

SIMMONS COLLEGE

THE NINETY-FIRST

COMMENCEMENT

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1996



# Honorary Degree Recipients

---

## SOPHIE FREUD

---

Scholar, teacher, colleague, mentor, and mother describe her. Her work on the psychology of women and feminism has made her a leader in the development of the implications of this new psychology for social work practice. More than 30 scholarly articles, a book, a play, and numerous other publications demonstrate the depth and breadth of her interests. She credits reading, contemplation, and family as inspiration for her writing. She continually sought out new knowledge to expand the curriculum at the Simmons College School of Social Work and despite her busy workshop and lecture schedule, she made time for students and colleagues. Her advocacy for students is unparalleled and her passion for teaching, sharing knowledge, humanism, and justice are legendary. For her accomplishments in the fields of psychology of women, feminism, and social work education, and for bringing respected recognition to Simmons, the College takes pride in celebrating her achievements and awarding her the degree of Doctor of Social Service, *honoris causa*.

---

## LAWRENCE LANGER

---

As a teacher, he inspired and challenged hundreds of students in his literature classes at Simmons College for 34 years. As a researcher, author, and writer of six books and more than 30 chapters and articles, he kept the memory of the Holocaust, and those who have written about it, alive. His books on the literature of the Holocaust have won critical acclaim, both nationally and internationally. He conceived, designed, and directed five National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminars on the literature of the Holocaust. These seminars, held at the College, educate high school teachers so they may teach their students about this important part of history. Because fewer survivors of the Holocaust remain, his work has become more and more important. For his distinguished academic career, his leadership in keeping the memory of the Holocaust and its literature alive, and for bringing respected recognition to Simmons, the College takes pride in celebrating his accomplishments and awarding him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

---

## GAIL LEVIN

---

Since graduating from Simmons' Department of Art and Music she has greatly contributed to the fields of art history and education. Through prestigious awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Rockefeller Foundation; distinguished lectures throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan; the publication of more than 100 articles and 14 books; and her teaching responsibilities, she has become a respected and highly influential art historian and a major figure in twentieth-century American art. She is the preeminent authority on the life and works of the American painter Edward Hopper, having produced extensive research, numerous publications, including the *catalogue raisonné*, and curating many exhibitions of his works. For her accomplishments in the fields of art history and education, and for bringing respected recognition to Simmons, the College takes pride in awarding her the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

---

## LIZ WALKER

---

In her role as television news anchor, she uses her visibility to highlight many issues important to women. Her outstanding support of anti-domestic violence programs, such as co-chairing the Jane Doe Safety Fund and serving as spokesperson for WBZ's Stop the Violence public service campaign, demonstrate her strong commitment to women's rights. Her willingness to talk with young adults about important issues such as AIDS, breast cancer prevention, and homelessness gives credibility and visibility to these issues. Her support of children is also shown by her participation on the boards of the Big Sister Association, the Boston Children's Museum, and the Pediatric AIDS Charitable Trust of Boston. Her peers have honored her with an Emmy Award for journalism and a Gabriel citation for hosting and producing the documentary *Friends Like These*. For educating the public about the issues of domestic violence and child abuse, raising millions of dollars to support domestic abuse shelters and safe houses, and demonstrating the positive impact that a public figure can have on women's issues, Simmons College takes pride in celebrating her achievements and awarding her the degree of Doctor of Journalism, *honoris causa*.