Dear Alumnae/i of Fairfield and Westchester Counties,

Hoping this newsletter finds you well and ready for exciting opportunities to reconnect with Simmons. There is a great deal of information to share with you about Simmons as well as plans for local programming.

**Spring Potluck Dinner – We Need a Host!**

Within our region, it is time to think about our next event. We need a host for our Annual Potluck Dinner. This is a popular event that attracts a diverse group of alumnae/i from every Simmons school. It's also a great way to network with alumnae/i in Fairfield and Westchester Counties if you're new to the area, have been here forever, or simply haven't participated in previous Simmons events. We will have a member of the Simmons faculty or administration speak at this event. If you're the host, you choose the date that works best for you! Others bring the food, drinks, and paper products.

**Other Volunteer Opportunities –**

- **Choose the speaker for our annual potluck dinner.** This is easy, fun and will give you an opportunity to work with our competent Office of Alumnae/i Relations (OAR). They will provide you with a list of speakers and their topics and you simply determine your 1st and 2nd choice, once we have some dates from our potluck host.

- **Collect RSVPs for the potluck dinner.** Another easy way to contribute to this year’s event.

If you’re interested, please call me at 203-834-1044 or email me at LMarino@WomenatWorkNetwork.com

**News from the College**

Dr. Susan Scrimshaw, our seventh President will be inaugurated on Saturday, March 31st. This is a wonderful public relations opportunity for the College as Presidents and other Academic VIPs are invited to welcome Dr. Scrimshaw to Simmons. The College is planning on making this web accessible after the event. Look for more details under the ‘events’ section of Simmons Alumnet (details on how to access/register are listed below).

The first phase of our new library is complete and the second half is to be finished this summer. If you haven’t been back to the College recently, it’s well worth your while. The residence campus as well as the Main College Building (MCB) have been transformed in the past decade. You’ll be very proud of our continued presence as a women’s college in the heart of Boston. For more information about the library, follow this link: [http://my.simmons.edu/library/information/index.shtml](http://my.simmons.edu/library/information/index.shtml)
The College has transformed the parking lot at the Main College Building (MCB) to make room for the School of Management’s new building. This is the final step in bringing all the Academic Colleges together in one physical space at 300 The Fenway.

Awards

Simmons has been named a “Best College” in its category in the 2007 U.S. News & World Report rankings of “America’s Top Colleges.” Simmons also is named in the 2007 Princeton Review “Best 361 Colleges,” an honor held by only 15% of the four-year undergraduate colleges in America.

School of Management’s Entrepreneurship Program has been chosen as one of the 25 best programs in the nation – and number one in New England – by Entrepreneur magazine and The Princeton Review, which surveyed more than 700 schools to arrive at their top choices.

Simmons was also named one of the “Top 50 Colleges for African Americans” by Black Enterprise magazine. They were chosen from 1400 four year colleges with greater than 3% African American enrollment.

Senior Weekend - In March, I plan to attend Senior Weekend with other Alumnae Association Board members and Trustees. This weekend was created out of a need communicated by Simmons Seniors who wanted to learn more about ‘life after Simmons’. The weekend kicks off with a social networking event sponsored by ‘Divas Uncorked’. On Saturday, seniors will attend workshops on ‘how to create and manage a budget’, ‘reviewing and negotiating a rental agreement’ and ‘dress for success’. The weekend closes with the Senior Etiquette Luncheon where they learn the proper manners associated with a business lunch. Your Alumnae Association Board sponsors this lunch as a parting gift for our outgoing seniors.

On a side note, I learned that the average Simmons student leaves Simmons $40,000 in debt. This was an astonishing number to me and a wakeup call to send in my donation to the annual fund. The annual fund supplements almost 30% of tuition for each Simmons student.

Leadership Day and Alumnae Association Activities

In October, I attended Leadership Day 2006, where several key volunteers and I explored how Simmons alumnae/i can reconnect with each other. This year we divided the groups into decades and brainstormed on the key programs of interest in those decades. As you would suspect, we have very different needs based on our generation. Here are some examples:

- 30’s and 40’s – intellectual stimulation – lifetime learning and retirement institutes
- 50’s – mini reunions with carpooling/transportation options
- 60’s – daytime programs (vs. evening) – programs on retirement and aging parents and care giving
- 70s – pampering ourselves, informal girlfriend events, learning programs such as museums and Simmons speakers or alumnae/i
- 80’s – ‘Me Time’, pampering
- 90’s – oo’s – 2 generations. Some focused on Family, others on Career and Networking. Keep program costs low (or free).

As outgoing Co-Director of the Regional Events and Travel Committee, an Alumnae Association Executive Board position, we have worked on creating greater connection to the College in geographically dispersed areas. Our target audiences are in Seattle, Texas, NYC and Florida. We have helped these areas organize events as well as distribute surveys to Simmons Alumnae/i. As a result, we have reached a much broader audience of Simmons women.
We also implemented podcasts of Simmons speakers. These are free and easily downloaded from your computer. This year we offered the following lectures:

Professor Sari Edelstein spoke on “Obesity in America”.

Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas – “Diplomacy in the 21st Century: new challenges and an emerging role for women”

Latest podcasts include President Susan Scrimshaw’s lecture on “Reading, Writing and Health: The Health Implications of educating and empowering women” - available for download now.

Register on Alumnet

It’s fast and easy and is the best way for you to become a continuing part of the Simmons Community. Registering on Alumnet gives you access to search the alumnae/i database and reconnect with classmates. If you have questions, call the Office of Alumnae/i Relations at 800-246-0573.

To register, follow this link: https://www.alumnet.simmons.edu/olc/pub/SNS/register/register.cgi

On a personal note, I have taken a new job as Director of Business Development for Women@Work. We place mid and senior level professional women in positions in the Tri-State and Boston areas. These positions include full-time, part-time, job share, temporary and consulting engagements. If you are looking for work or simply a change in your current work environment or you are an employer seeking talented women, please visit our website or contact me directly. We are also holding a ‘women only’ Professional Connection Forum (upscale Job Fair) in Tarrytown, NY on April 12. If you’re interested, call me or sign up on our website listed below:

203-762-7263, x111 or www.womenatworknetwork.com

Feel free to call or email me to further discuss any of the presented topics and look for your potluck dinner invitation this spring!

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