

New horizon: Simpson will host summer program for high school students

By Jennifer Whitham Johnson

Simpson College is taking on a new gig this summer.

For the first time in its nearly 20-year history, Business Horizons will be held here on campus. Prior to the decision to change its location, Business Horizons, headed up by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI), was held at Drake University in Des Moines.

The program is a weeklong summer convention described as a hands-on, action-oriented program for Iowa high school students to learn more about the business world and what that world may hold for their futures.

Throughout the week, students will live in the dorms and interact with business leaders to learn about the free enterprise system. While working in teams they will create a product and a purpose for it, make a television commercial, design a marketing plan for their product and deliver an investor presentation.

In order to participate in Business Horizons, high school students (9th through 12th grade) must first apply. Between 100 and 150 high school students from across Iowa and into Illinois are selected to attend.

Once accepted, participants pay a \$150 registration fee. A scholarship from the business community will pay for all of the students' meals, their on-campus housing, program materials and activities.

For Simpson, the benefits of bringing Business Horizons to campus are obvious. It's an opportunity to host nearly 150 high school students for a week (and their parents for two days including orientation and graduation), as well as welcome

nearly 30 area business leaders and professionals to campus. Thus it only makes sense that Marilyn Johnson, conference director at Simpson, is looking forward to welcoming Business Horizons 2003, which will run the week of July 20-25.

"We are always excited to get students [on campus]. High school students interested in the leadership, entrepreneurship program are what this really is, so of course we want those students on our campus to

really think a lot of it is the reputation we have for summer programs and conferences."

Beyond the self-evident advantages to hosting this program are some further pluses. Current Simpson students who have completed Business Horizons in the past, will have a chance to work with this year's group.

Additionally, the high school students will take campus tours and will be given the option of taking Business Horizons for college credit. Johnson points out that there is an additional cost to the registration fee for students who opt to receive credit. There is also a bit more work involved as those wishing to receive the two general college credits must complete the Business Horizons program and write a reflective paper on their experience.

Marilyn Mueller, professor of management, who is volunteering to serve on the curriculum committee for the program, is coordinating the credit aspect of this year's Business Horizons. Tom Schmidt, assistant professor of management, is volunteering to assist on the steering committee. Deb Tierney, vice president for enrollment and the admissions staff are also getting involved in the program.

Jeanne Wells, executive director of the ABI Foundation and Kay Neumann-Thomas who assists Wells with Business Horizons, were invited to campus last November to give a presentation on the program to faculty and staff. Thus far, Johnson says she has received only positive feedback from the campus community regarding Simpson's decision to host the program.

"Just having all those business people on campus could have a huge impact on us."

Marilyn Johnson, conference director

get to know our faculty and our admissions staff," says Johnson.

Adding, "But something that's overlooked sometimes are the parents and the business leaders that are involved with the groups. Just having all those business people on our campus could have a huge impact on us."

Johnson says she believes there were a variety of factors working in the college's favor when ABI chose Simpson as this year's host.

"Simpson is a really good location for them. It's a very central location and has that small town atmosphere. It's convenient and it's safe," says Johnson. "Also, I

Continued on page 2

LaGree recently accepts NCAA president's council appointment

President LaGree has been elected as vice chair of the president's council for NCAA Division III.

LaGree was elected during the 2003 NCAA Convention held in Anaheim, Calif., this past January. The new appointment places LaGree on the budget committee for Division III and on the executive committee of the overall NCAA.

As part of his duties, LaGree is chairing a task force that is researching ways the NCAA can monitor itself in terms of financial aid.

"One of the philosophical principles of the NCAA Division III is that no athletic scholarships are to be given," says LaGree. He adds that the task force's research has brought them very close to modifying software that would allow a unified way to look at data. The financial aid data from individual institutions would then be gathered into the same web-based software location, which would immediately analyze the data, providing the necessary information to monitor financial aid.

This project is ongoing but will eventually result in the task force

bringing proposed legislation to the next convention in Nashville, Tenn., next January.

Another issue in which LaGree has become involved, through his recent appointment, is a conversation about the future of Division III. According to LaGree, there is a group of colleges, among them some of the most elite in the country, beginning to question the NCAA. Individuals representing these schools have expressed concern that too much emphasis is

being placed on athletics.

LaGree says that this discussion could result in a separation within each of the divisions or in the concerned institutions choosing to leave the NCAA altogether, the latter of which he adds would be unfortunate.

Despite the unique challenges that this significant placement may bring, LaGree says he is ready to tackle them.

"This is a very important time for the NCAA. I am looking forward to being involved in these important leadership conversations," adds LaGree.

"I'm looking forward to being involved in these important leadership conversations."

President LaGree



Nostrala

A look at life with Justin Nostrala

Title: assistant professor of art

Started at Simpson: August 2001

Family: wife Jennifer Ross Nostrala and two children Seth, 4 and Caleb, eight months.

Lives: Indianola, where he and Jennifer just built a house last summer.

Likes most about job: "Helping students to discover their abilities and sensibilities for making art."

Recent vacation: weekend trip to Chicago over Christmas break with Jennifer, Seth and Caleb. The family visited the Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum.

Outside of Simpson: enjoys painting, jogging (when he can get a treadmill in Carse), spending time with his children and riding his new John Deere tractor. "I've only gotten to scoop snow with the tractor once but sometimes I use it to take out the garbage."

Future plans: hopes to devote more time doing art work by spending as much time as possible in the studio this summer.

Business Horizons:

Continued from page 1

"Every time we met we all decided it was a wonderful opportunity for Simpson. It will just take a lot of coordinating and work. We need a lot of campus-wide support to make this happen," says Johnson.

Even so, it appears that Johnson and the rest of those involved understand that the benefits will outweigh the work

entailed in hosting the program.

"We are just extremely excited to have this wonderful opportunity to work with these very talented high school youths and business leaders that so graciously donate their time to this program."

The ABI Foundation is a statewide organization with a mission of building

partnerships between business, education and communities. The Foundation also provides resources and forums that develop professional and personal responsibility and leadership for local communities and the state of Iowa.

For additional information on the organization and its programs, look on-line at www.iowaabi.org.

College prepares to recognize Women's History Month

Simpson will celebrate Women's History Month this year with the theme, "No Apologies."

The observance will begin with the annual Women in America Lecture Tuesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in Lekberg Hall.

Novelist, freelance writer, and pop-culture critic Pagan Kennedy will be this year's speaker. Her lecture is titled, *Marry Any Darn Thing You Want*.

In her speech, Kennedy asks the questions; Why do we assume that our life should revolve around our lover? Why not a best friend? A piece of land? A political cause? In this talk, Kennedy will discuss the reasons why many people are now shunning conventional marriage and figuring out new ways to commit.

Kennedy lives and works in the Boston area. She holds a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and an M.A. in creative writing from Johns Hopkins



Kennedy

University. Her novel *Spinsters* (Serpent's Tail, 1995) was short-listed for Britain's prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction in 1996, and her most recent book, *Black Livingstone: A True Tale of Adventure in 19th Century Congo* (Viking, 2002), was chosen as a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

The Women's History Month celebration will continue into April with a lecture titled, *Weight and Wellness*.

University of Iowa associate professor of mass communication and journalism, Venise Berry will deliver this speech on the myths associated with weight and wellness, Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. in Lekberg Hall.

Berry received her bachelor's degree in journalism and her M.A. in communication studies both in the 1970's from the University of Iowa. She earned her Ph.D. in radio, T.V. and film at the University of Texas, Austin in 1989.

Her professional media career began in radio news but has expanded into teaching, media research and criticism, as well as fiction, script and non-fiction writing.

She is the author of three national bestselling novels, *So Good*, *an African American Love Story* (Dutton/Penguin,

1996), *All of Me*, a *Voluptuous Tale* (Dutton Penguin 2000) and *Colored Sugar Water* (Dutton/Penguin/Putnam 2002).

Berry's novel, *All of Me*, a *Voluptuous Tale*, received a 2001 Honor Book Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. In 2001 Berry received another honor, the Iowa Author Award from the Public Library Foundation in Des Moines.

Each summer, Berry teaches a one-week workshop on writing the popular novel, at the University of Iowa

Summer Writers Workshop. She also conducts a number of seminars in the areas of *Weight and Wellness: Challenging Myths*, *Racism and the Media*, *Black Music as Communication* and *Success in the 21st Century*.

For additional information on Women's History Month events, contact Cory Harrigan at x1746.



Berry

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

February 24

Dr. Houston A. Baker Jr., professor of English at Duke University and prominent black-studies scholar, will present the 2003 Carver Lecture in Smith Chapel at 7 p.m.

February 27-28

Benefit performance of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*, 7:30 p.m. in Pote Theatre.

February 28

Guest artist—Theodore Green, tenor in recital of Schubert, Strauss, Rachmaninoff, Duparc and Poulenc songs. Robert L. Larsen at the keyboard

in Great Hall at 8 p.m.

MARCH

March 2

All-American Concert produced by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Mu Phi Epsilon, music fraternities, in Lekberg Hall at 3 p.m.

March 3-7

The Simpson College Wind Ensemble on tour under the direction of Andrew McMahan.

March 4

As part of Women's History Month, Pagan Kennedy, a novelist and freelance writer will deliver the Women in America

Lecture in Lekberg Hall at 7 p.m.

March 5-28

Painter Clarence Morgan's work on display in Farnham Galleries.

March 5

Jerry Chicoine, former president and CEO of Pioneer Hi-Bred International will deliver the annual Open Boundaries Business Leadership Lecture on "Business Ethics and Integrity in the Age of Enron," at 4 p.m. in Smith Chapel.

March 20

Jane Kvetko, professor of social work, will deliver the Spring Watson Faculty Lecture in Camp Lounge at 7 p.m.

FOOTNOTES

Associate professor of music, **John Benoit's** Des Moines-based trombone ensemble, Resonus, performed in St. John's Noon Recital Series on Jan. 8

Jackie Brittingham, assistant professor of biology, served on a panel Jan. 22-25 to review grant proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation's Course Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program that will serve as a basis for funding decisions made by the NSF. In 2001, **Pat Singer**, professor of biology, **Ron Warnet**, professor of chemistry and **Brittingham** were awarded a grant from this institution for equipment to enhance the biochemistry curriculum at Simpson. Serving on this panel will provide members of our natural science division valuable insights for future proposal.

Michael Duke, instructor of music, presented a clinic titled, "Saxophone Essentials," to Iowa middle and high school band directors for the Orpheus

Band Festival at Simpson on Jan. 14. On Friday, Jan. 31, Duke gave a recital of works by Debussy, Hindemith, Gotkovsky and Cockroft. The recital also featured the world premiere of associate professor of music, Michael Patterson's "Petite Variations for Alto Saxophone and Piano."

Robert Gieber, professor of French, has been named to a three-year appointment on the advisory council for the Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Werner Kolln, professor of chemistry, attended the 37th American Chemical Society Midwest Regional Meeting Oct. 23-25 in Lawrence, Kansas and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources 2nd Annual Volunteers in Natural Resources Conference Nov. 22-23 in Des Moines.

Justin Nostrala, assistant professor of art was the featured artist in Farnham Galleries, Monday, Jan. 6 through Friday, Jan. 31. A reception was held on Thursday, Jan. 16 in the Galleries.

Jeff Parmelee, assistant professor of biology, was the speaker at the Dec. 13 Friday Seminar Series at Des Moines University. His presentation was on the *Ecology and Conservation of the Timber Rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus) in an Agricultural Landscape*.

Carole Richardson, instructor of education, attended the annual conference of the Iowa Educational Research and Evaluation Association (IEREA) in Ames on Dec. 5. She presented a poster session titled, "Transforming Iowa Schools: An Inside Look at Educational Accountability Policy," summarizing research conducted through a First in the Nation in Education

(FINE) grant group project. The poster session was judged and named first runner-up for the IEREA Distinguished Research Award.

Murphy Waggoner, associate professor of mathematics, attended the joint meetings of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society in Baltimore, Md, Jan. 15-18.

Tobias Winright, assistant professor of religion, gave the keynote speech, "Are Human Rights Fictions Like Unicorns?" at the annual awards dinner of the Des Moines chapter of Amnesty International on Dec. 10. He also attended the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics On Jan. 10-12 in Pittsburgh, at which he convened a paper session, "The Use of Force and the Demands of Power: A Rejection of Just War Theory as a System of Prima Facie Duties," by David Baer (Texas Lutheran University) and Joseph Capizzi (Catholic University of America). In addition, he referred papers for possible publication in the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*.

Winright also published "Roman Catholicism, Pacifism In," in *The Encyclopedia of Religion and War*, ed. Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez and he co-authored *Christian Worship and Capital Punishment* (with Dr. Allyne Smith), # 8 in the *Renewing Radical Discipleship Series*. In addition, he presented two sessions on "Christian Marriage" for January Thaw, sponsored by the Des Moines Area Religion Council, the St. Joseph Educational Council, and the Jewish Federation, on Jan. 21 and 28. He also conducted another workshop on "Christian Marriage" on Jan. 27 at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Des Moines.

THE CORNERSTONE

Editor: Jennifer Whitham Johnson

Art Director: Carol Carder

Production Assistant: Carole Schipper

THE CORNERSTONE is published seven times during the regular academic year by the Simpson College public relations department for faculty, staff, administrators and trustees. To submit a story idea or a news item, or to share a comment or suggestion, write to 31 Hillman Hall, Simpson College, 701 North C Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125; call 515-961-1600; or e-mail whitham@simpson.edu.