



# SIMPSON COLLEGE

## IN THE KNOW

### IT'S A WRAP!

Wow! The year has flown by for me. September seems like a long, long time ago. As we come to the end of the year I would first like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and patience with their new dean.

Although summer is to be a time of recuperation, plans are underway to have two volunteer faculty groups working this summer in preparation for our discussion next year about general education and the calendar. I have asked John Pauley to lead a group in exploring models of general education that might be helpful to us next year in our conversation regarding Cornerstone 2.0. The group's membership can be found elsewhere in this issue. I have asked John to bring to the faculty 3-4 models for general education that are of interest and in use elsewhere. It should be noted that the working group is not being asked to create a new Cornerstone program. I have asked them to look at our existing Cornerstone program, look at the information coming from the strategic thinking/planning process and look at what other good institutions do in the area of general or liberal education and bring to the full committee ideas on where we might wish to start our conversation. All decisions on changes to the Cornerstone program and the curriculum will need to be made by the full faculty and through whatever process the faculty believe is appropriate.

A second working group has been formed to look at academic structural issues at Simpson

College and at other good institutions like it. I will lead this group. Our focus will be on yearly calendar, daily schedule, the timing of breaks, and the number of credits required for graduation and majors. This group will also use the information gained in the strategic planning process to seek models that might help us achieve our goals.

As one who for the past 25 years has been used to having a J-term break between semesters, I have been amazed at the stamina of the faculty at Simpson moving from semester to semester with so little time in between. Yet you still find time to share with me articles of interest, suggestions, ideas and general conversation. I look forward to having each of you continue that. Especially for next year, if you have institutions or ideas for academic calendar, etc. that we should look at, please send them to me.

Thanks once again for a great year. I think we have made significant progress on many issues. I look forward to working with you next year.

Thanks also to all division heads, department chairs, directors and committee chairs who have provided leadership this year.

Have a safe, restful and productive summer.

—Steve

## **RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, & CREATIVITY**

Six faculty members have been awarded Research, Scholarship and Creativity Grants for the 2007-2008 academic year. Although it was anticipated that four grants would be awarded, it worked out that enough money was available to fund six. The awarded grants are as follows:

Dr. Pat Singer – “Protocols for Basic Genetics and Molecular Genetics”;

Dr. Jeff Parmelee – Development of an “Online Herpetological Atlas of Iowa”

Dr. Murphy Waggoner – Learning the uses of “Geometer’s Sketchpad”

Dr. Nancy St. Clair – Research funding for her book “We Are Almost All Foreigners Almost Everywhere”

Dr. Jan Everhart –stipend for a research assistant for 3 biblical studies projects regarding teaching difficult biblical texts focusing on feminist and woman-centered readings of the Bible.

Dr. John Benoit – funding for production costs for a 6-8 page funding for production costs for a 6 – 8 page booklet of liner notes and artwork for the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra compact disc project.

The purpose of the RSC grants is to provide faculty with an in-house grant opportunity to help faculty with research, scholarship and creativity projects. The maximum award is \$2,000. This program will be available on a three year trial basis. A call for proposals for the 2008-2009 year will be sent to all faculty next January. Awards were made this year by Dean Griffith after review of the proposals. At the point at which the faculty elects a Faculty Development Committee, that committee will make recommendations to the Dean. For more information about the RSC Grant process, please contact Shelley Priebe at x1879.

## **DIVERSITY/MULTI-CULTURAL COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDED**

Mark Freyberg was awarded a Diversity and Multi-Cultural Course Development Grant to enhance his course Anthropology 290: The Ancients Knew Us: What the Maya and Inca Can Teach Modern Civilization. Mark will be using the funding to help support a study trip this summer to Peru. Awards are made by Dean Griffith upon the recommendation of the Multicultural and Minority Issues Committee. Money is still available for three additional grants for the 2007-2008 academic year. For more information about the Diversity and Multi-Cultural Course Development Grant process, please contact Shelly Priebe at x1879.

## **DIRECTOR OF WOMEN’S STUDIES NAMED**

Jennifer Nostrala, professor of theatre, has been appointed by Dean Griffith to serve as director of the Women’s Studies program at Simpson College. Jennifer has taught in women’s studies for several years and has been actively involved in Women’s History Month. She will also continue to serve as Fine Arts Division Head.

## **ACADEMIC STRUCTURE WORKING GROUP**

The following faculty people have agreed to work this summer investigating options for possible changes in our academic structure and operations (calendar, daily schedule, credits required for graduation, etc.) and bring them to the campus community for discussion in the fall:

Kedron Bardwell, Andrea Biklen, John Bolen, Jackie Brittingham, Maria DiPalma, Cyd Dyer, Mark Freyberg, Mike Hadden, Marilyn Mueller, Justin Nostrala, Walter Pearson, Rick Spellerberg, Sharon Wilkinson, Patti Young, Steve Griffith-Chair.

## **GENERAL EDUCATION/CORNERSTONE WORKING GROUP**

The following people have agreed to work this summer investigating options for general education/Cornerstone for future discussion by the faculty in the fall:

David Camwell, Jan Everhart, Mark Gammon, Mark Juffernbruch, Sal Meyers, Nick Proctor, Tracy Rutledge, Murphy Waggoner, John Pauley-Chair.

Thank you to both groups for volunteering for these working groups.

## **FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN**

It is with great excitement that Iowa Campus Compact and State Farm announce the State Farm Faculty and Teaching Fellowship program. The State Farm Faculty and Teaching Fellowships will allow five teams of a Iowa Campus Compact member institution faculty member and a K-12 teacher to develop service-learning curriculum and receive professional training in service-learning.

Each team will receive \$4,000 over a two-year fellowship period for materials and other expenses involved in bringing service-learning courses to their schools. Fellows will also attend a professional development institute this summer, and regional conferences. In addition, Fellows and their institutions will have access to a Safe Transportation Mini-Grant Fund to offset the cost of taking students to community partner locations and their partner's campus.

Applications are now available from Iowa Campus Compact for the inaugural class of State Farm Faculty and Teaching Fellows. The application form and fact sheet are attached to this e-mail along with a press release concerning the Fellowship program. Completed applications are due to the Iowa Campus Compact office by 5:00 pm on May 18, 2007. Notification of fellow team selections will be made on May 25, 2007. The Professional Development Retreat will be held June 11-12, 2007.

For more information, contact Mackenzie Grondahl via e-mail at [mackenzie.grondahl@iacampuscompact.org](mailto:mackenzie.grondahl@iacampuscompact.org) or via phone at (319)352-8671.

## DIRECTOR OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Sal Meyers, associate professor of psychology has been appointed to a three-year term as Director of Faculty Development at Simpson College beginning August 1, 2007. Dr. Meyers has been involved in faculty development activity at the College for several years. She is a member of the Professional Organizational Development Network and was a member of the Faculty Development Working Group. She is currently serving as chair of the Faculty Development Advisory Committee. As Director of Faculty Development, Dr. Meyers will work with the Faculty Development Advisory Committee to provide support to faculty through the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for Faculty Development. The Faculty Development Working Group recommended that the Director of Faculty Development be created as a release-time, unsalaried position to provide coordination and support for the faculty development program at Simpson College.

## ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dean Griffith has invited division heads, the directors of LAS, Women's Studies, Faculty Development and Cornerstone to meet once per month as the Academic Advisory Council for the 2008-2009 academic year. The purpose of the group will be to provide the dean with advice on academic policy matters. The DAL Director, the Registrar and Director of the Library will also be included in the group. Recommendations for changes will follow the normal faculty committee process where appropriate.

**HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY AND FUN SUMMER!**

## THINKING ABOUT SABBATICAL FOR 2008-2009?

Although the deadline for sabbatical proposals for 2008-2009 is not until next fall, it would be helpful for the Dean's Office to know how many people are intending to apply. If you are thinking about applying for a sabbatical leave for 2008-2009, please send an email to Becky Beaman at [becky.beaman@simpson.edu](mailto:becky.beaman@simpson.edu) at your earliest convenience. Sending us notice does not bind you to applying, nor is it necessary for application but it is helpful as we make budget plans for 2008-2009. Thank you.

## LAST FACULTY MEETING SCHEDULED MONDAY MAY 21

Midst cries of dismay that the school year is over way too fast for all the fun that everyone had, the tenth and final meeting of Simpson College faculty for 2006-08 will culminate with a 9:00 a.m. meeting on Monday, May 21 in Camp Lounge. As usual, there will be refreshments to munch on during our last elections and business.



*PICTURED: SC faculty, in their usual impeccable garb, at the last faculty meeting of the year.*