquire new knowledge by participating this year in the Global Education and Leadership Program for Teachers designed by the Department of Continuing and Professional Education in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. It’s the brain child of Darrin Harrington Orr, superintendent of Highland Park Independent School District. He believes understanding a complex society demands a fresh approach to classroom instruction.

Tony Prochow (left), chair of the Department of Dispute Resolution and Counseling in Simmons, recently received the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills Board’s Commissioner’s Award for Distinguished Service. Prochow received the award for his work with mediating conflicts; and human rights and global issues. The program launched in January for ten weeks, training teachers who attended a three hour class once a week at Highland Park High School. Participants included 30 teachers from Highland Park High School, 15 from Coppell Independent School District and five from Dallas Independent School District. By the end of the program, the success and will expand one semester at a time. Since the program began with a focus on grades 9-12, the next semester will incorporate grades 6-8, starting in the fall. Ultimately the curriculum will cover all elementary school grades. La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas, a nonprofit group, and the Highland Park Education Foundation are funding the development of the program.

By all measures, the program is considered a success. Orr says each teacher’s reaction to the program has been positive. “It’s been a great deal of time to go for 10 consecutive weeks, three hours, on a Thursday from four to seven at the end of a workday.” Dancy Young thinks it’s worth it. Referring to her students, she says, “The Global Education and Leadership Program for Teachers has given me another way to explain and lend an authenticity to why I’m asking them to do different things: I think it’s important for them to consider their place in the world.”

For the first time since our school was opened, we awarded degrees to four undergraduate students who received their Bachelor’s in applied physiology and sport management. They received certification in their professional careers. For these graduates, understanding the world will be easier as they develop their professional skills they need to conduct themselves successfully.

This year marks new beginnings. The Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development granted 135 degrees in May. Students received degrees ranging from a Master’s in education, bilingual education, counseling, discipline prevention, literacy arts, and liberal studies to a doctoral in education psychology. Simmons also conferred a Bachelor’s degree in applied physiology and sport management, a new undergraduate program.

A World of Opportunity Opens for Teachers with New Global Education Program

Kathy Hargrove, associate dean for academic affairs, has received the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship to work in India this fall and winter. She’ll be at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), a state university in India, to study establishing its school of education. Her project, “Unpacking India’s Gifts” centers on children and youth with exceptional gifts and talents. She returns to her faculty position after completing the fellowship.

Parent Lisa Boyer is a self-proclaimed cheerleader for the Center for Academic Progress and Success at the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

Dave Williams-Bozzi

Dave Williams-Bozzi will provide professional development to elementary and middle school science teachers, starting this summer for one year. Through a multi-year grant from the Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, she’s providing teachers across Texas the opportunity to update their knowledge in biology, and for them to share the information with others in their schools. Dave Williams-Bozzi, who helped write the middle school Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards for science, is collaborating on this project with Dr. Vipal Patel, the Department of Biology, Dedman College.

Faculty

Putting Research to Work: Helping Students Achieve Success

Kathy Hargrove

Michael Stone

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Finally, we in Simmons are always seeking ways to improve, and we can do that by communicating with you. I invite you to get in touch with us and let us know what may be of interest to you. We’re happy to listen and respond.

Benefits of Good Communication

The three most important aspects to the work of the human service professions are communication, collaboration, and communication. Human service professions help people hear, think, converse, mediate, think, understand, and resolve everyday conflicts. For counselors, listening, understanding and mediation is to create the well-rounded citizen who can globe. Facilitating communication is paramount to preparing our students for the real world that she hadn’t been prepared to teach. “So many things are relevant to our students that I didn’t learn in my teacher prep program because it wasn’t even in the world then,” she says. Young jumped at the chance to acquire new knowledge by participating this year in the Global Education and Leadership Program for Teachers designed by the Department of Continuing and Professional Education in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. It’s the brain child of Darrin Harrington Orr, superintendent of Highland Park Independent School District. He believes understanding a complex society demands a fresh approach to classroom instruction.

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An alliance with MBB takes it to the next level. It allows the skills the students are learning and applies them to real projects, allowing them to facilitate a maker’s summit at SMU, possibly in November, to foster an educational exchange between participants.

As expected, cultural and political challenges arise when working in another country. Anderson sees the strength in how SMU teaches the psychological elements of conflict and healing. The advantage MBB brings, she adds, is training.

“The alliance with MBB takes it to the next level. It takes the skills the students are learning and applies them to real projects, allowing them to facilitate a project or maybe work on a project themselves,” she says. “I think that’s the primary advantage. And it’s a big one.”

Potential
Unlocking Human Possibilities