

Dr. Sharon A. Simmons

<http://www.sharonasimmonsphd.com>

[Google Scholar](#); [ResearchGate](#); [LinkedIn](#); sharonsimmons@jsums.edu

ORCID: 0000-0003-4713-1377

Professional Profile

Professor of Entrepreneurship and Accounting with more than two decades of academic leadership, research and professional practice. Holding a Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises and currently completing a Ph.D. in Accounting, I bring interdisciplinary expertise that spans corporate accounting, taxation, law, finance and innovation. My scholarship, published in leading journals, examines how institutions, financial systems and governance shape entrepreneurial outcomes and business sustainability. I have directed executive-education programs, mentored leaders across multiple continents, designed inclusive economic-development initiatives and secured over \$1 million in grants. Building on calls to explore the connections between accounting and entrepreneurship, my doctoral research integrates rigorous accounting methodologies with entrepreneurial theory to investigate how accounting information, reporting and controls influence venture creation, investment decisions and growth strategies. By bridging these fields, my work aims to illuminate how financial reporting, governance and accountability drive innovation, reduce risk and enable informed decision-making in entrepreneurial ventures.

Education

- Ph.D. in Accounting, Jackson State University, expected May 2030
- Ph.D. in Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises, Syracuse University, 2012
- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1994
- M.S. in Accounting, University of Virginia, 1994
- B.S. in Accounting, Hampton University, 1991 (Magna Cum Laude)

Continuing Education

- New Jersey Law & Ethics Regulations, New Jersey Society of CPA
- EDN–Moody’s Analytics Finance Training, Washington, DC
- HBCU Strategic Faculty Symposium, Deloitte University, Dallas
- Tax Faculty Symposium, Deloitte University, Dallas
- VentureWell Faculty Grantee Community of Practice
- Ice House Entrepreneurship Program Facilitator Training, Kauffman Foundation
- Experiential Entrepreneurship Classroom XII, Oklahoma State University
- Kauffman Firm Survey Training Session, Kauffman Foundation
- New York State Technology and Commercialization Law Center, Syracuse University
- Advanced Ph.D. Seminar in Entrepreneurship and Strategy, EMLYON Business School

Professional Credentials

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA), New Jersey (Inactive)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA), U.S. Virgin Islands (Inactive)
- Attorney, Pennsylvania Bar (Inactive)
- Real Estate Agent, U.S. Virgin Islands (Inactive)

Industry Work Experience

- Deloitte, Tri-State (NY/NJ/CT) – National Senior Tax Manager & Senior Associate / Intern (Summer 1993, 1996–2004): Led complex tax planning and compliance engagements for corporate clients, supervised cross-functional teams, and provided leadership in developing accounting best practices.
- Coopers & Lybrand (PwC), Parsippany, NJ – Tax Research Associate (1994–1996): Conducted tax research and analysis, developed corporate tax strategies, and collaborated with audit teams on financial reporting matters.
- Eaton Corporation – AT&T Capital Leasing, Stamford, CT – Legal Research Intern (1992): Supported accounting and tax research for leasing transactions, ensuring compliance with financial regulations and corporate policies.
- Ortho Pharmaceuticals, New Jersey – Cooperative Accounting Internship (Spring 1990): Assisted with accounting functions, prepared financial reports, and contributed to internal control assessments.
- Chase Manhattan Bank, New York & U.S. Virgin Islands – Intern (Internal Audit, Mortgage, Trade, HR) (1986–1991): Performed internal audit reviews, analyzed mortgage and trade finance documentation, and supported human resources operations.
- Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands – Legislative Page (Summer 1985): Provided administrative assistance and research support to legislative staff.

Academic Appointments

Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi Professor, College of Business (2020–present)

- Academic Director, Mandela Washington Fellowship Business Institute at Jackson State University
- Co-Director, R.I.S.E. Leadership Program – campus-wide program training faculty and staff mentors and mentees to become university leaders
- NSF I-Corps Trainer
- Developed and implemented the Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Pathway for the campuswide general education program.
- Led development and implementation of the Entrepreneurship Minor for Non-Business Majors
- Faculty Teaching Fellow – provided training to faculty on pedagogy innovation
- Assessment Coordinator, Entrepreneurship Program
- Member, University Assessment Council
- Member, Graduate Committee, College of Business
- Promotion and Tenure Committee Service (DURP)
- Faculty Advisor, Society of Entrepreneurs / Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO)
- Faculty Advisor, Gamma Rho Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Courses taught: Entrepreneurship Finance; International Business; Management of Arts & Technology Innovation Ventures; Management of Nonprofit Ventures; New Venture Creation; Creativity & Innovation; Information Systems for Small Business; Accounting; Ph.D. supervision

**University of Missouri–Kansas City, Henry W. Bloch School of Management, Missouri
Associate Professor of Global Entrepreneurship (2015–2019)**

- Courses taught: MBA New Product Development; Executive Education in International Business; Undergraduate Entrepreneurship; Ph.D. Research Design

**William Paterson University, Cotsakos College of Business, New Jersey
Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship & Innovation (2012–2015)**

- Courses taught: Introduction to Business; Entrepreneurship

**Syracuse University, Martin J. Whitman School of Management, New York
Teaching Fellow / Ph.D. Candidate (2009–2012)**

- Courses taught: Introduction to Entrepreneurship

**University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
Visiting Associate Professor (2019–2020)**

- Courses taught: International Marketing; Accounting

**University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
Assistant Professor of Accounting (2004–2008)**

- Courses taught: Accounting; Auditing; Taxation

Academy Leadership and Qualifications

- Treasurer, Entrepreneurship Division, Academy of Management
- Parliamentarian, Entrepreneurship Division, Academy of Management
- Co-Editor, Annals of Entrepreneurship Education & Pedagogy (Volume 6, 2025)
- Co-Editor, Journal of Small Business Management Special Issue (2018)
- Member, Academy of Management Board of Governors Teaching & Learning Committee
- Editorial board member for Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice and Small Business Economics

Fellowships, Honors & Awards

- Finalist, Entrepreneurship Educator Excellence Award, International Council for Small Business (ICSB) World Congress, 2026
- Emerald Literati Outstanding Paper Award, 2025
- PNC Faculty Fellow, Howard University, 2024–2025
- JSU Division of Research & Economic Development High Grant Award, 2024
- Department of Homeland Security Converge Judges Award, 2023
- Faculty Teaching Fellow, Jackson State University, 2025
- Outstanding Faculty Award, National Association of Black Accountants, 2006

Research Grants & Funded Projects

- R.I.S.E. Leadership Program Title III Subgrant – Co-Director and Co-Principal Investigator (Jackson State University)
- Entrepreneurship Minor for Business Majors Title III Subgrant – Principal Investigator

- Mandela Washington Fellowship – U.S. Department of State – Co-Principal Investigator
- SBA Women’s Business Center at Jackson State University – Co-Principal Investigator
- NSF COMPASS Water Monitoring Project – Senior Faculty (University of South Carolina)
- VentureWell Faculty Grant – Principal Investigator
- PNC Faculty Fellowship Grant – Principal Investigator

Editorial Boards & Reviewing

- Editorial Review Board, Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice
- Editorial Review Board, Small Business Economics
- Ad hoc reviewer, Journal of Small Business Management; Journal of Business Research; Global Business and Economic Perspectives, Journal of Social Entrepreneurship

Academy of Management Leadership

- Treasurer, Entrepreneurship Division
- Teaching and Learning Conference at AOM (TLC@AOM) Conference Chair
- Teaching and Learning Conference at AOM Program Co-Chair
- Teaching and Learning Conference at AOM Co-Chair of Communications
- Entrepreneurship Division Parliamentarian
- Vice Chair of Member Experience & Journalist, Entrepreneurship Division
- Board of Governors Teaching & Learning Special Committee Member
- Social Chair, USASBE Minority & Women Entrepreneurs Special Interest Group

Publications

- Bae, T. J., Lee, C. K., Simmons, S. A., & Lee, J. Y. (2025). Reflection on failure and the performance of subsequent ventures: Application of reflective learning theory. *International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal*, 21(1), 1–25.
- Simmons, S. A. (2025). A transformative human-centered interdisciplinary design of entrepreneurship education for a technological future. *Education Sciences*, 15(12).
- Simmons, S. A. (2025). Student envisioned entrepreneurial makeovers: It may SEEM impossible but it is not. In Santos & Simmons (Eds.), *Annals of Entrepreneurship Education and Pedagogy* 2025 (pp. 333–337). Edward Elgar.
- Simmons, S. A. (2026). Liabilities or Assets? The effects of age and industry on business survival amid infrastructure crises. *Global Business and Economic Perspectives*, Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 2026, 31–50.
- Simmons, S. A., Lee, C. K., Young, S., Shelton, L., & Massey, M. (2024). Effects of gender equality and social costs of failure on early-stage entrepreneurship activity. *New England Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 27(1), 89–107.
- Simmons, S. A., Carr, J. C., Hsu, D. K., & Craig, S. B. (2023). Intention to reengage in entrepreneurship: Performance feedback, sensation seeking and workaholism. *Journal of Business Research*, 165, 114042.
- Sarma, S., & Simmons, S. A. (2022). Societal attitudes toward corporate responsibility and social entrepreneurship. In *World Scientific Encyclopedia of Business Sustainability, Ethics and Entrepreneurship*. World Scientific.

- Lee, C. K., Simmons, S. A., Amezcua, A., Lee, J. Y., & Lumpkin, G. T. (2022). Moderating effects of informal institutions on social entrepreneurship activity. *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 13(3), 340–365.
- Lee, C. K., Cottle, G. W., Simmons, S. A., & Wiklund, J. (2021). Fear not, want not: Untangling the effects of social cost of failure on high-growth entrepreneurship. *Small Business Economics*, 57(1), 531–553.
- Hsu, D. K., Burmeister-Lamp, K., Simmons, S. A., Foo, M. D., Hong, M. C., & Pipes, J. D. (2019). I know I can, but I don't fit. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 34(2), 311–326.
- Simmons, S. A., Wiklund, J., Levie, J., Bradley, S. W., & Sunny, S. A. (2019). Gender gaps and reentry into entrepreneurial ecosystems after business failure. *Small Business Economics*, 53(2), 517–531.
- Hornsby, J. S., Messersmith, J. G., Rutherford, M. W., & Simmons, S. A. (2018). Entrepreneurship everywhere. *Journal of Small Business Management*, 56(1), 4–10.
- Shu, C., & Simmons, S. A. (2018). Firm survival in traded industries. *Small Business Economics*, 50(3), 643–655.
- Hsu, D. K., Simmons, S. A., & Wieland, A. M. (2017). Designing entrepreneurship experiments. *Organizational Research Methods*, 20(3), 379–412.
- Simmons, S. A., Carr, J. C., Hsu, D. K., & Shu, C. (2016). The regulatory fit of serial entrepreneurship intentions. *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, 65(3), 605–627.
- Simmons, S. A., Levie, J., & Monsen, E. (2016). Perceptions of firm competitive advantages from teaming up with universities. In Audretsch et al. (Eds.), *University Evolution, Entrepreneurial Activity and Regional Competitiveness*. Springer.
- Biniari, M. G., Simmons, S. A., Monsen, E. W., & Pizarro-Moreno, M. I. (2015). The configuration of corporate venturing logics. *Small Business Economics*, 45(2), 351–367.
- Simmons, S. A., & Hornsby, J. S. (2014). Academic entrepreneurship: A stage-based model. In *Academic Entrepreneurship: Creating an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem*. Edward Elgar.
- Simmons, S. A., Wiklund, J., & Levie, J. (2014). Stigma and business failure. *Small Business Economics*, 42(3), 485–505.
- Hsu, D. K., Haynie, J. M., Simmons, S. A., & McKelvie, A. (2014). What matters, matters differently. *Venture Capital*, 16(1), 1–25.
- Matsumoto, K., Vineyard, C., Hull, R., & Simmons, S. A. (2013). The use of algebraic formulae for interest computation in financial decisions. *Journal of Accounting and Finance*, 13(4), 99–110.

Manuscripts Under Review / In Revision

- Simmons, S. A., & Alsharari, N. – Strategic decoupling and selective recoupling in ERP implementation: Institutional configurations from a public sector case. Revise and resubmit, *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*.
- Simmons, S. A., McFarland, S., & Mangum, M. – Attorney perspectives of Black entrepreneurs in commercial real estate. Revise and resubmit, *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal*.

Doctoral Supervision and Mentorship

- Sydney Brown (Ph.D., Urban & Regional Planning), anticipated 2027 – Committee Member, Jackson State University
- MaQueba Massey (Ph.D., Strategy), 2023 – Supervisor, Jackson State University
- Joshua Nyantakyi (Ph.D., Accounting), 2022 – Committee Member, Jackson State University
- Simone Bewry (Ph.D., Accounting), 2023 – Committee Member, Jackson State University
- Shu Cheng (Ph.D., Entrepreneurship) – Dissertation Chair, University of Missouri–Kansas City
- Sarma Sumita (Ph.D., Entrepreneurship) – Dissertation Chair, University of Missouri–Kansas City
- Lee Chong K. (Ph.D., Entrepreneurship) – Committee Member, Syracuse University
- Pedro Tonhozi De Oliveira (Ph.D., Entrepreneurship) – Committee Member, University of Missouri–Kansas City
- Paul Daulerio (Ph.D., Entrepreneurship) – Committee Member, Pace University

Visiting Scholar & Guest Lectures

- Presentation on Women and Entrepreneurship – International Visitor Leadership Program, University of Missouri–Kansas City
- Presentation on Resource-Based View of Firm Competitive Advantages from Teaming Up with Universities – University of Strathclyde Business School, Scotland
- Guest lecture on Intellectual Property – Entrepreneurship Capstone Course, Syracuse University
- Guest lecture on Strategic Entrepreneurship – Business Strategy Course, Syracuse University

Community Presentations & Keynotes

- USVI Economic Development Summit: Diversifying Business & Industry Beyond the 21st Century – USVI Alliance Inc., Atlanta
- Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean Context – Rotary International, St. Thomas
- Financial Literacy Presentation to Syracuse University College Students – Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Student Chapter
- Luncheon keynote speaker – Iota Nu Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Pricing strategies in the business model – USVI Small Business Development Center
- Women in Business – USVI Small Business Development Center

Facilitator Roles

- Diversity Inc. Magazine – Corporate Citizenship/Shared Values
- Diversity Inc. Magazine – How Leadership Expresses Diversity Commitment
- Babson Entrepreneurial Research Conference (BERC) Round Table Moderator, Massachusetts
- American Accounting Association Meeting – Session Moderator, New York
- Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference – Co-sponsored by the USVI Economic Development Authority and Government of the Virgin Islands
- Group Research Development Leader, Southern Entrepreneurship Research Incubator (SERI)

Board & Community Leadership

- Board Member, Hinds County Human Resource Agency (HCHRA)
- Board Member, Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO)
- Faculty Expert, Amazon Small Business Academy
- Economic Development Committee Member, Beloved Community Initiative / International Museum of Muslim Cultures

- Secretary, Beta Delta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Member, North Jackson Rotary; Rotary reader at Walton Elementary School
- Secretary, U.S. Virgin Islands Society of Certified Public Accountants (USVI CPA Society)
- Class Captain, Fourth Grade, Jefferson Elementary School
- Girl Scout Troop Leader
- Jack and Jill of America, Treasurer
- Volunteer, Women's Build Project – Habitat for Humanity

Grant Reviewer Roles

- Grant Reviewer, U.S. Department of Agriculture Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program
- Grant Reviewer, Lahore School of Economics Research Development Fund