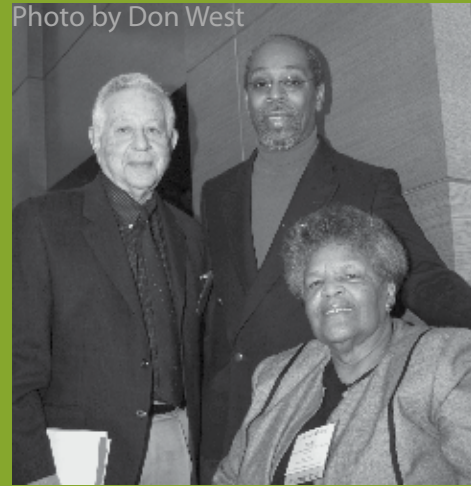


Faculty Showcase '06

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College



Mark Solomon
Reginald Jackson
Elizabeth B. Rawlins

Goals

- To disclose Black experience at Simmons College
- To utilize the remarkable history of Black alumnae to inspire and motivate efforts to advance multiracial education
- To educate students of all backgrounds about the indispensable value of diversity
- To encourage retention and recruitment of Black students through telling the compelling story of the women who preceded them



Documenting the Black Presence at Simmons

Project Overview

How did a small, private, predominantly white New England college produce scores of successful black women? The answer to this question constitutes the core of the project, revealing what is required to establish effective multiracial education while also meeting the need to educate present and future generations of black women students for academic success. The benefit to the College is vastly self-evident.

The project meets its objectives through the following products:

- Scores of videotaped interviews of alumnae, faculty, staff and present-day students. The tapes will be housed in the College Archive and will be available for research;
- Two videotaped histories (abbreviated and full-length versions) of the Black Experience at Simmons College;
- An exhibit, using new techniques, of images of the Black presence at Simmons;
- A 2006 calendar that integrates historical material on Blacks at Simmons as well as a compendium of 20th century Black history;
- A book that will tell the story of the Black presence at the College; and
- A course that will utilize the huge collection of materials to explore the Black experience and its achievements. The course will combine historical study with “hands-on” creative work on developing a website and other projects.



Applications Beyond

The project bridges academic fields and creates materials of immeasurable use to many disciplines.

- Education: Taped interviews reveal positive and negative pedagogical experiences of inestimable value to educators;
- History: All materials contain historical data on the Black experience at Simmons as well as the history of race and gender beyond the College;
- Sociology: All aspects of the project explore the interfaces of race and gender;
- Communications: Materials utilized are valuable for learning how to edit, for creating film, and for producing a website; and
- Africana Studies: The project taps scores of crucial themes in Africana Studies.

The project advances innovative technologies, explores vital social issues and offers illuminating paths to democratic, multiracial education. It will also continue to engage alumnae and will build support for the next Black alumnae symposium in 2008.