



## **Hillel: Organization of the Year 2007-2008**

**Presented by L. Michelle Vital**, *Assistant Director, Office of Student Leadership and Activities*  
*on Friday, April 18, 2008 at the 2007- 2008 Student Leadership Recognition Ceremony*  
*Linda K. Paresky Conference Center, Simmons College*

A great organization can make a world of difference to not only its constituents but also the greater Simmons community. They are the types of organizations who have great style and approach their programming with flair. Whether it is a lecture, a musical event, or a culturally based program, participants leave feeling that they truly gained something from their experience. The true mark of a great organization is not one who programs to be recognized but programs because they make a true connection between their mission and the needs of the community. There is a synergy about them that causes those around them to become excited.

Tonight, I have the fortunate opportunity to give the award for the organization of the year. This award recognizes an organization for collaboration, integration, and inclusiveness within the group as well as throughout student activities. Recipients in the past have made significant contributions to the Simmons community through their active efforts and outstanding accomplishments.

The following are a few words said about this year's recipient.

This organization has stepped up the number of programs and activities for the community this year, which many of our residents have attended and enjoyed. They have been a way to learn about different cultures, history, and religious practices.

Another quote reads: [they have] been working tirelessly to promote awareness of [their] community at Simmons through fun and educational programs all year long."

Hillel has worked hard to collaborate on a variety of programs including the Afro-Semitic Experience, the Black/Jew Dialogues, Ann Weiss, Chanukah, and many others. Hillel has worked to increase visibility and impact the Simmons community as a whole.

On a personal note, I cannot wait for the next Purim Carnival. Hillel, its advisor and student leadership, have been silent leaders who have worked hard to make a difference to students and the Simmons community. Please join me in honoring Hillel as the Organization of the Year for 2007-2008.

- L. Michelle Vital