About the DGA

The Division of Global Affairs is at the center of Kennesaw State University’s vision and mission for a 21st Century University that is infused with international sophistication and engages students, faculty and the community with our increasingly interconnected and globalized world. The Division of Global Affairs supports international education, global community engagement and intercultural scholarship among KSU’s students, faculty and community stakeholders.

The Division of Global Affairs is composed of two academic institutes, four academic centers, six university departments and a central administration office. The Division of Global Affairs has nearly 200 employees, including 52 full-time faculty & staff, 72 affiliated faculty and 68 part-time faculty. Each year, our award-winning division leads a comprehensive array of scholarly, educational and community engagement programs on behalf of the University while administering more than 60 international studies programs, offering more than 100 courses and organizing more than 130 distinct international educational and scholarly events.
Internationalizing a campus is likely to show up high on a university leader’s list of priorities. Often, however, the question arises, “Why should internationalizing the campus take precedence over other critical needs?”

The global financial crisis is the latest event that demonstrates the reality and complexity of an increasingly interdependent and globalized world. The responsibility for developing citizens, workers and leaders who will rise to meet the challenges of a changing world rests squarely on the shoulders of those of us in academe.

For over two decades, our university has included international and global dimensions in its curriculum, emphasized study abroad, offered internationally oriented co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and recruited students from abroad. Kennesaw State’s path to organized campus-wide internationalization began in 2005 when the university started preparing for its once-every-10-year re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). For its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Kennesaw State chose “Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship” and embarked on a strategic intentional path toward internationalization and globalization.

Today, Kennesaw State continues to attract accolades for its accomplishments in internationalization, starting in 2010 with its receipt of the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy’s Top Citizen Diplomacy Program Award. That was followed by the 2011 Andrew Haskell Award for Innovation in international education from the Institute of International Education. We then were honored to receive the 2011 Sen. Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. In 2013, KSU’s Confucius Institute was recognized as one of the top Confucius Institutes in the world. And in 2015, Kennesaw State formally opened its first international campus in Montepulicano, Tuscany Italy.

As nice as these citations and developments are, KSU is most proud of the degree to which its efforts have resulted in a vibrant, globalized and internationalized campus that offers students, faculty and staff the opportunity to know the world through the prism of diversity and multicultural understanding.

Dr. Daniel Papp
President
Kennesaw State University

The Division of Global Affairs is dedicated to making internationalization matter... for our students, faculty and the entire Kennesaw State University community. We are profoundly committed to advancing international scholarship and teaching alongside our goal of educating globally competent students who can understand and navigate complex cultural differences as both successful professionals and engaged citizens.

Our global education coursework and programs are specifically designed to elucidate cultural differences alongside the common humanity that we all share, so that students are equipped with the knowledge to make their own informed decisions about the world and its diverse peoples. Such international education is increasingly important for our students’ ability to be successful and competitive within our globalized economy and workforce as well as to engage with the increasingly cosmopolitan and diverse community right here in metropolitan Atlanta and across the United States of America. Indeed, students who leave Kennesaw State University with a sophisticated awareness and understanding of diverse cultural values and practices will be well prepared to develop professionally within a globally competitive job market as well as interact more effectively with diverse colleagues in the workplace and diverse neighbors within their communities.

Similarly, international engagement and collaboration is an increasingly strategic imperative for our faculty and our institution as a whole. Twenty-first century higher education and scholarship is no longer just a national enterprise; it is an international one that requires collaboration, partnership and cooperation with universities, governments and private sector actors around the world.

Within the Division of Global Affairs, our global centers, institutes and departments connect Kennesaw State University stakeholders with partners around the globe to achieve the best in education, research and creative activity. Above all, we are dedicated to making a meaningful difference in service to our community, nation and world.

Dr. Lance Askildson
Vice-Provost & Chief International Officer
Division of Global Affairs
Kennesaw State University

“Twenty-first century higher education and scholarship is no longer just a national enterprise; it is an international one...”
The 2014-2015 academic year saw Kennesaw State University students take advantage of the full breadth of education abroad opportunities available to them, with traditional faculty-led programs continuing to be the heart of the University’s offerings. Meanwhile, participation in other programs — such as international exchanges and internships — showed modest increases over the previous academic year, revealing a growing interest among students for international experiences offering greater independence.

Of the 732 Kennesaw State University students who studied abroad during the academic year, 59 did so as part of exchange programs with international universities, up slightly from 51 the previous year. Driving the modest growth in exchange programs is a more than 100 percent increase in the number of students participating in programs through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) network, comprised of 328 colleges and universities around the world.

Student participation in international internships also increased. During the 2014-2015 academic year, Kennesaw State sent 34 student interns to 13 countries to gain valuable professional and volunteer service experience, up from 27 students the year before. The Education Abroad Office credits a newly-created faculty-led internship model with generating student interest in international internships.

In addition to these successes, the Education Abroad Office also introduced new outreach methods to keep students, faculty, and staff better informed about international education opportunities.

Kennesaw State University’s Education Abroad Office is routinely ranked among the top-ten among similar universities. The 2014-2015 academic year saw an increase in student participation in internships and exchanges, and in earning Global Engagement Certification.

732 students participated in Education Abroad Programs during the 2014-2015 academic year

KSU students visited 44 countries on education abroad programs

Percentage of Faculty-Led Programs Offered by College
Internships and Exchanges Offer Students Independence Abroad

International exchanges and internships provided nearly 100 Kennesaw State students with unique opportunities for independent study, real-world work experience, and volunteerism. Some of these students include Vanessa Coulange, who received a scholarship from Coca-Cola to travel to Haiti and intern with the marketing department of licensed Coca-Cola bottler Brasserie de la Couronne; and Kamar Khattak, a PhD student who traveled to Nepal after the April 2015 earthquake to intern with a crisis relief organization.

Of the 34 students that interned abroad during the academic year, 14 took advantage of an emerging faculty-led internship program. Students participating in international internships typically make all of their arrangements, including finding an internship opportunity and arranging their own housing. Under this new faculty-led program, Dr. Sabine Smith, a German professor with the Department of Foreign Languages, matched students with organizations in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein. Students looking for interns, and arranged accommodations in these countries, were able to focus on their coursework, and arranged housing with their organizations.

The most significant year-over-year exchange program increase was in the number of students participating in ISEP programs, which grew from seven to 16. ISEP is a network of 328 colleges and universities around the world facilitating student exchanges between its members. By giving students hundreds of schools to choose from, ISEP provides more course variety. Students may need courses not offered at these universities. In 2014-2015, 59 students participated in ISEP programs, which grew from seven to 16. ISEP is a network of 328 colleges and universities around the world facilitating student exchanges between its members. While Kennesaw State maintains bilateral exchange agreements with 16 universities around the world, students may need courses not offered at these institutions. By giving students hundreds of schools to choose from, ISEP provides more course variety. Students may need courses not offered at these universities. In 2014-2015, 59 students participated in ISEP programs, which grew from seven to 16. ISEP is a network of 328 colleges and universities around the world facilitating student exchanges between its members.

Kennesaw State students participated in ISEP programs in Australia, the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, and countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. As with all exchanges, students enroll in the international universities and take classes alongside native students, often in English, but sometimes in the native language. Between international internships and exchange programs, Kennesaw State University provides countless opportunities for its students to experience truly immersive international experiences.

Three-Fold Increase in Global Engagement Certifications

Since 2009, the University’s Global Engagement Certification program has officially recognized hundreds of students for their globally-focused activities on- and off-campus. The program honors students who have studied abroad, have global coursework on their transcripts, and can demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language. A total of 151 students earned certification during the 2014-2015 academic year, up from 58 the previous year. The Education Abroad Office heavily promoted the certification program to students and faculty. Education abroad coordinators told students about the application process and the benefits of adding certification to their transcripts, while also encouraging faculty members leading education abroad programs to discuss it with their students. The office also replaced the existing paper-based certification application with an electronic version, making it easier for students to apply, and easier for faculty partners to review applications.

Finally, the office started holding GEC ceremonies every term, instead of once per academic year. The switch meant that the office promoted certification all year long, and students had multiple opportunities to apply. The Global Engagement Certification is a unique way that Kennesaw State University recognizes students for their international and domestic coursework. As the new stewardship of the program, the Education Abroad Office is poised to help more students gain a greater appreciation for the value of global citizenship.

Not Taking Chances with Student Safety

The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa created unease among some students and parents about the safety of traveling internationally. While the DGA has always made the wellbeing of students its top concern, this year the division enhanced its risk management processes.

The first step was posting a detailed Security and Risk Management Protocol to the DGA’s website. This resource outlines steps students should take before leaving home, such as signing up to receive U.S. State Department travel advisories and researching the appropriate emergency telephone numbers for each country they plan to visit. The site also walks students and faculty through the process of reporting and responding to an emergency overseas.

Education Abroad Office staff members in December demonstrated their ability to swiftly and accurately resolve an emergency without creating a panic. Staff members walked through the DGA’s Incident Simulation Training Program. The exercise involved a simulated near-drowning of a student. Staff members worked with the faculty director to collect all vital information about the accident, while also fielding calls from the student’s friends and family, as well as from the press. The simulation taught EAO staff to be calm under pressure and to react appropriately if the unthinkable happens.

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### Demographic Information: Which Students Study Abroad?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of the Arts</td>
<td>20 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagwell College of Education</td>
<td>39 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coles College of Business</td>
<td>165 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>238 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Science &amp; Mathematics</td>
<td>75 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WellStar College of Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>86 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>6 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of the Arts</td>
<td>20 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Number of Students Studying Abroad By Major

| Undergraduates | 615 Students |
| Graduates      | 117 Students |

**Males**

| Undergraduates | 239 Males |
| Graduates      | 493 Females |

#### Education Abroad Destinations Ranked by KSU Student Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Students*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. France</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Germany</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. United Kingdom</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Belgium</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. China</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Spain</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Italy</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Peru</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Ireland</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Netherlands</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Mexico</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Portugal</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Brazil</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Cuba</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Switzerland</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Costa Rica</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Guatemala</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. India</td>
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<td>19. United Arab Emirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Belize</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Cambodia</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Ecuador</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Morocco</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Nicaragua</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>26. Ghana</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>27. South Korea</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>28. Uganda</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>29. Canada</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>30. Swaziland</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>31. Oman</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>32. Japan</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>33. Greece</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>34. Thailand</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. Colombia</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>36. Haiti</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Hungary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Jordan</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>39. Nepal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Australia</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>41. Panama</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>42. Russia</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>43. Turkey</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Uruguay</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Students were counted for each country they visited, meaning students whose programs traveled to multiple countries were counted multiple times.
The Year of the Arabian Peninsula

2014-2015’s Annual Country Study program focused on the Arab world, and encouraged students to challenge their preconceived notions about the region. Meanwhile, the program received a national award for its success internationalizing Kennesaw State’s campus.

Kennesaw State University’s annual country study program gained national recognition during the 2014-2015 academic year, while at the same time helping to dispel stereotypes that many Americans harbor about a misunderstood world region. The Year of the Arabian Peninsula — the University’s 31st annual country study program — gave Kennesaw State students greater insight into the cultures of the Arab world. Through weekly guest speakers discussing topics ranging from the origins of Islam to the modern use of social media during the Arab Spring revolutions, students saw a more complete picture of this world region than is traditionally depicted in the media.

A key event of the yearlong study of the seven countries making up the Arabian Peninsula was the fall conference, Women of Oman: Changing Roles and Transnational Influence. Co-sponsored by the Sultan-Qaboos Cultural Center, the conference discussed the many leadership roles women fill in Oman. Among the keynote speakers was Dr. Rayya Saud Al Busaidi, Oman’s first female minister, and Ambassador Hunaina Al Mughairy, the first woman to serve as ambassador to Washington from an Arab country. A highlight of the program was a reception hosted at the Carter Center where Former President Jimmy Carter recognized the important role that Oman plays in the region.

All of this happened the same year that the American Association of State Colleges and Universities recognized the “Year Of” annual country study program with an award for excellence and innovation in international education. The AASCU cited the program’s success at internationalizing Kennesaw State’s curriculum as a primary reason for the award.

Now more than three decades old, Kennesaw State University’s country study program continues to serve as an inspiration for other institutions on how to get their student populations interested in global learning.
Two events during the Year of the Arabian Peninsula – a conference on women's rights and a lecture about the history and role of headscarves in some Muslim women's lives – helped Kennesaw State students confront long-held stereotypes about Arab women.

The fall conference, Women of Oman: Changing Roles and Transnational Influence, focused on the rapid progress towards women's empowerment in Oman since 1970 when Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said came to power. Today, 40.6 percent of government jobs in Oman are occupied by women, and women outnumber men almost two-to-one at Omani universities.

Women of Oman featured presentations from the first female ambassador to Washington from an Arab country – a conference on women's rights and a lecture about the history and role of headscarves in some Muslim women's lives – helped Kennesaw State students confront long-held stereotypes about Arab women. While gender inequality is a problem throughout the region (and the world), attendees learned that they cannot apply stereotypes to an entire region. While gender inequality is a problem throughout the region (and the world), attendees learned that they cannot apply stereotypes to an entire region. While gender inequality is a problem throughout the region (and the world), attendees learned that they cannot apply stereotypes to an entire region.

Another event led Kennesaw State students to reflect on the common misconception that all Arab women who wear headscarves do so by force. The event, called Many Faces of the Hijab, featured a guest from the Islamic Speakers Bureau who spoke to students about the history of the hijab – or headscarf – and the reasons why many women wear it. While it is mandatory in some countries, many Muslim women choose to wear the hijab as an outward display of their religious convictions.

Two students participated in a social experiment where they wore a hijab around campus for a day to learn how it affected their interactions with others. Whether students walked away more critical or accepting of the practice, the experience helped them arrive at their conclusion from a place of understanding. By inspiring students to question stereotypes about other cultures, these and other events exemplify the goals of Kennesaw State’s annual country study program.

The year of the Arabian Peninsula was held later at Kennesaw State University, featuring presentations from the first female ambassador to Washington from an Arab country.

Emily Orzechowski, a student in Kennesaw State’s international studies program, was chosen to receive this award because of the University’s efforts to internationalize the curriculum, its creativity in integrating international students into campus life, and for encouraging underrepresented students to participate in education abroad activities. The AASCU specifically cited the “Year of” program as a key reason for the honor.

The program is “an exemplary work that can serve as a model for institutions seeking ways to advance in the field [of international education],” the AASCU said in its award announcement.

The AASCU award reinforces the work the Division of Global Affairs has done in recent years to keep internationalization as a top focus for the University. The program is “an exemplary work that can serve as a model for institutions seeking ways to advance in the field [of international education],” the AASCU said in its award announcement.

Around the world, there are thousands of Kennesaw State students to the rich diversity of world cultures that make up the human family,” Paracka said after learning of the award.

Dr. Dan Paracka, the Division of Global Affairs’ director of campus internationalization and chief organizer for the “Year of” program, received the award during a ceremony at the AASCU’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C. A separate celebration was held later at Kennesaw State University.

“Annually, it results in the creation of new courses and curriculum, research projects, education abroad programs, and global partnerships. Its success is based upon campus-wide collaboration and input, and is based upon and builds upon the expertise of our faculty, staff and students,” according to the AASCU.

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KSU Annual Country Study Program Garners National Honor

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities formally recognized Kennesaw State University’s globalization programs – including the “Year of” annual country study program – in Fall 2014 with the first-ever International Award for Excellence and Innovation in International Education.

According to the AASCU, Kennesaw State was chosen to receive this award because of the University’s efforts to internationalize the curriculum, its creativity in integrating international students into campus life, and for encouraging underrepresented students to participate in education abroad activities. The award honors all of Kennesaw State’s international activities, the AASCU specifically cited the “Year of” program as a key reason for the honor.

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The AASCU award reinforces the work the Division of Global Affairs has done in recent years to keep internationalization as a top focus for the University. “This award validates the extremely high value Kennesaw State places on international education,” said Dr. Lance Askildson, Kennesaw State’s vice provost for global affairs and chief international officer. “The institution is profoundly committed to educating globally competent students who can understand and navigate cultural differences as both successful professionals and engaged citizens.”

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International Students & Scholars

Just as sending students on education abroad experiences teaches them to develop intercultural competence, inviting international students and scholars to Kennesaw State University teaches those same skills to the broader campus community. In 2014-2015, the Division of Global Affairs hosted more than 100 international J-1 students and scholars, whose presence enhanced the University academically and culturally.

Forty-nine J-1 scholars visited Kennesaw State – some for one semester, others for the full academic year – to teach classes and to conduct research. Most of the scholars were brought to Kennesaw by the University’s Confucius Institute to teach Chinese language skills to area elementary, middle, and high school students and to participate in a joint research project with the Georgia Department of Education. Kennesaw State also hosted scholars from Germany and Ghana.

In addition to scholars, the University also hosted 54 international J-1 students during the 2014-2015 academic year, including two from Pakistan and one from Tunisia. Thirty-nine of the J-1 students visited as part of reciprocal exchange agreements between Kennesaw State and 16 international universities. The DGA hosted several cultural excursions for these students, as well as for scholars, to help them experience American culture.

Another valuable service the DGA offers to international students and to other non-native English speakers is English language courses through the Intensive English Program Center (IEP), which saw year-over-year enrollment increase by 10 percent during the last academic year.

By ensuring that international students and scholars receive the support they need to succeed, the DGA is helping maintain Kennesaw State University as an attractive global education center.

KSU hosted 49 J-1 international scholars

54 J-1 exchange students took classes at KSU

16 universities in 9 countries have exchange agreements with Kennesaw State

300 non-English speakers completed Intensive English Programs

More than 100 international visitors traveled to Kennesaw State University to study or teach during the 2014-2015 academic year. International scholars contributed to a variety of valuable research projects, including the development of a K-12 Chinese language curriculum.
Scholars Develop First of its Kind Chinese Language Curriculum

Research conducted by international scholars is helping Kennesaw State at the forefront of Chinese language education for K-12 students. Of the 49 J-1 scholars that Kennesaw State University hosted during the 2014-2015 academic year, 44 were Chinese scholars working with the University’s branch of the global network of Confucius Institutes. Confucius Institutes are partnerships between universities around the world and the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.

Thirty-seven of these visiting scholars participated in a joint project between the Kennesaw State Confucius Institute (CIKSU) and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DELA) to develop a comprehensive curriculum companion under Georgia Performance Standards for K-12 students. The scholars conduct the research by teaching Chinese language and cultural classes at elementary, middle, and high schools in Cobb, Hall, Dekalb, and Bibb Counties.

CIKSU is the first of the world’s approximately 500 Confucius Institutes to conduct research and coordinate community engagement projects with other stakeholders to discuss the project. The final teaching materials will be developed with assistance from Higher Education Press in China. While the Chinese language program represents the bulk of Kennesaw State’s J-1 scholar activity during the last academic year, other visiting scholars also made their mark. The foreign language department hosted two scholars from Paderborn University in Germany as part of a $40,000 grant from the Halle Foundation to teach German language classes, coordinate community engagement projects with area high school exchange programs, and to develop elementary, middle, and high schools in Cobb, Hall, Dekalb, and Bibb Counties.

Other visiting scholars included a Brazilian educator from Fundacao Getulio Vargas researching brand management with the College of Marketing and professional sales department, and a Ghanaian researcher from the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center, who worked with the PhD in International Conflict Management program to research peacekeeping efforts in West Africa. Thirty-seven of these visiting scholars participated in a joint project between the Kennesaw State Confucius Institute (CIKSU) and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DELA) to develop a comprehensive curriculum companion under Georgia Performance Standards for K-12 students. The scholars conduct the research by teaching Chinese language and cultural classes at elementary, middle, and high schools in Cobb, Hall, Dekalb, and Bibb Counties.

CIKSU is the first of the world’s approximately 500 Confucius Institutes to conduct research and develop its own Chinese language curriculum. In September 2014, Kennesaw State hosted a symposium where CIKSU representatives met with Georgia Department of Education officials, educators, specialists, college professors, and other stakeholders to discuss the project. The final teaching materials will be developed with assistance from Higher Education Press in China.

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The results revealed that scholars enjoy academic and cultural activities on campus, such as the annual country study program lectures, the Confucius Institute’s fifth anniversary orchestra concert, and simply interacting with Kennesaw State faculty, J-1 scholars, on the other hand, prefer social activities. They reported enjoying the Mr. KSU pageant hosted by the International Student Association and the monthly excursions led by the Education Abroad Office to Atlanta-area attractions such as the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Students and scholars also identified areas for improvement. A common complaint from scholars was the lack of opportunities to conduct classroom lectures, while students lamented not having necessities like dishes and cookware in their houses before they arrived. Both groups were unhappy with the lack of transportation in the area, especially on weekends.

The DGA will encourage scholars’ host departments to offer more lecture opportunities, and now recommends that visiting students and scholars join campus organizations like the Conversation Partners Program to extend their social networks and make friends who can help offset the limited weekend transportation options in Kennesaw. DGA staff also launched a new Facebook group to update students and scholars about upcoming academic and social activities.

As time goes on, the DGA will continue to survey visitors to ensure they have pleasant and rewarding experiences in the United States.
Since 1999, Kennesaw State University has been sending students to study abroad in Montepulciano, a beautiful hilltop town in Italy’s Tuscan region. This year the University fully cemented its relationship to the city by hosting a grand opening for its 4,000 square-foot facility there, called KSU in Tuscany.

KSU in Tuscany is housed in the second floor of the newly-renovated Antica Fortezza Poliziana, a medieval fortress in the heart of Montepulciano. The facility, which is officially part of Kennesaw State University thanks to a 25-year rental agreement approved by the Board of Regents in 2012 and funded by a $520,000 grant from the Kennesaw State Foundation and private donors, houses six classrooms, an apartment for the on-site director, and several offices and meeting spaces.

More important than the space is what it means for the University and its students. In the past, Kennesaw State’s education abroad programs in Montepulciano were limited to two four- or five week summer sessions. However, since 2013, the list of programs has grown to include a fall semester intensive Italian language program and a culinary/hospitality program. Fifty-three students participated in these programs during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Going forward, the stability offered by KSU in Tuscany frees the University up to develop truly innovative education abroad opportunities in Italy. The first of these new programs – called the First-Year Global Fellows Program – launched in Fall 2015. Twenty-seven first-year students spent seven weeks taking general education courses in Montepulciano. This program introduces first-year students to the rewards of international experiences and perspectives just as they are beginning their college careers.

KSU in Tuscany is the result of several partnerships both domestic and international. Since 1999, Kennesaw State has worked with the Montepulciano Consortium (comprised of four other Georgia universities) to develop academic programs in Italy. For the same amount of time, the University has partnered with Montepulciano’s Il Sasso Italian Language School.

However, perhaps the most important partner has been the city of Montepulciano itself. Montepulciano Mayor Andrea Rossi was present in May 2015 for KSU in Tuscany’s grand opening event, which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony, a banquet and a wine tasting. He welcomed the Kennesaw State officials, students, and trustees in attendance, thanking them for joining “with the people of Montepulciano and our friends throughout the region to become a part of the continuing history of this important landmark.”

Following the grand opening of Kennesaw State’s first permanent educational facility abroad, KSU in Tuscany is becoming home to a variety of innovative short- and long-term education abroad programs, including a unique opportunity for first-year students.
The Center for African & African Diaspora Studies spent much of the academic year helping organize events to help educate the community about African and African issues, including an international summit honoring the 50th anniversary of the U.S. civil rights movement.

The Center for African and African Diaspora Studies (CAADS) collaborates with faculty colleagues and students across departments, divisions, schools, colleges and other units of the University, and hosts faculty exchanges from its international partners. CAADS's goal is to ensure the infusion of African and African Diaspora contents in teaching, scholarship and community engagement.

In January 2015, CAADS hosted its third annual Teaching Africa workshop for middle and high school teachers. Teaching Africa introduces K-12 teachers to cutting-edge research on Africa and the African diaspora, and helps them develop pedagogical strategies for infusing African content across the curriculum. For the first time since the workshop was created, organizers expanded the participants to include educators beyond metropolitan Atlanta. The workshop is the product of collaboration among KSU faculty across disciplines.

Led by its Director Dr. Nurudeen Akinyemi, CAADS worked during academic year 2014-2015 to help plan several upcoming, high-profile projects, including helping facilitate a U.S. Department of State grant project worth more than $1 million. The grant, awarded by the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, will provide Kennesaw State with $700,000 over three years to host undergraduate and graduate students from southeast Asian countries for month-long leadership institutes. The competitive grant funds President Obama’s Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) that seeks to promote friendly relations between the United States and member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In Spring 2016, the first cohort of students will visit campus and participate in a five-week institute called "Advancing International Civil and Human Rights Through Civic Engagement," which features an in-depth look at the U.S. civil rights movement. As a co-principal investigator on the grant project, Dr. Akinyemi will serve as an academic director. CAADS also spent much of the academic year planning for the Fall 2015 International Summit on Civil and Human Rights. The three-day summit will feature internationally renowned speakers, scholars and presenters from four continents, community activists and civil society organizers from the local community; and musicians, playwrights and visual artists from the university community.

The Summit is an opportunity to commemorate the 50th anniversary of several key events from the civil rights movement, and to honor the struggles and solidarity of people across racial, geographical, generational, social, and cultural divides that came together to defend the cause of liberty and human dignity around the world.
Kennesaw State University’s Confucius Institute is one of the largest and most active in the world. Thousands of pre-K through college students learned about Chinese language and culture during the 2014-2015 academic year thanks to CIKSU’s programming.

Founded in 2008 as a partnership with Yangzhou University in Jiangsu Province, China, Kennesaw State University’s Confucius Institute (CIKSU) has become one of the most successful of the hundreds of similar institutes around the world.

The Confucius Institute project was developed by the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), which is affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education. By pairing universities around the world with universities in China, Hanban has established more than 500 Confucius Institutes. Their goal is to promote Chinese language and cultural education around the world.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, CIKSU taught Chinese language courses to 7,472 students in Georgia aged Pre-K to college, making CIKSU one of the largest Confucius Institutes in the U.S. in terms of student enrollment.

CIKSU has leveraged this significant presence in public schools to work with the Georgia Department of Education on developing a comprehensive Chinese language curriculum companion for K-12 schools. The research was conducted with the help of Chinese scholars that CIKSU hosted throughout the academic year. CIKSU’s research team and these scholars support the Chinese language programs in Cobb, Hall, DeKalb, Henry, and Bibb Counties. CIKSU is the only Confucius Institute in the world to conduct research and develop a Chinese language curriculum.

In recognition of CIKSU’s success, Madam Lin Xu, Chief Executive and Director General of the worldwide network of Confucius Institutes, visited Kennesaw State University in April to discuss new opportunities for international cooperation. During her April 17th visit, Madam Xu toured the campus, met with local CI officials, university leadership, and with several Kennesaw State students participating in Chinese language programs.

While meeting with Ken Jin, Executive Director of CIKSU, Madam Xu said that she is very excited by the great strides CIKSU has made in research and Chinese language curriculum creation.

In an official letter delivered to University President Daniel Papp, Madam Xu said that she planned to introduce some of CIKSU’s practices across North America and Europe.

Throughout the year, CIKSU found several opportunities to promote Chinese culture around Metro Atlanta and the world including hosting musical and martial arts performances on the Kennesaw and Marietta campuses, and producing a documentary film about Chinese tea practices that will debut on Georgia Public Television in 2016.

7,427 K-12 students participated in Chinese language education offered by CIKSU
The economies of India, China, and the United States comprise the new triad of global power. Through a series of business, educational, and cultural activities, the India China America Institute works to foster greater cooperation between these three countries.

India, China, and the United States account for 70 percent of the world’s population and their collective economies represent three-fourths of the world’s total gross domestic product.

Recognizing that these three governments represent the new triad of global power, the India China America (ICA) Institute opened in 2005 with a mission to encourage the building of strong relationships between the three nations. The ICA Institute was founded by Dr. Jagdish Sheth, a philanthropist and a Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at Emory University’s Goizueta Business School.

From 2011 to 2015, the ICA Institute was housed in Kennesaw State University’s Michael J. Coles College of Business. In early 2015, the organization moved its offices to the Division of Global Affairs under new executive director Dr. Pamila Dembla, associate professor of information systems.

The ICA Institute organizes activities for a variety of audiences, ranging from businesspeople and policymakers to students and community members. In May, the ICA Institute brought Dr. Archana Singh, a professor with the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India, to campus to present on social enterprise and entrepreneurship. The event was co-sponsored by WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

The same month, Dr. Wang Fuming, a professor of international business, and the Director of the China-Australia Center at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China, visited campus to lead a discussion on Chinese economic development.

Presentations like these demonstrate the ICA Institute’s commitment to helping investors understand the opportunities - and the associated challenges - of doing business with Chinese and Indian organizations. Other ICA Institute activities, such as a partnership between the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and Kennesaw State’s Model United Nations team, help students at home and abroad understand the importance of international cooperation.

A $75,000 grant from the embassy allowed Kennesaw State to host seven Model UN students from Alliance University in Bangalore, India in November 2014 to compete in the Southern Regional Model UN Conference. In February 2015, eight Kennesaw State Model UN students then traveled with Dr. Dembla to India to compete in a Model UN competition at Christ University in Bangalore.

Going forward, ICA Institute will add cultural competency training for organizations and individuals interested in India and China to its programming, while continuing its series of roundtables, panel sessions, and summits.
As an initiative of the United Nations, CIFAL Atlanta conducts a variety of activities each year promoting global infrastructure-building and economic development. The partnership between CIFAL Atlanta and Kennesaw State helps make the University a part of CIFAL’s valuable mission.

CIFAL Atlanta has partnered with the Division of Global Affairs since 2013, when the non-profit corporation moved its headquarters to the DGA’s offices. Founded in 2004 by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), CIFAL Atlanta provides executive training throughout the world and acts as a hub for information, communication and knowledge exchange between government authorities, non-government organizations, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions.

Throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, CIFAL Atlanta worked with Kennesaw State to host several events that promoted the international goals of both organizations. CIFAL Atlanta was a co-sponsor of NAFTA @ 20, which saw the consuls general of Mexico and Canada visit to discuss the economic and social effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the 20th anniversary of its signing. In May, CIFAL Atlanta collaborated with Kennesaw State’s Michael J. Coles College of Business and several international universities and organizations – including the Costa Rican Ministry of Labor – to host the International Conference on Cooperative Competitiveness and the Digital Economy.

Held over three days in San Jose, Costa Rica, the conference focused on strategies to improve the management and leadership capabilities of cooperatives in the Americas to better prepare them to address the economic challenges of an increasingly competitive and global marketplace. Attendees included representatives from 17 cooperatives, four universities, three financial institutions, six cooperative associations and non-governmental organizations, and two government agencies, all from 12 Latin-American countries, the United States, and France.

Other CIFAL Atlanta activities during the 2014-2015 academic year include presenting to a group of 25 young people from African countries for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, and managing an Airport Emergency Planning Seminar for senior airport officials from developing countries throughout the Caribbean, South America, and Africa.

While CIFAL Atlanta and the DGA have worked together for several years, that relationship will only continue to grow thanks to the announcement in late 2015 that Chris Young, CIFAL Atlanta’s Executive Director, will become a full-time employee of Kennesaw State University. CIFAL Atlanta will remain an independent organization, but joint activities between CIFAL Atlanta and the DGA will become even more common.
The projects supported by the Strategic Internationalization Grant program increase the University’s international profile and, in many cases, improve how Kennesaw State faculty educate their students about global issues.

Through its Strategic Internationalization Grant (SIG) program, the Division of Global Affairs provides thousands of dollars to Kennesaw State University faculty to develop programs that enhance the University’s international education goals on and off campus.

The SIG initiative is a relatively new one, with the first-ever awards given out in early 2014 for projects completed during the 2014-2015 academic year. In 2014, the DGA awarded $200,000 in SIG funding to 15 distinct projects. Award amounts ranged from $5,000 to $45,000. Several projects from the first round of funding will have a lasting impact on how Kennesaw State faculty members teach their students about global issues. One project saw the principal investigators develop 18 new learning modules designed to help students improve their intercultural competence while traveling abroad. These modules are now freely available online.

Meanwhile, other SIG-funded projects conducted this year include a comparative study of U.S. and Chinese elementary and middle grade educational practices, and a project designed to help indigenous artisans in developing countries learn to sell their products in the global marketplace.

In early 2015, as work continued on the 2014-2015 SIG projects, the DGA announced the recipients of the 2015-2016 grants, totaling $120,000. Recipients include faculty members studying methods to improve student engagement on education abroad experiences, and a collaborative study with Sultan Qaboos University in Oman on nurse staffing metrics. Now that the first round of projects is complete, and with the second round of funding already awarded, the SIG program is establishing itself as a critical tool to help the DGA influence the creation of new globally-focused coursework and to foster international partnerships.
Focused on identifying and disseminating best practices for teaching and learning across cultures, the recipients of the Division of Global Affairs’ Campus Internationalization Prize spent the year developing a new interdisciplinary approach to intercultural competence education. Principal Investigators Dr. Sabine Smith, Dr. Daniel Paracka, and Dr. Joe Terantino received a $45,000 grant to develop the Interdisciplinary Teaching and Assessment of Intercultural Competence – or ITAIC – program. The result is a series of educational modules that Kennesaw State faculty can now use to show students how cultural attitudes affect the way people interpret core social and political concepts.

The co-PIs collaborated with 30 faculty members from across the University to develop the modules. They conducted research on the latest intercultural education techniques and organized six workshops to discuss implementing these techniques in their classrooms.

In addition, two experts in the field of intercultural education – Dr. Darla Deardorff, executive director of the Association of International Education Administrators at Duke University, and Alvino Fantini, former president of the Society for Intercultural Education, Training, and Research – reviewed the project’s findings. Deardorff and Fantini also conducted seminars on campus about intercultural education that drew in more than 70 attendees.

By the end of the project’s first year, the co-PIs had posted 16 modules on their website. These modules are freely available for classroom use. Modules include examinations of intercultural perspectives on business, the media, women’s rights, racial identity and more. In total, 14 disciplines were represented in the modules.

“Educational institutions around the country and around the world increasingly acknowledge the importance of internationalizing their curriculums and their campuses,” said Fantini in an official endorsement of the ITAIC project. “KSU’s ITAIC project has indeed opened the door to all these possibilities and points the way to ongoing efforts.”

While many Strategic Internationalization Grant projects are designed to develop new globally-focused coursework for students, some also manage to improve the lives of people around the world in meaningful ways. Faculty members Linda Hightower and Dennis Loubiere helped indigenous artists in developing countries earn living wages with their education abroad experiences from the perspective of teaching and learning across cultures.

Colloquially – or ITAIC – program.

While the ITAIC project will continue in the 2015-2016 academic year, and will focus on the development of new modules to help students better interpret their education almost experiences from the perspective of improving their intercultural competence.

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From diplomats to university presidents to high-ranking government officials, the Division of Global Affairs in academic year 2014-2015 hosted a variety of distinguished guests from around the world. These prominent individuals visited campus to present at conferences, sign collaborative agreements, and, in many cases, simply to engage with Kennesaw State’s globally-conscious student body.

The 2014-2015 academic year saw the DGA begin an unprecedented level of cooperation with the Atlanta Consular Corps. Consuls general from four countries visited campus as part of the University’s new Consular Connect initiative, which invites members of the Consular Corps to lead classroom discussions on topics of their choice. Consuls general from Canada and Mexico also presented at the NAFTA@20 conference, which examined the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement at the 20th anniversary of its signing.

Kennesaw State’s Year of the Arabian Peninsula programming gave the University the opportunity to welcome several government officials from the Sultanate of Oman, specifically during the fall conference, Women of Oman: Changing Roles and Transnational Influence. Keynote speakers included Dr. Rawya Saud Al Busaidi, Oman’s first female minister, and Ambassador Hunaina Al Mughairy, the first woman to serve as ambassador to Washington from an Arab country.

In Spring 2015, the DGA worked with Kennesaw State’s Confucius Institute to host Madam Lin Xu, the chief executive and director general of the worldwide network of Confucius Institutes. As a vice-minister of the Chinese government, Madam Xu’s visit was a watershed moment for Kennesaw State and its Confucius Institute. Her visit was in recognition of the University’s status among the 500-plus Confucius Institutes around the world.

Hosting prominent guests from around the world and facilitating their interaction with members of the campus community is an important part of the Division of Global Affairs’ mission, and helps expose students, faculty, and staff to global perspectives.

Many high-profile international guests visited Kennesaw State University during the 2014-2015 academic year, including four consuls general and the executive director of the worldwide network of Confucius Institutes, who is a ranking member of the Chinese government.

“Hopefully we have found a new partner with Kennesaw State University in the coming years. This is my first visit, but it’s not the last.”

— The Honorable Denis Barbet
Consul General of France
Atlanta Consular Corps
British Consul General Jeremy Pilmore-Bedford leads a classroom lecture on international crisis management as part of the DGA's Consular Connect initiative.

Consular Connect Gives Kennesaw Students Rare Access to Diplomats

Kennesaw State University's proximity to Atlanta means that the Division of Global Affairs has had the chance to cultivate strong relationships with members of the Atlanta Consular Corps, who now visit campus regularly to attend cultural events, give lectures, and meet with University leadership. These diplomats enhance internationalization on campus, and educate Kennesaw State students about their home countries' cultures and policy decisions. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Consular Connect program. Starting in September, four consuls general visited campus throughout the academic year as part of the program, and were given the opportunity to lead classroom lectures, meet with University leadership, and addresses at public receptions.

German Consul General Christoph Sander was the first to visit under the Consular Connect program. Sander, the official representative of the German government to the southeastern United States, used the then-upcoming 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall as the backdrop for his lecture, titled “Germany Today: Responsibility & Challenges in the Heart of Europe.”

“Many of whom were not yet born or were too young to remember the fall of the Berlin Wall — Sander described the excitement of living in Germany at the time. “It was an amazing experience,” he said, referring to famous images of Berliners celebrating over the rubble of the demolished wall. “There had been barbed wire, dogs and East German soldiers. It’s only now that you can understand the joy of those people partying on the wall.”

In November, French Consul General Denis Barbet fielded student questions on a variety of international policy issues. “We have to be careful about how we respond to policy issues. We have to be careful about how we respond to policy issues. Interactions like this help inspire students to think about issues globally. Before the end of the academic year, the Consular Connect program also hosted Jeremy Pilmore-Bedford, consul general of the U.K., and Peruvian Consul General Miguel Alemán-Urreta.

Rawya Saud Al Busaidi, Oman's Minister of Higher Education

Her Excellency Dr. Rawya Saud Al Busaidi, Oman's Minister of Higher Education, was a keynote speaker at the fall Year of the Arabian Peninsula Conference, Minister of Higher Education, was a keynote speaker at the fall Year of the Arabian Peninsula Conference, held at Kennesaw State University. During her two years of service, she has developed a Strategic Plan for Education and has led a project to convert five of Oman's government Colleges of Education into institutions offering specialized training that reflects the growing diversification of the country's economy. Dr. Busaidi reflected the changing landscape of Oman, where 40.6 percent of all government jobs are held by women.

Atsushi Hamana

Dr. Atsushi Hamana, President of the Kansai University of International Studies in Miki, Japan, signed a memorandum of understanding with Kennesaw State President Daniel Papp. The agreement will open a wide range of international education opportunities for students and faculty of both institutions. A delegation from Kansai University met with several representatives of Kennesaw State at the signing ceremony, including President Papp, Dr. Stephanie Foote with University College, and Dr. Lance Askildson, Kennesaw State's Chief International Officer. During the ceremony, Dr. Papp presented Dr. Hamana with a copy of Kennesaw State: The First 50 Years.

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It is important to recognize individuals inside and outside the campus community for their efforts to promote internationalization. For the first time, the International Achievement Awards honored a student, who received the Division of Global Affairs’ first endowed scholarship.

For the second year in a row, The Division of Global Affairs’ International Achievement Awards recognized several outstanding individuals — both inside and outside the campus community — for their efforts to promote global awareness and international cooperation. The founder of the world’s largest and most diverse international lay-Buddhist organization was among five individuals honored.

The International Achievement Awards were held at Marietta Country Club in March, and included remarks from University President Dr. Daniel Papp, Provost Ken Harmon, and Vice-Provost Lance Askildson. Ralph de la Vega, CEO of AT&T Mobile and Business Solutions, provided the keynote address.

Daisaku Ikeda, founding president of Soka Gakkai International, received the 2015 Kennesaw State University Global Public Service Prize, which recognizes international public figures that have made significant contributions to their home countries. The Global Service Prize is tied to the University’s annual country study program, with this year’s award honoring work during 2013-2014’s Year of Japan. Soka Gakkai is a non-denominational school system in Japan that teaches peace, social contribution and global consciousness.

Other individuals honored during the ceremony include a distinguished faculty member, alumni, and community partner. A highlight of this year’s awards banquet was the presentation of the University’s first-ever endowed scholarship for international education, which was awarded to second-year student Destiny Nieves. Made possible by a generous $25,000 gift from Christie Emerson with the WellStar College School of Nursing and her husband Tom, the Emerson Scholarship provides $800 each year to a deserving student to help pay education abroad program fees. Destiny used her scholarship to travel to China.

Kennesaw State University’s International Achievement Awards are made possible by a grant from the Jagdesh and Madhuri Sheth Foundation. Jagdesh Sheth is a professor of marketing at Emory University’s Goizueta Business School. His and his wife’s passion for internationalization inspired them to make their initial donation of $25,000 to establish the International Achievement Awards. The awards have now become an annual tradition.

The DGA plans to grow the International Achievement Awards Banquet in the future by providing additional scholarship opportunities for students.
Daisaku Ikeda is a Buddhist philosopher, peacebuilder, educator, author and poet. He is the third president of the Soka Gakkai lay Buddhist organization and the founding president of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), which is today one of the world's largest and most diverse lay Buddhist organizations. Ikeda is a staunch proponent of dialogue as the foundation of peace. Since the 1970s he has pursued dialogue with a wide range of individuals around the world in political, cultural, educational and academic fields. Over 50 of these have been published in book form, with people such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Elise Boulding, Joseph Rotblat and André Malraux. Ikeda is a prolific writer who has published more than 100 works, ranging from Buddhist philosophy to biographical essays, poetry, children's stories and photographic collections.

Laurence Sherr is Composer-in-Residence and Professor of Music at KSU. International performances of his work have been given in Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Turkey, Japan, Canada, and Mexico. Sherr is active as a composer of Holocaust remembrance music, a lecturer on Holocaust music topics, a producer of remembrance events, and an educator about Holocaust music. He led a workshop on teaching music and the Holocaust at the 2012 International Conference on Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and his 2011 Prague Holocaust Remembrance Concert was staged under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy. His 2009 concert and educational activities in Germany, produced in collaboration with the children of the generation who persecuted his mother and her family, led to reconciliation and healing. He developed the global-citizenship course Music and the Holocaust at KSU.

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Elizabeth Elango Bintliff is the Vice President of Africa Programs at Heifer Project International, where she has worked since 2000. Based in Little Rock, Ark., she leads Heifer's program in Africa, managing a portfolio in 12 countries. She has represented Heifer International on several local and national media appearances including ABC's World News Tonight in 2008 and The Colbert Report in 2009. Born and raised in Cameroon, Elizabeth earned a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs from Kennesaw State University, and has a Master's in African Studies from Yale University. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Zanzibar and has worked in South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania. She started her career at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta. Elizabeth is fluent in English, French, Swahili and West African Krio. She is committed to improving the lives of women and the poor, especially in Africa, and she believes women need to have a voice, a choice, and an opportunity to succeed.

Alberto Quinti studied at Liceo Scientifico Galileo Galilei in Siena and majored in History at Siena University. He has a Master's Degree in Teaching Italian as a Second and Foreign Language. In 1983, he founded the Cooperative Il Sasso School of Italian Language and Culture for Foreigners, where he currently serves as school director. From 1984 to 1988 Quinti conducted research into literacy problems in Montepulciano, and built courses to improve the situation. Over the following years, he took on roles as a member of the Board of Directors of several institutions and foundations. Quinti has signed several agreements in the field of cultural politics in Montepulciano, such as the agreement between the Municipality of Montepulciano and the Music Academy of Koln (Germany), which now maintains its foreign department in Montepulciano, and is an original signatory on the Montepuliano Fortezza Project, which led to Kennesaw State University establishing a permanent home in the city.

Destiny Nieves is a student in the Exercise Science program at WellStar College of Health and Human Services. She attended the Education Abroad program China Revealed Through its Math Education and Culture. Destiny transferred to Kennesaw State University after beginning her college career at Emory, where she studied Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology. She quickly realized her passion was exercise science, and enrolled at Kennesaw State to pursue that dream. Destiny is time at Kennesaw State University has been distinguished by a series of successes inside and outside the classroom. Her name consistently appears on the Dean's List, and she is a member of the Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Destiny has a strong desire to help her fellow students succeed, which inspired her to form her own campus organization, called Kindness Inspires Kindness, which encourages students to commit random acts of kindness.
Around Campus, Around the World

With the support of the Division of Global Affairs, the individual colleges on campus implement a wide variety of programs designed to internationalize Kennesaw State University. This section features highlights from college-driven international initiatives across campus.

Conexus Challenge Teaches Students to Cooperate Globally

A new international competition developed by the Michael J. Coles College of Business taught 57 students from the U.S. and abroad how to work together to solve complex business problems.

Dr. Sheb True, Coles College’s senior international officer, organized the first annual Conexus Challenge in August. The competition placed students from 12 universities across 12 countries into multinational teams and tasked them with working together to develop a business strategy in an online simulation.

The students all participated in the competition from their computers in their home countries, meaning they had to coordinate tasks around time zone and language differences. The winning team included Coles MBA student Michelle Girage and teammates from Canada, Germany, India, and Morocco. Based on the success of the Conexus Challenge, Dr. True intends to hold the competition annually, and to increase the number of students, universities and countries participating.

Other international activities Coles carried out during the academic year include leading the NAFTA @ 20 conference with CIFAL Atlanta and the consuls general of Canada and Mexico; Coles Professor Gabriel Ramirez organizing the Cooperatives Competitiveness Conference in Costa Rica, which hosted 60 representatives from 15 co-ops in 11 Central and South American countries; and leading a seminar at the Metro-Atlanta Chamber of Commerce on Anti-Corruption in Africa. NAFTA @ 20 and the Anti-Corruption Workshop were led by MBA students who are Paul D. Coverdale Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Fellows.

Coles also sent 184 students on 26 semester exchanges, internships, and short-term education abroad programs, while 32 Coles students earned Global Engagement Certification – a significant increase from previous years. Meanwhile, 22 students participated in the fifth annual Social Entrepreneurship Corps program in Guatemala, where they engaged in a micro-consignment economic model that seeks to improve quality of life in Central America through thoughtful community investment.
MaIGC Students Earn Real-World Experience in International Communications

International study is a core component of the College of Humanities and Social Science’s Master’s of Arts in Integrated Global Communication (MaIGC) degree program. MaIGC students are required to complete the Summer Engagement Abroad Module (SEAM), which sees them studying with, observing, or even interning for communications professionals in foreign countries. In summer 2014, three students interned for international businesses, while others traveled to universities abroad to complete directed study projects.

The MaIGC interns include students Sarah Conde, Lara Fawaz, and Megan Roy. Conde traveled to Nagita, Japan, where she worked for 12 weeks at video game developer Trixi Studio. That same summer, Fawaz interned for six weeks at Ketchum Black Europe, a PR firm in Black Europe, and London. The tour included a visit to CNN’s London Bureau.

In addition to the SEAM, five students participated in a Summer 2015 MaIGC study tour to Dublin, Ireland. The Summer 2015 MaIGC Study Tour featured a visit to CNN’s London Bureau.

PEGS Program Continues to Provide International Perspectives

Since it was established in January 2014, Honors College has always placed global engagement at the center of its educational philosophy. No where is this more evident than in the college’s President’s Emerging Global Scholars (PEGS) program.

Each year, Ken Hill, Honors College’s global engagement coordinator, leads a cohort of first-year PEGS students to Brazil, to conduct research with their peers from UNIFACS University on the seven global challenges taught in the course KSU 1111: Tomorrow’s World Today. Nineteen Kennesaw State students participated in this year’s visit.

Honors College’s partnership with UNIFACS grew as development began on a memorandum of understanding between UNIFACS and Kennesaw State, which should be signed in Spring 2016. In November Kennesaw State hosted nine UNIFACS faculty and staff, who participated in a student symposium on the importance of joint global challenge research.

In a May group of third-year PEGS students traveled to London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland in May. Escorted by Chris Young, executive director of CIFAL Atlanta, the students visited historic locations like Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, and the House of Commons, where they were greeted by the Right and Honorable Alistair Burt, a Parliamentarian representing North East Bedford. On the day that they were in as the UK’s new Minister of State for Community and Social Care, Alistair spent nearly an hour in a committee room with the PEGS students hosting a question-and-answer session.

The Vertigo Dance Company from Israel performing “Black Morning” by Ivan Pulinkala.

Kennesaw State students and the Atlanta-area arts community were treated to two inspiring dance performances thanks to the Department of Dance’s close relationship with Atlanta’s Israeli Consulate.

In Fall 2014, famed Israeli dance choreographer Idot Tadmor completed a residency with Kennesaw State’s Department of Dance. Tadmor, whose residency was funded by the Israeli Consulate, choreographed the piece Black Morning, which tells the story of Israeli women confronting the deaths of their loved ones, as part of the larger Pyramida show at the Bailey Performance Center.

The Israeli Consulate also helped Kennesaw State host the Vertigo Dance Company. Their performance, titled Vertigo: Israeli Dance Messengers, was co-produced by Kennesaw State University’s Department of Dance and by Georgia State University’s RadioArts Center for the Arts. The production featured some of Israel’s most celebrated dancers.

While the Dance Department hosted several Israeli dancers throughout the academic year, Professor Ivan Pulinkala was also able to complete a guest artist residency with the Israel Ballet thanks to the support of the Israeli Consulate.

As a way to continue the ever-growing partnerships between the Dance Department and Israeli dancers, Pulinkala developed an education abroad program that will take students to Israel to study with the Batsheva Dance Company. The first cohort of students will travel in May 2016.

The Vertigo Dance Company from Israel performing “Pyromania” by Ivan Pulinkala.

Israeli Dancers Bring their Unique Style to Kennesaw State

In October, the TIE program was honored by the Department of Education’s International Teacher Training Institute Global Foundation. The TIE is a collaborative effort between CCPE and the Department of Education’s International Teacher Education’s International Teacher Training Institute Global Foundation. The TIE program brings South Korean educators to Georgia to study English and to learn classroom management skills. These teachers of English receive three to four weeks of advanced teaching English as a second language (TESOL) training from CCPE instructors on the latest strategies and techniques for teaching English in the classroom. While here, the trainees also participate in a practicum in the public school system.

In October, the TIE program was honored by the University’s Department of Continuing Education. The TIE also received a regional award for the 2014-2015 academic year. Not only did CCPE faculty host five groups of educators from South Korea, but the program itself received a regional award for engagement.

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Three education abroad programs offered by the College of Science and Mathematics gave students the unique opportunity to study real-world applications of the concepts they learn in class.

Seventeen students – including one graduate student – participated in the Marine Biology in Belize program. Participants worked from remote field stations studying tropical ecosystems and the complex relationship between those ecosystems and the local inhabitants. The program is led by Drs. Joseph Dirnberger, Scott Reese and Troy Mutchler.

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Student Teachers Share Brazil Experiences with Georgia First Lady

When Jon Mosley, LeShaun Dillett, and Michaella Taylor participated in a student teaching abroad program to Brazil during the spring semester, they had no idea they would go on to become ambassadors for Brazil and Kennesaw State University.

The three student teachers from Bagwell College of Education visited the American School of Rio de Janeiro (EARJ) to work with K-12 classes. Later, they had the opportunity to visit Brazilian classrooms, the community, and site-seeing excursions. The book also featured their written reflections of their experiences.

“it was a perfect opportunity for the three Bagwell College of Education student teachers to share their outstanding experiences teaching student teachers in Brazil,” said Dr. Binbin Jiang, Bagwell’s interim director of Educational Leadership. “It also brought more visibility to BCOE’s highly successful and well-known student teaching abroad program.”

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Grants and Awards

Between funds awarded during the 2014-2015 academic year and projects carried out during that time, the Division of Global Affairs contributed to the University receiving more than half-a-million dollars in grant money towards global engagement projects.

**Model UN Exchange Program - $74,999**
The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi funded a team of Kennesaw State Model UN students to travel with faculty advisor Dr. Pamila Dembla to India in February 2015 to participate in model UN conferences, to share and discuss best practices, and to establish the foundation for future cooperation. In November 2014, Kennesaw hosted a group of Indian Model UN students who participated in the Southern Regional Model UN Conference.

**Fighting Climate Change / C40 Mega City Symposium - $48,959**
The U.S. Consulate in Kolkata, India awarded Coles faculty member Dr. Govind Hariharan funds to host a multi-city conference to encourage Kolkata, Patna, and Guwahati to develop strategies for fighting climate change. The conference was held in April 2015. Although the DGA did not receive the award, Dr. Hariharan received DGA support in preparing the application.

**Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from Southeast Asia - $239,719 ($719,157 over three years)**
Awarded in early 2015, this grant from the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs will fund a five-week leadership program on civic engagement titled Advancing International Civil and Human Rights Through Civic Engagement. This grant program is part of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, President Barack Obama’s signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia.

**Chinese Tea Documentary - $100,000**
In late 2014, The Freeman Foundation awarded the Confucius Institute $100,000 to produce a documentary film on Chinese Tea culture. *Chinese Tea: Elixir of the Orient*, will premiere on Georgia Public Broadcasting in Spring 2016.

**Fulbright Gateway Orientation - $56,677**
This grant is awarded and administered by the Institute of International Education and sponsored by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as part of the Fulbright Program. Through this grant, Kennesaw State hosted a five-day orientation for 61 Fulbright foreign students on their roles and responsibilities as Fulbrighters, and provided them with skills development for successful academic, personal, and professional lives in the US.

$520,354 in grant funds were either received or administered during the 2014-2015 academic year.