

# Faculty Showcase '06

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College



## Domestic Violence: Awareness and Prevention Training Over the Web



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### Goals

- Collaborate with practitioners to develop a practical, current, and accessible domestic violence curriculum for social workers
- Create an educationally sound interactive web-based curriculum
- Make the curriculum available to all Massachusetts social workers, collaborating with Massachusetts National Association of Social Workers to increase incentives and publicity

### Project Overview

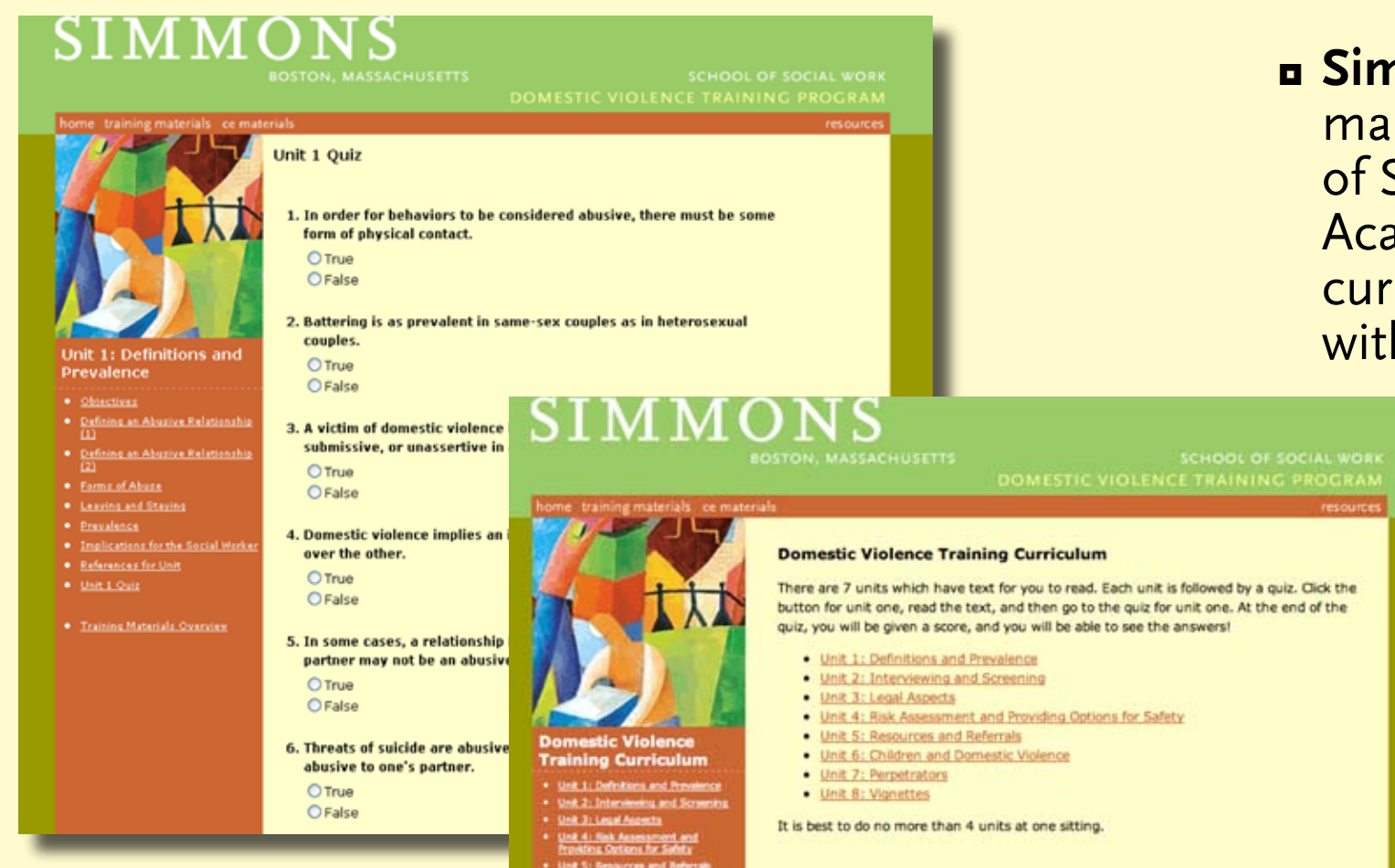
- The Need:** Given the prevalence of domestic violence and the serious associated risks to physical and emotional health, all social workers should have a basic level of training in this area.
- Community Collaboration:** An important piece of this project was using practitioners to develop the original curriculum, assuring relevance of content. A committee of community practitioners and Simmons faculty, the Massachusetts NASW Committee on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, developed the “Web-based Domestic Violence

Training Curriculum” (2000-2002). The first version was available to SSW students on WebCT, evaluated for effectiveness, extensively revised in 2004, and developed into a website.

- Content:** The self-paced training includes: text, online quizzes that provide feedback, practice vignettes, and “supervision” on the vignettes. To improve participants’ ability to retain important information, the web site also includes a comprehensive manual that can be downloaded as a PDF file and kept as a reference.

- Simmons Technology Collaboration:** To make the site available to people outside of Simmons, project leaders worked with Academic Technology staff to offer the curriculum as a website instead of hosting it within WebCT.

- Massachusetts NASW Collaboration:** The current version is available through the SSW web page and linked to the Massachusetts NASW web page. It can be taken by social workers for continuing education credit as of 2006.



<http://www.simmons.edu/ssw/dvtraining>

### Applications Beyond

The Domestic Violence web site illustrates a way of providing curriculum outside the course structure, available when needed, and in brief form. An unanticipated outcome is that this project has increased the visibility of Simmons College, because the site has been accessed by professionals throughout the country.