



# SIMMONS

## A Century of International Engagement

Graduate School of  
Library and Information Science

**“I would go to  
distant lands.”**

—JOSEFINA DEL TORO '25LS

# Since its founding in 1902,

Simmons GSLIS has trained more than 600 international students from more than 80 countries around the world. Approximately 30 international students representing nearly as many countries study at GSLIS each year.

Many of our international alumni have become major leaders in library and information science. Some even have been cultural pioneers, founding the first libraries and library schools in their countries, or establishing important professional organizations. All have furthered international librarianship.

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## Two Pioneers in International Librarianship

### HENRIETTA KARLOVNA ABELE-DERMAN '17LS

RUSSIA—Abele-Derman is considered one of the three most important figures in the development of modern Russian librarianship (along with N. K. Krupskaya, the wife of Lenin). In 1921, after receiving her degree from Simmons, Abele-Derman returned to Russia, was arrested, and was briefly imprisoned for giving a lecture advocating modern American library methods. Despite constant threat, she persisted in working to modernize Russian libraries. By 1923 she was head of the two foremost libraries in Russia, and a year later organized the first All-Russian Library Congress. In 1930 she became the founding director of the Moscow Library Institute — the first independent establishment devoted to the higher education of librarians. In 1939 she was imprisoned in a gulag in Siberia where she remained until her death in 1954.

### ANA MARIA MAGALONI DE BUSTAMANTE '82LS

MEXICO—One year after her graduation from Simmons, de Bustamante was appointed General Director of Libraries in Mexico. Within four years, she opened 999 libraries, increasing library patronage from 4 million to 30 million people — literally a third of the population.

# Training International Librarians

## IRAQI LIBRARIANS

With a lead grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, GSLIS is offering a program of courses to Iraqi librarians and archivists.

## EURASIAN LIBRARIANS

Since 1987, two Eurasian students have studied at GSLIS each year, recipients of the Edmund S. Muskie/FREEDOM Support Act Graduate Fellowship (awarded by the American Councils for International Education in Washington, DC).

## WORKSHOPS SPONSORED BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Since 1955, the U.S. State Department, sometimes in conjunction with the American Library Association, has sponsored a variety of workshops for librarians and other professionals from around the world. The workshops teach participants about American government information resources and the American legal system. In 2004, Simmons ran workshops for more than 20 non-American professionals who are Foreign Service National Employees of U.S. Embassy Resource Centers around the world.

## VIETNAMESE LIBRARIANS: A PIONEER TRAINING PROGRAM

### *History*

In 1993 Simmons and Harvard University's Yen-ching Institute began a special program to offer a master of science in library and information science to Vietnamese librarians. The original program brought 18 librarians (six per year for three years) to train at Simmons. It was funded by the Harvard-Yen-ching Institute. Since then, the program has continued and expanded, thanks to additional funding from the Starr and Luce foundations and the dedication of the founding director, GSLIS Professor Patricia Oylar.

### *Benefits of the Program*

Vietnamese students profit from:

- Immersion in English language training and extensive individual advising
- Membership in major American and international LIS professional organizations
- Valuable professional contacts and access to the Simmons alumni network
- Final courses taught by the program director on site in Vietnam
- Continuing education courses offered by the program director on site in Vietnam each summer
- A recognized degree from a program that is rated highly for its academic excellence (*U.S. News & World Report* ranks GSLIS in the top 12 United States LIS schools)

### *Ten Years of Success*

The Vietnamese program has been extremely successful and has received much attention from the Vietnamese government. All 18 of the program's first students are now in positions of major importance and responsibility in Vietnam (e.g., Deputy Director of the National Library; Director, General Sciences Library in Ho Chi Minh City). They and other more recent alumni from the program are key players in fostering the information infrastructure in Vietnam.

### *Pioneer Program*

To our knowledge, this is the only ongoing LIS program in the United States tailored to a specific population of international librarians.

## COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP

*Our course "International and Comparative Librarianship" engages students in:*

- Comparing American and foreign library systems
- Examining the contributions of international organizations
- Discussing issues related to diversity and to the ethnicity of users and library staff

## Alumni From More Than 80 Countries

**AFRICA**—Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe

**EASTERN EUROPE**—Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

**EUROPE**—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Wales

**ASIA**—Bangladesh, Burma, China, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

**MIDDLE EAST**—Bahrain, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen

**NORTH AMERICA**—Canada, Mexico

**OCEANIA**—Australia, New Zealand

**SOUTH/CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**—Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Trinidad, Tobago



# SIMMONS

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