Each One, Teach One
The Scott/Ross Center Celebrates 10 Years of Service Learning

BY BRYN ADLER ’11

A core value at Simmons is a “collective investment in community”; the Scott/Ross Center (S/RC) for Community Service makes this value come to life. Through the years, the S/RC has provided students, faculty, and staff with the opportunity to create and participate in community service initiatives throughout Boston.

This year, the S/RC is proud to celebrate its 10-year anniversary.

All of this could not have been possible without the foresight of Sociology Professor Stephen London, and the generosity of Trustee Emily Scott Pottruck ’78 and her husband, David. In 2000, the couple made a gift to Simmons to establish the S/RC, which is named in honor of Scott Pottruck and her mother, Arlene Ross Gross ’47.

“Steve London made an impact on my life,” says Scott Pottruck. “The S/RC is our way of thanking Steve and Simmons for teaching generosity of spirit and mind. We want more students to have the same opportunities to learn, grow, and explore.” Since its inception, the S/RC has flourished. Last year, more than 430 undergraduate students and 326 graduate students engaged in service-learning and civic engagement programs organized by the S/RC.

The S/RC has 15 undergraduate student-led groups, as well as programs for graduate students. Last spring, the S/RC created the Graduate Service Learning Institute — the first of its kind to be offered within the New England higher education community. The institute was attended by more than 40 community partners, college administrators, and faculty who learned about best practices and how to establish and strengthen service learning at the graduate level.

Another exciting new opportunity will occur this summer when the S/RC, in conjunction with The Boston Foundation, will offer the 2011 Summer Fellowship in Boston. Also funded by Scott Pottruck, this new program will allow two students with “distinguished records of community service” to explore nonprofit management, philanthropy, and grant making, and consider the nonprofit sector as a career choice.

“For 10 years, we have strived to have the Simmons community participate in improving our own community, the Boston community, and communities far outside of its environs.”

— EMILY SCOTT POTTRUCK ’78

“Students have told me that the Scott/Ross Center has changed their lives,” says Scott Pottruck. “I hope that Simmons can continue to help students open their minds, have a sense of purpose, and think beyond their own lives.”

In his typically humble style, London credits the success of the S/RC to the hard work of his staff: Graduate Program Director Carolyn Grimes, and Associate Director of Undergraduate Service Learning Desirae Simmons ’05, ’06GS, strategize during a recent planning meeting.

“As for the future, London says there is a lot more in store. The S/RC is in the process of creating a strategic plan and working to enhance the visibility of the center and to align its work with Strategy 2015.

“I like to say ‘each one, teach one,’” says Scott Pottruck. “It is our vision that students who have walked through the S/RC will share this philosophy and will give of themselves. It also is my fervent hope that S/RC alums will provide funds and opportunities for future generations of Simmons students.”

For more information about how to support the Scott/Ross Center for Community Service, please visit: www.simmons.edu/src10year.

THE IMPACT OF THE SCOTT/ROSS CENTER

› The S/RC works with more than 40 community partners each semester.
› 50% of the student population engages in some form of community service during the course of an academic year.
› 800 students spend at least 20 hours each semester in service.
› More than 30 service-learning courses are taught by Simmons faculty for undergraduate and graduate students.