

Simmons College

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Charlena Seymour**Charlena Seymour****Opening Remarks**

Thank you and good morning. President Drinan, trustees, academic deans, members of the platform party, members of the Simmons community, Happy Convocation Day.

As the old Latin academic song says "Gaudeamus Igitur!!!" Therefore, let us rejoice.

We rejoice at seeing friends and colleagues, new and returning undergraduate and graduate students, we rejoice about teaching and learning, we rejoice in the values and traditions of Simmons College, and we rejoice about plans for the new academic year. There is much to be excited about as we remember our past accomplishments and advance our shared purpose to shape the legacy of Simmons College.

"Our mission has served us well and it, too, has proven to be remarkably resilient despite social and economic influences that have affected many colleges and universities."

Our convocation will be similar to past convocations, reminding students of the importance of making academic work their priority while at Simmons and joining the campus community in the pursuit of academic excellence which is the universal standard in every institution of higher education. Also like past convocations we will recognize students and faculty for their achievement in academic quality. You will hear today from our speakers that we are making great progress in the pursuit of academic excellence and all of this progress comes from the outstanding resilient efforts of our students, faculty and staff; for

their dedication and commitment to Simmons we are grateful.

Academic Convocation is more than just rejoicing, it is also celebrating, celebrating Simmons College and the mission that has endured and prevailed. The mission that has captured our hearts, our sense of direction, and our ambition to create a world-class institution. Our mission has served us well and it too has proven to be remarkably resilient despite social and economic influences that have affected many colleges and universities. It is a mission that I believe has passed the test of time, and has allowed the College to be successful in providing a quality education to generations of Simmons students.

Like many of you, I came to Simmons because of the progressive power of this place, a place that prepares us to face any challenge with confidence and any change with a spirit of resiliency. As leaders of the College our resiliency will be measured in our ability to be proactive and diligent, resourceful and caring, finding opportunities to leverage our strengths and utilize our resources effectively, to put our responsibility for the College ahead of personal and programmatic interests, and to never give up because of change, but to bounce back and take advantage of change. The future of Simmons lies in taking advantage of opportunities that each of us must seek as we set a course for change with unity in message and action, and the spirit to be resilient.

Resilience means we have a clear sense of identity and purpose that allows us to hold fast to our vision of a better future. With that idea in mind, this morning it is my honor to introduce the 8th President of Simmons College, Helen G. Drinan, who will deliver the official welcome to the academic year.

Presentation of Faculty Awards

The Simmons College Funds Award is a faculty development program that recognizes excellence in Research and Scholarship. The funds for faculty projects are provided by the President's fund for Faculty Excellence and the Faith M. Richardson Endowed Fund for Faculty Research and Development. Last year 17 of our faculty competed and 7 were funded. When I call your name please come forward to the stage, receive a gift of appreciation and remain for a group picture with President Drinan, and be recognized by the audience.

ZACHARY ABUZA

Professor, Political Science and International Relations

NARESH AGARWAL

Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science

EDUARDO FEBLES

Associate Professor, Chair, Modern Languages and Literatures

D. BRUCE GRAY

Associate Professor, Biology

DAWNA M. THOMAS

Assistant Professor, Women's Africana and Gender Studies

SPELA TREFAL

Assistant Professor, Management

TYWANNA WHORLEY

Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science

Congratulations, all!

Recognition of the 2009-2010 Recipients of the President's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council Grants

The President's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (PDIAC) was founded in 2008 by President Helen Drinan to ensure that our values of creating a warm and inclusive community are reflected in our structure and priorities. The PDIAC solicited proposals from faculty for projects that met those goals and awarded funding to two proposals. When I call your name would you please come forward to the stage, receive a gift of appreciation and remain for a group picture with President Drinan and be recognized by the audience.

Increasing Admissions to Simmons College among Diverse High School Students through Nutrition Presentations

SARI EDELSTEIN, Associate Professor, Nutrition

Intergroup Dialogues: Faculty/Staff Facilitator Training and Pilot Undergraduate Course

JANIE WARD, Professor, Chair, Africana Studies

CAROL BIEWENER, Professor, Economics and Women's Studies

DESIRAE SIMMONS, Associate Director, Service Learning, Scott Ross Center for Community Service

NANETTE VEILLEUX, Associate Professor, Program Director, MCC, Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science

Congratulations, all!

For those of you interested in the competition, the request for proposals will be released this week and the deadline for proposal submissions will be December 14, 2010.

Closing Remarks

No other awards exemplify better the resilient commitment to excellence than the competition for tenure and promotion to associate professor and promotion to full professor. Tenure and promotion from assistant professor to associate professor and promotion of associate to full professor is granted by the Board of Trustees of Simmons College when both tenured faculty peers and senior administrators judge that the candidate has met established criteria. During the competition for tenure and promotion to

associate professor, the faculty member is on probation for six years while his or her performance is evaluated in teaching, research scholarship, and creative works, and service. Promotion from associate professor to full professor requires significant accomplishment in teaching, research, scholarship and creative work, and service since promotion to associate professor. Last year 5 of our faculty were awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor, and 5 of our tenured faculty were promoted to full professor.

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

JUDITH ARONSON, Associate Professor, Communications

SARAH LEONARD, Associate Professor, Chair, History

AMY PATTEE, Associate Professor, Library and Information Science

MICHELLE PUTNAM, Associate Professor, Social Work

JOHN REEDER, Associate Professor, Psychology

When I call your name, please come to the stage, remain for a group picture, receive a gift of appreciation, and be recognized by the audience.

Promotion to Full Professor

JEANNETTE BASTIAN, Professor, Library and Information Science

MICHAEL MELENDEZ, Professor, Social Work

LYNDA MOORE, Professor, Management

MARY OWEN, Professor, Program Director for Health Professions, Chair, Biology

RICHARD WOLLMAN, Professor, English

Congratulations, all!

Before we leave, I would like to invite you to a reception afterwards in Java City. I would also like to thank the speakers, the singers, Cheryl Howard and the Marketing Office for wonderful historical displays and Donna Dolan and her staff for a thoughtful unforgettable day and tent.

We come together with a renewed sense of community; a community of faculty, students, staff, administrators, trustees, parents, and friends, connected by a respect for education and its prevailing promise of an unforgettable an everlasting future. I believe that we can do more than we have ever imagined, learn more than we have ever thought, and lead more than we ever dared.



Simmons is consistently rated a "best college" by US News and others »

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