

For Immediate Release

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Simmons College Co-sponsoring International Soccer Conference in Athens, Greece Featuring Keynote Speaker Sen. George Mitchell *Simmons Professors to Attend; Examine the Impact of the Sport Across Borders*

BOSTON (August 31, 2017) – Simmons College is co-sponsoring an international soccer conference in Athens, Greece next week that will feature keynote remarks from Presidential Medal of Freedom winner and former U.S. Senate Majority Leader and U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland George Mitchell.

Three Simmons College professors Stephen Ortega, Darren Graves and Leanne Doherty will participate in the three-day conference, “Reinforcing, Crossing and Transcending Borders: Soccer in a Globalized World,” which begins on September 4. The event is designed to create an ongoing discussion among researchers, the soccer industry, players and non-governmental organizations on the importance of better understanding global soccer’s relationship to borders and trans-national movement. Event sponsors also include the Weatherhead Initiative for Global History at Harvard University, the Olympiacos Football Club and its owner Evangelos Marinakis.

“I am looking forward to joining Professors Doherty and Graves and our colleagues from around the world to examine the growth of soccer across international borders and its impact on culture, economics, politics and social issues,” said Professor Ortega, one of the principal organizers of the conference, and associate professor and co-director of Simmons’ History/Archives Program. Professor Doherty serves as the Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Graves is an associate professor in the Simmons Education Department.

The conference will feature a declaration on the right of all peoples to participate in sports, a panel on refugees and soccer, and Sen. Mitchell’s keynote address. Conference themes include: migration, peace-building, queer motilities, trauma and healing, post colonialism, and trans-national fandom. A player’s panel, which will include Christian Karembeu, a member of the victorious French team in the 1998 World Cup, will conclude the conference.

Elected Senator of Maine, Mitchell served in the United State Senate from 1980 to 1995 where he was Senate Majority Leader from 1989 and 1995. He is the recipient of both a Presidential Medal of Freedom and a Liberty Medal for his work negotiating the Good Friday Agreement when he was US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. Mitchell’s address will be live streamed. For more information on his address and the conference follow [@Soccerborders](https://twitter.com/Soccerborders) on Twitter.

Simmons College (www.simmons.edu) is a nationally recognized private university located in the heart of Boston, and is the preeminent authority on women’s leadership. Founded in 1899,

Simmons is the only undergraduate women's college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. The college offers world-class coeducational graduate programs in nursing and health sciences, including physical therapy and nutrition; liberal arts; education; behavior analysis; library and information science; management; and social work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsCollege](#) and [@SimmonsNews](#).