

An Initiative with West Louisville

UofL and Simmons College Announce Partnership



UofL President James Ramsey addresses crowd at Simmons homecoming.

On June 28th, UofL President James Ramsey announced a partnership between UofL and Simmons College. The occasion was the cele-

bration of Simmons' return to its original campus site at Seventh and Kentucky Streets. Simmons President Kevin Cosby also announced an ambitious plan to restore Simmons to its past glory of being a premier liberal arts college.

President Ramsey made the announcement before a crowd of several hundred community leaders, clergy, and alumni of the historic black college. "Simmons will be able to reach people who UofL can't reach. That's why this partnership is so important," said Ramsey. Ramsey's pledge of support includes a commitment to assist Simmons in its efforts to obtain accreditation, develop information technology infrastructure, expand its library, develop a teacher training program, and explore development of an articulation agreement between UofL and Simmons for a dual credit program.

UofL and Simmons have a deep historical

connection. UofL purchased the grounds of Simmons University after it was forced to close in 1930 as a result of the Great Depression. In 1931 UofL opened on this site Louisville Municipal College as a branch of UofL for African Americans during the era of racial segregation. UofL's first black professor and first black department chair was Dr. Charles H. Parrish, Jr., who was a graduate of Simmons and who came from the faculty of Simmons.

President Ramsey plans to appoint a task force of senior-level UofL administrators to assist Simmons in obtaining accreditation. "This collaboration with Simmons will make higher education available to more people in our community," noted Ramsey.

West Louisville Choir Comes to Campus



West Louisville Choir performs at closing ceremony held at University Club.

The basement of Stevenson Residence Hall recently was transformed into a rehearsal area when the West Louisville Boys & Girls Choir came to campus. The choir held a summer camp at UofL May 28—June 6 for 82 boys and girls. Some of the camp activities the students were engaged in were: etiq-

quette training (performer orientation & stage presence), music theory/ear training, and sectional rehearsal 3 times a day. The students also worked on choreography in the evenings.

The West Louisville Boys & Girls choir is a year round arts driven program with vocal training as its main focus. However, the choir deals with more than just music. It also has a strong education focus. The students learn to sing in different languages such as Italian and Latin, and the program has a rigorous academic after-school component to help with tutoring and grade monitoring. Also, academic counselors are made available to meet with teachers, parents, and students.



McDaniel Bluit (center) and choir members with awards received at closing ceremony

For more information on the West Louisville Boys and Girls Choir, contact McDaniel Bluit at 582-0123.

Signature Partnership Out in the Community



Roxanna Davila, Western Middle School Community Outreach Coordinator, cleans out gutters of home on West Hill Street

Members of the Signature Partnership Initiative Residents Advisory Council participated in the Repair Affair Blitz on June 16, 2007. Repair Affair, an annual event sponsored by New Directions Housing Corporation, mobilizes resources and volunteers to make needed repairs on homes owned by elderly or disabled, low-income homeowners.

Participants painted, built a handrail, trimmed bush, and cleaned up yard debris for a couple on West Hill Street.

Also participating from UofL was a group of students from the Speed School. Their group assignment was to repair a floor and build a wheelchair ramp for a resident who is confined to a motorized, very heavy wheelchair and who could not get out of her house without a ramp. Her son also assisted the group.



Pictured front to back: Missy Warren, Logan Tutt, Kaelin Warren, Paul Cowden from Southeast Christian Church, Mason Tutt, Martyna Warren, Gwen Kelly.

(Participated but not pictured: Pam Osborne, Sherri Chandler, Margie Cowden, Anne Banks, and Henry Cunningham)



Speed School participants were: Nathan Chappell, Mat van der Meer, Caleb Thomas, Alina Carrillo, Christina Allgeier, Faculty Member Joe Hagerty, Paul Maron, John Heriford, Chris Keil, Andy Guill and Ray Rush.



Signature Partnership and Ideas to Action... Connecting the Dots

The Ideas to Action Task Group continues to lay the groundwork for changes to undergraduate education designed to enhance student learning. The recently formed group is charged by Provost Shirley Willihnganz to recommend “university wide policies and procedures that shall guide unit changes and overall implementation” in support of the quality enhancement plan.

Much of the focus of “Ideas to Action” is the development of critical thinking skills both through the general education program and in undergraduate major courses. ‘Culminating experiences’ are also planned in order to give students an opportunity to apply critical thinking skills. The Task Group currently sees the potential for a number of undergraduate students to fulfill a ‘culminating experience’ through participation with the Signature Partnership Initiative (SPI). As SPI is intended to be the best way UofL can serve the community, “Ideas to Action” is intended to be the best way UofL can improve its undergraduate programs and prepare students. Working to improve social, human, and community conditions both serves the community and can give students wonderful experiences. Collaboration between the Signature Partnership Initiative and The Ideas to Action Task Group makes sense and is very promising based on early discussions.

While much of the work lies ahead for both the “Ideas to Action” and SPI implementations, it is exciting to think about the potential benefits of these two programs. Through the sustained efforts of those involved, these initiatives can bring about positive changes for the community and for our undergraduate students.

Article submitted by Ideas to Action Task Group

Supreme Court Decision Makes Signature Partnership Work More Vital



The long term consequences of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision overturning Louisville's school desegregation plan are uncertain. However, the implications of this far reaching decision are very clear. School districts will be severely restricted, if

not completely barred, from using race as a factor in drawing up student assignment plans.

Our Jefferson County Public School system must now search for other options in assigning students. Among the choices likely to be considered are neighborhood schools, socio-economic plans, choice plans, or a multi-criteria plan. The challenge will be to come up with a plan that preserves some degree of racial and ethnic diversity and also minimizes the clustering of poor and minority students in low performing schools. This will be a daunting challenge given the segregated housing patterns that still exist in our community, plus the fact that nearly 55% of the students in Jefferson County Public Schools are from economically challenged families. If schools in Louisville do become less diverse with heavier concentrations of low income students, then we must intensify our efforts to insure that students in these schools learn

to the absolute best of their abilities.

The work of the Signature Partnership Initiative already focuses on schools in West Louisville. Some of these schools currently have exceedingly high numbers of students who live in low income households. The goal of the Signature Partnership is to work with JCPS and other community partners to improve the learning and academic performance of students in our target area schools.

Last year we placed approximately 100 UofL students from our College of Education in these schools to assist classroom teachers, work one-on-one with students, and provide other classroom assistance. We also launched the Century Program (TCP Scholars) at Western Middle School. This program is designed to help students prepare for, access, and succeed in college through mentoring, goal-setting, parental involvement and other programming. We plan to implement similar high-impact programs at Atkinson and Portland Elementary, as well as Central and Shawnee High Schools.

Another challenge we plan to address is how best to prepare current and future teachers and other professionals to teach and serve students in the target area schools. Under the lead-

ership of Dr. Robert Felner, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, we plan to establish a Professional Development Training Program that will train student teachers and create a professional development resource for teachers and administrators in these schools. Anticipated outcomes of this program will be better trained teachers and other professionals, reduction in the turnover rate of teachers, and improved student academic achievement in these schools.

When appointed president of UofL five years ago, President James Ramsey pledged that UofL would be a "good citizen university". He committed the university to making a difference in our community. The recent Supreme Court decision makes it more imperative that UofL continue to work closely with the Jefferson County Public Schools, parents, neighborhood leaders, and other community partners to insure that students in our public schools receive a first-class education. This is a primary goal of the Signature Partnership Initiative.

*Article by Daniel Hall
Vice President, External Affairs*



Professor/Business Librarian Glenda Neely gives the students from Western Middle School a tour of Ekstrom Library

In May, approximately 80 TCP Scholars visited UofL Belknap campus to experience life on a college campus

UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE

Office of External Affairs
209F Grawemeyer Hall
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
Phone: 502-852-6026
Fax: 502-852-2116

Daniel Hall, J.D.

Vice President External Affairs

Ralph Fitzpatrick, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President External Affairs

Anne Banks, Ph.D.

Director of Community Partnership Assessment

Perry Clark

Assistant to Vice President

Henry Cunningham, Ph.D.

Community Services Specialist

Susan Jenkins

Program Coordinator Senior

Thomas Owen, Ph.D.

Community Relations Associate

Susan Rhodes

Administrative Services Manager

The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution. This publication was prepared by the University of Louisville. Printed with state funds KRS 57.375.



Central High School students attended law school moot court competition in Allen Courtroom at UofL last spring.

Signature Partnership Goal Statement

In collaboration with community partners, enhance the quality of life for residents in west Louisville by improving the overall educational attainment levels to equal those of Metro Louisville in general, through the integrated enhancement of health, social and economic viability of the community.

Upcoming Event

Social Justice and Public Health
1st Annual Speaker's Series

When: August 28, 2007

Time: 5:30 pm—6:30 pm

Where: Elaine Chao Auditorium,
University of Louisville

TOPIC: "Disparities in Leisure Time
Inactivity in the United States: Political, Economic, and Structural Explanations"

SPEAKER: Dr. Brent Barry, University of Toronto, Department of Sociology

Limited Seating - To RSVP, call 574-6616.

Sponsored by the Center for Health Equity, and UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for Every 1 Reads for 2007-08 school year.

There will a training session for new volunteers at UofL August 28, 2007 from 1:30 pm—3:30 pm. For more information, call 485-3710.