

SIMON'S ROCK COLLEGE ...in the news

September 2006

Mary B. Marcy discusses Simon's Rock with WAMC-Northeast Public Radio

WAMC Northeast Public Radio, August 24

Alan Chartock, director of WAMC Northeast Public Radio, interviewed Provost **Mary B. Marcy** in early August, and the show aired on August 24. The hour-long interview touched on many topics, including Elizabeth Blodgett Hall's original ideas, what makes Simon's Rock unique, the early college movement, and Simon's Rock today.

Early College Teaching Seminar Berkshire Eagle, August 21

Derek Gentile wrote two articles about the Early College Teaching Seminars this year, one before they were to take place, and the second time on Aug. 21, after he attended a panel discussion at which **Ba Win** and **Mary B. Marcy** spoke.

Simon's Rock incoming students featured, from St. Louis to Buffalo, from Readville, North Carolina to Ann Arbor, Michigan

• **Buffalo News, August 30** **Victoria Austin** of Tonawanda, N.Y. was featured for her decision to start college early at Simon's Rock. The article talks about the growing trend among high school students to seek alternatives to their later years of high school. It gives a synopsis of the educational objectives of Simon's Rock and talks about its state-of-the-art facilities. Though apprehensive about beginning college at 16, Victoria wrote, "I'm finding that the atmosphere is very conducive to personal growth and the expression of your own thoughts and feelings."

• **Ann Arbor News, June** **Shareece Homes** was deeply involved in extracurricular activities at Ypsilanti High School, but she felt frustration about the academics, and in this article, talked about her decision

to come to Simon's Rock. She found out about Simon's Rock through the Collegeboard.com web site.

• **Kenosha (WI) News, June 22** **Kyle Bella** from Wisconsin appeared in his local newspaper for winning one of the Acceleration to Excellence (AEP) scholarships. The article mentioned his interest in neuroscience, and the unique opportunity that Simon's Rock provides him for furthering his goals.

• **KDSK News Channel 5 – St. Louis, May 9** In this television feature, **Brandi Scott Cross** told of her excitement about coming to Simon's Rock. She is the recipient of a W.E.B. DuBois Scholarship.

• **The Messenger and The Reidsville Review, June 2** Two North Carolina newspapers wrote about new student **Tiffany Albright** on the same day. A former student of McMichael High School, Albright won a full tuition AEP scholarship.

• **Appleton Post Crescent, August 14** **Zoe Witzeling**, Appleton, was another AEP scholar who was featured in her local paper.

America's Best Colleges 2007

U.S News & World Report

Simon's Rock College was recently ranked 2nd by the **U.S. News & World Report** among the best Comprehensive Colleges in the North. These statistics were augmented by information about the small class sizes, a high student retention rate and an excellent student to faculty ratio.

Graduates exhorted not to be bystanders

Berkshire Eagle, May 15; Also, Caps, Gowns and Speeches, May 24

In his commencement address, alumnus **Douglas Ahlers** urged the graduates to step into lives of action, to not be bystanders. He gave a graphic description of what he has seen in New Orleans, including the relative inaction by much of the country and its leaders, following Hurricane Katrina. In a separate article, *The Berkshire Eagle* talked about the themes of the commencement speeches this year, including the one by Doug Ahlers.

See page 2 for more news items.

Simon's Rock Carves a niche for students

[Litchfield Times, also the Putnam County Courier and Milbrook Roundtable May 25](#)

Writer Tamara Tragakiss wrote about Simon's Rock, and she interviewed **Rebecca Fiske** (Dean of New Students, Faculty in Literature) about working with younger students. The article was published in a special education supplement.

Fun, safety come together

[Berkshire Eagle: Education Spotlight, June 15](#)

Education writer Jenn Smith covered the Kilpatrick Athletic Center when it hosted youngsters from the Monument Valley Middle School who were invited to participate in a safety week. She reported that the young students learned such things as CPR, water safety and rescue.

South Berkshire Concert Series featured in regional monthly

[Berkshire Living Magazine , September 2006](#)

This article about the South Berkshire Concert Series also featured Simon's Rock faculty member **Larry Wallach**, artistic director of the series. Wallach and another faculty member, **John Myers**, have worked on expanding the range of music offered in the series. The article previewed the diverse components of the Concert Series; as Wallach says: "You can't get more eclectic than turn-of-the-century vintage dance music and ragtime played by the best classical musicians."

The Davidson Institute meets with Simon's Rock Provost

[GT-Cybersource.](#)

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development newsletter prominently featured both an interview with Provost **Mary B. Marcy** and much information about Simon's Rock College.

Faculty in the news

• All About Jazz, September.

A novella by faculty member **Emmanuel Dongala**, *A Love Supreme*, was adapted to a play that was presented in Paris.

The writer of the review in *All About Jazz* mentioned Dongala's position at Simon's Rock, and spoke warmly of his book, as "the most moving and apposite tribute to the achievement of John Coltrane, in any medium, that I know."

• **Vanguard and Hartford Courant, May 29.** Faculty member in Literature **Okey Ndibe** participated in an interview about the historic vote of the Nigeria National Assembly to reject a move to amend the constitution and extend the tenure of the President. Also involved in the interview were Linguist and Poet Michael Mbabu and Nigeria's Poet Laureate Akinwande Oluwale Soyinka. Ndibe also wrote an editorial for *The Hartford Courant*, in which he said that most Nigerians were opposed to the President's "illicit gambit to align the nation's supreme law" with his political ambition.

• **Berkshire Eagle, June 19.** Simon's Rock faculty member **James Sterling King** was among those who participated in local events on W.E.B. DuBois, including a day-long 'think tank' with 40 other scholars. In this article,

Derek Gentile discussed the conversation among the scholars, and also mentioned the annual lecture series in his name held at Simon's Rock.

• Science Update, August 22.

Crinkling candy wrappers were the subject of this American Association for the Advancement of Science mini-show, and once again faculty member **Eric Kramer** explained why the candy wrapper makes so much noise.

• **CBS Sunday Morning Show, July 10.** Edith Wharton and her gardens at The Mount were the subject of this show, which included footage that faculty member **Larry Burke** recorded since the restoration of the gardens began in 2000.

• **Indenews.com, July 1.** More than 200 dignitaries, many of them from Japan, attended opening ceremonies at Karuna Tendai Dharma Center's new main hall, and this article featured the center's leader and SRC faculty member, **Paul Naamon**.

• **New York Post, July 6.** **Karen Allen** was interviewed about her illustrious acting career, as well as her newest pursuits, including her teaching at Simon's Rock College.

Prodigies face difficult transition

• [Portland Press Herald, May 8](#)

Writer Kevin Wack of the *Blethen Maine Papers* wrote an article about the transition to campus for younger students, and in it he mentioned Simon's Rock's "special program." This article is part of a growing number of pieces in which Simon's Rock is acknowledged for its special place in early college education.

Scholarship program open to students from 14 counties

[WAMC Northeast Public Radio, The Berkshire Eagle, The Record](#)

The news of the creation of the Berkshire Area Scholarship Program was well reported.

For news items: Judith Monachina at 413-528-7395. For more information about Simon's Rock College at Bard visit our website at <http://www.simons-rock.edu>

Alumni: Becoming a household name

Eli Pariser was recently a guest on *The Colbert Report*, a Comedy Central news show. He was also mentioned in a *New York Times* William Safire column, On Language. **Alison Bechdel** is also gaining a reputation as a writer to watch. Her recently published book, *Fun Home*, landed her a spot with Terry Gross on NPR's Fresh Air. (We cannot mention all of the alumni media mentions and articles but we try to include one or two each time.)

On the Edge

Albany Times Union. Student intern **Jackie Sher** continues to write her popular culture column On the Edge for *The Times Union*.

Solar power shines at Simon's Rock

New England GreenStart, Summer 2006

Solar power has taken off in New England, but no other renewable energy product has come close to the production of New England GreenStart, recently signing contracts to produce 1.3 Megawatts of solar capacity. In their summer update, this newsletter featured a photo of the Fisher Science and Academic Center, where the solar panels have produced almost 4500 Kilowatt-hours.

Berkshire Fringe Festival gets even better press the second time

New York Times, June 23; Sunday Republican, July 16 and July 30; Berkshire Eagle, Watertown Daily News, June 27; WAMC, Northeast Public Radio.

Simon's Rock alumni have started a tradition. In its second year at the Daniel Arts Center, their theater project has attracted the attention of major media as well as the local press.

Economic impact of colleges on the Berkshire economy

Berkshire Business Outlook 2006 , Berkshire Eagle

Education writer Jenn Smith wrote an article on the economic impact of higher education on the Berkshire economy as a special feature in *The Berkshire Eagle*. Smith interviewed **Mary B. Marcy**.

Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Stranger

•**Douglas Ahlers' Commencement Talk WBCR radio** in Gt. Barrington continues to regularly record events at Simon's Rock College and run them on the show Locally Grown. During this period, reporter Andy Potter ran the Book One talk given by Kwame Anthony Appiah, and several other events, including the Commencement Address given by Douglas Ahlers.

Simon's Rock in the local community:

- Simon's Rock volunteers help a local farm **Berkshire Eagle, September 11**. Students from Simon's Rock were among 30 volunteers who participated in Project Native's Volunteer Day, helping a non profit farm and organization that promotes local agriculture to clean up invasive species.

- The Art of Recycling **Berkshire Eagle, September 5**

Two Simon's Rock students, **Noah Modie** and **Carl Woodruff**, took part in a local initiative promoting recycling and the arts. Modie, Woodruff, and a group of community members created recycling bins that now line the streets of Great Barrington. Many of them are creative constructions of scrap metal, others of wood and glass, but they are all made of at least 90% recycled material. The projects coordinators and contributors hope this will serve as a model for other towns and communities.

- Keeping Tracks: Bears, Bobcat, Moose and More **Berkshire Eagle, September 11**

Keeping Tracks is a citizen-science program that monitors local wildlife. In this article, Simon's Rock is named as one of the sponsors of the project.

Picture speaks a thousand words

Chronicle of Higher Education, June 23, 2006

A photo of Provost and Vice President **Mary B. Marcy** and Chairman of the Board of Overseers **Emily H. Fisher** was printed in *The Chronicle*. The image is from *The Chronicle's* Forum on Presidential Leadership. In another edition, July 14th, Simon's Rock was also mentioned and photographed as one of the stops on a two-week bicycle tour of New England colleges.