Making Internationalization Matter

Annual Report

Kennesaw State University
Division of Global Affairs
From the Chief

I am pleased to introduce this inaugural annual report for the newly established Division of Global Affairs at Kennesaw State University.

The Division of Global Affairs plays a central, collaborative role within our institution: leading and facilitating international engagement and education across 12 academic colleges, dozens of administrative offices and in service to a campus community of more than 35,000 students, faculty and staff. While our strategic mandate broadly encompasses campus internationalization in all its forms, our primary missions are advancing international education opportunities for our students and facilitating global engagement for our faculty and curricula.

Kennesaw State University is profoundly committed to educating globally competent students who can understand intercultural differences and navigate our globalized society as successful professionals and engaged citizens.

Our international strategy elucidates cultural differences alongside cultural similarities, so that students can make informed decisions about the world.

Students who leave Kennesaw State with a sophisticated understanding of diverse cultural values and practices are better prepared to develop professionally and intellectually within a globally competitive job market and to interact effectively with colleagues from a variety of backgrounds.

This annual report highlights the broad array of programs, events and resources that the Division of Global Affairs provides in service to the campus community alongside the educational goals that we all share.

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Dr. Lance Askildson
Chief International Officer

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The Education Abroad Office is the most visible arm of the Division of Global Affairs for students. Its continued success reflects the student community’s desire to learn about and experience other cultures. During the last academic year, 40 approved faculty-led education abroad programs were successfully implemented, thanks to strong partnerships between education abroad advisors and faculty. The programs gave nearly 800 students the chance to experience life-changing academic coursework, including studying Renaissance art in Tuscany, exploring Tiananmen Square in Beijing, and studying marine life off the coast of Belize. Each program offers a mix of rigorous classwork and ample time for exploration. The EAO staff works diligently to ensure the success of each faculty-led program. Not only did the office host a series of faculty training sessions on program management this year, but five education abroad advisors accompanied programs overseas to provide support. Their presence proved invaluable in helping faculty leaders during critical times. To help guarantee Kennesaw State continues to grow its education abroad programs, the EAO has launched a new metrics program. By gathering feedback from students, the EAO and faculty can work together to build international programs that provide the most educationally and personally fulfilling experiences for Kennesaw State’s global learners.

Each year hundreds of students participate in Kennesaw State University education abroad programs. During the 2013-2014 academic year, the number of students increased year-over-year, and new outreach efforts will help encourage more to study abroad in the future.

767 students participated in Education Abroad Programs, a slight increase from the previous year.

43 different countries received Kennesaw State students.

Participation in Education Abroad Programs by College

- Science & Math: 12%
- Humanities: 25%
- Arts: 11%
- Wellstar: 19%
- Coles: 16%
- Bagwell: 7%
Outreach: Spreading the Education Abroad Message

Community outreach is a critical part of the Education Abroad Office’s work. The success of the 40+ unique education abroad experiences hinges on the office’s ability to generate student interest in those programs. During the last year, EAO staff took to the streets (literally) to spread the word.

The 13th annual fall Education Abroad Fair was a resounding success. Despite shortening the traditionally two-day event to a single day, fair attendance increased.

More than 800 students showed up to see exhibits highlighting the different classes, cultures, and foods they could experience by studying abroad. To promote the fair, the EAO got students’ attention with a series of chalk advertisements drawn on the sidewalk.

While the fair is the premiere outreach event, it is just one of the many ways the EAO builds interest in its programs. The EAO grew its social media footprint during the 2013-2014 academic year, generating a 100% increase in social media interactions with students.

As the office continues to collect and analyze this data, the results will lead to more innovative and challenging education abroad experiences.

Data Makes All The Difference

Kennesaw State University’s international programs are only going to get better going forward with the help of a new process for collecting student feedback.

In spring 2014, the EAO surveyed past participants about what they would like to see from future programs. The results revealed the most desirable destinations to see from future programs. The results participants about what they would like forward with the help of a new process for programs are only going to get better going Kennesaw State University’s international

The survey was administered electronically, with the EAO receiving responses from more than 360 students. This valuable data was instrumental in creating a new balanced scorecard for evaluating program proposals. As faculty members propose future programs, those that better align with what the students identify as important will be considered over those that do not. EAO staff can now ensure that they approve programs that will generate the greatest amount of student interest.

The Education Abroad Office is also using surveys to evaluate the experiences of other program participants, including exchange students, J-1 scholars, and participants in non-credit bearing programs.

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Advisors’ Efforts Boost Programs

Fiscal year 2014 saw increases in the number of faculty-led education abroad programs offered, and in the number of students participating in them. Education abroad advisors have taken on new responsibilities in order to meet the growing demand.

More academic programs are now requiring students to complete internships. The Education Abroad Office developed a new central database of international internships to help students meet these requirements while still having the opportunity to study abroad and, dedicated an advisor solely to managing internships in response to the growing demand.

The EAO also made efforts to increase participation in long-term and exchange programs. Forty-nine students participated in semester and yearlong exchanges (up slightly from the previous year), while 48 took part in international student teaching projects (up 50 percent). Student teachers held classes in Uganda, China, Costa Rica, and Ecuador.

These programs will continue to grow with the introduction of a new student teaching program in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil and a new exchange agreement with Universidad de Valladolid in Spain.

Education abroad advisors are now better equipped than ever to match students with the right programs, thanks to several process improvements implemented during the year. For example, the EAO revised the organizational chart to include the position of senior advisor. This person serves as a mentor and guide for the other advisors.

Other changes include making greater use of the Studio Abroad electronic system to improve risk management and student enrollment, and allowing advisors for long-term programs to accompany short-term programs overseas. Cross-training advisors on different programs ensures greater flexibility among the staff.

On top of these improvements, several advisors received prestigious honors in fiscal year 2014. One advisor was accepted into the National Association for International Education Academy Cohort, while others were invited to present at several international education events around the southeastern United States.
Demographic Information: Which Students Study Abroad?

- College of the Arts: 4 students
- Bagwell College of Education: 35 students
- Coles College of Business: 103 students
- College of Humanities & Social Sciences: 206 students
- College of Science & Mathematics: 50 students
- WellStar College of Health & Human Services: 44 students
- Interdisciplinary Studies: 325 students

Undergraduates: 646 Students
Graduates: 121 Students

Which Colleges do Education Abroad Participants Come From?

- Males: 223
- Females: 544

Undergraduates: 646 Students
Graduates: 121 Students

Where in the World Are Kennesaw State Students Studying?

- The Americas: 379 Students
- Europe: 186 Students
- Africa: 53 Students
- Asia: 136 Students
- Middle East: 13 Students
The Division of Global Affairs supports a variety of internationalization initiatives in addition to education abroad, including programs that encourage international students to enroll at Kennesaw State and help them succeed once they are here. A program that sets Kennesaw State apart from other universities is the Global Learning Scholarship. Virtually all students in good academic standing are eligible to receive Global Learning Scholarship funds to help defer the costs of studying abroad. In fiscal year 2014, the DGA administered approximately $700,000 in scholarship funds to nearly 700 students.

Another program, Global Engagement Certification, recognizes students who have embraced global values after studying abroad and performing community service. Other DGA activities promote Kennesaw State as a destination for international students. The DGA welcomed 83 incoming J-1 students and scholars during fiscal year 2014. Meanwhile, Kennesaw State also participated for the first time in the Brazil Science Mobility Program. Fifty-eight STEM students from Brazil attended classes and lived on campus during the spring 2014 semester.

Strong English language skills are essential to the success of international students. Towards the end of the academic year, a DGA director began managing the College of Humanities & Social Sciences’ Intensive English Program. The change helps ensure that the DGA guides international students during their entire Kennesaw State University experience.

Programs like the Global Learning Scholarship and Global Engagement Certification continue to encourage Kennesaw State students to develop global perspectives, while new programs help international students develop the language skills needed to study at a U.S. university.

- **$694,679** in Global Learning Scholarships awarded to 679 students in FY 2014
- **$26,000** in scholarships awarded to 62 STAR student assistants
- **$43,000** in education abroad site visit funds awarded to faculty
- **58** students earned global engagement certification
Educational Majors Abbeeen Babwani
Receiving Global Engagement Certification

In addition to administering scholarships, the Office of Global Engagement also awards the prestigious Global Engagement Certification to qualifying students in recognition of their global coursework, education abroad, and cross-cultural experiences. Fifty-eight students received the Global Engagement Certification in 2014. Recipients include students who taught classes in Costa Rica and Uganda, conducted research in Peru, and built houses in Jamaica. During the awards ceremony in the spring, recipients described how their international experiences have enriched their academic lives and helped them to become global citizens.

Intensive English Opens Kennesaw State to the World

Kennesaw State’s Intensive English Program (IEP) teaches international students the language skills needed to succeed in the U.S. Because the University does not require international students to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam if they complete IEP, more students who want to attend U.S. universities are looking at Kennesaw.

In spring 2014, the University hosted 58 STEM students as part of the Brazil Science Mobility Program. They completed 18 hours of IEP English language training each semester and increased the number of programs available to more people.

Other actions taken by the Global Learning Fee Committee were allowing international students to pursue international education abroad, and cross-cultural experiences. To help foster that, the committee reinstated the community service requirements to receive funds. Students must complete five hours of approved community service (locally or abroad) either before or during their education abroad experience to qualify for the scholarship. The Office of Global Engagement will use the OwlLife online portal to track students’ community service electronically.

During its fiscal year 2014 meeting, the Global Learning Fee Committee – comprised mostly of students appointed by the Student Government Association – made several key changes to how Global Learning Scholarship funds are distributed. The changes will help make more funds available to more people.

The committee approved an across-the-board increase of $100 on all scholarship awards, which raises the minimum award from $500 to $600 and the maximum from $2,000 to $2,100. In addition, 100 percent e-learners (students taking only online classes) can now receive Global Learning Scholarships. Because these students are exempt from many university fees, including the Global Learning Fee, only those who choose to pay the fee are eligible for scholarship funds.

Global Learning Scholarship recipients are expected to demonstrate a passion for community service. To help foster that, the committee reinstated the community service requirements to receive funds. Students must complete five hours of approved community service (locally or abroad) either before or during their education abroad experience to qualify for the scholarship. The Office of Global Engagement will use the OwlLife online portal to track students’ community service electronically.

The DGA is responsible for visiting Chinese scholars’ logistical needs when traveling to Kennesaw State, such as getting visa documents in order and arranging housing. In addition, the DGA plans monthly social and recreational excursions, like a bowling trip this spring. “They love the excursions,” says Education Abroad Exchange Specialist Michele Miller. “I hear about it forever, how much fun they have.”

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The Year of Japan

Kennesaw State University’s Year of Japan celebration helped hundreds of students, faculty, and community members discover Japan’s rich culture without ever leaving metro Atlanta.

Each year, Kennesaw State devotes an academic year to honoring a specific country with a series of lectures, conferences, exhibits, and film festivals. Overseen by the Division of Global Affairs, the 2013-2014 Year of Japan was one of the most successful ‘Year Of’ events in the program’s 30-year history, thanks to high turnout and extensive involvement from local and international organizations.

The Year of Japan featured several fascinating lectures, such as “Behind the Mask: The Mysterious Samurai,” presented by Stephen Turnbull, one of the world’s foremost experts on Samurai culture. Many lecturers traveled to Kennesaw from Japan. In fact, more representatives from the featured country visited the University than during any previous ‘Year Of’ program.

“They were very impressed with KSU’s commitment to global learning and the extensive focus the campus gave to Japan,” says Dan Paracka, the DGA’s director of academic initiatives and head of the ‘Year Of’ program. “These connections will continue to grow and flourish.”

A shining example of how to incorporate international studies into a college curriculum, Kennesaw State’s ‘Year Of’ program turned 30 this year. To mark the occasion, the University highlighted Japan, a nation that has reinvented itself many times without losing its core culture.

Valuable Year Of Japan Community Partners:
What do ceremonial drummers, martial artists, video gamers, and comic book fans all have in common? They came together to make the Year of Japan’s fall convention a success.

The fall convention – entitled J-Con – was a celebration of Japanese popular culture. The event featured costume contests, video game tournaments, art exhibits and workshops, panel discussions, and film screenings. While the focus was on Japanese anime screenings, what do ceremonial drummers, martial artists, video gamers, and comic book fans all have in common? They came together to share their passion for Japanese culture and to establish an event that could become a major regional convention.

“A very large [Atlanta] anime convention – MomoCon – got its start in a Georgia Tech basement,” says Dan Paracka, director of academic initiatives for the DGA. “KSU students envisioned that this will be the next big convention to come out of the south.” J-Con organizers got the event off to a great start. More than 150 people attended the convention, with a third coming not from the student population, but from the surrounding community. Organizers have plans to host another J-Con in the future and, hopefully, to turn it into an annual event.

J-Con: Kennesaw Students Organize Tribute to Japanese Popular Culture

The first convention – entitled J-Con – was a celebration of Japanese popular culture. The event featured costume contests, video game tournaments, art exhibits and workshops, panel discussions, and film screenings. While the focus was on Japanese anime culture, attendees also had the chance to learn about more traditional Japanese art forms. Artists held presentations on printmaking, origami, taiko drum performance, bento boxed meal preparation, and even martial arts.

The most impressive aspect of J-Con is that it was almost entirely organized by students, with the Student Organization for Asian Studies as the driving force. They received help from The Japan Club and several Kennesaw State alumni. All of these different groups came together to share their passion for Japanese culture and to establish an event that could become a major regional convention.

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The Martial Art Demonstrations were a Highlight of J-Con

The conference was not all fun and games, however. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Rebuilding 10,000 Lives Project, which aims to help those displaced by the devastating 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. The charity organizes leadership skills training for children in four cities affected by the disaster. Once the training is complete, the children participate in social projects in area schools. J-Con organizers raised nearly $1,000 for the charity.

Organizers raised money through registration fees paid by non-Kennesaw students and vendors.

Conference on Crisis Response Plants Seeds of Unity

The humanitarian response to natural disasters like the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami reveal the best aspects of international cooperation. For the spring Year of Japan conference – “Humanitarian Responses to Crisis” – the DGA highlighted work still being done to heal that affected region, as well as efforts to prevent similar disasters from happening again.

More than half of the presenters came from Japan, including several representatives from Soka Gakkai. Soka Gakkai is a lay Buddhist movement encouraging “peace, culture, and education” around the world. The organization’s presence strengthened Kennesaw State’s existing relationship with the affiliated Soka University.

Conference sessions addressed how organizations – both public and private – provide relief to disaster victims in Japan and around the world. Coca-Cola’s vice president of environment and sustainability revealed how the company supplies fresh water to disaster areas, while keynote speaker Kimio Takeya discussed how the Japan International Cooperation Agency provides relief to disaster victims in Japan. Once the training is complete, the children participate in social projects in area schools. J-Con organizers raised nearly $1,000 for the charity.

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The Center for African and African Diaspora Studies organized several events during the academic year to educate students, teachers, and the community about African culture, including a tribute to the late South African President Nelson Mandela.

Through a combination of educational and cultural events, Kennesaw State University’s Center for African and African Diaspora Studies (CAADS) helped bring the rich histories of global African peoples to life for the entire campus community. CAADS’s premiere event, the third annual Pan-Africa Week, held in March, explored the continuing human rights struggles of the African and African Diaspora world. In honor of Nelson Mandela’s passing three months earlier, Pan-Africa Week featured several events highlighting the achievements of South Africa’s first democratically-elected black president. The photographic exhibit Nelson Mandela: A Tribute, curated by Dr. Jessica Stephenson of the School of Arts and Design, showcased vintage anti-apartheid posters created before and during Mandela’s presidency. Music professor Dr. Oral Moses and the KSU Choir performed a musical tribute to Nelson Mandela, while the documentary, Life and Times of Nelson Mandela, was screened.

Pan-Africa Week also offered opportunities to reflect on some of the continuing challenges facing the African continent. Theatre professor Dr. Karen Robinson directed the play Ruined, about war and violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and held Q&A sessions to discuss the themes. Pan Africa Week wrapped up with the African and African Diaspora Studies student research conference, co-sponsored with the African and African Studies degree program.

In October, CAADS hosted its second Teaching Africa workshop for middle and high school teachers. The workshop introduced teachers to new research and pedagogical strategies for teaching their students about Africa. Topics included African origins of iron smelting, changing perceptions of Islam, a simulation of the African Union, and the literature of Chinua Achebe.

CAADS also hosted visiting scholars from Morocco, Uganda, Ghana and Nigeria during the 2013-2014 academic year. These and the many other CAADS events and programs helped to educate, inform and engage the University and surrounding communities on issues of concern to the African and African Diaspora world.
International Visitors

Kennesaw State University made headlines in October 2013 when it hosted Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, the first-ever sitting head of state to visit the campus. During his visit, President Mahama gave a lecture in the Bailey Performance Center on Ghana’s growing democracy and economic influence. He also met with local and state government officials, visited high profile Atlanta landmarks like the CNN Center and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and networked with regional business leaders.

The president’s visit was a public reminder of Kennesaw State’s commitment to global citizenship. It was also a reminder of the Division of Global Affairs’ mission to help the university realize that vision.

Each year, the DGA hosts a variety of international educators and dignitaries. Bringing these visitors to campus – whether to teach classes, lecture on critical international issues, or simply to introduce them to our campus – is an excellent way to ensure that students, faculty, and the community are exposed to global cultures and viewpoints.

President Mahama was not the only VIP to visit in 2013-2014. The DGA also welcomed ambassadors from Liberia and Oman, delegations from several Japanese universities, and even the Assistant Secretary General for the United Nations. This section of the report highlights some of the distinguished guests that the Division of Global Affairs hosted during the last year.

“I salute the rich history of this great university as well as its sustained effort in pushing the edges and consolidating the liberal values of American society.”

— His Excellency John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana
Madam Amma Twum-Amoah, Ghana’s Minister of Chancery, traveled to Kennesaw State in August to help plan for President John Mahama’s campus visit later that fall. Twum-Amoah and a member of her staff spent two days meeting with members of the DGA task force overseeing the presidential visit. In addition to their work with the task force, the emissaries met with representatives from several colleges to discuss providing access to the Ghanaian embassy’s resources for greater study of the West African region, and to discuss education abroad opportunities.

Three educators from Belize were Kennesaw State’s guests as part of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ International Visitor Leadership Program. The visitors included Eleanor Bodden-Gillett, acting dean of Wesley Junior College, Adrian Leiva, dean of Muffles Junior College, and Vicky Novelo, director of student services for Sacred Heart Junior College. These visitors – who help facilitate education abroad opportunities for their students – got to meet their counterparts within the Division of Global Affairs.

President John Dramani Mahama is the first-ever sitting head of state to visit Kennesaw State University. He was invited to speak on campus as a capstone to the 2012-2013 Year of Ghana, and accepted as a way to show his gratitude for the work the University has done to build awareness of Ghanaian culture. While on campus, President Mahama gave a public address about Ghana’s democracy and its growing economic influence. The visit also featured meetings with business leaders and state and local officials, as well as a celebration with the Ghanaian Diaspora community.

Liberian Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh included Kennesaw State University in his visit to Atlanta to attend the open house celebration for Liberia’s new consulate. Accompanied by Honorary Consul General Cynthia Blandford and her consular staff, Ambassador Sulunteh delivered a lecture about contemporary Liberia and discussed new opportunities for the country to partner with higher education institutions in the United States. Following the lecture, he attended an informal reception where he answered questions about Liberia from students, faculty, and staff.

CIFAL Atlanta hosted the CIFAL Global Network’s annual meeting at their headquarters within the Division of Global Affairs. The meeting addressed the organization’s development framework post 2015. Sally Fegan-Wyles, the United Nations’ Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR, attended the two-day meeting. Afterwards, she gave a keynote lecture, “A Changing Development Landscape: Challenges for the United Nations.” Eric Loeb, vice president of international external affairs for AT&T, also gave a speech during the meeting.

In anticipation of the upcoming Year of the Arabian Peninsula (2014-2015), the university hosted Omani Ambassador Hunaina Sultan Al Mughairy to help plan a conference highlighting the role of women in Omani society. Ambassador Mughairy was part of a larger delegation of top officials from the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., an organization dedicated to educating people across the U.S. about Oman’s rich culture and history. The delegation toured the campus and reviewed the venues where the women’s conference will be held.
Representatives of The Division of Global Affairs and University leadership traveled the world throughout the year building support for new programs and initiatives. The successes of these diplomatic efforts have already borne fruit, and will continue to do so going forward.

Traveling internationally to gain a global perspective is not just something the Division of Global Affairs encourages students to do, but is a key part of its own process for developing new programs and experiences.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, DGA representatives — along with University administrators and key faculty members — traveled the world to meet with international educators, diplomats, and government officials. These meetings led to several new collaborations that will enhance internationalization opportunities for students at Kennesaw State and abroad.

For example, a delegation to Brazil led to a partnership with their government to send Brazilian science students to Kennesaw to study English. Kennesaw State hosted the first group in the spring, and will host more in the future. The goal is for students participating in the program to enroll at Kennesaw State after completing their English training.

A delegation to the United Arab Emirates and Oman helped secure prominent presenters at the Fall 2014 Year of the Arabian Peninsula conference. Oman’s Minister of Education, Rawya Saud Al Busaidi (the first woman appointed ministerial rank), and Oman’s Ambassador to the U.S., Hunaina Al-Mughairy, will speak at a conference on women’s roles in Oman.

Building new opportunities for global engagement requires the University to foster relationships with key members of the international community. DGA delegations help make that a reality.

Countries Visited by DGA Delegations

- Brazil
- Italy
- Oman
- Switzerland
- United Arab Emirates
Notable Delegations Around the World

Brazil  Building relationships with international governments and universities helps grow Kennesaw State’s global programs. Educational mission delegations – like the one Kennesaw State faculty and DGA representatives took in November to Brazil – help expose the University to new global opportunities. The delegates attended meetings with the Federal District of Brasilia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the U.S Consulate in Rio, as well as with several Brazilian universities. With each meeting, the goal was the same: discuss mutually beneficial educational programs. One of the mission’s successes came from meetings with CAPES, a federal agency managing the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program. Thanks to these discussions, 58 Brazilian STEM students attended Kennesaw State and completed 18 hours of English training.

Italy  A delegation from Kennesaw State visited Italy in May to tour the University’s facility in Montepulciano. The goal of the trip was to explore new ways to promote student interest in the site outside of traditional summer education abroad programs. In fall 2013, Montepulciano became the home to Kennesaw State’s first permanent international educational site. The facility, a 4,000 square-foot space in the renovated historic Fortezza Poliziana, has five classrooms, a program office, residential quarters for the program director, and a teaching kitchen. During their visit, the delegation of educators and DGA officials toured the Fortezza, participated in Labor Day celebrations, walked through the nearby countryside, and took part in a marching band-led procession with the town’s mayor. They returned with new ideas to promote Montepulciano as a year-round destination for Kennesaw students.

Switzerland  Since early 2013, CIFAL Atlanta, a training center for government authorities and leaders that is managed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), has made its headquarters in the Division for Global Affairs’ offices. As part of the growing cooperation between UNITAR and Kennesaw State University, in April the University sent a delegation to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The delegation, which included Kennesaw State President Dr. Daniel Papp and Chief International Officer Dr. Lance Askildson, met with UNITAR officials to discuss executive master’s degree programs for government officials, fellowships for local governments, and massive open online courses for government officers. The visit concluded with a meeting with Sally Fegan-Wyles, UN Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR.

Switzerland  When the Division of Global Affairs selects a country or region to highlight during its “Year Of” program, the objective is to involve the host country in the process as much as possible. In anticipation of 2014-2015’s Year of the Arabian Peninsula, a DGA delegation traveled in February to the United Arab Emirates and Oman to meet with local educational, governmental, and cultural leaders. The visit strengthened Kennesaw State University’s relationship with Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat and its related U.S.-based Cultural Center, which is partnering with Kennesaw State on a conference in November 2014. Delegates met with two government officials – Oman’s Minister of Education and its Ambassador to the U.S. – who agreed to present at the conference. They were also able to visit the Grand Mosque, the Opera House, and several other cultural landmarks.
Awards & Recognition

Through internal and external grants, the Division of Global Affairs was able to fund a variety of programs during the academic year. The launch of the new Strategic Internationalization Grant program ensures that the DGA will continue funding unique global engagement projects.

Many Division of Global Affairs programs are made possible by grants from organizations that promote international education. Grants from The Japan Foundation and the Association for Asian Studies helped make the Year of Japan a success, while a significant grant ($330,000) from the Institute for International Education made it possible for Kennesaw State to accept students from the Brazil Science Mobility Program.

However, while the DGA focuses much of its attention on creating internationalization opportunities that directly impact students, the organization also commits significant resources to programs for Kennesaw State faculty and staff.

Twenty-five University faculty members received Strategic Internationalization Grants during the 2013-2014 academic year. The SIG initiative is a new program designed to fund global engagement activities that promote Kennesaw State’s Strategic Plan for Internationalization. In total, the DGA awarded $200,000 in SIG funding, with individual awards ranging from $3,000 to $45,000.

One of the two programs that received $45,000 awards involves creating new University learning groups for international students. Kennesaw State’s nationally-recognized learning communities help first-year students successfully transition into college life. However, international students have been underserved by these programs. The SIG award funds the creation of new communities offering access to general education coursework, co-curricular personal and social development skills, and additional English proficiency instruction.

Not all awards are as large. Another faculty member received $3,000 to assist in the creation of a new “transnational” approach for education abroad programs. This approach emphasizes the importance of educating students about the country they are visiting before and after the trip. Transnational programs would feature pre-trip meetings with residents of that country followed by post-trip presentations to the same individuals.

By funding programs large and small, the SIG initiative allows the DGA to further contribute to making Kennesaw State a truly global university.
The 2014 International Achievement Awards – made possible by the Sheth Family Foundation – honored four members of the Kennesaw State family whose exceptional work and service have made a significant global impact. The ceremony was held at Marietta Country Club, and featured remarks from President Daniel Papp, Dean of Student Success Michael Sansenviro, and Provost Ken Harmon.

**International Achievement Award Winners**

**Global Public Service Prize**

The Global Public Service Award recognizes international figures that have made important public service contributions in their countries. Since becoming president in 2012, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama has championed worldwide vaccination and immunization efforts as an ambassador for the Global Fund. In 2013 he received the Africa Award for Excellence in Food Security and Poverty Reduction from the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. That same year, President Mahama became the first-ever sitting head of state to visit Kennesaw State University, where he recognized the University’s commitment to internationalization.

H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana

**Faculty Award for International Achievement**

Dr. Terry Powis is Principal Investigator for the Pacbitun Regional Archaeological Project (PRAP). He has led several excavations in Pacbitun, Belize to study trade, social stratification, and the culture of pre-classical Mayan civilization. He invites students to participate on these excavations, giving them experience working in real archeological sites. Dr. Powis research has been published in several journals, including Nature and Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. He has also published a book about his research called Formative Mesoamerican Cultures. Dr. Powis is a passionate supporter of international learning. He is the College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ Global Learning Coordinator and is a former member of the Canadian Fulbright Scholar Selection Committee.

Dr. Terry Powis
Associate Professor of Anthropology
Kennesaw State University

**Alumni Award for Humanitarian Service & Achievement**

Yusof Sari is an experienced cultural advisor, lead trainer, and interpreter for the U.S. Armed Forces. He currently works with multiple government contractors to help train U.S. soldiers on Afghan languages and customs. Yusof’s efforts help ensure that military operations in Afghanistan are sensitive to the country’s diverse cultural landscape. He graduated from Kennesaw State University in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. While attending Kennesaw State, Yusof was active in student government, and helped create the Islamic Student Association and the Kennesaw International Student Association. Following the start of military actions in Afghanistan in 2003, he left his successful accounting career to work with the United States Agency for International Development as a senior advisor to the Ministry of Finance. Since 2006, he has contracted with the U.S. Armed Forces, offering cultural training and interpretation services to troops at multiple bases.

Yusof Sari
Cultural Advisor, Trainer, Interpreter
U.S. Armed Forces

**Distinguished International Community Partner**

Dr. Nell Diallo is vice president of corporate and international relations for MedShare, a non-profit organization that collects surplus medical supplies and equipment from hospitals, distributors and manufacturers, and then redistributes them to qualified healthcare facilities in the developing world. MedShare has hosted Kennesaw State nursing students and members of the LINK leadership program as volunteers to help sort and assemble medical supply orders, and has provided medical supplies for education abroad students to deliver to clinics in Oaxaca, Mexico. In 2008, Kennesaw State and the University of Cape Coast in Ghana worked with MedShare to ship $500,000 worth of medical supplies to the UCC Hospital. Prior to her 15 years at MedShare, Dr. Diallo worked for several international organizations, and served as director of the U.S. Agency of International Development (USAID) in the Congo. She has spent many years of her career living in Africa.

Dr. Nell Diallo
Vice President
MedShare

**Yusof Sari**
Cultural Advisor, Trainer, Interpreter
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Dr. Nell Diallo
Vice President
MedShare
Each of Kennesaw State’s nine colleges embraces internationalization in its own way, whether through its curriculum, exchanges, international service, or education abroad opportunities. The Division of Global Affairs gives the colleges the tools they need to offer these programs.

Bagwell College of Education

The Bagwell College of Education has long embraced global engagement as a key component of preparing students to be educators. A significant part of this is encouraging students to teach classes overseas. Thirty-six BCOE students taught internationally during the academic year, up 33 percent. Student teachers led classes in China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Uganda. Four participated in a new early childhood education program in Ecuador, each earning Global Engagement Certification. BCOE initiated new memorandums of understanding with two universities – American School of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and the Universidad de Valladolid in Spain – in order to develop new international student teaching opportunities.

Faculty received $187,000 to pursue global engagement activities. These funds paid for visits to international schools to train collaborating teachers and Kennesaw State pre-services teachers, and funded professional development workshops in host countries. The college made key organizational changes to better promote global learning. BCOE’s Global Engagement Committee, comprised of representatives from all five academic departments, became a standing committee. The Administration also hired a full-time faculty director of global engagement.

Realizing that globalization starts at the local level, the college partnered with an area elementary school on a STEM project that allowed Georgia students to interact with students in Ghana through video, email, and other online platforms. Another way BCOE encourages global engagement is by bringing international visitors to teach in the U.S. Professor Jee Hyon Lee from Seoul Women’s University taught classes on campus and at River Ridge High School in Cherokee County. Experiences like this help introduce Georgia students to the world, and vice versa. Thanks to the efforts of the Bagwell College of Education, a generation of new educators have the skills to inspire students anywhere in the world.
Much like art itself, the work of the College of the Arts faculty knows no borders.

Dr. Lin Hightower with the School of Art and Design continued her volunteer work with five collectives around the world, teaching crafting and textile techniques. She was also honored as a Fulbright Specialist to Mahasarakham University in Thailand.

Two Art and Design faculty members – Daniel Sachs and Dr. Sandra Bird – continue to strengthen Kennesaw State’s relationship with Hanyang International School in Seoul, South Korea. Sachs served as a guest lecturer there during summer 2013, while Dr. Bird was asked to teach a class the following summer.

Several Art and Design faculty either teach a class the following summer. Robert Sherer showed his two-dimensional work at the Galerie Kunstbehandlung in Munich, Germany; Professor Valerie Dibble exhibited at the Kunstbehandlung in Munich, Germany; and Professor Kristine Hwang took his two-dimensional work at the Galerie Awagami International Print Exhibition in Japan. Meanwhile, Assistant Professor of Piano Soohyun Yun performed at the 25th Music Festival of Nations in Rome, Italy, and presented at the World Piano Conference in Serbia.

The Department of Dance collaborated with the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta to host choreographer Yoram Karmi from Tel Aviv as an international artist resident. In addition to teaching dance classes, Karmi worked on Touchdown, a unique blending of football and dance.

The College of Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE) agreed to train the teachers on behalf of the Georgia Department of Education, which placed them in North Fulton County public schools as assistants and student teachers.

A group of visiting Korean educators returned home with improved English language skills and a greater appreciation of the southern United States thanks to the efforts of Kennesaw State’s College of Continuing and Professional Education.

In September 2013, the CCPE partnered with the International Teacher Training Institute Global Foundation to provide English education to Korean teachers and administrators. ITTI is a non-profit organization that encourages Korean provinces studying common English language enrollment remains high, with international students from Italy and Japan showing increased interest. CCPE added live and recorded lectures to the program, a move that has been popular with students.

In addition to teaching international students, in 2013-2014 the CCPE continued its work helping American students improve their English and foreign language skills. CCPE added additional courses to the program, a move that has been popular with students.

In addition to teaching international students, the CCPE also continued to offer a number of foreign language courses to English speakers, despite increased competition from online language courses. English speakers can take courses in Arabic, Portuguese, Chinese, and Spanish.

The College of Continuing and Professional Education will continue to give U.S. and international students a chance to improve their language skills and better compete in the global job market.
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Offering more than 40 global learning degree programs, 30 relevant courses, more than 30 long- and short-term education abroad experiences, and having signed 13 agreements with international universities, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is one of the most globally active on campus. During the last academic year, several CHSS faculty members received funding for projects that support the University’s internationalization goals. Anja Bernardy received more than $100,000 from the National Security Agency to fund KSU STARTALK Chinese Academy. This two-week residential program immerses students and teachers in the Chinese language and culture. Many CHSS faculty received Strategic Internationalization Grants from the Division of Global Affairs. Jesse Benjamin, internationalization grants from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, was awarded a $5,000 SIG to hold a public lecture series Diaspora Program, was awarded a coordinator of the African and African Division of Global Affairs. Jesse Benjamin, Internationalization Grants from the Internationalization Goals. Anja Bernardy received more than $100,000 from the National Security Agency to fund KSU STARTALK Chinese Academy. This two-week residential program immerses students and teachers in the Chinese language and culture. Many CHSS faculty received Strategic Internationalization Grants from the Division of Global Affairs. Jesse Benjamin, coordinator of the African and African Diaspora Program, was awarded a $5,000 SIG to hold a public lecture series on Walter Rodney and Pan-Africanism. And an undergraduate honors thesis on religion and politics in Northern Ireland are examples of other directed learning projects. It is the faculty’s passion for global learning that inspires this drive in their students. CHSS faculty members were active in the Year of Japan celebration, hosting several talks and participating in the Year of Japan Faculty Learning Community. A member of the CHSS faculty also sat on the planning committee for the upcoming Year of the Arabian Peninsula. Through its commitment to scholarly efforts, fieldwork, new courses, and research projects, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences continues to enrich students’ global awareness.

College of Science and Mathematics

Making advances in science and mathematics requires global cooperation. Faculty from the College of Science and Mathematics participated in several international research projects throughout the year, while also helping inspire their students to become the problem solvers of tomorrow.

Ten faculty members presented research at international conferences, such as Nick Kidanakis, who presented at the High Energy Physics International Congress in Sweden, and M. DiPietro, who presented on educational development at two separate conferences in Sweden and Japan.

Meanwhile, Dr. David Joffe continued his work with the Belle II high energy physics collaboration in Japan. The project consists of 400 scientists using the Belle particle detector – located within the KEKB particle accelerator – to study matter-antimatter asymmetry. This work puts Kennesaw State University at the forefront of modern physics.

Kennesaw State’s prestige in science and mathematics attracts researchers from around the world. CSM hosted three international scholars from Canada and China, who collaborated on biological research with Dr. Xueya Hauge and on research of matrix theory with Dr. Jun Ji. In addition, Dr. Marcus David hosted postdoctoral fellows from Germany and England in his biology laboratory.

While collaborating on international research projects is a significant part of CSM’s work, it is second to the job of educating Kennesaw State students. The college offers 20 global engagement courses, meaning the classes contain a significant international component. One set of global engagement courses – SCI 1101 and 1102 – was completed by nearly 6,000 non-science majors. The CSM was highly involved in Kennesaw State’s Year of Japan celebration. Mathematics and Statistics professor Dr. Tad Watanabe participated in a panel discussion entitled “Math and Science Education in Japan,” and gave a lecture on “Japanese Mathematics Before 1872.” The lecture was also part of the Math Talks lecture series, designed to increase student interest in mathematics.

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Participation in CSM education abroad programs grew this year from 40 students to 50, representing a 25 percent increase. The most popular was a marine biology program in Belize led by professors Joseph Dimberger and Scott Reese. In that program, 14 students researched tropical marine ecosystems and the effects of environmental damage and conservation efforts. Thanks to the College of Science and Mathematics’ faculty, Kennesaw State STEM students will have the experience needed to participate in the global discussion that is science and math.
Honors College

Formed in January 2014, Honors College is the newest academic unit within Kennesaw State University. Despite the program’s young age, Honors College leadership has quickly shown its commitment to the University’s goal of turning students into empowered global citizens.

Among the three academic tracks offered is the President’s Emerging Global Scholar (PEGS) program, which helps honors students pursue research and prepare for graduate-level education. In May, 21 first-year PEGS students accompanied Ken Hill, director of global strategic initiatives, on a trip to Salvador, Brazil. They experienced a week of cultural immersion at UNIFACS University, and visited local government offices and nonprofit organizations.

In April, 20 second-year PEGS students visited Washington, D.C., where they studied the U.S.’s impact on global affairs. Hill visited Washington, D.C., where they studied the U.S.’s impact on global affairs. Hill visited Washington, D.C., where they studied the U.S.’s impact on global affairs. Hill visited Washington, D.C., where they studied the U.S.’s impact on global affairs. Hill visited Washington, D.C., where they studied the U.S.’s impact on global affairs.

Student Lea Addington Received an Internship at the Pentagon Following her Participation in PEGS Programs in Brazil and Washington, D.C.

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In April, 20 second-year PEGS students visited Washington, D.C., where they studied the U.S.’s impact on global affairs. Hill also submitted a Strategic Initiative Grant proposal seeking funding for additional PEGS research opportunities.

Honors College faculty members are highly involved in international activities inside and outside the classroom. During the last academic year, they lectured on works from international authors, conducted joint research projects with UNIFACS University, and implemented a Soliya virtual exchange program so that Kennesaw State students can interact electronically with students around the world.

In addition, Dean Ralph Rascati presented on student internationalization efforts at the 20th National Conference on Students and Outside the Classroom. During the last academic year, they lectured on works from international authors, conducted joint research projects with UNIFACS University, and implemented a Soliya virtual exchange program so that Kennesaw State students can interact electronically with students around the world.

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Another Coles program – the India China America Institute – works to foster cooperation between three of the world’s largest economies. In January, the organization held its first annual India Day celebration on campus. Indian Consul General Ajiit Kumar attended, along with Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador Dr. Neil Parson, Emory University Marketing Professor Jagdish Sheth, and other academic and government leaders. The event promoted awareness of India’s social, economic, and political cultures. Coles took a major step towards developing new and exciting education abroad programs. The newly-established Coles Education Abroad Committee brings together four program directors to ensure education abroad programs are high-quality and fit the college’s strategic goals. Committee members will approve programs two to three years in advance.

The Coles College of Business is committed to providing students and faculty with opportunities to increase their understanding of business’ role in the global economy.
University College

As an interdisciplinary organization, University College offers its students global learning opportunities across multiple fields of study. In fall 2013, professors in the “Girl Talk” learning community focused their English, psychology and first-year seminar coursework on the plight of women in India. Students learned about the role women play in Indian society, as well as about serious issues like sex trafficking and rape. The material inspired the students to organize a service project where they raised $850 for a women’s shelter in Calcutta. In December, they invited Sucheta Rawel, president of GoEatGive Foundation, to deliver a keynote address about her life growing up in India. University College also received $45,000 for new international student learning communities as part of a successful Strategic Internationalization Grant proposal. University College students and faculty participated in Kennesaw State’s Year of Japan celebration. The LINK leadership group coordinated a Japanese film festival, hosted a student group from Aichi University in Nagoya, and visited Japan, where they strengthened relationships with students at Soka University in Tokyo and Aichi University. College faculty Deborah Mixson-Brookshire and Stephanie Foote hosted a delegation from Kansai University — including the university president — which resulted in a letter of intent between Kennesaw State and Kansai.

University College’s commitment to internationalization starts at the top. Dean Keisha Hoerner and lecturer Ken Hill are American Association of State Colleges and Universities Global Engagement Scholars. They co-wrote with Tom Shinholster the student guide to Global Challenges: Promise and Peril in the 21st Century for the AASCU Global Challenges eCourse.

WellStar College of Health & Human Services

WellStar College of Health and Human Services places a heavy emphasis on service learning. Students are not only encouraged to serve their local communities, but to travel the world helping others. For the 19th year in a row, a group of WellStar nursing students visited Oaxaca, Mexico, where they assisted nurses in two local hospitals. In addition to valuable real-life nursing experience, each week the students worked together to distribute donated medical supplies to the local health department. This education abroad experience helped participants develop the skills to succeed as nurses, while also developing an appreciation for charity work.

Another education abroad program allowed students to help disadvantaged children in Uganda discover the power of sports and recreation. WellStar students interned with Ugandan non-profit The Kids League and In Movement. The internships gave students a better understanding of how children in the developing world live, and of how athletics can be an empowering force.

WellStar faculty members made presentations at several international events during the academic year with the goal of drawing attention to important problems facing people around the world. While in Columbia, Dr. Carol Holtz gave a presentation on the HIV epidemic in Oaxaca. Meanwhile, Dr. Alan Kirk and Dr. Ardith Peters both presented at the 7th Annual International Seminar on Disaster Intervention in Belgium and Germany.
Our Team

Lance Askildson  
Vice Provost for Global Affairs &  
Chief International Officer/Global  
Engagement Committee Chair  
Bianca Bonilla-Cruz  
Assistant to the Vice Provost &  
Chief International Officer  
Mark Forehand  
Director, IEI & English for  
Academic & Sponoreed Programs  
Dan Paracka  
Director, Academic Initiatives/  
Global Engagement Committee,  
College of Humanities & Social  
Sciences  
Saundra Rogers  
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Nancy Bazan  
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Dawny Lunsford  
Director, Global Engagement  
Programs  
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Lori Uhler  
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Peggy Hu  
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Patrick Harbin  
Marketing and Communications  
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Mary Hatfield  
Senior Accounting Specialist  
Beth Porter  
Senior Accounting Specialist  
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Abroad & Exchanges/Education  
Abroad Review Committee  
Nadine Northcutt  
Senior Education Abroad Advisor/  
Education Abroad Review  
Committee  
Gil Eisner  
Education Abroad Advisor  
Jan Morian  
Education Abroad Advisor  
Cynthia True  
Education Abroad Advisor  
Eran Rasin  
Education Abroad Advisor  
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Education Abroad Exchange  
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Faculty Administrator, India-  
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Govinda Harihara  
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Director, KSU in Tuscany  
Jennifer Hoosier  
Associate Director, Intensive  
English Program  
Karen Lanning  
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Christie Emerson  
Global Engagement Committee,  
WeillSt College of Health &  
Human Services  
Ken Hill  
Global Engagement Committee,  
Honors College/Education Abroad  
Review Committee  
Jun Ji  
Global Engagement Committee,  
College of Science & Mathematics  
Binbin Jiang  
Global Engagement Committee,  
Bagwell College of Education  
Doug Moodie  
Global Engagement Committee,  
Coles College of Business  
Thomas Pusateri  
Global Engagement Committee,  
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& Learning  
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Karen Smith  
Global Engagement Committee,  
College of Continuing &  
Professional Education  
Luc Guglielmi  
Global Engagement Committee,  
Department of Foreign Language  
Sohyun An  
Education Abroad Review  
Committee, Bagwell College of  
Education  
Joe Dinnebier  
Education Abroad Review  
Committee, College of Science &  
Mathematics  
Linda Malgeri  
Education Abroad Review  
Committee, Coles College of  
Business  
Ming Chen  
Education Abroad Review  
Committee, College of the Arts  
Ibrahim Elsaywy  
Director, Middle East Initiatives  
Mary Hatfield  
Senior Accounting Specialist  
Beth Porter  
Senior Accounting Specialist  
As a recognized leader in global learning, the Division of Global Affairs stewards resources, offers  
academic services and programs through partnerships, and promotes research and scholarship.  
All of this is with the goal of helping students, faculty, and the local community better understand  
and impact our complex, interconnected world. Through a variety of programs and partnerships,  
the Division of Global Affairs helps make members of the Kennesaw State community into better  
global citizens.