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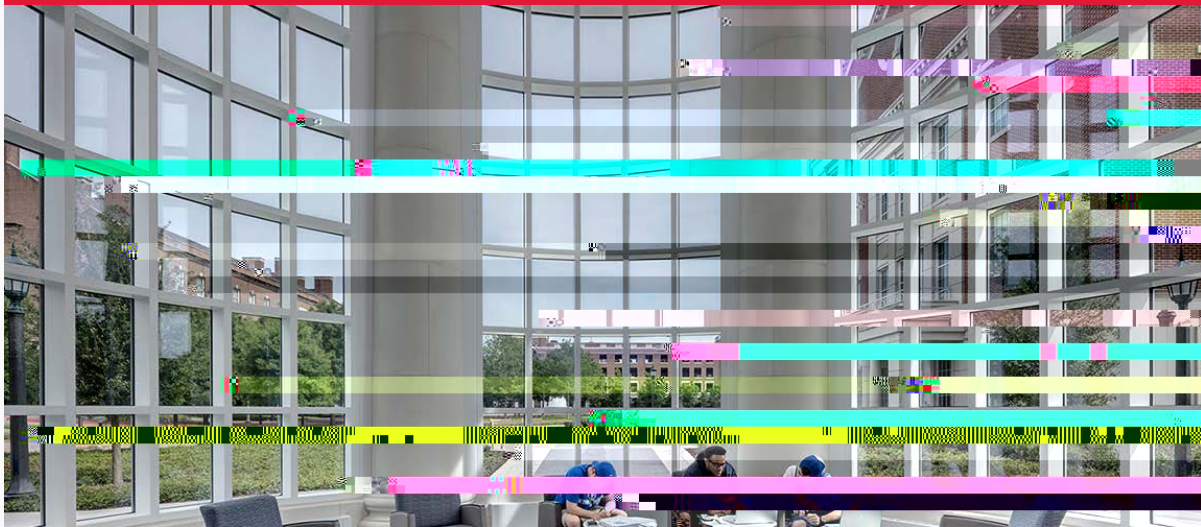
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FORWARD | THE BEST OF US

Getting Better All the Time

Working in the Simmons School as the new dean energizes me because I see a dedicated faculty and staff open to new possibilities.

The environment they have helped fashion is collaborative and entrepreneurial, and they are ready to move the school to greater heights.

For me, this means that Simmons can attain the national recognition that it deserves, and further enhance cutting-edge research at SMU. The bottom line for us remains the high quality education we provide students. Teaching and the application of our research go hand in hand, and we wish to give back to the communities we serve.

I encourage you to read the stories below that exemplify what we do best. You can see it in the scholarship and mentoring our faculty does, our willingness to tackle community problems, and the leadership our alumni assume. We take pride in our work, and think about ways we can do better. I invite you to stay in touch with us.

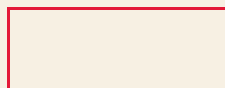


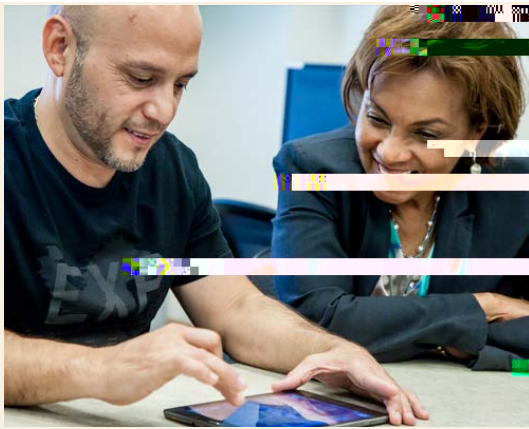
Stephanie L. Knight, Ed.D.
Leon Simmons Endowed Dean



Simmons Alumnae Lead a School They Helped Create

Three Simmons alumnae, principal Nancy Bernardino '01, '04 '05, assistant principal Jennifer Turner '16, and instructional coach Olivia Santos '05, '16, run Solar Preparatory, the new, all-girls elementary school in the Dallas Independent School District. In fact, they and others conceptualized the school's focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). They also got it up and running. SMU Magazine takes a look at their efforts.





Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The idea is to tackle adult low literacy by developing mobile applications for smart devices to increase reading skills.

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Virtual Space in Simmons Hones Teacher Effectiveness

The Teacher Development Studio in Harold C. Simmons Hall helps teachers solve problems and understand how to use different approaches in the classroom. The most innovative feature is the simulation of pre-K-12 classroom environments with avatars standing in for students.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

ENGAGE

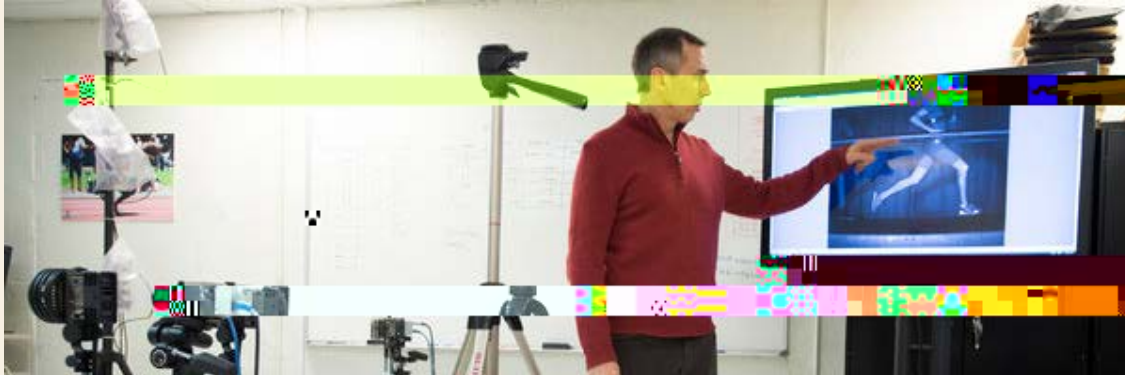


NSF Awards \$2.5M Grant to Measure Early Math Concepts

Simmons Professor Leanne Ketterlin Geller and researcher Lindsey Perry received a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop math assessment tools to measure mathematical

reasoning skills in K-2 students. Few assessments are currently available to measure critical math concepts during these early years.

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NYT Spotlights Locomotor Performance Lab's Research on Usain Bolt's Gait

Biomechanics expert Peter Weyand and his colleagues Andrew Udofa and Laurence Ryan discussed their discovery of **Usain Bolt's apparent asymmetrical stride** with New York Times reporter Jeré Longman for a **front page story**. Their research was conducted at the **Locomotor Performance Laboratory**, and presented by Udofa at the 35th International Conference on Biomechanics in Sport.

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