

NEWS & EVENTS SPECIAL EDITION

May 1992

Dr. Simone Named RIT President

Dr. Albert J. Simone, president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, has been named RIT president, becoming the eighth in the university's 163-year history.

The decision was made by the Board of Trustees following extensive on-campus interviews.

Thomas Gosnell, board chairman, cited Simone's extensive leadership experience and international contacts. "Dr. Simone brings to RIT a focus on student-centered education, experience in leading a major university, and a wealth of expertise in developing a broad array of industry-education agreements."

The 56-year-old Boston native has been president of the University of Hawaii System since 1985. There he was responsible for a system of 10 campuses enrolling 86,000 students in degree and non-degree

programs. He joined the University of Hawaii in 1983 as vice president for academic affairs and was named acting president in 1984.

"I accepted the RIT presidency because I felt I could contribute significantly at an outstanding university," said Simone. "Some institutions want to just maintain or emulate someone else. RIT is not an imitator. It has a uniqueness and a desire to move forward as a comprehensive university and to make a quality difference in higher education."

"RIT has more one-of-a-kind programs than any institution in America—programs that are tied to needs of the country and the world," he continued. "RIT's challenge is to continue to develop technology-based programs with a strong liberal arts foundation—programs that will meet the needs of our local, state, national, and international communities."

"My first task will be to build an internal cohesiveness through strategic planning that is based on trust and appreciation that the entire RIT community plays a significant role in furthering this university's

leadership role in higher education," Simone concluded.

He received a BA in economics from Tufts University and a Ph.D. in economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Simone has taught economics at Tufts, MIT, and Northeastern University, and quantitative analysis at Boston College and the University of Cincinnati. He served as dean of the college of business at the University of Cincinnati from 1972 to 1983. He became vice president for academic affairs at the University of Hawaii in 1983.

During his tenure at the University of Hawaii, the university established two new schools—ocean and earth science and technology, and Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific studies—as well as 40 new degree programs, including doctoral degrees in English, music, mechanical engineering, and communication and information science.

Simone chaired a strategic planning process and implemented a university-wide restructuring that resulted in streamlining the administrative structure. As



RIT's eighth president, Dr. Albert J. Simone

president he developed legislative support to significantly increase the university's annual operating and capital improvements budget. In addition, he has written several books and many papers and made numerous presentations on a range of educational topics.

Simone and his wife, Carolie, have four children, ranging in age from 21 to 31.

Simone takes over from President Rose, who retires June 1. Rose served as president for 13 years.

Accepts Position To Help Make Quality Difference

Simone says he accepted the RIT presidency because he felt he could make a quality difference in Rochester.

"RIT has a fine reputation and the more I learned about this university the more enthused I became. It's one of a kind. RIT is making pioneering efforts in such fields as imaging science, microelectronic engineering, integrated manufacturing, environmental management, Total Quality Management, and fine and applied arts. NTID is all by itself in concept and scope."

"With my contacts in the Pacific Basin and in the area of technology transfer, I believe I can lead RIT into even greater academic excellence and reputation nationally and internationally. RIT has a uniqueness and foundation to build upon."

Carolie Simone Views Institute

Carolie Simone offers her views after visiting RIT:

"It's an understatement to say I enjoyed it."

"I was impressed by the people and programs."

"Since I grew up on the East Coast, Rochester seemed like home to me."

"Al and I wanted to move to a warm community and we found that in RIT and Rochester. I am excited about the art, photo, environmental management, and other outstanding programs at RIT, like those at NTID."

(Below) Dr. Albert Simone and his wife, Carolie, met with faculty, staff, and students during two-and-a-half days of comprehensive on-campus interviews. Ray Chapman (left), packaging science faculty, spoke with Simone during an all-campus reception.



Perspectives on Presidency

"It's clear to me that the first order of business is to bring students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends together in a common understanding based on mutual trust," said Simone. "RIT must be characterized as a caring, tolerant, respectful, and self-confident university."

"Once a positive internal climate is reaffirmed, then we will identify niches for programs of comparative advantage and build new bridges with industry. In internal affairs, RIT also has a fine reputation of balanced budgets that must continue."

Simone feels that as president he should be highly visible on campus and also must serve as the chief spokesperson for RIT. Topics should include relevant issues in higher education.

"NTID is unique. It is a leading example of affirmative action whose concept and realization must be shared worldwide."

"As RIT's president I want to inspire trust. Together, the RIT community must establish mutually consistent goals for the organization and individuals within it that will lead the university to the next level of excellence. This university is a tremendous launching pad for service to the local, state, national, and international communities."

Simone says he sees education as both a process and a product that centers on learning. "Faculty are the role models to stimulate and motivate the students to

learn. Students receive instruction, but sometimes will teach the professor."

"The role of the administration is to stimulate, motivate, and establish a climate that makes quality an expectation."

"We want our graduates to have specific knowledge, but also to have the skills to think creatively. They must have a sense of values and ethics that prepares them for successful careers and responsible citizenship."

"It's also clear to me that for the United States to maintain its quality of life, universities like RIT must prepare students who are technologically proficient. There are not many universities that take on RIT's challenge."

Simone feels that everywhere he has served he has helped to build effective organizations. "I want to be around motivated people with the talent and enthusiasm to work hard and leave something of themselves that has advanced the university."

New President Presents Vision For RIT's Future

"I see RIT as a comprehensive university which already focuses on applied technology, and which could readily develop technology-based liberal arts programs," Simone said.

"With its strong foundation of people and programs, only RIT will set the limits of its educational leadership. I also see this university building upon the strengths of its industrial liaisons. At the same time, it must team-build cohesive values and attitudes. RIT must have curricula that impact on globalization and a continued relevance to industry."

He insists there also is a special role in targeted applied research with industry and government in areas that are unique to RIT.

"I feel I bring energy and the ability to motivate others to work together as a team. RIT must continue to have solid educational values along with a sense of vision and balance."



(Above) Simone at the annual President's Golf Tournament at the University of Hawaii

Simones Value Family, Friends

Al and Carolie Simone have been married for 33 years and have four children.

Edward, 31, owns a landscaping company in Cincinnati. He and his wife have two children—a boy, 10, and a girl, four.

Daughter Karen, 28, graduates in June with a degree in pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati. She lives in Kentucky with her husband.

Debra, 26, lives in Erie, Pa., with her husband and daughters, ages three and one.

Laura, 22, lives at home and attends the University of Hawaii.

The Simones play golf. Dr. Simone admits to only modest proficiency, but has a standing match in Hawaii on Saturdays with community leaders. He wrestled in college, but now concentrates on golf and softball and jogs three times a week. He pitches for a softball team he formed—a team that has lost only once. He had a band in high school, studied classical music in college, and still plays piano.

Mrs. Simone was an elementary school teacher until she became a parent. She then assumed the role of volunteer. She has a music background and serves as chairperson of the Symphony Education Committee and on both The Outdoor Circle (an environmental concern group) and the University of Hawaii Lyon Arboretum boards.

The Simones have a passion for reading nonfiction, particularly books on Asia. They also love to hike. Their pet, Brandy, a Poi dog (a mixed breed), plans to stay in Hawaii.

Another favorite activity is entertaining on behalf of the university. Carolie's hobbies also include music (Romanticism of Chopin to reggae), photography, sewing, and gardening.

They value family, friends, and community. "Somehow they become entwined," they said.