

**FINDING AID FOR THE  
JANIS STOCKMAN SIMONDS PAPERS, 1977-2003 (#2007-0004)**

**Contact Information:**

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives  
Neumann Library  
2700 Bay Area Blvd.  
Houston TX 77058  
Phone: 281-283-3936  
Email: archives@uhcl.edu  
URL: www.uhcl.edu/library

**Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** University Archives

**Collection #** 2007-0004

**Title:** UHCL. Janis Stockman Simonds Papers

**Creator:** Janis Stockman Simonds

**Inclusive Dates:** 1977- 2003

**Bulk Dates:** 1978 - 1992

**Extent:** 2 boxes (1 linear foot)

**Language:** English

**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access:** None

**Restrictions on Use:** None

**Acquisition Information:**

Materials donated by Jan Simonds on July 16, 2007 upon her retirement from UHCL.

**Processed by:** Shelly Henley Kelly

**Preferred Citation:**

Janis Stockman Simonds Papers (#2007-0004), University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives.

**Biographical/Historical Note (545)**

Jan Stockman Simonds served as the Director of the UHCL Dance Program from 1977 to 1992. Born in Janesville, Wisconsin, her family moved to Madison when she was 12. She began attending modern dance classes at the University of Wisconsin that year and attended the University of Wisconsin dance program after graduation from Madison High. She attended the American College Dance Festival in New London, Connecticut and after college graduation moved to New York City, where she lived with Sarah Stackhouse, Joan Taliaferro Hartshorne, and Claudia Gittleman.

While taking classes from modern dance greats such as Jose Limon, Pauline Koner, Doris Humphrey, and Merce Cunningham, she taught dance part time at a school in Long Island. She later taught at Branard College. Jan Stockman danced with the Jose Limon Company from 1958-61.

She left New York in 1961 for the University of Illinois where in 1968 she became head of the Dance Department. She received her Masters from the University of Illinois. After marrying Charles Simonds in 1969, they moved to Houston, Texas in 1971, where she continued to take classes and worked as a teacher and dance consultant for the Houston High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Her two children were born in 1973 and 1976.

In 1975, Jan Simonds choreographed "Moonscape" for the Houston Ballet. She became head of the UH/CLC dance program in 1977. In 1980, UH/CLC became the first school in the Houston area to offer a B.A. in Theater Arts (Dance). Jan Simonds and her Dance Collective performed throughout the local community and were active in the American College Dance Festival. They hosted the South Central Region in 1988. The UHCL Dance program ended each long semester with their Festival of Dance production.

In 1991, the Theater Arts Program underwent an Academic Review which resulted in the termination of the program. Sadly, the Dance program had no means by which to separate themselves from the Theater Arts program and was also cancelled. At the time Jan Simonds held the rank of full Professor with tenure. While she continued teaching a class, Arts and the Child, and taught a few semesters at UH (central campus), she ultimately became an administrator as Division Chair of Humanities and Fine Arts. She held this position until her retirement in May 2007.

### **Scope and Content (520)**

Files about the dance program, including the Theater Arts Program Review resulting in the cancellation of both Theater and Dance programs are housed first. Simonds kept notebooks resembling scrapbooks of her early years, and these contain flyers, programs, clippings, and other papers documenting dance events during that year. Clippings have been photocopied onto bond paper, photographs have been removed and filed with other photographs at the end. Three student papers were kept by Professor Simonds primarily for the photographs, but they also reflect the choreography techniques taught in her classes. The single project file represents the organization of the American College Dance Festival Association (South Central Region) meeting hosted at UHCL in 1988. Loose items found in the box included programs from outside performances in which Jan Simonds was involved, and publications about the dance program or alumni news.

Photographs are left in this collection, though dance posters are filed with the Broadsides. Many photographs are mounted onto white paper, some were stapled, some mounted with tape. Some have been removed from the original mounting; a photocopy of their original order exists in the folder with the prints. Photographs were donated in one large stack and have been sorted into folders reflecting all photos of one particular dance. Two folders are mixed miscellaneous.

The bulk of the posters are advertising the Festival of Dance, the end of the semester dance production.

### **Index Terms:**

American College Dance Festival  
Amphitheater  
Appel, Roberta  
Coelho, Helena  
Dance  
Dance Collective

Dyde, Farrell  
 Festival of Dance  
 Henry, Lois  
 Simonds, Janis Stockman  
 UHCL – Programs (named) – Dance  
 UHCL—Programs (named) –Theater Arts  
 UHCL. Dance Collective

**Arrangement:** Materials arranged in seven series representing the program, scrapbooks, student papers, project files, programs, publications and photographs.

**Items Separated:** One oversized photo is housed in the oversized photo file. Festival of Dance posters are listed in the description, but are housed with the BroadSides collection in DNC-2.

**Related Material:** Jan Simonds participated in an oral history for the 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Oral History Project on July 24, 2007.

### Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1		UHCL—programs (named) -- Dance	
	1	Dance Program History	Nd
	2	Dance Activities Schedule	1978-1991
	3	Theater Program Review	1989-1990
	4	Program Fate	1991-1992
		Scrapbooks	
	5	1977-1979	1977-1979
	6	1979-1980	1979-1980
	7	1980-1981	1980-1981
	8	1981-1982	1981-1982
	9	1982-1983	1982-1983
		Student Papers	
	10	BOARD STIFF in ice	1984
	11	"In My Soul There is a Swing" and "Pilgrim of the Sea"	1981
	12	Three Dances	1986-1987
		Project Files	
	13	American College Dance Festival Association	1988
		Programs	
	14	High School Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA)	2003
	15	Jewish Community Center of Houston	1982, 1991, 2000
	16	Stephen F. Austin University Dance Repertory in Concern	2003
	17	UH Dances	2000
2		Publications	
2	1	Clear Lake City Celebration of the Arts	Abt. 1989
	2	Clippings	1992, 2003
	3	Dance News, University of Illinois	1998
	4	Festival of Dance postcards	1978-1992
		Photographs	
	5-20	Dance	Nd
	21	Dance – Ego Tripping	Nd
	22	Dance (Magnetic Album pages)	Nd
	23-24	Dance (Misc.)	Nd
	25	Dance – Outdoor Amphitheater	nd
	26	Scrapbook 1981-82	1981-1982

	27	Scrapbook 1982-83	1982-1983
OS	DNC-2	Posters	
		American College Dance Festival – South Central Region	1985
		American College Dance Festival – South Central Region	1988
		Eliot Feld- lecture/demonstration	Nov. 3, 1979
		Festival of Dance “An Evening of Dance” (1)	Dec. 2, 1977
		Festival of Dance – Fall Semester	
		Dec. 7 & 8, 1979 (1)	1979
		Dec. 5 & 6, 1980 (1)	1980
		Dec. 5 & 6, 1981 (2)	1981
		Dec. 10 & 11, 1982 (1)	1982
		Dec. 7 & 8, 1984 (2)	1984
		Dec. 6 & 7, 1985 (3)	1985
		Dec. 4 & 5, 1987 (2)	1987
		Dec. 1 & 2, 1989 (10)	1989
		Dec. 2 & 3, 1990 (6)	1990
		Dec. 6 & 7, 1991 (3)	1991
		Festival of Dance – Spring Semester	
		May 2 & 3, 1980 (2)	1980
		April 29 & 30 (3)	Nd
		April 30 & May 1 (2)	Nd
		May 2 & 3 (2)	Nd
		May 1 & 2, 1987 (5)	1987
		May 5 & 6, 1989 (6)	1989
		May 3 & 4, 1990 (4)	1990
		May 1 & 2, 1992 Farewell Performance (8)	1992
		Houston Ballet, 1984-1985 Season	1984
		Performing Arts magazine	Oct. 1977
		Twyla Tharp Dance Foundation	nd