

Advocating diversity: Task force's efforts, recommendations lead to new position

Following a recommendation by the President's Diversity Task Force, student development has created a new position designed to make Simpson a welcoming, inclusive and comfortable environment for the college's multi-cultural and international students.



Lain

Last fall, Simpson hired Walter Lain

'81, as assistant dean for multicultural and international affairs.

In this capacity, Lain, who holds a law degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge and has a background in racial and ethnic-based employment discrimination, works directly with current minority students to discover Simpson's strengths and weaknesses in the area of diversity.

"When we look at the issue of diversity and try to coordinate different cultures on campus, sometimes there are barriers," says Lain. "As Simpson grows and attracts more students, some will be foreign and some will be from different cultural backgrounds. We need to identify those barriers and work with them."

One function of Lain's position is to work with students, faculty, staff and members of the community to develop, implement and supervise initiatives that support multicultural, international and underrepresented students.

Lain also hopes to build a better understanding and appreciation of individual and cultural diversity while promoting a campus climate which is inclusive and supportive of all its constituents.

"This is not just for international students, it's for all students," explains Lain. "So Simpson can enjoy the things a diverse community and campus can provide."

While an undergraduate at Simpson in the late 1970s, Lain gained extensive experience in this area, working as a student counselor to the college's Saudi Arabian students.

Along with being an advocate and assistant for the students as they settled into life at Simpson and occasionally helping them out with housing or other campus issues, Lain served as a positive contact with whom the Saudi students could communicate.

In an e-mail to the campus community, Jim Thorius, vice president for student development says Lain has a great deal to offer as Simpson's first assistant dean for multicultural and international affairs.

"Walter brings a breadth of different experiences to this position. He has worked in several different corporate settings as well as conducted a law practice where he had a primary focus on civil rights and employment discriminations law," writes

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'Picking Up The Pace' garners 88 percent participation

The faculty, staff and emeriti faculty phase of the capital campaign has come to a close.

"Picking Up The Pace" began with two kick-off events held Thursday, Oct. 23 and Friday, Oct. 24 and wrapped up with an announcement of the participation results at the Holiday Happening on Friday, Dec. 12.

Pam Pepper, assistant vice president and director of annual giving, says she's pleased with the 88 percent participation rate "Picking Up The Pace" received.

"The office of college advancement wants to publicly say thank you to the entire campus community and emeriti faculty for whole-heartedly embracing this campaign," says Pepper. "We could have never made it to 88 percent without their support."

The five co-chairs for "Picking Up The Pace" were John Bolen, Betty Dyer, Ev Laning, Bruce Sloan and Lana Smith.

There were also 28 volunteers who made calls and conducted personal visits to

all faculty, staff and emeriti to encourage their support for Simpson's \$50.3 million comprehensive campaign. Monies raised during "Picking Up The Pace" will benefit **THE SIMPSON FUND**, endowment and capital projects.

Pepper adds that although the effort was always focused on participation not a dollar amount, the office of advancement has calculated a total of over \$215,000 was raised through this campaign.



Ross Haynes

Vocation born of hope

by Denice Ross Haynes, director of career planning

Recently, I woke up with a sense of gratitude for the presence of hope in my heart. Like Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Day—though not nearly as dramatic, it drew me out of bed with a little extra energy and wonder to face the day.

It was not particularly attached to any one thing, event, or person. To label it as mere emotion would not be sufficient to describe it. I pondered this gentle presence and reckoned further that it must be a gift. I had not always felt this way, but I do remember the seeds of its beginning...

You see, I had gone through a series of experiences, not too terribly traumatic, but impactful nonetheless, where I witnessed the dark side of human character. There was a conspiracy of sorts, by a rebel contingency in the office where I worked. As they consistently undermined the leadership and planted seeds of discord between and among work groups and our external customers, most everyone's sense of community and morale was challenged. Old fashioned work values like loyalty and personal integrity were tested. Those of us doing our jobs with some sense of purpose were saddened and frustrated over the cloak and dagger atmosphere.

In the midst of that turmoil one of my duties was to coordinate the annual Education to Careers for local and state educators and business leaders. The theme was "Looking Beyond the Obvious." For teachers who had become so encumbered with administrative duties, it was our hope the conference would rekindle their passion for teaching and reaching students; particularly those who were written off.

It would be my first time coordinating the effort and I found myself driven by the thought that we could ac-

tually help teachers who had the power to impact the lives of thousands of students. The conference was a great success.

The keynote speaker, who was of some renown, delivered a powerful address as he recalled how the sincere interest of one teacher who saw beyond *his* obvious, changed his opinion of himself and empowered him to turn his life around.

Working on the conference is one of those experiences I would call a landmark event. A personal conviction that had been in the making for many years had finally emerged from my heart solid as a rock: work that promotes the value and intrinsic worth of young people was to be an integral part of my life and worth fighting through.

By the time I looked up, my involvement in the conference had taken me out of the heat of the battle that was yet going on around me. I had found the hope of my calling.

After some time, the staff of about 30 individuals were cut in half due to a layoff and with it most of the rebel group. The power brokers that remained were crippled. Some members of the staff are still in litigation over the events that took place.

A few years later, after having moved on myself, I met a Native American woman who traveled the country as a visiting professor. As a graduate student, she had been directly involved in the brouhaha surrounding the University of Illinois' use of an Indian chief as their mascot. Her message and her work was not always understood or accepted and at times met with great resistance. I asked her what kept her going. In a word, she answered hope. She added; "When I talk to students and see the look on their faces, I get the strength to keep going."

Like that professor, we get to see many young faces in the work we do at Simpson. Former assistant secretary of labor Raymond

Bramucci said that when you get the right adults in a room with young people good things happen. Working for and on behalf of young people is honorable. I think people who do it well have an ability to dwell in a hope that can see beyond the obvious, see purpose in its infant state and call it forth.

Unlike basic optimism, this hope is not blind to the obvious; it emerges so often in spite of it. It can forge a path for us in the midst of turmoil if we allow it and infuse us with breath and courage to move forward. As I had come to learn, it is the muster of well known activists of all platforms, and the light fare of men and women who lead ordinary lives. It is not necessarily attached to any one specific thing, nor can it be totally explained by theory. Hope is rooted in something beyond ourselves but gracious enough to let us make it our own.

I believe my hope rests in a faith in God that time and time again has given me a "place" to process and deposit for safekeeping my fears and other things that would threaten its work in me.

It is from this place of hope that the journey of vocation starts. Or at least it has for me. I suppose it is different for all of us—that is what makes it so exciting. It is personal and yet its joy is made complete in the sharing of it. It is not dependent on one person but it operates in the context of interdependency. It can be grasped but it is never-ending.

That day I woke up with an awareness of the presence of hope I must have been at the intersection of Buchner's "deep gladness and the world's hunger." I reckon it is a gift. I am glad for that gift.

Chanticleer to give concert

San Francisco's Grammy Award-winning Chanticleer, who describe themselves as an "Orchestra of Voices" will perform at Simpson College on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in Great Hall.

The 12-member a cappella men's chamber ensemble has developed a reputation for its vivid interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance to jazz and from gospel to venturesome new music.

Chanticleer, named for the "clear-singing" rooster of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," includes 1997 Simpson College alumnus, Matthew Oltman and Urbandale native and Drake University alumnus, Justin Montigne.

The group toured to Taiwan and Japan in fall 2003 and will travel to Europe

in spring 2004. Chanticleer's 27th CD, *Evening Prayer: Purcell Anthems and Sacred Songs*, debuted in stores in October 2003.

The music office is offering a limited number of tickets at no cost to Simpson faculty, staff and students, beginning Monday, Jan. 26 through Friday, Jan. 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Limit one ticket per student and two tickets per staff or faculty member. Students must present their student ID and pick up his or her ticket in person in the music office.

Chanticleer tickets are \$20 at the door and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call the music office at X1637 for further information.

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Thorius. "As an alumnus, he also brings a passion for and commitment to Simpson that grows from his own experiences here as a student."

One of Lain's first orders of business as assistant dean of multicultural and international affairs is to draft a mission statement encompassing the objectives hoped to be achieved.

These include "Producing a campus environment that serves as a master image for our lives, as we build character through our collective histories and experiences. Providing the potential for economic opportunity through educational opportunities and building meaning by sharing our traditions."

Holy Grounds honored in coffeehouse poll

Holy Grounds coffee shop is getting attention from more than just Simpson students, faculty and staff.

An article by Chuck Offenburger in the January/February 2004 issue of *Home & Away*, AAA's Minnesota/Iowa magazine, Holy Grounds received honorable mention in the Best [Iowa] On-campus College Coffeehouse category.

Smith Chapel assistant, Ann Shepherd, who oversees and helps run Holy Grounds with the assistance of approximately 15 student volunteers, says the coffee shop's mention in the article was

a nice surprise and she's glad to see the student volunteers get recognized for a job well done. Adding that the quality of the coffee and the manner in which it is served make Holy Grounds stand out.

"The kids have learned to make really good coffee. Also, they are good about talking with people they serve and make people feel welcome."

Offenburger compiled his coffeehouse poll after taking a 2,848 mile tour across the state spending a total of \$153.50 on coffee, in search of Iowa's best coffeehouses, calling it "...the perfect

LIFE AFTER FIVE



Albrecht

A look at life with Ron Albrecht

Title: professor of music

Family: wife Barb; daughters Elizabeth, 21; Katie, 19 and son Dave, 16.

Lives: Indianola

Been at Simpson: 25 years

Balancing life and work: "I have a lot of fun on the job partly because of the other stuff I do outside of work. Those things keep me energized."

Outside of work: last year skated in the North Shore In-Line Marathon in Duluth, Minn., skates between 40 and 50 miles per week during the summer, runs, swims and bikes. Also interested in Civil War and continues to visit battlefields.

Recent vacation: camping in Colorado with son Dave last summer where they climbed Pike's Peak.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Ron Albrecht, professor of music, judged a piano festival at the Iowa Music Teachers Association held at Drake University on Nov. 15.

John Benoit, associate professor of music, attended the annual meeting of the Society for Music Theory held in Madison, Wisconsin, Nov. 6-8.

Maria DiPalma, professor of music, sang with the Stadler Ensemble on Nov. 5 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines as part of their noontime lunch series.

Michael Duke, instructor of music, gave a clinic on jazz improvisation for Jesup Community High School in Jesup, Iowa on Oct. 27.

Jan Everhart, program director of the Lilly Initiative for Vocational Discernment, gave a paper in the "Gender, Sexuality and the Bible" section of The Society of Biblical

Literature meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The title of her paper is, "Jezebel: Framed by Eunuchs?"

Anne Larson, Bruce Brown and Virginia Croskery, instructors of music, attended the state National Association of Teachers of Singing annual meeting at Luther College on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 and served as adjudicators for the vocal competition held at that time.

Andy McMahan, instructor of music, served as chair of the annual Iowa Collegiate Honor Band Festival in Ames, Nov. 21-22. This festival involves the best students from 18 colleges and universities in the state of Iowa, performing under the baton of a nationally recognized conductor over the course of two days. McMahan was responsible for all aspects of the organization and administration of the festival.

Jeff Parmelee, assistant professor of biology, attended the fall meeting of the Iowa Natural History Association in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Nov. 21-22, where he presented results of various research projects. He also gave two presentations on research at Simpson and snake biology to high school students at Winterset High School on Nov. 26.

Steve Rose, associate professor of education, published an article called "What the Quality School Literature and Brain-based Research Mean to the Caring Classroom," in the December issue of *Iowa Educational Leadership*.

Professor of English, **Nancy St. Clair's** essay "Worlds of Wonder: The Liberating Power of Children's Fantasy," will appear in the March issue of *Science Fiction Studies*.

The following faculty sabbaticals, promotions and tenures have been granted.

Lora Friedrich, assistant professor of social science, sabbatical in fall 2004, "Education and Life Transformation: Using the English Language for Social Status Enhancement in Thailand."

Nancy St. Clair, professor of English, sabbatical, fall 2004, "The Distant Mirror: Issues in Young Adult Historical Fiction, 1990-2002."

Werner Kolln, professor of chemistry, sabbatical in spring 2005, "Current Trends in Environmental Analytical Chemistry."

Mark Bates, associate professor of Spanish, sabbatical in fall 2004, "Study Semester in Brazil to Develop Latin American Studies."

John Pauley, professor of philosophy, sabbatical, "The Phenomenology of Faith: A Writing Project in Philosophy of Religion," spring 2005.

Also in spring 2005, **Steve McLean**, associate professor of theatre, sabbatical, "Understanding Standards of Design and Technical Theatre Communications: A Proposal for Faculty Development in Theatre Tech."

The following associate professors have been promoted to professors.

Jennifer Ross Nostrala, professor theatre arts; chair, division of fine and performing arts; **Bob Nutgrass**, professor of physical education; chair of the department of physical education and **Ruth Weatherly**, professor of management.

Lastly, the following individuals received tenure.

Jack Gittenger, associate professor of education; **Nicolas Proctor**, associate professor of history; **Carole Richardson**, assistant professor of education, chair of the department of education; **Dave Richmond**, associate professor of art, chair of the department of art; and **Tom Schmidt**, assistant professor of management.

THE CORNERSTONE

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