

## Smith's Promise: Every student will leave Smith a stronger individual, prepared to lead in the world.



By Carol T. Christ

AS TALENTED YOUNG WOMEN ARE increasingly recognized as the hope of their nations, organizations, and families, Smith College is embarking on a defining initiative: to educate the women who will transform our world.

In the past decade, Smith has seen unprecedented growth in applications, with international applicants constituting the fastest growing—and among the most competitive—sector of our pool. Increasingly, these high-achieving women are coming to Smith from Asia, India, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe, spurred by a desire for a challenging, engaging, global education and by a shortage of spaces in competitive universities in rapidly expanding economies and developing countries.

Educating women from around the world speaks directly to a compelling societal need. It answers the question “Why a women’s college?” in a powerful way. Acclaimed journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, authors of *Half the Sky*, argue that women’s rights are the defining cause of our time. They cite the Chinese proverb “women hold up half the sky,” but concede that that maxim remains an aspiration more than a reality. “In a large slice of the world,” they explain, “girls are uneducated and women marginalized, and it’s not an accident that those same countries are disproportionately mired in poverty and riven by fundamentalism and chaos.” They point to the growing recognition on the part of government, NGOs, and business that focusing on educating women and girls is the most powerful way to fight poverty and extremism. “Women and girls aren’t the problem; they’re the solution,” they write.

Making progress in addressing this gender gap requires intelligent women from many nationalities and socioeconomic backgrounds, who are globally educated and prepared to lead. What more appropriate institution of higher education to take on this challenge than a women’s college of Smith’s resources, distinction, and history? Investing in women of promise from around the world extends Sophia Smith’s vision to the twenty-first century—by providing education, women’s “power for good will be incalculably enlarged.”

*The largest single goal of the campaign is to make a Smith education accessible to any talented young woman who seeks it.*



## A blessing to the world

SMITH’S GLOBAL CREDENTIALS are indisputable. Smith has been a pioneer in international education for women since its inception. In her will, Sophia Smith envisioned a college that would be “a perennial blessing to the nation and to the world.” Smith College and the other Seven Sisters were passionate about their mission to bring higher education to women, not just in the United States but around the world. Smith participated in the founding of the International Institute for Girls in Spain in 1881 and Jinling College in China in the 1920s, as well as similar institutions in Turkey, Serbia, and Japan.

Smith was a pioneer in the development of study abroad programs for American students. President Neilson founded the Paris program in 1924, the second JYA program to be created by an American college; programs in Madrid and in Florence followed in 1930 and 1931. Smith currently ranks first among US baccalaureate institutions in the percentage of students study-

ing abroad for a full year. By the time they graduate, more than 40 percent of our students have studied abroad for a semester or a year; 50 percent have done an internship. This long and deep investment in international study has made Smith a national leader among liberal arts and master’s institutions in the number of Fulbright fellowships awarded to students and recent graduates.

Women’s colleges give their students a powerful sense of agency in their community that becomes a foundation for effective action and leadership. Indeed, Smith’s vision of global women’s leadership is deeply informed by the experiences of our alumnae, who credit their Smith education with giving them capacities crucial to their success: intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, effective writing and public speaking, and the confidence to step forward with conviction. In the United States and around the globe, in diplomatic and business circles, Smith women are widely known for stepping up, speaking up, and leading change.

### AYLA QAIS '11

Home country  
Bangladesh

Major:  
Economics and psychology

“Overall, Smith has developed my ability to think more analytically and critically. I’m more confident now, more able to form arguments and thoughts from a number of points of view.”



### NATALIE PEREZ '07

Came to Smith from  
Austin, Texas

Major:  
Biochemistry

“After doing a lot of research and visiting the campus, I decided that Smith was a place where I could achieve my goals. Smith’s open curriculum let me plan my own course of study, and I was able to assist professors with research projects typically reserved for graduate students.”

## Few Limits

TODAY’S STUDENT HAS grown up believing there are few limits to what she can achieve—anywhere in the world. She is looking for an outstanding academic experience that exposes her to the world and connects her to a global network. She expects to live and work across borders, with fluency and full engagement. Talented, curious, and purposeful, she is eager to test her ideas with others who thrive on challenge and possibility. She seeks the inspiration that comes from living in a community of fiercely intelligent peers.

*Today’s student is looking for an outstanding academic experience that connects her to a global network.*

To attract this outstanding student, whether she comes from New York, Beijing, Dallas, or Mumbai, Smith must deliver a truly global education. We must ensure that she has access to

- transformative international or intercultural experiences that grant true understanding of diverse cultural contexts and issues;
- study abroad or study away regardless of her financial circumstances;
- opportunities for independent scholarly and creative work, and the chance to connect her intellectual passions to real-world contexts, through internships and concentrations;
- extraordinary intellectual resources and facilities to help her define and achieve success on her own terms;
- a global network that will help her realize her full capacities in all realms of life.

This, then, is our promise: Every student will leave Smith a stronger individual, prepared to lead in the world.



## An education with transformative power

TO FULFILL THAT PROMISE, we are embarking on an ambitious fundraising campaign with a working goal of \$500 million to sustain and strengthen Smith as a college for women and manifest its identity as the premier college for women’s global leadership.

The largest single goal of the campaign is to make a Smith education accessible to any talented young woman who seeks it. Through the campaign, we will increase our endowed scholarship funds by \$200 million in order to support the many domestic and international students who cannot afford to come to Smith without significant financial aid. Achieving this goal will generate \$10 million annually for direct assistance to students, including those from abroad who are ineligible for US federal or state aid. For these students—for all Smith students—the campaign will sustain Smith’s

### ANDREA GALLARDO '07

Came to Smith from  
Quito, Ecuador

Major:  
Economics

“During high school, I came to Smith for the Summer Science Program. I was here for a month and fell in love with the campus. I wanted a strong academic program and financial aid was important, too. Smith offered me both.”

academic preeminence and enhance opportunities for purposeful, integrated learning across all disciplines.

Like the alumnae who have come before them, today’s Smith students deserve an education of transformative power and enduring value. I ask you to join me in this opportunity to invest in exceptional young women who, strengthened by their education, hold the promise to lead change in our world.

*Women’s colleges give their students a powerful sense of agency in their community that becomes a foundation for leadership.*



**THANH BUI '10**  
Came to Smith from Vietnam  
Major: East Asian studies

"Smith has shown me the power of access to opportunities."



## Our 5-point Plan for Bringing the World to Smith and Taking Smith to the World

WOMEN OF PROMISE, LIVES OF DISTINCTION:  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR SMITH

1

### Build a More International Student Body

**CAMPAIGN PRIORITY**  
\$200 million for domestic and international student financial aid

Smith's new focus on global connectedness calls for a more international approach in admission and in shaping the student body. In that spirit, Smith will broaden its outreach to talented young women around the world. We are committed to doubling the number and percentage of international students over the next several years. This is an ambitious—and expensive—endeavor, but young women today come to campus with the expectation that their education will include meaningful intercultural experiences with fellow students from all parts of the world.

2

### Launch a Global Studies Center

**CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES**  
\$5 million to create global curriculum funds  
\$5 million to name the center  
\$3 million to name the directorship

With a curriculum already rich in opportunities to study different cultures within and outside the borders of the United States, Smith is well positioned as a leader in global studies. To prepare today's student to live and work in a global community, with fluency and full engagement, Smith will build on current strengths, coordinate and enhance regional studies, and develop new curriculum-based initiatives. At the center of these initiatives will be the Global Studies Center, which will serve as a locus for international news, issues, and events, as well as a home base for international students, scholars, visiting international professors, and global leaders in residence. In tandem with the creation of the Global Studies Center, we will develop new courses and resources in East Asian languages and cultures, South Asian studies, New Europe studies, and border studies, as well as concentrations that combine academic and practical experience in fields with contemporary applications, such as comparative cultures and international finance.

3

### Expand Global Internships and Leadership Opportunities

**CAMPAIGN PRIORITY**  
\$5 million to endow international internships and global leadership development opportunities

Smith's Praxis internship program is unlike any other at a liberal arts college. It holds out the promise of a paid internship for every student. Annually about 400 students embark on Praxis internships, with 15 percent accepting placements outside the United States. Knowing the value in marrying classroom work with experience in communities and organizations around the world, Smith intends to bolster the Praxis program by tripling funding for international internships and building significant resources for student travel and participation in leadership conferences. Doing so will make Praxis a truly global program and our students better prepared to lead in the world.

4

### Enhance Opportunities for Study Abroad and Study Away

**CAMPAIGN PRIORITY**  
\$12.5 million for curriculum initiatives and to create an international travel fund for students

Smith has long been a pioneer in international education for women, launching groundbreaking study abroad programs in the 1920s and 1930s, embracing international scholars, and providing numerous opportunities for students to develop a truly global perspective. Today, students come to Smith with an even more urgent desire to pair their classroom experiences with meaningful engagement with people and issues in the wider world. To meet that expectation, Smith intends to expand study abroad opportunities in non-Western countries through new programs in Asia, Africa, and Latin America; through intensive summer language labs in Chinese, Arabic, and African languages; and through an exciting new global engagement seminar that will take students and faculty to the international sites they are studying in class. These initiatives will be coupled with significant investments in study-away opportunities in engineering, science, and math, making it possible for students from every academic discipline to take what they learn in the classroom and put it into action in communities outside the Grécourt Gates.

5

### Foster Worldwide Alumnae Engagement

**CAMPAIGN PRIORITY**  
\$1 million to endow an Alumnae Engagement Fund

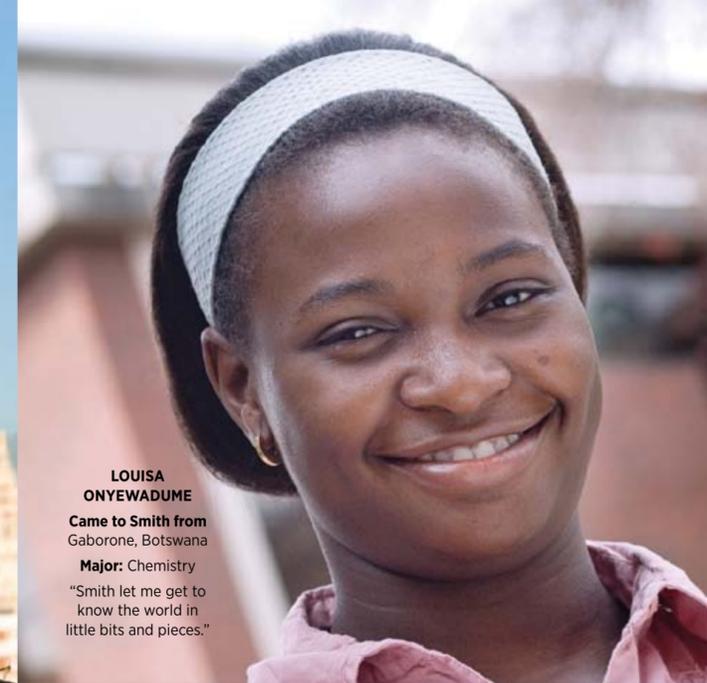
Alumnae continually cite their experience at Smith as a foundation for their success later in life. Smith women have touched—and transformed—many aspects of society, and at times their work has had a profound impact on history and the lives of women around the world. Students are eager to meet these accomplished women and make connections that will serve them well later. By the same token, alumnae are eager to share their knowledge and experience with current students. Our global vision dictates that we strengthen relationships with international alumnae and create new ties through mentoring programs, career-development opportunities, and online initiatives.



**MARGARET NYAMUMBO '11**  
Came to Smith from Kenya

Major: Mathematics and economics

"Having grown up in a village where women's education was not appreciated, I felt inspired to apply to Smith. I decided to come because of the close interaction with professors and the strong program in science."



**LOUISA ONYEWADUME**  
Came to Smith from Gaborone, Botswana  
Major: Chemistry  
"Smith let me get to know the world in little bits and pieces."

A Vision for Smith in the 21st Century



## The Power of Smith in the World:

Educating Women for Global Leadership

BY CAROL T. CHRIST

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR SMITH