

## Shimer's First Chicago Graduates



A beautiful May afternoon provided the backdrop for presentation of degrees to 17 weekday and weekend students on May 6. The graduation was preceded by a reception for grads and their families sponsored by the Shimer College Association, which presented each graduate with a commemorative pin and a one year free association membership.



[Isaac Newton is a pretty good draw](#). That's what Shimer faculty member Jim Donovan found out during the third of four Brown Bag lunches sponsored by Shimer for IIT faculty and staff.

The purpose of the lunches was to introduce IIT personnel to the Shimer style of teaching and curriculum and recruit new enrollees for the Weekend Program.

Among those participating were a 51-year veteran chemistry professor, an environmental engineering professor, an IIT Research Institute Chemist, a health physics program director, an inhalation toxicity specialist, a science librarian, and two HR representatives.

The program has been popular with IIT staff so far, with attendance ranging as high as 15. The subject of Newton led to discussions regarding complexity versus simplicity in science and to an examination of the scientific method. Participants read excerpts from Russell and Whitehead's *Principia Mathematica* in preparation for the discussion.

Other Shimer faculty members participating in the program, spearheaded by Stuart Patterson, have been Eileen Buchanan, Ann Dolinko, and Barbara Stone.

## Haiti Program Director Steven Werlin Visits Campus



Shimer Haiti program director [Steven Werlin](#) briefed community members, including Kyra Keuben (foreground), this week about the extensive activities he is involved in including primary, secondary, and adult education programs throughout rural and urban areas of Haiti. An emphasis on program design and faculty development makes it possible for him to share the core values of Shimer education with thousands of Haitians. The program will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in June.



## SHIMER COLLEGE HOSTS AFRICAN TAPESTRIES

During the months of May and June, Shimer College is hosting an exhibit of 31 tapestries which tell the story of the universe. In the photo above, student Tom Olszewski studies a tapestry called "Birds and Flowers."

This is the first time the exhibit, entitled "The Cosmic Walk," has been

displayed in Chicago, according to faculty member James Donovan, who arranged for it to come to Shimer.

The Cosmic Walk was produced by the The Kopanang Women's Group of Geluksdal, South Africa which created the 31 embroidered textiles for the Faithful Fools Ministry, which is based in San Francisco, in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2002.

The works depict the both the story and the mystery of creation in strong simplicity and energy. "The story they tell is very accurate, very close to the standard scientific view from the big bang through the emergence of humans and civilization," said Dr. Donovan.

"At the same time, they successfully express the transcendent and spiritual side of creation in a way that their African culture understands. "The women of Kopanang, a South African town ravaged by poverty, unemployment, and AIDS, were organized and trained for the project by a Catholic nun, Sister Sheila Flynn, of Faithful Fools Ministry.

Admission to the exhibit is free. Hours are daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

## End of an Era

Jim Donovan writes:

"I deliver news that is sad from a nostalgic perspective, but viewed practically, it's good news.

"This morning at 11:00am we closed on the sale of the gym, Koko house and the parking lots. Shimer folk have had many a good time and seen a number of fine plays (i.e. all of them!) in the gym, so it's sad to part with it. From a practical perspective, though, we didn't know if we would be able to sell it and at one point feared we might be stuck with it as a white elephant.

"Now, it continues its life as an educational facility: it was purchased by a Karate school.

"The gym is dead -- Long live the gym!"