Richard W. Gurney, Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
B.S., Benedictine University; Ph.D., Purdue University

Professor Richard Gurney teaches and researches sustainable development, including ways to use materials that are "benign by design" as solutions for everyday problems. At Simmons, his research includes developing greener organic chemistry experiments for the undergraduate curriculum. With students, he is exploring ways to template the growth of crystals involved in the formation of kidney stones. In collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Advanced Materials, he is researching ways to create more environmentally friendly alternatives to the traditionally harsh catalysts used in many chemistry experiments.

Gurney has published numerous articles on organic chemistry and material science. He was a doctoral research fellow at the prestigious Weizman Institute of Science in Israel and at Northwestern University. He currently teaches a Simmons Honors Program course and, in collaboration with Professor Sue Stafford, he is developing a seminar that will teach green chemistry and environmental ethics concurrently. He also is developing an intercollegiate environmental science program for the Colleges of the Fenway.

With funding from the National Science Foundation, Gurney's Technology at the Crossroads project trains Simmons students to help teach technology to students at six Boston public schools during a three-week summer camp and throughout the school year. He also leads the Simmons chemistry/physics liaison program, which, in conjunction with the Scott/Ross Center for Community Service, encourages students to develop and implement after-school science outreach programs in the community.
**Speaking topics:**
- “Green” chemistry and sustainable development
- The Colleges of the Fenway environmental studies program
- Technology at the Crossroads: a Girls Get Connected collaboration
- Women in Materials program
- Faculty/student research at Simmons