



# In the Loop

at Simmons College

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter for Faculty and Staff

## A New Simmons... Online

Have you noticed some dramatic changes to the Simmons Web site? Bright colors are not the only addition to the new simmons.edu. The Web site's makeover has resulted in a *Trading Spaces*-worthy new look, complete with easier-to-access information for prospective students, and a distinctive new feel to complement the College's new brand identity.



According to Shaun Gummere, director of

Web Services, the site has been reorganized, uses a revised navigational system to improve usability, and sports a number of "under the hood" changes to enhance accessibility.

"A key part of our Web strategy is to refocus the main site, [www.simmons.edu](http://www.simmons.edu)," said Gummere. "We are working on

*continued on page 3*

## Copy Center Goes Online

The Copy and Mail Center has introduced a new online copy center. Now you can print your documents without even leaving your office! With the new online system, you get an immediate job quote, and then track the status of your job online. You'll receive a confirmation e-mail when your job is ready to be picked up.

To have the Online Copy Center installed on your computer, e-mail [copymail@simmons.edu](mailto:copymail@simmons.edu), or call x2428 for details.

## Simmons and the National Science Foundation

What do faculty from the SOM, Center for Gender in Organizations, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Department of English, the Department of Chemistry, the Department of History, and the GSLIS have in common? Faculty members from each of them have submitted proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The NSF was established in 1950 to "promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense funds projects in a vast number of subject areas and disciplines." Its funding areas range from basic research, curriculum development, and human resource development in the sciences, to grants for scientific equipment. Simmons has received funding in all of these categories. Because the NSF is considered the premier sponsor of science and engineering research, a great deal of prestige accompanies NSF awards.

In the past four years, Simmons faculty have submitted 23 proposals to the NSF and received 12 awards totaling \$1.25 million. This is a dramatic increase over the previous four-year period. Current faculty projects include a Chinese global digital library project, directed by GSLIS Professor Ching-chih Chen; a collaboration to create opportunities for Women in Materials research, directed by Physics Professor Velda Goldberg; and the acquisition of a mass spectrometer for materials science and biochemistry, directed by Chemistry Professor Leonard Soltzberg.

From Sponsored Programs

Proposals undergo a rigorous peer review process that takes six months from submission to decision announcement. Because of the competitive nature of this process, it is not unusual for a proposal to be submitted two or even three times before it is funded.

Some areas of NSF funding that may be of particular interest to Simmons faculty are: neuroscience; educational system reform; elementary, secondary and informal education; library science; and social and economic sciences. Deadlines for these programs occur throughout the year, but many are approaching in December, January and February.

The NSF also provides opportunities for faculty to participate on peer review panels. This is an excellent way to see how the system works and to read proposals written by others.

For more information on upcoming deadlines and program information, contact the Sponsored Programs office at x2411.

*Jon Kimball is the director of Sponsored Programs.*

## Library Staffers are Unsung Heroes



*Viveiros and Engelberg*

Congratulations to Access Services Library Assistants Jayme Viveiros and Paul Engelberg, Unsung Heroes.

Viveiros, who has worked at the library for two years, handles course reserves for the GSLIS and the SSW; 10-month employee Engelberg is in charge of course reserves for CAS and the SHS. During the first few weeks of the fall semester, their combined efforts resulted in approximately 3,500 items available on reserve in print or electronic format.

"The impact of Jayme's and Paul's work is felt every day by the students who come to the circulation desk to check out a reserve reading for their course, or who access a reserve reading online in electronic format from any location, 24/7," said Meg Ragland '01LS, access services librarian, who has headed the department for two years.

"Jayme and Paul have been instrumental in rolling out electronic reserves, which, like any new technology or process, need tweaking and creative problem-solving to make it efficient for faculty and staff, and convenient for students. Although their efforts are invisible to those who use the service, these two continue to work tirelessly to make the Simmons College Libraries reserves the best it can be."

Do you know of a Simmons employee who works behind the scenes, but should be in the spotlight? Send your "Unsung Heroes" nominations, including the person's name, title, and a short description of what you think makes her/him great, to:

Elyse Pipitone, editor, In the Loop, Public Relations Office; pipitone@simmons.edu; fax 617-521-3193. Mini profiles of the most compelling nominations will run as space allows.

## GSLIS Prof. Offers the World to Computer Users

Imagine taking a visual tour of a country's culture, heritage, history, and world contributions, while sitting at your computer. This soon could be possible, thanks to an extensive international digital project directed by GSLIS Professor Ching-chih Chen. The image portion of this project, developed by Chen and one of her collaborators, Professor James Z. Wang of Penn State University, will soon be available on the Web as part of the National Science Foundation's International Digital Library Project (IDL). The image portion of the Global Memory Net will use cutting-edge, content-based image retrieval techniques to allow users to search through thousands of digital images accurately, effectively, and with immediate response. Video and sound clips also will become available in the near future.

"Until recently, most archival images were not available in digital form," said Chen, principal investigator of the project. "Now we have a large quantity of invaluable archival and heritage materials in digital form, from multiple countries, together in one place. Thanks to state-of-the-art technology provided by Penn State, users can browse, retrieve, enjoy, and learn in just seconds. Users can search images at random, by similarity, by URL, or by traditional methods, like using keywords, etc."

Global Memory Net developed out of Chen's Chinese Memory Net (CMNet) project with Penn State, Carnegie Mellon, and top universities in China and Taiwan. The CMNet project, funded by the NSF since 2000, has concentrated on all relevant images and video related to China's ancient culture. One of the NSF/IDL's first projects, it was funded for nearly \$500,000.

CMNet grew out of Chen's award-winning interactive videodisc and multimedia CD-ROM project, PROJECT EMPEROR-I, with its

*continued on page 3*

## Simmons Opens its Doors to Community



On Oct. 13, Simmons took part in the Fenway Cultural District's Opening Our Doors Day celebration, Boston's largest annual free day of arts and culture. Visitors were able to view the Trustman Art Gallery exhibition and see a special exhibit in the Archives. L-R: Roy Schifilliti, director of Facilities; Congressman Michael Capuano; Kelly Brilliant, executive director of Fenway Alliance; Linda Osborn-Blaschke, assistant director of auxiliary services; and State Representative Byron Rushing.

# Loop Listings



## FURNITURE FOR SALE

HOME ASSORTMENT: 10X12 wool oriental rug (red, blue, and black), IKEA sleeper sofa, and microwave all in excellent condition and reasonable prices. Call Clare at 617-630-8711.

POTTERY BARN: Mitchell Gold slipcovered sleep sofa in mushroom velvet: \$750. Matching chair-and-a-half: \$400. Washed oak/glass coffee and side table from Boston Interiors: \$150. E-mail [ilovecoffee@email.com](mailto:ilovecoffee@email.com) for photos, or contact Anna at x2646.

## PETS

FREE CAT: Penny is a 7-year-old short hair cat with a beautiful white coat and black and brown spots. She is fixed, declawed (front only), and in great health. She is a bit shy, but loves to be petted, and would be best in a quiet home where she can get lots of love and attention. Contact Sherry at x2483.

## MISCELLANEOUS

BUY AN OAR: Support the Simmons Crew team by purchasing a genuine Simmons oar. Limited number available. Minimum \$100 donation. Can request blade only, or entire blade and shaft. Contact Ali Kantor at x1038 or Alexis Rush at x1041.

NORDICTRACK: WalkFit treadmill, manual, oak trim, like new, \$200. Call Claire at x2440.

**Do you have something to sell, a service to offer, or an item you're trying to find? Submit your "Loop Listings" to [pipitone@simmons.edu](mailto:pipitone@simmons.edu), with your name and extension.**

## Global Memory, from page 2

award-winning interactive videodisc and MM-CD, "The First Emperor of China," developed in the late 1980s. The first large-scale technology project of its kind funded by the National Endowment for Humanities, it received extensive, international media attention for its in-depth focus on the First Emperor of



A screen image from Chinese Memory Net

China's terracotta warriors and horses – including 108,000 images and more than six hours of interactive digital content.

Since 2000, the CMNet project has collaborated with several major institutions in different countries and thus has shifted direction to become a Global Memory Net. "Our current effort in CMNet has gone far beyond the Chinese area. It is being expanded to cover the 'memory' of the globe," said Chen.

Among the other countries involved in Global Memory Net is Italy. Chen and Professor Piero Baglioni of the University of Florence – widely known for his art restoration using nanoparticle technology – are collaborating on Project Restore. The two are posting on the Web the pre- and post-restoration images and descriptive information of restored artifacts, including wall paintings, that had been damaged, such as those from the 1966 Florence flood.

Although all of Global Memory Net's images eventually will be available for public viewing, each of them is copyrighted and a digital watermark of the ownership can be generated when the thumbnail images are enlarged. Users wanting to use an image in the classroom or elsewhere would most likely need to request permission to access them.

For more information on the project, visit [www.memorynet.org](http://www.memorynet.org).

## Commuting, Made Easier

CommuteWorks, a service provided by MASCO, provides commuting alternatives for employees and students of Simmons and other member institutions in the Longwood Medical and Academic Area (LMA).

CommuteWorks offers several programs that encourage alternative transportation for employees and students. These include carpool and vanpool incentive programs, a personalized commuting assistance program, a commuter rail incentive program, a Zipcar program, and a bike/walk program.

Employees registered in some of these programs are eligible for the Emergency Ride Home Program, which provides up to five free taxi or car rental vouchers per year to get home for personal emergencies.

To learn more about CommuteWorks programs visit CommuteWorks' Web site at [www.masco.org/commute-works](http://www.masco.org/commute-works) or call 617-632-2796.

## simmons.edu, from page 1

spreading the word about what makes Simmons special to prospective students. As part of this strategy, we also have developed a new site for current students, faculty, and staff called 'my.simmons.edu.' This site has all the information that used to be contained in the Student Center and Faculty Center, but is much better organized and easier to use."

The improved main site launched Oct. 10, along with the revised SHS site and my.simmons.edu. Current students, faculty, and staff now can visit my.simmons.edu and find the information they need, without having to sift through information they already know, said Gummere.

New Web sites for GSLIS and SSW are coming later this fall, followed by CAS Graduate Studies, the CAS, and SOM in 2004.