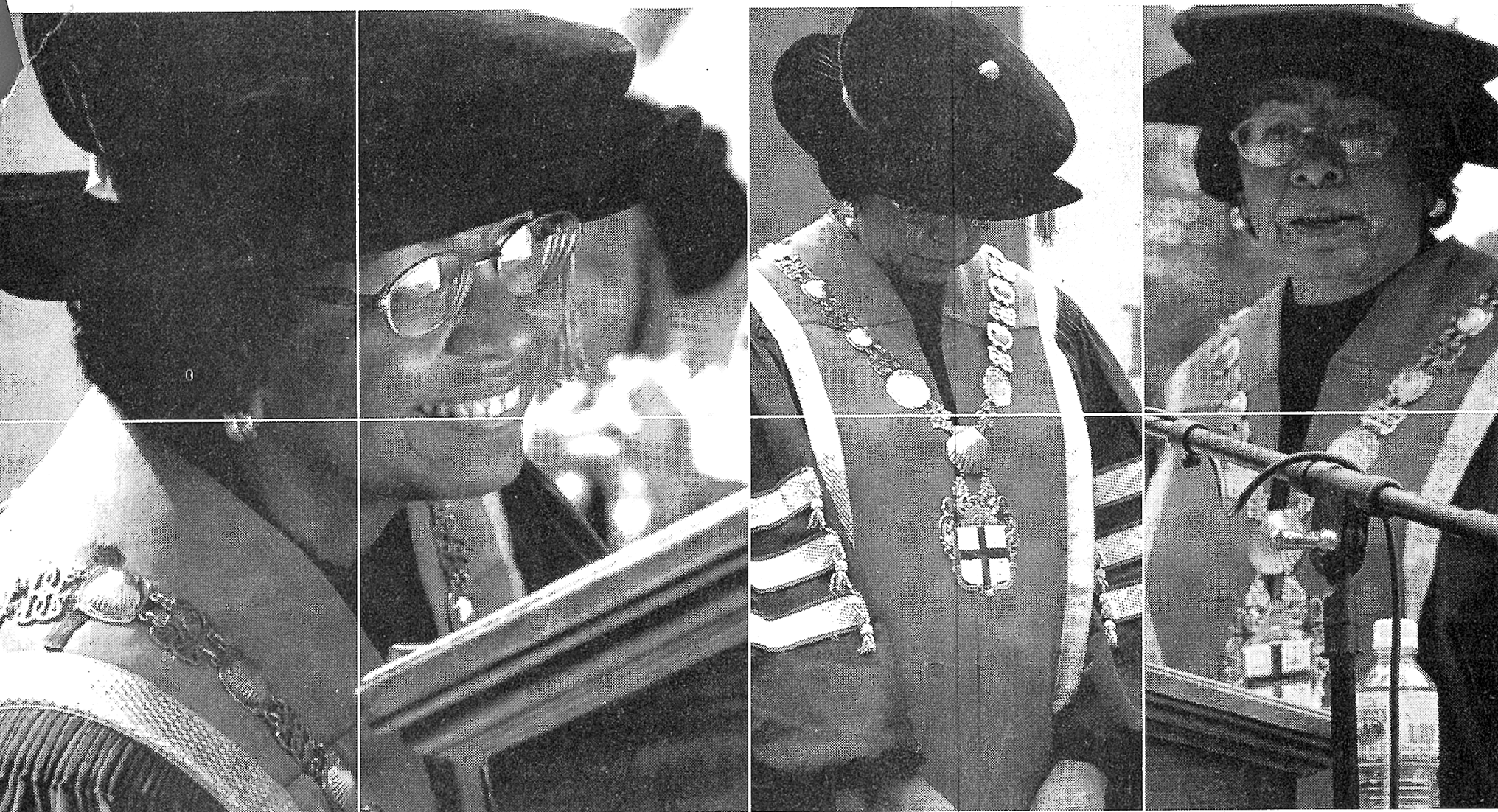


A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF  
**THE BROWN DAILY HERALD**

# RUTH SIMMONS

BROWN UNIVERSITY'S EIGHTEENTH PRESIDENT

INAUGURATION WEEKEND 2001



THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 & 13

**Voyages of Discovery**

**Faculty Forums**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 4 P.M.

SAYLES HALL

**Inaugural Symposium:**

**The University As We Do Not  
Know It**

Johnnetta Cole

Vartan Gregorian

Jorge Klor de Alva

Frank Rhodes

Frank Newman, moderator

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 9 P.M.

GEORGE V. MEEHAN AUDITORIUM

**Inaugural Readings and  
Theatre Performance\***

Tony Kushner

Audra MacDonald

Toni Morrison

Paul Muldoon

James Naughton

Sonia Sanchez

Anna Deavere Smith

Paula Vogel

Oskar Eustis, director

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 9 A.M.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Worship Service**

Reverend James A. Forbes Jr.

The Tougaloo College Choir

Kathleen Castilla, conductor

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 8 P.M.

GEORGE V. MEEHAN AUDITORIUM

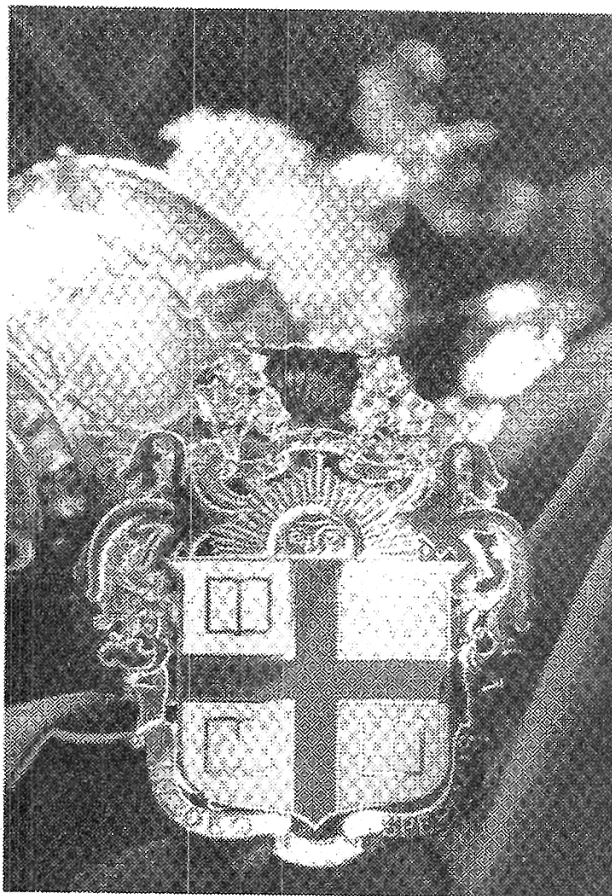
**Inaugural Concert\***

Jessye Norman and the

Brown University Orchestra

Paul Phillips, conductor

OCTOBER 12-14, 2001



*Inauguration*

THE 18TH PRESIDENT  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 2 P.M.

THE COLLEGE GREEN

The Inaugural Convocation  
of Ruth J. Simmons

1:30 P.M.

Academic Procession



\*Tickets are required

For details: [www.brown.edu/webmaster/inauguration](http://www.brown.edu/webmaster/inauguration)

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Herald

## This weekend we welcome Brown's 18th president.

By this time we all know her inspiring personal story: her journey from Grapeland, Texas, to Princeton, Smith and finally to Brown. Her ascendance from abject poverty to the Ivy League. But today we do not celebrate her inspiring personal history. Plenty of people, like Simmons, have extraordinary stories of sacrifice, hard work and determination.

Today we celebrate Ruth Simmons for a much more selfish reason: for what she will do for Brown. We rejoice today, along with the rest of the Brown community, because we have at the helm of our University a woman of such surpassing charisma, charm and brilliance that her personal history seems entirely irrelevant. Black, white, brown or beige, Simmons is a leader any college or university can exult in claiming as its own. We are truly blessed to have her, and we believe she will lead Brown to new heights.

Perhaps the key to Simmons' appeal lies in this ability to convince us all that under her leadership Brown is capable of anything and everything. We at The Herald confess to falling under the Simmons spell. She has inspired us to believe – believe in the goodness of this University and its endeavor, in its leadership, in its place in the world and its potential place in the world.

So here's to the beginning of what we believe will be something wonderful, something transforming, something extraordinary even in the long history of this extraordinary University. Here's to you, President Simmons. As this special Inauguration issue of The Herald attests, we and the rest of the Brown community are confident that you are the right leader for this University. We're proud to welcome you to this singularly beautiful place, this extraordinary institution of higher learning, this treasure among universities. Welcome, President Simmons. Good luck, and Godspeed.

# A weekend to celebrate

**Inauguration Weekend promises a celebration like Brown has rarely seen**

There will be something for everyone when President Ruth Simmons is inaugurated this weekend.

With readings by prominent poets, performances by world-renowned singers, lectures by university presidents and forums by some of Brown's most respected professors, the inauguration planning committee hopes to attract students, faculty, alumni and community members alike to campus for the event-filled weekend.

The theme of the weekend is academics, said Laura Freid, executive vice president of public affairs and University relations and chair of the inaugural committee, though "we're trying to present Brown to the world in many different ways," she said.

Professor of Biology Kenneth Miller '70, who will lead a forum about the human genome, said he thought the theme was clear.

"I've been here for two other inaugurations," he said. "Simmons' seems to have by far the most extensive focus on academic life and on the faculty."

Although the weekend's main focus is on academics, the arts are also well represented in the celebration.

One highlight of the weekend is Saturday night's readings and performances directed by Oskar Eustis, artistic director of Trinity Repertory Company and professor of theatre, speech and dance. Performers include author Toni Morrison, Broadway star Audra MacDonald, playwright Tony Kushner, Brown professor and playwright Paula Vogel and poet Paul Muldoon.

"I'm a huge admirer of (Simmons)," said Muldoon, director of Princeton's

creative writing program and Simmons' former colleague. "I think she's a terrific person, a great administrator and a great human being."

Muldoon, who also took part in Simmons' inauguration at Smith College, said he plans on reading a few of his poems to honor Simmons.

"I think it's significant that the president sees the arts as being important enough to feature at her inauguration," Muldoon said. "This shows her realizing that the arts in their various forms help us to make sense of our lives."

Freid noted that many of the performers are friends of Simmons and "they want to be there for her." Morrison and Sonia Sanchez are Simmons' close friends, she said.

In a Sunday evening performance, the Brown University Orchestra will accompany operatic soprano Jessye Norman.

"It's a great honor," Orchestra President Jen Schwartzman '02 said, "and it will definitely show the school how important the orchestra is as a group. We're working hard to make this a great performance for her."

More in line with Simmons' theme of academics are a number of faculty forums during the weekend. Called "Voyages of Discovery," the forums will "showcase Brown faculty," Freid said.

"It sounded like a very nice idea – combining cultural and intellectual events," said David Konstan, professor of classics, whose forum is titled "The Emotional Vocabulary of Antiquity."

"These talks are to really explain some interesting stuff that's going on

here at Brown to a broad community – students, faculty and alumni," said Michael Black, associate professor of computer science.

"I'm proud to welcome the new president and interact with all the members of the University community," said professor of pediatrics James Padbury. Padbury said he is looking forward to telling people about advances relating to fetal medicine, one of Brown's newest programs.

Some of the forums will be lecture style, and others will resemble a discussion-group format.

"We're going to have somewhat of a discussion of our topic," said David Sheinberg, assistant professor of neuroscience. "We're looking to have a discourse, where there are questions, to present what we're doing in a way that the public at large can understand what we're doing." He also said he wanted to convey "the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, which is something that Brown stands for."

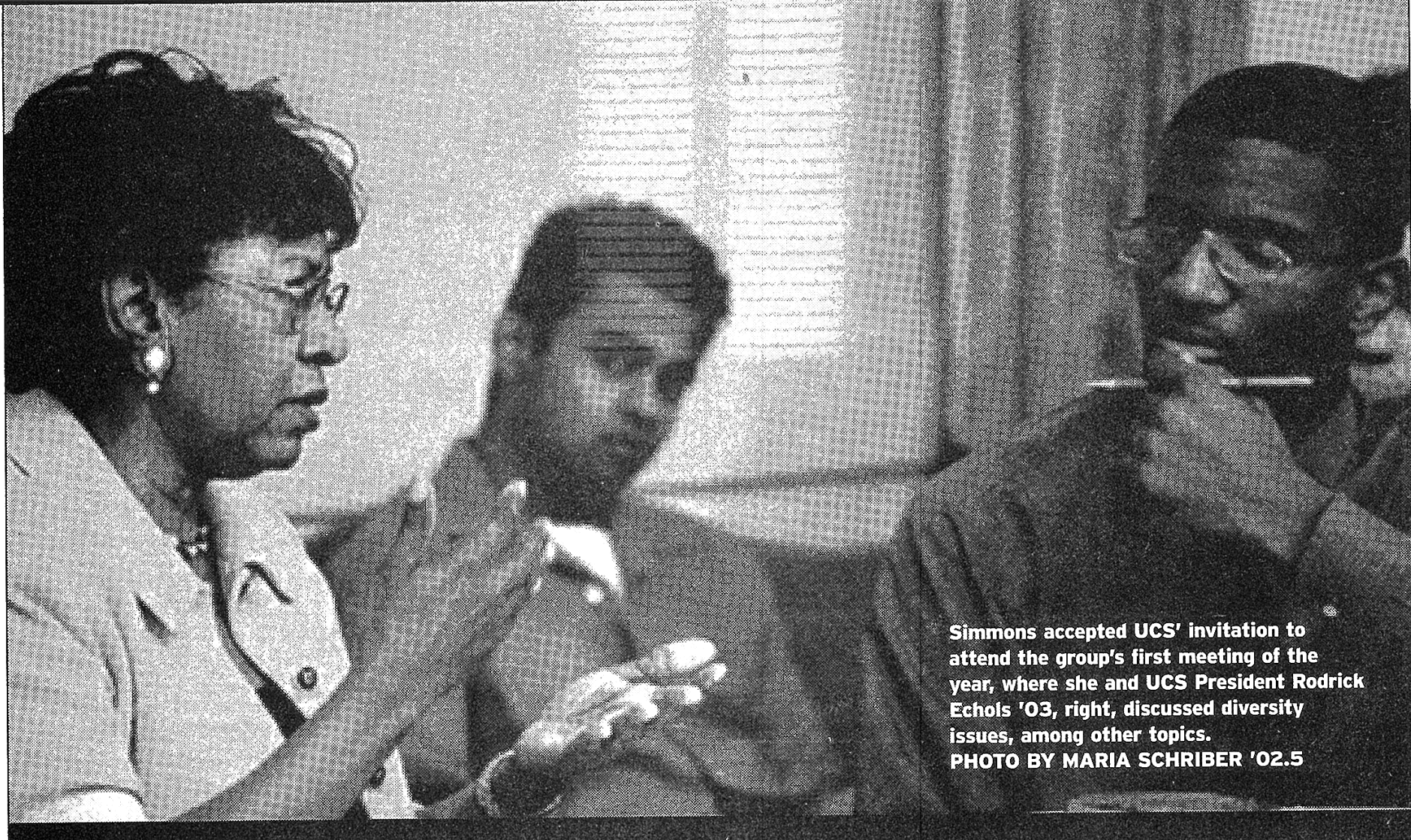
The inauguration will also incorporate student talent. A student-run "Live on Lincoln" talent show is planned for Oct. 12, as are scheduled performances by campus groups.

Performers from the student dance program will present an inaugural dance concert, and student musicians will perform instrumental and vocal pieces on Friday night. Rites and Reason Theatre will show "Sara, a Black Girl in Buenos Aires," written by Camille Bryan '01. "Design for Living" by Noel Coward will be performed at the Sock and Buskin Theatre.

The weekend coincides with Brown's homecoming football game against Princeton, scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

The actual inauguration will be Sunday afternoon, Oct. 14. The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m., preceded by an academic procession at 1:30 p.m.

**BY STEPHANIE HARRIS '04**



Simmons accepted UCS' invitation to attend the group's first meeting of the year, where she and UCS President Rodrick Echols '03, right, discussed diversity issues, among other topics.  
PHOTO BY MARIA SCHRIBER '02.5

## STUDENTS

# Great expectations

**Student leaders say they expect Simmons to unite the campus**

As Ruth Simmons is ceremonially inaugurated as Brown's 18th president this weekend, campus leaders express cautious optimism about a future with the new administration.

Student leaders from diverse campus groups had overwhelmingly positive reactions to Simmons.

"Having a president with her kind of vision and charisma will help Brown to define itself as a community," said Matthew Shechmeister '03, president of the College Democrats.

Illustrating the broad base of support she has picked up during her first three months, campus conservatives were also

impressed with Simmons.

College Republicans President Abby McEwen '02 said she was impressed by Simmons' speech at Convocation. "I think she will be more conservative than people think," she said.

Leaders of the Undergraduate Council of Students voiced strong support for the new president as well.

"She's been very responsive so far and has been honest about her agenda," UCS Vice President Tali Wenger '02 said, noting that Simmons attended the first UCS meeting this year.

"I've never seen someone transition so well," said UCS President Rodrick Echols '03. "It's like she's been here for years."

Echols said UCS is "more than happy" to share its thoughts with the new president. He listed a number of student issues such as campus diversity, campus life, disciplinary reform and financial aid that he "immediately" wants to start working on with Simmons.

Students said they hope Simmons will unite diverse and often conflicting groups in the Brown community.

"She has the ability to bring people together in a way that was completely lacking before," Wenger said.

"She seems to be sensitive to more than just the liberal side of campus," McEwen said. If Simmons had been here last semester, the David Horowitz controversy "would have been handled very differently, and possibly have been more

**BY ANDY GOLODNY '03**

balanced," she said.

Students also said they believe Simmons will work effectively with the Third World community.

"Simmons is the first president to really produce a genuine feeling for connection between members of the Third World community and the administration," said Abhas Gupta '02, president of the South Asian Students Association.

But Gupta recognized Simmons will be held to high expectations, in some ways making her job harder.

"When she doesn't agree with a certain point, it might be difficult for people of color to deal with her because she still represents them," he said.

"She's doing a good job from what I've seen so far," said Christopher Banks '03, co-chair of the Organization of United African Peoples. "Essentially time will tell, but as long as we can work with her to carry out our goals both for the African diaspora community and for Brown as a whole, my faith in her will remain high," he said.

**"Simmons is the first president to really produce a genuine feeling for connection between members of the Third World community and the administration."**

**Abhas Gupta '02  
President of the South Asian  
Students Association**

Campus activists had a positive view of Simmons, but were cautious when asked how her administration might affect their causes.

"It's a big step forward to have a black woman as president in the Ivy League, but I'm as skeptical with her as I am with any University president," said Shaun Joseph '02, a member of the International Socialist Organization.

"I expect her to back up her promises with real actions, and I hope she follows through," said Megan Hall '04, a member of the Student Labor Alliance. "She knows what it's like to work on a minimum wage, so she has to be able to emphasize things like need blind and living wage."

Hall expressed disappointment over Simmons' opposition to a graduate student union and said some campus activists are worried that because of her background, Simmons will "get away with doing things that are more conservative."

"It might be harder to work with the administration now because Simmons is progressive just by being here, and it's hard to push for even more than that," SLA member Jess Tierney '04 said.



*The NAACP Providence Branch extends to the Brown University Family its congratulations in its excellent choice of a leader that can interact with all segments of our community. We look forward to working with your family.*

*Cliff Montero, President*

NAACP- Providence Branch  
P.O. Box 5767  
Providence, RI 02903  
401-521-NAACP

## With faculty a top priority, Simmons sets agenda for U.

Three months into her presidency, Ruth Simmons is already preparing to face the University's most pressing issues.

Acknowledging the need to raise significant funds to satisfy Brown's needs, Simmons cites faculty salaries and recruitment, financial aid and graduate student support as key parts of her agenda.

Simmons said faculty is the best indication of a university's direction, and she worries that some full Brown professors make \$20,000 less than their Yale counterparts.

She also pointed to a reformation of Brown's financial aid program as key to the University's future success. The lack of need-blind admission has long stirred campus debate, and while she agrees that it's desirable, Simmons gave no timetable for committing to such a change.

"The question of need blind seems to me not to be so much a question – it's more an issue of timing," Simmons said. "It will happen. How will it happen? That's just a budget issue."

Saying the nation has not taken a hard look at graduate student education for a long time, Simmons said she envisions broad changes to Brown's graduate school.

Simmons has voiced strong objection to graduate student unionization, saying she worries it could diminish the quality of education at the University.

Though Simmons has just begun to address the University's issues, she acknowledges that agendas and initiatives are not always set in stone.

"I don't believe that any viable institution can set its agenda for all time at one moment in time," Simmons said.

– WILL HURWITZ '03

### PROFESSORS

# Faculty first

## Simmons garners high marks from professors

Ruth Simmons' first 100 days as Brown's 18th president just ended, but many members of the faculty are celebrating Simmons' arrival as enthusiastically as when it was first announced.

"My colleagues that I've talked to about her have been very positive," said Paul Kellstedt, assistant professor of political science. "I'm impressed by her perceptiveness, her drive and her intelligence."

Kellstedt's praises have been echoed by nearly every segment of the Brown community, but the faculty have a special reason to celebrate. Ever since she stepped up to the podium at convocation to deliver her first public address as Brown's leader, Simmons has made it clear she wants to be known as the faculty's president.

Simmons has put increasing faculty salaries, providing start-up funds to attract top talent to the University, and improving Brown's sabbatical policy at the top of her agenda.

Her ideas are nothing new; some faculty have been told by presidents for years, even decades, that help was on the way, without seeing much change. What Simmons instead brings, said Professor of Biology Kenneth Miller '70, is hope.

"I think that every president that Brown or any other university has had has paid lip service to the idea of faculty

retention and faculty development," Miller said. "At least right now, I certainly get the impression that President Simmons' ideas along this line are a lot more than lip service."

Years of inaction have left many at the University skeptical that progress would ever be made, said Associate Professor of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Luiz Valente, who last year chaired the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC), which oversees faculty affairs. Simmons may not have made clear exactly how she plans to bring about change, but she has people believing that real results are around the corner, Valente said.

At September's general faculty meeting, the first of her presidency, Simmons described the University as "at a crossroads" and facing "harbingers of mediocrity." Part of the problem, she said, is a sense of apathy and hopelessness that slowly have been creeping into the outlook of many who have watched Brown slip in magazine rankings and, it seemed, in national prestige compared to its peers.

"Ruth really changed the tone of discussions at University Hall. She restored a sense of possibility at Brown," Valente said.

For Simmons to prove that her commitment to the faculty is more than lip service will take more than optimism alone. She is up against the same financial worries that have frustrated past presidents, as well as an increasingly bleak economic outlook.

After working as secretary to the budget committee at Princeton, doubling Smith's endowment during her five years there as president and serving on the boards of Goldman Sachs, Pfizer, MetLife and Texas Instruments, Simmons said she is confident in her abilities.

"I know how to sniff out money as a result of my experience," Simmons said. She listed revenue from auxiliary servic-

BY BRIAN BASKIN '04

es, expanded summer programs and an eventual capital campaign as potential resources.

With full professors last year earning an average of \$91,800 and associate and assistant professors earning \$63,700 and \$53,000, respectively, Brown's faculty salaries rank last in the Ivy League. But they are first among the priorities of the faculty and, now, the administration.

Last year the Advisory Committee on University Planning set aside \$2 million over the next four years to match offers to faculty from other schools and hire new professors, a move Professor of Computer Science John Savage, who now chairs the FEC, said was only a third of what was needed. Simmons' plans, though still unknown, promise to be more far-reaching.

"She helps us look at the whole picture instead of focusing on humdrum of basics," said Martha Joukowsky '58, professor of archaeology.

Part of that picture, Simmons has said, is recruiting minority faculty.

Though she has not unveiled any specific plans, increasing start-up funds for the hiring of new professors would make recruiting an easier process.

Associate Dean of the College and Director of the Third World Center Karen McLaurin-Chesson '74 said focusing on increasing diversity in the faculty, as well as at Brown in general, is one area in which Simmons will have a tough act to follow.

Professors and administrators have had little positive to say in public about former president Gordon Gee's time at the University, but McLaurin-Chesson credited him with addressing many of the concerns of the Third World community.

"The reality is we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Gee," McLaurin-Chesson said of the Third World Center.

Like many in the faculty and administration, McLaurin-Chesson said she has faith in Simmons, even though she has so far said little about the future of the Third World Center or the possibility of

expanding the ethnic studies concentration, two issues McLaurin-Chesson has advocated in recent years.

"Just because we're both black doesn't mean I'm part of the priority," McLaurin-Chesson said. "I might not fall within the category of priorities this year."

For now, Simmons' agenda and promises of even greater things to come are enough to sustain her popularity among the faculty.

"It's still the 100 days, but the mark of a great university president is the ability to extend that 100 days indefinitely," Miller said.

For Valente, who has met with Simmons "many times" since she was announced as Brown's next president last November, the 100 days have stretched to nearly a year, with no end in sight.

"This is more than the proverbial honeymoon period. ... I have a very real feeling that Ruth is the right person for the job," Valente said. "Ruth is the real thing."

What could be better?  
To be both teacher and student,  
whilst supporting the enterprise of the academy.  
This is a life of purpose.  
- Anonymous

President Simmons,  
we salute you.



**Campus Life and Student Services:**  
Department of Athletics and Physical Education  
Office of Student Life ~ College Admission  
Sarah Doyle Women's Center ~ Student Activities  
Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life  
Third World Center ~ Office of Financial Aid  
University Food Services ~ Office of Residential Life  
Psychological Services ~ Health Services



## Simmons' tight-knit family keeps her grounded

Ruth Simmons and her brother Wilford Stubblefield never go to sleep without working out their arguments. Though Stubblefield and all but one of their siblings still live in Houston, Simmons speaks with him almost every day.

As children, Simmons and her siblings were taught the importance of sticking together as a family. Isaac and Fannie Stubblefield taught their 12 children to "treat people right, and that hard work wasn't going to hurt us," Stubblefield said. But most importantly they taught them the value of family.

To this day, Simmons' large family is closely knit. She finds time to visit her family in Texas regularly. They hold large family reunions when Simmons returns, and are always excited to see her, Stubblefield said.

"She's always maintained a sense of who she is," said her brother Clarence Stubblefield. "When she comes home, she's Ruth, and we don't put on any airs around her,"

As a divorced mother of two, Simmons has stressed the importance of family to her children Maya, 24, now a personal assistant to her mother, and Khari, 28, a bassist who has played with such musicians as India.Arie.

"Most of us understand our professional life won't be the most important part of our career," Ruth Simmons said, referring to her role as a mother.

"My children keep me anchored. They keep me focused on what matters in life," she said.

Simmons said she always tried to adjust her career pace to her primary role as wife and mother. In the early part of her career she looked for jobs that fit with her role as parent, she said.

see **FAMILY**, page 34

CHILDHOOD

# Beating the odds

## Simmons' best personal qualities developed early

About halfway between Houston and Dallas, sitting out in the woods, lies the small town of Grapeland, Texas. It was in Diley, a farming community 20 miles west of Grapeland, where Ruth Simmons spent the first seven years of her life.

"For someone who has never been to the South or to Texas it may be difficult to picture where we lived," said Clarence Stubblefield, 61, one of Simmons' brothers. But the Stubblefield siblings have no trouble describing where they grew up.

"If you were driving down a street and the street disappears and you saw lots and

lots of endless woods, that's what it looked like," Stubblefield said.

Simmons is the youngest of 12 children born to Isaac and Fannie Stubblefield, who worked as sharecroppers to feed their large family. The family lived in the country, where the roads were dirt, there was no electricity and the nearest people lived about half a mile away.

"We had no neighbors per se," Stubblefield said. "There were other families but we didn't know them or see them often."

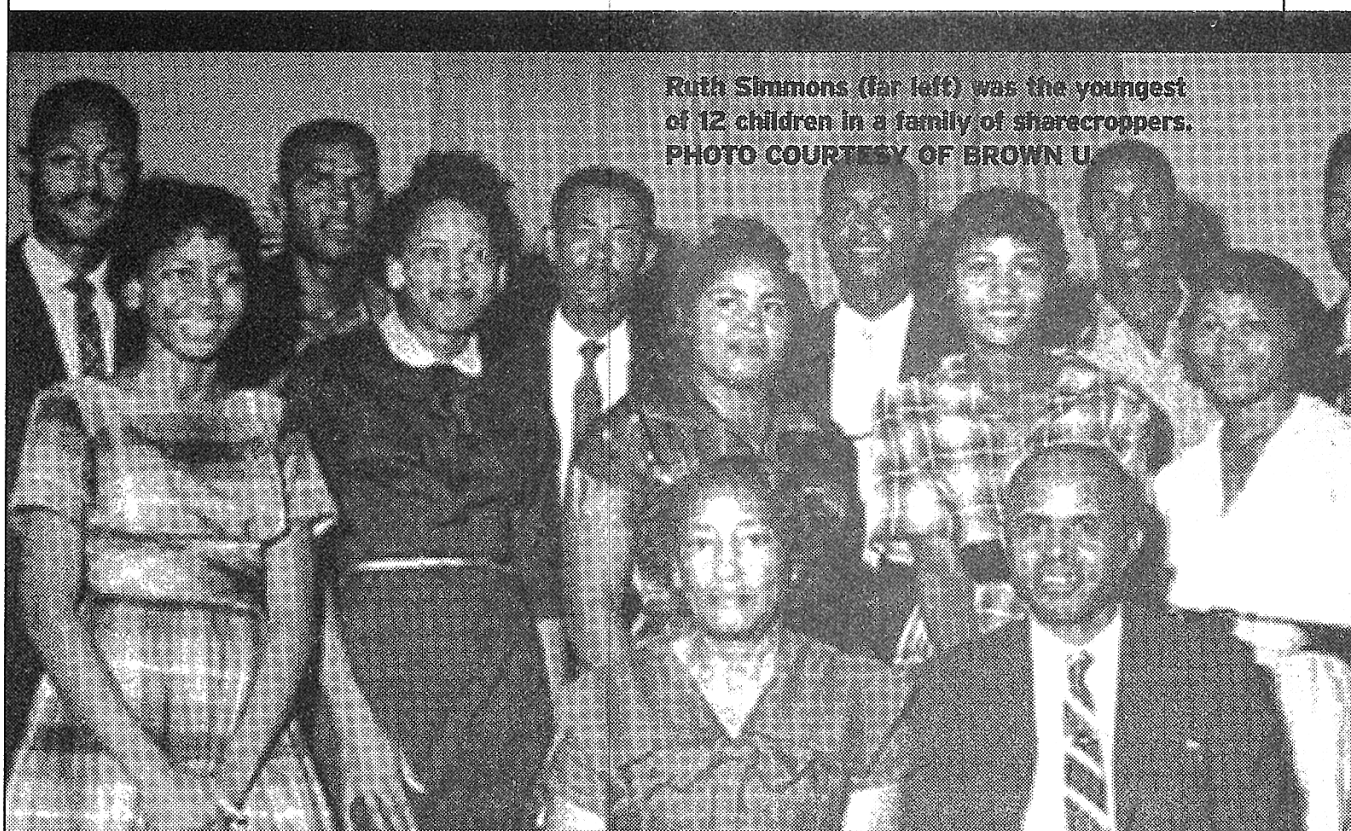
Even "the mailbox was a long ways from where we actually lived," Stubblefield recalled.

The Stubblefield family lived in a dark shack with a tin roof. Inside, there was a room for her parents, a room shared by the seven boys and one shared by the five girls.

Daily life centered on their job as sharecroppers. All the children helped pick and harvest the cotton and peanuts, except Ruth. Ruth was too young to work, and "she got in the way of the others picking the cotton," Stubblefield said.

During the summers, Simmons' niece Jean Sims, a month her elder, looked forward to visiting Grapeland and spending time with her aunt. As children the two girls played hide and seek and jumped

BY SHERYL SHAPIRO '03



Ruth Simmons (far left) was the youngest of 12 children in a family of sharecroppers. PHOTO COURTESY OF BROWN U.



**Ruth Simmons' childhood was marked by severe poverty, but also a tight-knit family and a yearning to learn.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BROWN U.**

rope in the cornfields while the others worked.

"In the fields our family grew sugar cane, and we used to take it home with us," Sims said. "We did simple things, nothing elaborate. Things were so carefree in the country. It was fun, and it was certainly a time I looked forward to."

Clarence Stubblefield said his father would take the family into Grapeland on some Saturdays.

"The town was very small. There were a couple of grocery stores and a post office," said Wilford Stubblefield, another brother.

Despite living in poverty, it was in Grapeland, at W.R. Banks Elementary School, where Simmons developed her love for learning and experienced what she refers to as "an intellectual awakening."

She recalls feeling excited every day she walked into her kindergarten classroom.

"All the books, the resources – and let me say, given the fact that it was a country schoolroom, there wasn't much there," she said. "But whatever was there was new for me and exciting and made me think that there was something very special taking place.

"Because after all, if people would provide a space like that for learning, that meant that learning had to be pretty important. ... Being in that classroom and knowing that something different was taking place and that I could be a part of that changed my life," she said.

At school Simmons said she was excited not only because she had books but her own desk as well. Coming from a large family, she had never had a place of her own before, she said.

Simmons said she was particularly influenced by her kindergarten teacher, Ida Mae Henderson, who taught her class about possibilities during a time when segregation was a reality and black children were taught they had no rights.

"We couldn't walk on the sidewalk with whites. We had to step aside when whites approached, and we couldn't go into the movie theater and sit on the ground floor. ... There were so many don'ts," Simmons said of a time when segregation pervaded all facets of life in Grapeland.

"But here's a place where you were pushed to do the things that society forbade. So this wonderful woman with this cheerful voice was encouraging while soci-

ety was putting you down all the time. So that marvelous contrast is really what I remember," Simmons said.

In Henderson's classroom, Simmons heard a message of hope instead of one of limitations. "I know on some level that if I had not come into that classroom I would be in a very different place today," she said.

"I count myself lucky," Simmons said. "Some people would say I was very unlucky to go through segregated schools for all of my K-12 experience and then go to a small college for undergraduate school. So a lot of people would say, 'Oh poor you that you had to endure that.' But how can I say that when I've seen the diversity of things that I've seen and when I've understood that the value of education is not in the trinkets that we have access to?

"It's in the heart of the people who nurture us and the opportunity to develop our mind, the freedom of thought and high expectations that affect us. It's this odd mixture of things that come together in every single human being. Everybody has that," Simmons said.

The love of learning Simmons experienced in kindergarten did not end when she left that classroom, and she continued to devote herself to her studies.

"If she did something wrong, we'd threaten to not let her go to school," Wilford Stubblefield said. "And she didn't want to miss school for any reason."

At a very young age, Simmons' family recognized her talent and work ethic.

"It was quite obvious to me that she was something special," Wilford Stubblefield said. "She really stood out. She wasn't the same as everyone else."

Everyone who knew Simmons as a child said she was always reading. "Her head was always in a book," Wilford Stubblefield said.

Clarence Stubblefield said his sister had the makings of a leader even as a child.

"She was very authoritative, always trying to tell other people what to do," he said. "Yes, her managerial skills were in place early on."

"She was inquisitive as a child. We always recognized that," said Simmons' niece Beverly Wilborn. "But no one of us had any idea her inquisitiveness would take her to become a university president."

# Hitting the books

**Simmons' college journey took her from New Orleans to Boston and beyond**

After Ruth Simmons finished her first year at college, she thought she would never go back.

At the encouragement of Vernell A. Lillie, her high school drama teacher, Simmons had left her home in rural Texas for the first time to attend Dillard University in New Orleans.

But when she got there, Simmons experienced what she described as "a delayed grieving" for her mother, who had died when she was 15 years old. That loss, combined with adjusting to life away from her family, made the college experience a difficult one at first.

"Dillard could have been a very comforting experience for me in my first year because it was a historically black college, and culturally it was probably a pretty good fit for a young person who had never been outside their own culture, their own family," she said. "So it should have been a fine transition for me if I hadn't had this other problem."

Though she got through her classes and daily life "mechanically," Simmons said she did not intend to return to school after that first year.

But Simmons did stay in classes another year, mainly because she did not have the train fare to return to Texas.

"Thank goodness I was poor enough that I couldn't go home. If I had had the means to go home, I would have left and probably never gone back," she said.

During her undergraduate years, Simmons said she "was a real troublemaker."

But Ron Carter, a college friend who now lives in Atlanta, said Simmons was "more like a big sister" when they were at Dillard together.

"She made sure I stayed on the straight and narrow," he said. "If she caught me

without a book in my hand, I'd never hear the end of it."

Simmons and Carter would sometimes spend their free time shopping and taking in the sights in New Orleans, but a lot of their time together was spent studying, Carter said.

Even with this focus on her studies, when Simmons heard the president of Dillard wanted to see her, she instantly thought she was to be punished for something she had done.

"I thought the administration saw me as a bit of a nuisance," she said.

But instead of going to his office, Simmons went to the president's house — a "really imposing place." The president informed her that Dillard had an exchange program with Wellesley College, in Massachusetts, and he wanted her to be the next participant.

"Now that I think about it, maybe he was trying to get rid of me," Simmons said with a laugh.

Simmons accepted the offer and spent her junior year at Wellesley, where she experienced "culture shock."

"I was coming from a segregated South. I had never had substantial interactions with whites. I had never been in an environment where I felt that people were watching me all the time to see whether I was stupid or smart or crazy," she said. "And here I am at this kind of environment where people are having high tea every afternoon."

Simmons said she was not prepared for most aspects of Wellesley, from the wealthy student body to the winter weather.

"I didn't have anything that I needed," she said. "I actually went to Wellesley without a coat.

"I think people couldn't possibly under-

stand what my background was," Simmons said. "They must have been mystified by me."

At first Wellesley was a lonely experience for Simmons as she dealt with "the issue of trying to fit in, trying to represent my college, the issue of trying to catch up in some subjects where I was behind," she said.

In her French class at Wellesley, Simmons had trouble keeping up because it was taught completely in French. She told the professor she was going to drop the class.

"His response was no, I should just stick with it, and after a while I would start to understand," she said. "I thought that was the silliest response I had ever heard."

Once again, Simmons did not have the money to return home, so she went to class every day.

"One day I realized that I was understanding French, and I was speaking French, and I think that was the pivotal intellectual experience for me in my undergraduate years because the moment that I understood I was speaking French, thinking in French, understanding French, I thought nothing again would be foreign to me," she said.

"After that, I really thought I could do anything. Of course it wasn't true, but I thought it. And that was the most important thing," Simmons said.

Although she said Wellesley was a difficult experience, Simmons acclimated over time and left with "terrific friends" and "really fond memories."

Though she spent all her time in the arts complex and wanted to major in the arts, Simmons ended up majoring in French because she was advised it was more practical for a black student.

Simmons said her undergraduate experiences helped her understand the world.

"I guess my orientation from my undergraduate years was that the world that we

**BY CAMILLE GERWIN '03**

see **UNDERGRAD**, page 33

# Scholarly focus

**As an academic, Simmons showed love for teaching**

President Ruth Simmons' career in academia, although short, is marked by a distinct evolution from a scholar of French literature and a private person to an influential and public figure as an administrator.

"She had a short career as a faculty member," said David Greene, assistant to the president. "This is strange to some because she is open about her love for teaching."

Although Simmons said she would have been content to remain in academia, she and others whom she has worked with agree the larger voice she gained in administration was even more important.

"I could have been a really terrific scholar, deeply satisfied to work in the field that I love and to teach students – and that would have been terrific," Simmons said. "But when I ask myself whether or not what I am doing now is less good ... I would have to answer no. I think it turned out OK."

Simmons launched her administrative career in 1975 as assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of New Orleans.

Although Simmons still has a love for teaching, she said leaving academia "had something to do with finding

myself in a pretty esoteric field. And having some personal goals that could not be met as easily on the faculty."

As a professor of French literature at the University of New Orleans from 1973 to 1976, Simmons felt stifled.

"I was finding there were no minority students in my classes. At the time I first started, I was the only African-American faculty member in my field – in my entire division of the humanities," she said.

Simmons said she felt the need to reach out to more minority students.

"I knew that I had the capacity to influence the experience they had at the university," she said.

With these goals in mind, Simmons took the opportunity to move into the administration.

"She is a teacher first and foremost," Greene said. "She was tapped for the administration because people saw that she had a gift."

"She espouses a genius for understanding what one has to do in order to allow for the best education to take place," said Ellen Chances, professor of Russian Literature and Culture at Princeton. Chances and Simmons worked together when Simmons was associate dean of the faculty there from 1986 to 1990 and when she returned as vice provost from 1992 to 1995.

"She has a passion for making the world a better place and the belief that education can accomplish this," Chances said, referring to Simmons' desire to reach out to more students as an administrator.

Lorn Foster, now a professor of politics at Pomona College, remembered Simmons as a fellow assistant professor at the University of New Orleans when he started there in 1974. Both were the same age and part of a small group of black professors at the school.

"She is a very good listener to divergent view points," Foster said. "She is

A scholar of French literature, Simmons has said she would like to teach a course at Brown one day.  
PHOTO BY MARIA SCHRIBER '02.5

**BY BETHANY RALLIS '04**

able to give all perspectives a fair hearing."

Simmons took this talent for listening and her desire to connect with people to her career as an administrator.

Carol Swain, professor of law and political science at Vanderbilt University, remembered being considered for a tenure-track professorship at Princeton in 1989, while Simmons was associate dean of the faculty.

"She was a life line to me. I call her my big sister," Swain said, offering vivid memories of Simmons' impact.

Swain was struck by how "non-elitist" Simmons was.

"She was sensitive for what the move to Princeton would be like for someone like me: a black woman from a poorer Southern background," she said. "She did not allow fame to change her."

Swain also highlighted Simmons' continued interest in the faculty – even as an administrator – saying that Simmons was sympathetic to faculty issues while at Princeton.

"She would go to whomever she could to address the issue," Swain said. "She was a fighter on behalf of the faculty and staff.

"Princeton was not the same after Ruth left," Swain said.

Simmons left Princeton in 1990 to serve as provost of Spelman College for two years. In 1992 she returned to Princeton, but left again in 1995 to take the presidency of Smith College.

Throughout her career in education, Simmons has "moved from the typical scholar's life to become someone with public presence and voice," Greene said.

Simmons began her academic career as a graduate student at Harvard in 1969. She graduated with a master's degree in 1970 and a Ph.D. in romance languages in 1973. That year she took a teaching position as an assistant professor of French at the University of New Orleans, where she later served as assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

In 1977 she moved to California State

University, Northridge, where she began work as the administrative coordinator of the NEH Liberal Studies Project and later became the acting director of International Programs and visiting associate professor of Pan-African Studies.

In 1979 Simmons moved to the University of Southern California, where she served as associate dean of the graduate school until 1982. From there she went to Princeton, where she was director of studies for Butler College and later acting director of the Afro-American Studies program before becoming associate dean of the faculty.

"I was so much better at administration that it was pretty clear from the time I became an administrator that I had a talent for it, and, as a result, nobody was interested in seeing me go back to the faculty," Simmons said.

When she was named president in November, Simmons said she hopes to teach at Brown someday.

# *Best wishes to Ruth Simmons*

*Upon your inauguration*

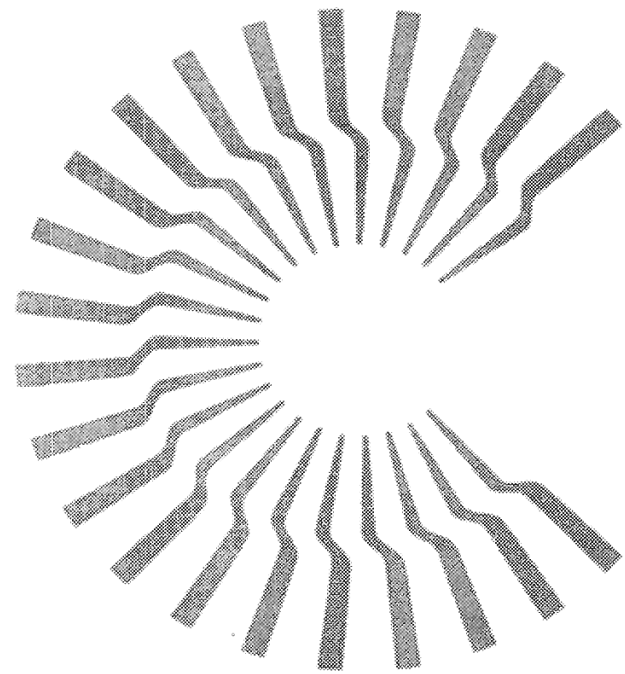
*as 18th President of Brown University*

## **The Francis Wayland Collegium for Liberal Learning**

The Wayland Collegium is an organization at Brown that unites faculty in a unique system of support for innovative teaching and research about fundamental questions of human values.

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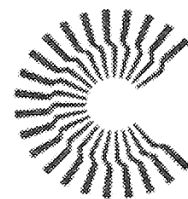
the Leadership that  
Ruth Simmons Brings  
to Brown University and  
Supports her Commitment  
to the Fundamental Mission  
of Higher Education  
to Address its Public Purpose.



"THE VALUES THAT BROWN IMPLICITLY TEACHES ITS STUDENTS ARE MANIFEST IN ITS OPEN CURRICULUM, THE WAY THE UNIVERSITY STRESSES INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, IN THE VALUE THE UNIVERSITY PLACES ON COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND IN ITS ACKNOWLEDGED RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR DIVERSITY IN BOTH SOCIAL RELATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL CHOICES."

*Ruth J. Simmons' address to the faculty, students, and staff of Brown University on Thursday, November 9, 2000, following the public announcement of her election as the University's 18th president.*

Campus Compact is a national membership organization of more than 750 college and university presidents committed to helping students develop the values and skills of civic participation through involvement in public service. Campus Compact was formed in 1985 by the presidents of Brown, Georgetown, and Stanford universities and the president of the Education Commission of the States.



**Campus Compact**

[www.compact.org](http://www.compact.org)

## Smith fondly recalls its beloved former president

Although disappointed to see her go, faculty and administration at Smith College are proud of the legacy Ruth Simmons left behind and the new venture she has embarked on at Brown.

"You have someone who is so loved by everybody, you hate to see her leave," said Brenda Allen, director of institutional diversity, assistant to the president and professor of psychology.

The sense of loss is balanced by a deep admiration for Simmons and her achievements.

Acting President John Connolly, a former provost and dean of the faculty, said Smith is used to keeping a president for 10 or more years. He called her leaving an "unwelcome surprise" but added, "On the other hand people were also proud."

"Smith's immediate loss is really the gain of higher education in general," Allen said. "There is a common acceptance at Smith that Ruth has more to do in the world of higher education."

Calling Simmons "a great academic leader and excellent fundraiser," Provost Susan Bourque said "she drew people to her with a vision for change. People wanted to work with her."

Although Simmons is missed at Smith, faculty and administrators are grateful for her contributions and anticipate her success at Brown.

"Being the first African-American woman at an institution like Smith and to do it so well and have such an impact is a tremendous achievement that Smith will benefit from and be proud of," Connolly said.

"Everyone recognizes what a terrific job she had done and we're delighted this was a challenge she wanted to take on," Bourque said.

— JULIE DIMARTINO '02

# Taking the helm

With experience, Simmons ready to face challenges

Brown has righted itself on a course into the future now that it has a permanent president again.

After the short-lived Gee era and another year with no permanent president, Brown appeared to lack direction and focus in tackling its shortcomings. With Ruth Simmons at the lead, the University is now well equipped to face its problems head-on.

Simmons brings nearly 30 years of higher education administrative experience to the table — experience she will need to answer the calls for attention to Brown's finances, diversity, community and faculty.

### Money

One of the most important skills that Simmons brings to Brown is her ability both to secure and to allocate funds.

Financial skills allowed Simmons to launch a successful \$250 million endowment campaign at Smith College, which according to the spring edition of News Smith is expected to reach its goal two years ahead of schedule.

As she boosted Smith's resources, Simmons facilitated an unprecedented expansion of capital projects and academic programs at the college.

A \$35 million expansion and renovation of Smith's fine arts center is underway as are plans to rehabilitate and refurbish Smith's science, music and performing arts facilities. The construction of a new campus center is planned for 2003.

She oversaw the creation of Praxis, a program designed to subsidize internships for every Smith student at least once during four years of college.

Other Simmons-inspired programs at Smith include the Picker Program in Engineering, the first undergraduate engineering program at a women's college, and a new poetry center designed to bring more readings to campus.

Multi-million-dollar corporations like Goldman Sachs and Texas Instruments have invited Simmons to sit on their boards.

### Diversity, Unity and Campus Strife

Simmons is prepared to handle more than just financial strife: She has also proved adept at handling racial and ethnic tensions on college campuses.

Simmons was named vice provost of Princeton in 1993, with then-President Harold Shapiro deeming her the point person for minority concerns. The spring and fall semesters before that were difficult for the Princeton community.

In the wake of the Rodney King beating, Princeton students began to protest the administration's slow response to minority harassment on and off campus by police and the University community in general.

Simmons' famous Race Relations Report grew out of these protests and her new responsibilities.

"That report was seen as a major breakthrough," said Joann Mitchell, Princeton's associate provost. "We needed a statement of what our aspirations were in that area."

Among other things, the report advocated the appointment of an ombudsman and special office to handle racial harassment complaints, the reorganization and expansion of Princeton's affirmative action efforts, the development of an admission program to increase minority yields and the formation of a faculty committee to look into curricular diversity.

Simmons' tenure at Smith was also marked by her ability to help ease racial, ethnic and class tensions.

Her initiatives included increased student financial aid, the establishment of

BY ETHAN HOROWITZ '04

administrative offices to facilitate diversity efforts and reduce conflict and minority faculty recruitment.

#### **Faculty**

Brown's professors hope Simmons' reputation as a "faculty's administrator" will offset much of the damage done by the University's inability to pay faculty a competitive wage.

At Princeton, Simmons was responsible for the creation of the African-American studies program.

She recruited such famous scholars as Toni Morrison, Cornel West and Arnold Rampersad, said Nell Painter, professor of history and another Simmons recruit.

This task took "a really unusual constellation of talents," Painter said, and required "a very tough balancing act" to convince the administration, each department and Princeton's interdisciplinary search.

Simmons' ability to attract scholars to Princeton was evident well beyond the African-American studies

program, as current administrators attribute the current strength of its entire faculty to Simmons' efforts.

"She greatly strengthened our faculty," said Princeton Vice President and Secretary Thomas Wright. "She was able to strengthen many of the departments."

Simmons has also proved to be skilled at retaining faculty by improving their working conditions.

During her two-year tenure as provost of Spelman College, Simmons "was able to empower faculty and staff members in ways that had never been done before," said Cynthia Neal Spense, academic dean at Spelman.

At Spelman, Simmons "created opportunities for faculty members to gain leadership experience" by instituting a program of rotating department chairs, Spense said.

Simmons facilitated similar improvements in faculty conditions at Smith, such as the reduction of faculty teaching loads from five classes

per year to four.

#### **The Light at the End of the Tunnel**

During her seven years at Princeton, Simmons gained experience working with students as a dean of a residential college and with faculty as a dean of the faculty.

These experiences, combined with her early administrative positions at the University of New Orleans, University of Southern California and California State University, Northridge, gave Simmons what Wright called "exposure in a very deep way to a different part of the institution" of higher education.

By the time Simmons reached Spelman, she understood fiscal responsibilities, classroom concerns, faculty needs and staff development, Spense said.

Simmons has since proved her remarkable administrative capacities as a senior administrator at Princeton and Smith, Wright said.

Congratulations and best wishes to  
Ruth Simmons

From all her Smith friends



**SMITH COLLEGE**

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# Captain of industry

**A leader of national stature, Simmons serves on many corporate boards**

A board member at Pfizer, Goldman Sachs, Texas Instruments and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. A trustee of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Clarke School for the Deaf. A member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

And president of Brown University.

Ruth Simmons brings to Brown the business connections and corporate managerial experience she gained from working with a number of major companies.

"I think one of the advantages of looking especially at enterprises outside of higher education is that some of the assumptions that we make ... are wholly erroneous," Simmons said in a recent interview with The Herald.

The methods practiced by private corporations are valuable lessons for a university, she said.

"We're generally pretty conservative in our financial planning," she said. "We do a lot of things that could be done better applying some of the techniques of other kinds of enterprises."

Though Brown values its independence and creativity, "there are ways of eliminating some of the bureaucracy that I think we have on this campus – we could do things much more quickly, much more effectively," Simmons said.

She pointed to some departments at Brown that have gone lengthy periods of time without the University addressing their problems.

"We need to get those kinds of things on a regular cycle, we need to respond more quickly to departments" and use corporate efficiency standards, she said.

Simmons' experience as a board mem-

ber dates back to her years at the University of Southern California, when she served on the Board of the Radcliffe Club of Southern California from 1978 to 1983.

Soon after she served on boards in the Higher Education Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities and on the Graduate Advisory Board of the California Student Aid Commission.

Since then, many of her board and committee memberships have been academic, ranging from the chair of the Committee to Visit the Department of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University from 1991 to 1999 to being a member of the National Advisory Commission, Equity 2000, for the College Board from 1992 to 1995.

Over the past few years, Simmons has joined a more elite list of organizations with scope extending beyond the reaches of academia.

Since 1995 she has been a member of the board of directors of MetLife.

Beginning in 1996 she has served as a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development along with members such as the chairmen of General Electric, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Xerox.

Simmons is a member of the board of directors at pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and a member of the Council of Foreign Relations. In 1998 she was named to the board of advisors to the First International Conference on AIDS.

Recently, she has joined the boards at



**Simmons brings to Brown's presidency the experiences and connections she has gained working on corporate boards. PHOTO BY REBECCA PRONSKY '02**

Texas Instruments and Goldman Sachs and has become a trustee at the Carnegie Corporation. She also served on the Advisory Council to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Millennium Scholars Program.

Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and president of Brown from 1988 to 1997, had only good things to say about Simmons.

"She has wonderful questions, participates on our committees, evaluates the various projects we have," he said.

Simmons is "involved, not detached. She's very thoughtful," he added.

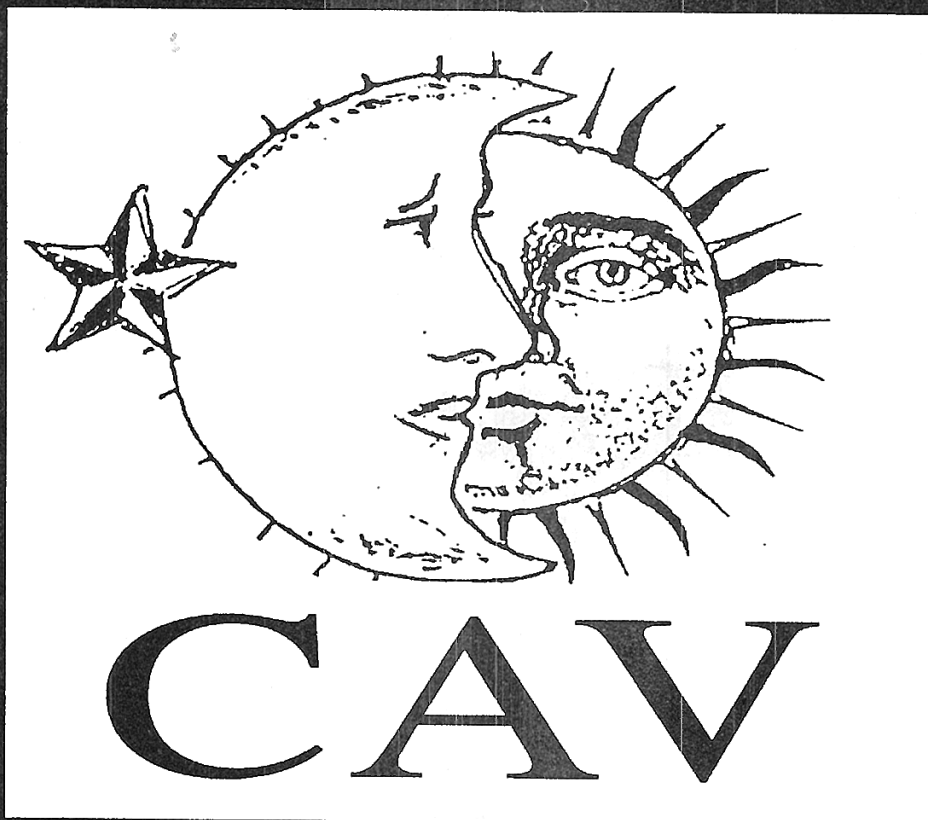
Gregorian said he proposed Simmons as a trustee because "I wanted our board to have a college president who's an educator."

**BY CHRIS BYRNES '04**

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## From Manning to Simmons, Brown presidency has a storied past

Brown University's first 17 presidents were all white men. Ruth Simmons is not. Nevertheless, those who have led the University are a diverse group, and when Simmons' portrait is hung in Sayles Hall she will join the ranks of a group of leaders who each brought a unique style to University Hall.

Rhode Island College, as it was known then, chose the Rev. James Manning as its first president. Weighing in at 300 pounds, the 26-year-old Manning was appointed as "president of the College, professor of languages and other branches of learning" in September 1765.

When Manning assumed the presidency, the College had only one student; five enrolled the following year. By the conclusion of his 26-year term, 163 men had graduated from the college.

Manning literally built Brown, laying 32 rods of stone walls around the College. A staunch supporter of the Constitution in contemporary political debates, Manning's friends and colleagues said he would have made an excellent politician during America's early years. A Baptist minister, Manning was sent to the U.S. Congress of 1786 as a delegate from Rhode Island.

Regarded as a well-rounded scholar with deep religious convictions, Manning also appears to have been quite a man of the Enlightenment, having purchased a telescope, microscope, electrical machine and other new scientific tools of the time.

At the 1792 Commencement, a transparency was placed in the attic story of the illuminated College Edifice – now University

see **HISTORY**, page 32

# Words of wisdom

Former presidents offer Simmons their best advice

When Vartan Gregorian took over as Brown's 16th president in 1989, he was flooded with advice from faculty leaders, Corporation members and department chairs. His predecessor, Howard Swearer, had plenty to share as well.

Ruth Simmons has all that, with one exception: Gregorian has no words of wisdom for her.

"To give advice is cheap," he said. "Talk is cheap – what she needs are resources and collaboration."

Over the past year, Gregorian and his successors, Gordon Gee and Sheila Blumstein, have imparted congratulations on Simmons and discussed with her the strengths, weaknesses and potential of the University, though none would share these trade secrets about the Brown presidency with *The Herald*.

Blumstein, who began a year-long sabbatical when Simmons assumed the presidency in July, said she left her successor a packet of materials and shared her "vantage point" on Brown.

"I think (Blumstein) has insights

that really should continue to serve the University well," Simmons told *The Herald* this summer. "We had a chance over the months to talk informally about things.

"She gave me lots of advice, needless to say, and I expect to call on her – and she's offered her help, even as she goes back to her responsibilities as a faculty member," Simmons said.

Since Simmons' appointment, Blumstein has informed the new president of what she believes will be on her plate, including issues such as financial aid, support for graduate students, faculty salaries, the proposed living and learning program and other academic programs.

In the eyes of past Brown presidents, the issues facing the University today are well known. Gee said one challenge is matching the quality of the graduate program with that of the undergraduate program.

Gregorian, on the other hand, was more general, saying the problems of colleges and universities are "endemic." He stressed that the challenges are the same all over the country, even though "each university or college requires specific actions and solutions."

When Gregorian took office in 1988, the University was dealing with low faculty salaries, a small endowment, little fellowship money for undergraduates and graduates and a weak library. Under his leadership, Brown made significant improvements: Gregorian more than doubled the endowment, increased faculty and graduate student salaries by 8 to 10 percent, raised \$536 million in Brown's largest fundraising campaign and led the University to invest \$100 million to renovate much of its physical plant.

Blumstein, who served as interim president for nearly 17 months, said one of the difficulties she faced was

BY KAVITA MISHRA '04

her inability "to commit the institution to long-term decisions that the long-term president would inherit."

Under Blumstein, Brown dealt with the diversity report, the Alper report on need-blind admission, proposals for a living and learning program and Ivy League athletics.

One disappointment was that "I didn't resolve the need-blind issue," she said, "but that's a big issue for the University and a big commitment and has to be considered in the context of all the other University priorities."

Simmons has already made a commitment to look into need-blind admission, though she has not made any promises yet.

Blumstein assumed the presidency after the abrupt departure of Gordon Gee, who left Brown in February 2000 to become chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

"She doesn't need to have my advice," Gee said. "She's doing just fine."

Gee said he left the University

because "Brown needed someone who was more passionate about the institution."

Simmons, he said, "represents the right leadership for Brown."

The only advice Gee said he would give Simmons is to practice her Latin, because the president performs a large part of his or her ceremonial duties reading in Latin.

"Ruth Simmons' Ph.D. is in romance languages, so she's familiar with Latin," Gregorian countered. "She does not have to practice."

Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York since leaving Brown in 1997, was the University's 16th president for nine years. He said he has been in close contact with Simmons since she became a board member of the Carnegie Corporation three years ago.

Though he did not have any formal involvement with the presidential selection committee, the committee asked Gregorian to share his opinion of Simmons.

"I recommended (her) strongly because I think she's first rate and great," he said.

"I think the University has lost three years of momentum, and Ruth Simmons is picking up where I left," Gregorian said.

Blumstein advised Simmons to "get to know and love the institution ... (and) help the institution move forward, always keeping in mind ... what the basic values of Brown University are."

"If we build off of that," she said, "we will excel and catapult ourselves into the next level of excellence."

"Ruth Simmons is lucky to have this institution," Gregorian said. "She's a born leader: cautious, determined, thoughtful, reflective."

"She's going to be superb," he said. "I'm delighted she is at the helm of Brown."

Blumstein and Gregorian will be in attendance at Simmons' inauguration. Gee plans to spend the weekend in Nashville at Vanderbilt's homecoming.

*The faculty, students and staff of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America and the Ethnic Studies Concentration offer an infinite welcome to President Ruth J. Simmons.*

# Madame president

**Simmons joins a growing list of women at the helm of the nation's colleges**

Ruth Simmons doesn't want to be a role model.

Acclaimed time and time again for being one of the first women to lead an Ivy League institution, Brown's 18th president sees herself as nothing more than a decent human being.

"When people say, 'Oh, you're a role model,' I cringe, because I don't think I believe in that, frankly," Simmons said. "The people who influenced me were humble people. They would have never been on the nightly news. They would have never been looked up to by other people."

Simmons has garnered so much attention that she has been catapulted into the public eye for her role in a position held by a small but slowly growing number of women.

"I hope that with more women in these positions we can serve as role models so younger women can see there are opportunities for them," said Professor of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences Sheila Blumstein, who completed her 17-month term as interim president when Simmons took over in July. "If they want to break new ground or try new things, it's out there."

The number of female college and university presidents has doubled in the last 12 years, growing from 9.5 percent in 1986 to 19.3 percent in 1998, according to statistics published in 2000 by the American Council on Higher Education. Of 2,341 presidents who responded to the most recent survey, 453 were women. Of those, just 13.2 percent of woman presidents head research or regional universities.

"It's been a slow process," said Claire

Van Ummersen, vice president and director of the Office of Women at the American Council on Higher Education. "You really have to keep looking at the progress you've made."

This year two women assumed presidencies at Ivy League institutions, bringing the total to three. Until 1994, when Judith Rodin became president of the University of Pennsylvania, there were no female presidents in the Ivy League.

Some consider the modern wave of female presidents to have started the year before, when Nan Keohane was tapped as president of Duke University.

Though Ada Louise Comstock was president of Radcliffe College in the 1930s, Hanna Gray, who served as president of the University of Chicago from 1978 to 1993, is considered by Rodin and many others to be a "trailblazer" in the changing face of the college presidency.

The gradually increasing number of women taking top leadership roles in academia can be traced back as early as the 1960s and '70s, when more and more institutions became coeducational. As the number of women in universities increased, so too did the number in what's often referred to as the "pipeline."

"I think what we're finally seeing is the fruits of that – women taking senior administrative positions in far greater numbers," said Shirley Tilghman, the molecular biologist who in June became the first female president of Princeton University.

Because Pembroke College existed for

nearly 80 years before the University became coed in 1970, there has been a succession of women in Brown's senior administration for some time, said Professor of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences Kathryn Spoehr '69, who resigned as the University's first female provost in August.

Spoehr told The Herald in 1999 that when she joined the faculty in 1974 she was the only woman in her department. When Blumstein arrived at Brown in 1970, there were very few woman administrators and faculty, she said, and when she was granted tenure in 1976 there were only eight to 10 tenured women total.

Now Brown's numbers look more promising: Exactly half of its executives and senior officers were women as of October 2000.

"We seem to be just a bit ahead of the curve in many ways," Blumstein told The Herald just days after accepting her job as interim president. During her time at Brown, Blumstein has served in a multitude of positions, including dean of the College and interim provost.

"I may have been the first woman in a lot of those positions," Blumstein said, "but my hope and expectation is that I was in those positions because I was the most qualified at the time.

"I don't think of myself as saying, 'Well, you'll be a pioneer,'" she said. "It just happened."

Barriers against women in senior administrative roles – especially presidencies – are destroyed at different times at different institutions. At Brown, those barriers were down during the search that produced Gordon Gee in 1997, Spoehr and Blumstein agreed, and probably in 1988 when Brown chose Vartan Gregorian.

"It's a matter of who's available at what time," Spoehr said.

Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services Janina Montero, who had been at Brown for only a month before Gee resigned in February 2000,

**BY KATHERINE BOAS '02**

said Brown has been ready "for quite some time" to recognize personal qualities over stereotypes, and that the choice of a woman president didn't surprise her.

Montero came to Brown from Princeton, where she had worked with Simmons on budgetary and diversity issues when the two were in New Jersey together from 1993 to 1995.

"This woman is a president with all that that term entails," Montero said. "Truly a leader who clearly and inclusively is shaping the future of the institution."

Montero said she was surprised – and "enormously proud" – when her previous employer selected a woman to succeed Harold Shapiro, who stepped down in June.

"What's going to define all of our presidencies is how successful we are, not our gender," Tilghman said. "If what defines our presidencies is our gender, then we have failed."

"I think we are all looking forward to the time when gender won't be an issue worth writing about," Rodin said.

Still, Rodin said she devotes "a lot of time" to talking with undergraduate and graduate women about balancing a successful career with an enjoyable family life. When she was that age, and even as a young faculty member in Yale's psychology department, she didn't have women role models.

"For most of my career," Rodin said, "especially as an administrator, I was almost always the only woman in the room."

Noting that she has had mentoring from "extraordinary men" but not "a whole lot of women," Montero said all young people today – not just certain kinds of people – must be given proper mentoring and grooming.

"I think that higher education will change as more women are involved," said the American Council

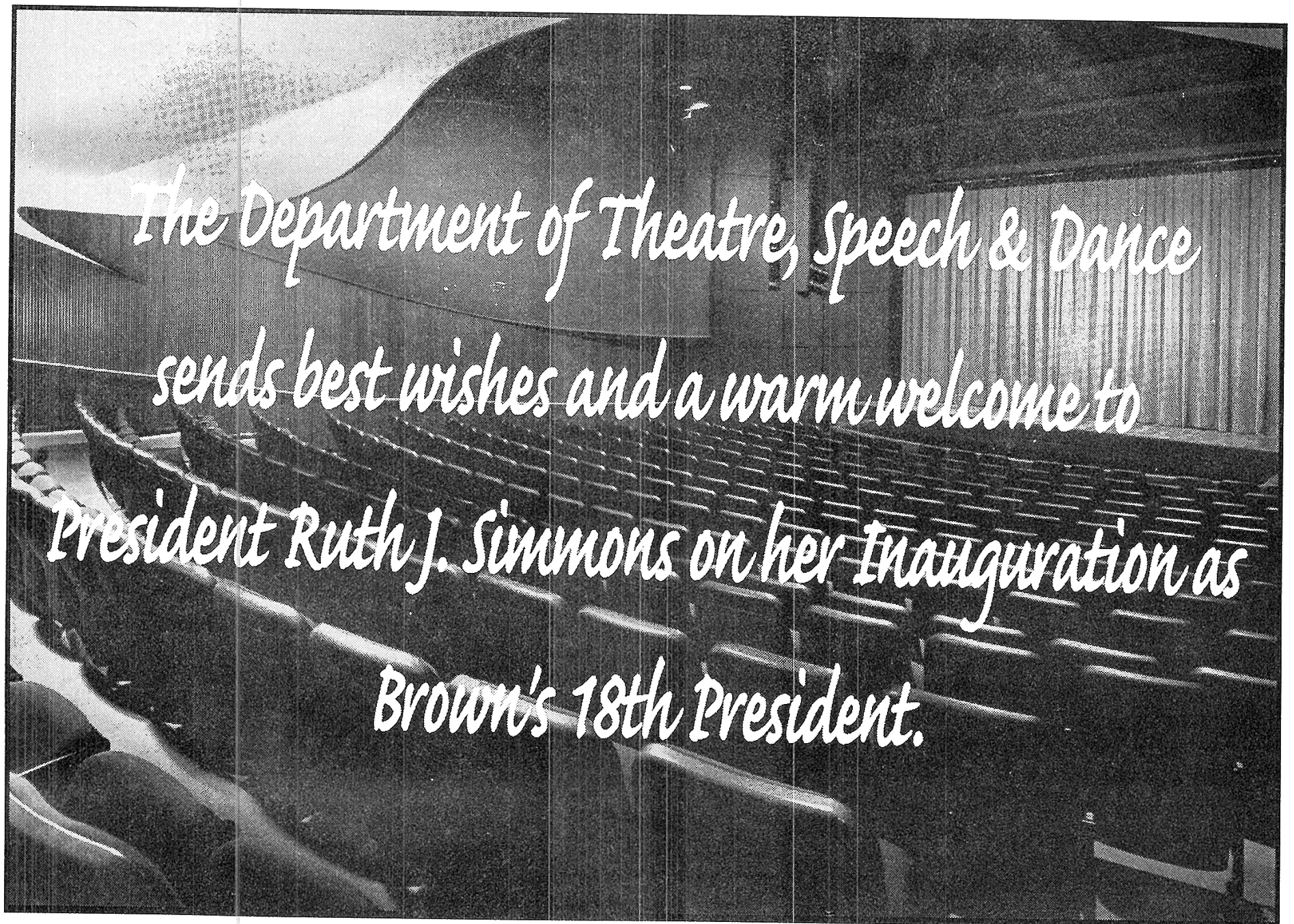
on Higher Education's Van Ummersen. Women tend to focus on collaboration and teamwork, she said, and tend to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

"I think as you have a team of men and women working together you have a change in dynamic," Blumstein said. "I think that's a good change."

Still the numbers of men and women in college and university presidencies is far from equal. At this rate, Van Ummersen said, "it's likely to be 2050 or more before we achieve parity."

Until then the select few women who have already joined the ranks of senior administrations across the country will continue to be pioneers – whether they like it or not.

"I don't want to be a role model," Simmons said. "I think everyone who does their job is a model of enviable merit."



# Academia's **changing** face

**More people of color join university ranks – at Brown and across the U.S.**

Though it is clear Ruth Simmons was selected to lead Brown University because of her unique set of academic and administrative qualifications, her inauguration is of undeniable import because of her pioneering entrance into the ranks of Ivy League presidents as a black woman.

The publicity surrounding this breakthrough raises questions about the types of hurdles that face minorities at all levels of higher education.

Brown can be commended for being the first of historically white, elite universities to appoint a black to its presidency, while also displaying a level of diversity among its faculty and staff that ranks above national levels. Yet Brown still faces under-representation of minorities in specific areas.

On a national level, minorities are underrepresented in both faculty and administrative ranks, although there has been some improvement since the desegregation of many institutions in the 1970s.

William Harvey, vice president and director of the Office of Minorities in Higher Education, had little praise for the progress in minority representation in faculty and administrative ranks around the country.

"There's been some improvement, but we're only about 30 years away from a system of higher education that was widely segregated," he said.

National averages for black participation in faculty and administration range from 2 to 2.5 percent, Harvey said.

"Almost every institution identified has adopted affirmative action guidelines," he

said. "But we have to look not at what they say, but what they do. ... On the whole the response regarding affirmative action has been much less than we would have hoped."

Harvey said progress would depend on "a more robust system of preparing people, and a more active and facilitating and welcoming environment" at the universities themselves.

According to Cathy Trower, senior researcher at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, in 1997 there were 144,529 full-time administrators in national universities and colleges, of which 15 percent were minorities.

The American Council on Education lists 2,939 chief executive officers in higher education in 1996, of which 11 percent were minorities.

The 1999 Survey of Earned Doctorates reported that of the 41,140 doctorates awarded that year, 16 percent went to U.S. citizens from minority groups.

The 1997 "Fall Staff Survey" by the U.S. Department of Education found that of a total of 553,355 full-time faculty members, 12.9 percent were of minority background.

Trower described some of the obstacles to more equitable representation as stemming from "an academic culture that was born at academic institutions at the start of the last century when the academy was almost completely comprised of white males. ... But there are also social,

economic and cultural barriers writ large."

Compared to these national statistics, Brown has made more progress than other universities and colleges.

"A place like Brown is very different," Harvey said. "Brown has always been regarded as a progressive and forward-looking institution."

Yet within its peer group of elite universities, Brown is by no means a leader in diversity, according to a survey released by Harvard in May.

The report includes statistics from Cornell, Dartmouth, MIT, Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, the University of California - Berkeley, the University of Michigan, UCLA and Northwestern. Other schools also participated but their data remained confidential.

In senior professorial positions, total minority representation ranges from 5.5 percent at Dartmouth to 16.5 percent at UCLA, with Brown at 10 percent.

On the administrative side, in executive administrative positions, total minority representation ranges from 4.2 percent at Cornell to 38 percent at Columbia, with Brown at 12.5 percent.

Henry Johnson, director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action at Brown, claimed that based on progressive increases in minority representation at Brown over the years, "we are moving in the right direction."

On the administrative and staff sides of the University, minority representation increased from 16.5 percent in 1994 to 17.6 percent in 1999, while minority faculty representation grew from 13.3 percent to 19 percent, with significant increases in the humanities and physical science departments.

"Brown has a commitment to pluralism and diversity and is taking affirmative action when under-utilization has been determined," Johnson said.

His office compares the representation of different minority groups in each sec-

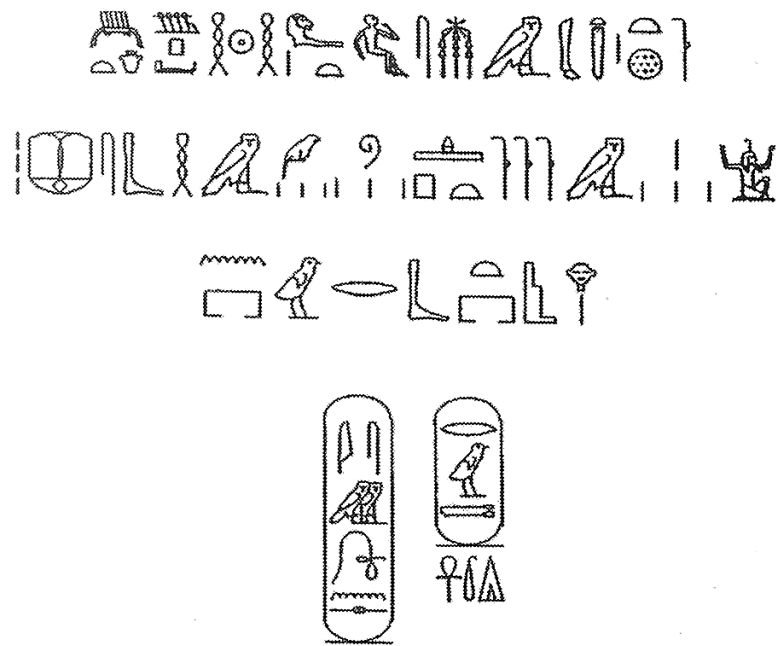
**BY EMILY KIMBALL '02**

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

WELCOMES RUTH SIMMONS

AS A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT

AND AS PRESIDENT OF BROWN.



*"Year 1, first day of a renaissance,  
beginning of eternity, commencement of  
happiness.  
Millions of years of peace,  
hundreds of thousands of jubilees  
on the throne of Brown."*

Best wishes from  
The Department of Egyptology

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

extends its warmest welcome

to

Dr. Ruth J. Simmons

18th President

of

Brown University



October 14

*Best wishes*

President Simmons



Brown Bookstore

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2001



tor of the University to census data that identify the availability of qualified minority applicants for specific positions. Goals for Brown's hiring policies are based on this analysis, Johnson said.

These employment goals are still below the national population breakdown of races determined by the 2000 census. According to that report, of 281,421,906 Americans, 12.3 percent were African American, 12.5 percent were Hispanic, 3.6 percent were Asian American and 0.9 percent were Native American.

Johnson cited specific areas of the University that need attention and improvement. He said the "advancement sector" of the administration, which includes communications, public affairs, alumni relations and development, has markedly lower minority representation than the University as a whole, especially among its highest-ranked administrators.

"Advancement seems to be an area that historically has not been open to people of color," Johnson said. In the development department, only 10 of 93 employees were minorities, according to 1999 data, with every category of senior administration below its target goal. Public Affairs and University Relations had only two minority employees in a staff of 35, as did Alumni Relations, with a staff of 19.

"These departments are the exception rather than the rule," Johnson added.

He said an infrastructure for improvement across the University is in place. This plan includes affirmative action hiring policies, and outreach efforts to ensure information on job openings is available locally, nationally and internationally, depending on the nature of the position.

Johnson also cited efforts directed at younger students in an attempt to "grow our own" diverse staff. Brown's Educational Alliance encourages students of color to pursue careers in higher education, as do mentoring and other tutoring programs.

At Brown, two faculty committees – the Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee and the Committee on Minority Faculty Recruitment and Retention – address issues of diversity as well.

In regard to the recommendations

made by last year's visiting committee on diversity, Johnson said, "I'm very confident that Brown will implement those recommendations and will one day achieve all of our goals with respect to diversity, pluralism and community."

Other senior Brown administrators of color commented on Simmons' appointment in light of the broader struggle to boost diversity at all levels.

"Over the last 20 years, higher education has worked very hard," said Janina Montero, vice president for Campus Life and Student Services, adding that at institutions where she has worked she found a "clarity of the value of diversity everywhere" and a desire to make it happen.

But, she said, there are a variety of obstacles, such as the long path to advanced degrees, the relatively low financial remuneration, limited access to certain forms of education, a tight job market and the fact that academic administration is not a career that many students consider.

"There are hundreds of reasons that get in the way," she said.

The demographics of the surrounding region also often constrain universities' ability to attract and retain a diverse population of employees.

Montero said universities also must recognize that "a real belief structure that is really supportive of diversity includes religious, sexual orientation and disability" considerations.

She said Simmons' entrance into the ranks of Ivy presidents "exemplifies the capacity if people have the talent, the skills, the interest and the dedication.

"She is clearly a model for many young men and women," she added, commenting on "the quality and presence that she brings to Brown, the authority that she gives Brown in terms of its position in higher education."

Karen McLaurin-Chesson '74, director of the Third World Center, said Simmons "creates a ray of hope in me for the future of Brown."

McLaurin-Chesson added that "the eyes are on us" and that "the model she sets creates an image for the option" of minorities to hold such high ranking positions.

Executive Vice President for Finance

and Administration Donald Reaves, the only black in that position among the Ivy League, claimed "Ruth's appointment is so important, so visible ... it will stand as an example of what can be done.

"Her ascendancy to the presidency at Brown will send a message across the industry," he added.

"Tremendous progress has been made here," Reaves said of the diversity of Brown's faculty and staff. "It happened over time as a result of a heightened sensitivity to the need ... for the different points of view, the different experiences" that come with diversity.

Simmons reflected on the ways her identity has shaped her experiences and made her the person she is today. She claimed personal and academic development stem from not only access, but also from an open and encouraging environment.

"The value of education is not in the trinkets that we have access to," she said. "It's in the heart of the people who nurture us and the opportunity to develop our mind, the freedom of thought and high expectations that affect us. It's this odd mixture of things that come together in every single human being. Everybody has that.

"Sometimes I feel that if I had not been African American and a woman I would have been much more successful in life," she said. "But then what does that mean? ... I think whatever I am is the result of forces that have very little to do with race and gender."

But, Simmons added, "There's no question that I've been shaped by the racism of my homeland. Virtually everything about me arises out of the circumstances in which I was born, where I didn't have access to health care, where my parents didn't have access to an education, where we were confined to certain living conditions that were what they were. I mean there's no question that that has impact on my life and on who I am. And I hope to God that one of the things that it does for me is to understand what it means to be confined to circumstances like that, and I like to believe that part of the reason that I've been able to do the job that I've done is because I get that."

*Congratulations and best wishes to*

# *Dr. Ruth J. Simmons*

## *18th President of Brown University*

*As we celebrate Brown University's wisdom in selecting Ruth Simmons as its 18<sup>th</sup> President, we celebrate her presence in our City, her journey from Grapeland, Texas to Providence, Rhode Island, and the many landmarks delineating the landscape of that extraordinary journey. There is no doubt that Brown's new president confronts challenges courageously, is a major force in academia, is sage in her wisdom, and steps to the forefront of the stage in her leadership of a remarkable Ivy League institution.*

*President Ruth Simmons will link Brown's extraordinary past to an exultant present and future, ripe with propelling all the freedoms of a university embracing the liberty and liberation of a global society. I welcome the opportunity to share a flourishing relationship with a leader whose brilliance of mind and passionate spirit have led her to rise to the top of her profession, inspiring all so fortunate to know her and work with her.*



*At Brown University's 2001 Commencement (l to r) Mayor Cianci, Brown Chancellor Stephen Robert, Incoming President Ruth Simmons, and Interim President Sheila Blumstein.*

*October 14 is a propitious day for Providence and for Brown University. As Mayor, I look forward to President Simmons's symphony of ideas, ideals and solutions, and am grateful to have the opportunity to reaffirm my own deep commitment to furthering a great community of university and city, while increasing opportunities for enriching and educational opportunities at all levels.*

*Welcome to Providence, President Simmons. Providence is proud to have you.*



**Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.**  
***Mayor of Providence***



Simmons advocates more open lines of communication with the community in Brown's service efforts.

PHOTO BY LAUREN MIRSKY '03

COMMUNITY

# Partnership with Providence

**Simmons encourages service in and with the community**

For Ruth Simmons, community service is not a chore to be completed for resume padding or self-gratification. It should, she said, be integrated into every individual's daily life.

Keeping with this philosophy, Simmons said she plans to strengthen ties between the Brown campus and the greater Providence area in a strictly egalitarian fashion.

"The notion of Brown students on the Hill, separated from the city, wealthy and so on is clearly a notion that doesn't serve us well," she said. "We have to get away from the notion that we get down off the Hill to do good work for the community."

To do this, Simmons said, members of the Brown community must work to over-

come "social and economic barriers" with Providence residents by increasing communication between the campus and city organizations.

"I think that this city does not have a good appreciation of the immense reservoir of goodwill here among students for the city," Simmons said.

To improve communication, she said, Brown must make itself "understood much better" by the greater Providence community and stress its pre-existing links with the state. She noted that a relatively large percentage of Brown students are from Rhode Island.

Though Simmons stressed the impor-

tance of an ongoing partnership with city organizations, she said busy schedules often prevent students from participating locally.

"We have to find ways of organizing our time so that we don't simply do volunteer work," she said. "I think the city is entitled to expect a commitment from the University, and we ought to be working with the city to sort out what that commitment is."

An important component of accomplishing this goal is allowing Providence community members to voice their own needs, she said. Students must engage in a give-and-take partnership with city organizations.

"Brown is a place full of smart people, it's true, but there are many, many people in this community who could teach us a lot," she said. "And we have to make it clear that we understand that and not be the Ivy League University on the Hill trying

BY ELENA LESLEY '04

see **COMMUNITY**, page 33

*Heartfelt Congratulations and Warmest Wishes*

*to*

DR. RUTH SIMMONS,

*on her Inauguration as the*

18TH PRESIDENT

*of*

BROWN UNIVERSITY

*from her Friends and Colleagues at*

WITI

*and the*

WITI INVENT CENTER AT SMITH/5 COLLEGES

**WITI**

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

*Advancing Women Through Technology*

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W I T I . C O M

## Simmons joins the cheering section for Brown athletics

The stands of the Brown Stadium have a new fan this season.

Ruth Simmons was noticeable in the crowd at the football team's first home game, against the University of Rhode Island. She also made it to the season opener at Harvard.

Simmons' support for the football team, coupled with her appearance at the first men's soccer game, were enough to get Head Coach Mike Noonan excited about the future of athletics at Brown.

"I am really thrilled that she was at our opening game," Noonan said. "She supports students in all facets of life, including athletics."

Simmons comes to Brown from the much smaller Smith College, but said she understands the role of athletics at a university more than most would think.

"Smith has athletics. It's not that they don't," she said. "They just don't have big guys."

Simmons said she grew up in an athletic family and looks forward to having fun at Brown athletic events.

"It's a new, exciting dimension because I'm able to get back into some things that I enjoy and that I wasn't able to do at a women's college where some athletic activities were not offered," she said.

Simmons said she already has spoken to coaches about what Brown can do to make its athletic programs more successful. And so far she's received positive feedback.

"I think Ruth Simmons will be a great president for Brown University, which will have a great impact on the school, including in athletics," said Athletic Director David Roach.

- JESSE WARREN '04

### THE ARTS

# The bookworm

A voracious reader, Simmons prizes the arts

The number of people who still count books as treasures may be dwindling, but Ruth Simmons leaves little doubt she counts herself among them.

"I like literature ... because that's everything," Simmons said. "That's life, you know."

Simmons dates her appreciation of a broad range of books to her childhood, despite growing up in a house where books were scarce.

"It probably comes from a time when we would go to community centers or the library, and we'd go to a shelf and just pick a book, didn't matter what it was. Just having a book was a very precious thing. We'd take it home and we'd read it," she said.

And read she did, according to Simmons' niece and childhood companion Jean Sims. Simmons used to scramble for books whenever the opportunity presented itself, Sims said, because in Houston blacks were not permitted in the public library. Instead, Simmons relied on the bookmobile - a truck loaded with shelves of books that delivered reading material to black neighborhoods.

"Ruth loved to read all the time, so she was always really excited when the bookmobile came," Sims said, adding that Simmons would race to be the first aboard the truck to have her pick of the volumes.

"It was unreal the way it was then. It's amazing to look at where she came from and how she couldn't even go to the public library and look at where she is now," Sims said. "It's really great."

All these years later, Simmons' love for books is undiminished. A fondness for French writers is perhaps her foremost literary passion.

"I've had a long, long relationship with Proust," Simmons said. "I recently went back to Paris and decided to hole up in the neighborhood where he lived and where he wrote ... and to walk through the streets and to see the world through his eyes - but that's all probably a little weird."

Weird or not, that proximity is characteristic of Simmons' relationships with the authors she most enjoys. These days, she maintains close ties with several contemporary writers, including her friend and Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison.

Simmons said it takes a special author like Morrison to match up to the great works of ages past.

"I don't easily pick up modern literature and, well, contemporary literature and read it because it all seems a little bit wanting in relationship to Flaubert and a lot of the great writers that I studied," she said.

When she does pick up modern works, Simmons is careful not to speak too loudly about whose work she's been reading - and what she thinks of it.

"I tend not to give their names because a lot of these people are my friends," she said. "And if I cite one (author) without the other then it's problematic."

As a non-fiction reader, Simmons professes a desire to conquer the unknown. She won't stick to reading only what she knows. It's breadth, and not just depth, that she aims for.

"I think even today I often go to book-

BY DAVID RIVELLO '03

see ARTS, page 33

# The reluctant celebrity

**Thrust into the spotlight, Simmons remains uncomfortable as a role model**

On and off the Brown campus, Ruth Simmons is an icon. She is revered on College Hill for the obstacles she has overcome, the remarkable achievements she has accomplished and the values and beliefs she embodies.

Uttering Simmons' name in the Brown community opens up a floodgate of praise among students, faculty and parents alike. Just three months into her Brown career, Simmons is the eye at the center of a cyclonic hype machine. In September, Time Magazine named her "America's Best College President," and ABC News tapped Simmons to offer her reactions following President Bush's recent address to Congress.

However, the often suffocating media attention makes it difficult to get a handle on the woman behind the Brown presidency.

Just setting foot in Simmons' office gives a peek into the complexities and

contradictions of her personality. Her desk is a model of orderly disorder. Papers messily coat the surface, but in neat piles that reveal an underlying organization.

A small library of impressively ancient-looking volumes shares space on her bookcase with an Oop! gift basket, a Coca-Cola can and a white golf visor.

Simmons herself seems to shift between a number of personas during the course of a recent interview. When she expounds upon her goals and aspirations for Brown, she speaks with confidence, gesturing with both hands for emphasis.

Simmons frames her decision to switch to administrative work from teaching with an easy self-deprecation.

"I was so much better at administration ... that nobody was interested in seeing me

go back to the faculty," she says. "Nobody except me, that is."

Though used to the limelight, Simmons is decidedly uncomfortable with her position as a figure of public adulation. The term "role model" troubles her deeply.

"I always say to people that they shouldn't look up to people," Simmons explains. "The people who influenced me were humble people. They would never have been looked up to by other people."

Asked how she would describe her personality to others, Simmons grins sheepishly and takes a lengthy pause, searching for the right adjectives. She covers her cheeks with the palms of her hands. "Persistent ... stubborn ... impatient," she admits, ready to move on to the next question.

As she tackles the challenges of the Brown presidency in the months ahead, Ruth Simmons most likely will glean comfort from a cocoon of modesty, having trouble grasping the ways she will forever touch people's lives.

"We never see others the way others see us," she says.

**BY SANDERS KLEINFELD '03**



**Though she garnered significant media coverage after accepting Brown's offer to become its 18th president, Simmons remains uneasy as the focus of the nation's attention.**

**PHOTO BY JOSH APTE '04**



Though Brown's future remains unclear, Simmons seems determined to let the University mold her plans for its future. PHOTO BY JOSH APTE '04

THE FUTURE

# Brown in the **Simmons** era

## Simmons charts Brown's course through an uncertain future

Looking to the future, President Ruth Simmons has suggested her tenure will be marked by a focus on academics and learning and that, perhaps, Brown's philosophy is well-suited to the coming decades.

What sets Brown apart from other schools, Simmons said, is its attitude: In a time of changing structures and disciplines, she described the University as one having "already embraced the world."

Brown "sees itself not as an outpost for one particular ideology or one particular ethnicity or one particular culture," she said, "but rather it sees itself as a true university which integrates diverse perspectives in the service of knowledge."

This is, of course, the school that

advertises its open curriculum and interdisciplinary studies as hallmarks of its educational philosophy. Those familiar with the University are quick to point to the familiarity and flexibility afforded by a small, animated population as aids to research in modern fields of study.

Vice Chancellor Marie Langlois '64, for instance, credits an "entrepreneurial" faculty with creating new institutions at Brown, as was the case with the computer science department in 1979 or, more recently, the Brain Sciences Program.

In one sense, then, what Simmons hopes for is a continual re-examination of

the University and its functions, a sort of open curriculum writ large.

"That's really, fundamentally what our charge is: to assess that at every moment and to do whatever we need to do in order to provide the kind of education that our students need."

Change is costly, though, and may require Brown to significantly enlarge its coffers if it hopes to attract and retain the number of faculty that flexibility needs, warned Chancellor Emeritus Artemis Joukowsky '55.

"We have to increase the resources available for students and faculty," Langlois said, "but at the same time we have to preserve that ability at Brown to work across disciplines."

Simmons, the tested fund-raiser, will likely bring a welcome capital campaign in coming years, Joukowsky and Langlois said.

BY JONATHAN NOBLE '04

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# History

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Hall – displaying the phrase “Jonathan Maxcy, president, 24 years old.”

Maxcy, the College’s youngest president, succeeded Manning as both president of the College and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Providence. He was also the first alumnus to become president of Brown, having graduated with the class of 1790.

Known for his exceptional skills as a teacher of oratory and his socially liberal views, Maxcy sent half of his graduates into law or the church. Brown’s legacy of undergraduate revolt began under Maxcy – during his tenure there were disciplinary problems and threats of secession by one class.

After Maxcy resigned in 1802 to assume the presidency of Union College, the Rev. Asa Messer was appointed Brown’s third president.

Known for his physical and intellectual strength, Messer was a shrewd businessman, hard-working farmer, respected academic and religious scholar. He invented “Messer’s Pneumatic Engine” and “the new and useful improvement in the mode of using water wheels and furnishing them with water.”

It was under Messer that Rhode Island College was renamed Brown University, after Nicholas Brown donated what was then a large sum of \$5,000 in 1804.

During his presidency, Messer declined an appointment to the post of chief justice of the state Supreme Court.

His Unitarian leanings at a Baptist institution led to a violent theological quarrel and Messer’s eventual resignation in 1826.

Brown’s next president, the Rev. Francis Wayland, is credited for increasing the University’s financial stability and academic reputation, calming student revolt and instituting modern educational reforms.

To encourage students to participate more in discussions, the 31-year-old Wayland prohibited the bringing of books to recitations. He also required the faculty to live with students.

Wayland allowed students to choose some of their courses, beginning a move to the elective system. His “New System”

influenced the future of American higher education for years to come.

Wayland’s successor, the Rev. Barnas Sears, tried to repeal these reforms, which he felt lowered the academic standards of the institution. But the Civil War broke out in the middle of his reign, hindering the new president’s efforts.

Sears’ presidency, 1855 to 1867, saw a significant growth in the College’s student body and treasury. Sears graduated from Brown with the class of 1825 and served as president of another educational institution, the Newton Theological Institution.

After Sears’ resignation, the presidency was offered to and declined by both Martin Anderson and the Rev. Ezekiel Robinson. In 1868, 67-year-old Alexis Caswell was called out of retirement to serve as interim president. Caswell, a respected scientist and teacher, had taught at Brown for 36 years prior to assuming the presidency.

During Caswell’s five-year term, the college increased its treasury and prospered in athletics. Alumni involvement in school affairs also improved.

In 1872, Robinson reconsidered his earlier decision and drove his own carriage of horses from the Rochester Theological Seminary to Providence to assume the presidency of Brown.

Known to his students as “the iron man,” Robinson opposed New England conservatism and brought radical change to the institution. Admission standards were raised, the curriculum was expanded and the treasury hit \$1 million. The Rhode Island School of Design was created under Robinson, as well.

The Rev. Elisha Benjamin Andrews served as Brown’s president from 1889 to 1898 and was, like Robinson, a commanding figure on campus. A physically large man with only one eye – he lost his other eye fighting in the Civil War – Andrews was regarded as a hero by students.

Andrews graduated from Brown in 1870, served as president of Denison University between 1875 and 1879 and had taught at Cornell University, the Newton Theological Institution and Brown prior to assuming the presidency.

Enrollment grew under Andrews, and in 1891 began to include women as well.

Andrew’s views favoring the free coinage of silver nearly cost him the presidency. When he came out in favor of the

controversial topic of the era, the Corporation informed him that the University was losing gift money and tried to restrict him from expressing his views.

Andrews resigned in 1897, only to be asked back by the Corporation in response to an outpouring of support from students and faculty. But his return lasted for only one year. He left in 1898 to assume the position of superintendent of the Chicago public schools.

Brown’s next president, the Rev. William Faunce, was the first president who was not a professor prior to accepting the post. Despite his background, Faunce’s term from 1899 to 1929 was the longest of any presidency.

The first 15 years of Faunce’s term witnessed the construction of many new buildings and a 20 percent increase in faculty, to 55 pastors.

The Rev. Clarence Barbour was the last president to be both a Baptist minister and a graduate of Brown. He was president from 1929 to 1937 and carried the University through the Great Depression. Barbour was known for expressing liberal views for the time, referring to Prohibition as “a wretched mess.”

The first leader of the University who was not a Baptist minister, Henry Wriston served as president from 1937 to 1955, during which the University increased in size by 50 percent.

Construction on Wriston Quad began during Wriston’s presidency. Upon his retirement in 1955, the Providence Journal said that Wriston had “won national stature in his vigorous espousment of international amity, of academic freedom and of the value of the liberal arts as a trainer of thinking leaders.”

Barnaby Keeney ran the University for 10 prosperous years, deciding in 1965 that “the order of 10 years is an appropriate term for the president of a university.”

Keeney, who also served as a member of the Brown faculty, dean of the Graduate School and dean of the College, presided over a period of expansion for the University.

Brown’s next two presidents held office for very short periods of time. Ray Heffner assumed the presidency after Keeney, only to resign in 1969 over controversy sur-

see **HISTORY**, page 33



# History

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rounding the adoption of the New Curriculum.

"I have simply reached the conclusion that I do not enjoy being a university president," he said upon his resignation.

Succeeding Heffner was Donald Hornig, a former chemistry professor at Brown whose presidency was marked by student uprisings and financial difficulties.

Hornig attempted to better the University's troubled financial state by making cuts in student services, financial aid and minority programs. Students protested and a coalition of students seized University Hall for four days.

Criticized by faculty members after proposing a 15 percent cut in Brown's teaching staff, Hornig's term ended in the summer of 1970, following calls for resignation from student and faculty groups.

Brown's next president, Howard

Swearer, presided over a period of prosperity for the University. Swearer, the former president of Carleton College, assumed the presidency in 1977 with a background directing several Peace Corps operations in Africa and Latin America.

He oversaw a financial recovery of the institution, physical expansion, curricular growth and improvement in Brown's reputation. Swearer stepped down in 1988.

Vartan Gregorian left his post as president of the New York Public Library in 1989 to become Brown's 16th president. Gregorian, an Iranian-born historian of Armenian descent, was Brown's first foreign-born president.

Upon accepting the presidency, Gregorian said he would hold office for no more than 10 years and no less than five. He resigned after nine prosperous years during which he more than doubled the University's endowment, brought 275 new faculty members to the institution, established 11 new departments and significantly increased the amount of financial aid awarded each

year.

After leaving Brown in July 1997, Gregorian became head of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Gordon Gee, famous for his bow ties, took over the presidency in January 1998. Gee had previously headed Ohio State University, the University of Colorado and West Virginia University.

Although Gee assumed the leadership with aggressive goals for fund raising, he resigned nearly two years later to become the chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

In his words, "Brown needed someone who was more passionate about the institution."

In an interview with The Herald last month, Gee said he wishes he "had not been enticed to have taken the job in the first instance."

Sheila Blumstein was named interim president just two days after Gee's abrupt resignation. She held the position for over a year until Simmons took the reigns at Brown this July.

— SETH KERSCHNER '03

# Undergrad

continued from page 11

live in is one that can be enormously painful," Simmons said. "It can exclude us and all of our ability and talent and intelligence, but there is a force within us that can reshape how society makes use of that talent and intelligence and so on."

Simmons never talked about her aspirations, only that she wanted to go to graduate school, Carter said.

Even so, "I always knew that Ruth was going to be great," he said. "When she said something, it was worth hearing."

Carter described Simmons as "relentless," relating a story of how Simmons convinced the administration and the members of the yearbook committee to change the traditionally blue and white cover of the yearbook to fuchsia.

"When she wants something, you may as well give up," Carter said. "One of the most profound things I remember Ruth saying to me was 'the word "no" only means find another way.'"

# Arts

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stores and I just go into the area that's furthest from what I know and what I'm comfortable with," Simmons said. "It's just more fun."

Predictably, Simmons' interest in the arts isn't confined to literature. As a student, she dedicated herself to theater but was ultimately advised against pursuing it.

"I spent all of my time as a student in the arts complex," she said. "I'm a frustrated artist because I wanted to major in the arts as a college student, but I was advised that for African Americans making a career in the arts was not practical."

Still, Simmons' appreciation for the arts never waned. In music, drama and the plastic arts — as in literature — Simmons sees a common meaning that she can't help but be drawn to.

"If you love art, you tend to love all arts," she said, "because they are all an expression of the human psychology and purpose."

# Community

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to dictate to the community what they should be doing."

Simmons is particularly interested in fostering a relationship with the Providence public school system and has already agreed to serve as the head of a pilot project for city schools, said Laura Freid, executive vice president for public affairs and University relations. The pilot project is part of the governor's Economic Policy Council and will focus on providing educational opportunities to all of Providence's students, especially in the realm of technology.

"She's very interested in life-long learning — from the time a child is born until the end of their life, making sure education is accessible," Freid said.

Although Simmons said Brown's success is intertwined with the success of Providence, she emphasized the most pressing reason to become active in the city is "because it's the right thing to do."

# Family

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When her children were young, Simmons took a job at Princeton with a substantial pay cut, she said, so she could pick her children up from school and bring them to dinner with her.

"I found ways to incorporate my work into my family life, and my family life into work," she said.

It wasn't until her daughter graduated from high school that Simmons agreed to take the presidency at Smith College.

"I wouldn't have contemplated being a college president if she was still in school," she said.

Maya Simmons said it was hard growing up with her mother working.

"At first I couldn't see my mother as much as I wanted, but I happened to get used to it," she said.

Now Maya is filled with pride for her mother and her new job.

"I think it's fabulous. She's happy, and I'm very happy for her," she said.

Simmons said her children have taught her many things, including how to be a college president and how to relax.

"I was terrified when I found myself to be a single parent. I didn't know if I could afford to send them to college," she said. "Over time when I saw the resilience of my children I learned to give away my fears and learned how to love life."

Simmons said the relationship between mothers and daughters is a special one.

"My daughter has taught me a lot about the complexity of relationships," she said. "Every day is a new venture in developing it."

And Maya Simmons said her mother has had a substantial effect on her life.

"She really taught me a lot about how my life should be. She taught me about being a good person, and being true to myself and other people," she said.

— SHERYL SHAPIRO '03

# Future

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Simmons also brings an aversion to what she called the "dilemma" of higher education, "in which gold and silver dominate our thinking and planning," as she said in her first address to the Brown community in November 2000.

And Simmons is ready to celebrate the campus' successes. In discussing the possibility of moving toward a residential cluster system, for instance, Simmons called Brown "a pretty happy place" and said the idea doesn't necessarily have the same urgency here as it did when she helped to implement a similar system at Princeton.

"I think the students like the variety they have," she said, "and I certainly think that we ought to enhance the learning experience in any way that we can, but we should also be careful about changing things that are functioning well."

*Congratulations, Brown University*

*Moses Brown School,  
your partner in the development  
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