GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2018

International Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
From the Dean

We have much to celebrate this year in terms of the University of Florida’s global engagement. UF’s selection for a Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, certainly tops the list! This prestigious recognition is the culmination of many years of collective efforts by administrators, faculty, and staff to position UF as a truly global university, engaged fully in understanding the world’s challenges and opportunities, and preparing our students for global citizenship.

A centerpiece of the Simon Award recognition is our five-year Quality Enhancement Plan, launched in 2014 as “Learning without Borders: Internationalizing the Gator Nation.” As this ambitious effort enters its fifth year, I am pleased to report on its great success. Some 500 students representing all undergraduate colleges at UF are currently enrolled in its signature International Scholars Program (ISP), and in the past two years over 100 students have already graduated with this medallion recognition. Numerous related efforts have increased international programming on campus, and are helping to infuse a global dimension across all aspects of teaching and learning at UF. You will find more information on Learning without Borders in the “Looking Back and Moving Forward” insert included with this report.

Much of the work in support of UF’s global engagement is done daily by UFIC staff, working with many others across campus. Collectively, they manage and support over 6,000 international students, some 2,000 international scholars, and more than 2,500 UF students studying abroad. In an era of strong political challenges to international cooperation and exchange, this requires extraordinary effort. As I have told my colleagues at UFIC, our jobs are getting harder—and more important—by the day. I would like to thank all who contribute to this work. We all have much to be proud of in making UF a leader in internationalization, and the world a better place.

Leonardo A. Villalón, PhD

UF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

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<tr>
<th>UF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS</th>
<th>RANKINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6,641</strong> International Students</td>
<td><strong>2018</strong> Winner of the Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization</td>
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<td><strong>220</strong> Exchange Students</td>
<td><strong>#1</strong> Among institutions with the highest number of international students in Florida</td>
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<td><strong>1,956</strong> International Visitors</td>
<td><strong>#1</strong> Top Producer of Peace Corps volunteers among Florida colleges</td>
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<td><strong>140</strong> Countries Represented on Campus</td>
<td><strong>#5</strong> Top Producer of Peace Corps volunteers among large U.S. schools for 9 consecutive years</td>
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<td><strong>458</strong> Coop &amp; Reciprocal Agreements Worldwide</td>
<td><strong>#19</strong> In sending Study Abroad students by institution type in the U.S.</td>
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<td><strong>2,615</strong> Students Went Abroad (75 destinations)</td>
<td><strong>#23</strong> In hosting International Students by institution type across U.S.</td>
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<td><strong>1,375</strong> UF Peace Corp Volunteers (since 2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>181</strong> Fulbright U.S. Program Scholars (since 2008)</td>
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This year, the University of Florida (UF) received the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, bestows this award on institutions which demonstrate excellence in campuswide international programs, including a focus on curriculum, faculty development, and international outreach.

This award recognized UF’s commitment to international education and research, grounded in the fundamental goals of preparing students to meet the challenges of a globalized world, striving for faculty research excellence with a global impact, and advancing campus diversity. Our roadmap for this effort is the 2014 Quality Enhancement Plan, entitled “Learning without Borders: Internationalizing the Gator Nation,” which is a fundamental component of UF’s reaccreditation process.

The Simon Award also recognizes UF’s extensive global reach. Over 140 countries are represented in the UF community. This includes over 6,500 international students, on campus or pursuing practical training, as well as almost 2,000 visiting international scholars every year. Some 2,600 UF students studied abroad last year in 75 destinations. UF has almost 500 collaborative agreements with partner institutions across the world, and, at any given moment, UF faculty can be found around the world engaged in research and teaching.

Additionally, the Simon Award acknowledges our considerable commitment to continue investing in our current programs and using this foundation to add innovative new programs that will expand our global reach. This includes incentives to support international research linked to larger global learning outcomes, such as the Faculty Global Fellows Program and the Research Abroad for Doctoral Students grants. The important Learning without Borders initiative demonstrates our significant investment to internationalizing the UF undergraduate curriculum and to expanding and increasing access to study abroad programs.

The 2018 Paul Simon Award underscores one of the UF International Center’s (UFIC) primary goals to help students develop the skills and knowledge that will enhance their competitiveness in the global market for talent. With that in mind, UFIC helps our students become good global citizens, do their part to steward the earth’s resources, improve the quality of human lives, and be proactive contributors to the search for justice and equality.

The Simon Award recognizes both UF’s commitment and UFIC’s contributions towards becoming a world-class global academic institution.
Eva Casado Ariza is a violinist and conductor currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Music, with concentrations in Violin Performance and Instrumental Conducting at the UF College of the Arts. While working as a graduate assistant, Eva performs regularly as concertmaster in the official quartet of the university and as the assistant conductor of the University Orchestra. She plans to pursue doctoral studies to develop a brighter future for rising generations of young music students with disabilities.

Eva recently won the VSA International Young Soloists Competition, a Jean Kennedy Smith Arts and Disability program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The program focuses on identifying, elevating, and celebrating the work of young musicians living with disabilities. Eva has conducted several performances, including a recital featuring the UF Chamber Orchestra at the University Auditorium. We are fortunate and proud to host this international student, and pleased to have her share her talents with the UF community.
**Mandisa Haarhoff** is a J-1 Degree Seeking Student (PhD/English) and a former Fulbright student from South Africa. During her time at the University of Florida, she has participated in numerous artistic engagements on campus and in the larger Gainesville community. She spent her first semester touring her one-woman show *Crush-hopper*, presenting at Florida State University and the University of South Florida. Mandisa wrote and directed plays for the UF School of Theatre and Dance’s Agbedidi (2013-2015) as well as for the annual African Student Union Showcase (2012-2016). She hosted her own show called *My Africa is Your Africa* with Breanna Ross on local Gainesville station African Network Television. She proudly served on the committee that founded Nelson Mandela Day in 2014 and was its keynote speaker in 2017. In August 2017, she traveled to Monaco to present Lara Foot’s play *Tshepang* at the Mondial du Theatre Festival. Before that, Mandisa received a Best Actress Award during the South-Eastern Theatre Conference in North Carolina, where it won Best Play. This remarkable student leaves the legacy of “Mandisa Mondays,” an open mic night she hosted at The Bull in Downtown Gainesville. Additionally, Jenna Horner, a local artist, testified Mandisa’s love for Gainesville by painting a mural in the SW Downtown Parking Garage using Mandisa’s image. Once Mandisa completes her UF degree, she has a faculty position waiting for her at the University of Cape Town.

**Siân David**, the first exchange student from UF’s partner, the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, spent the Fall 2017 semester at UF. A history major at Reading, she enrolled in several UF courses ranging from broad overviews of American history to close looks at specific issues such as nuclear history and human rights. Despite personal challenges encountered, Siân made the most of her semester learning public speaking, which helped her present her thoughts clearly and persuasively. While at UF, she used this new-found skill and self-confidence to give a presentation on Harriet Tubman during International Women’s Day.

Empowered by her new abilities, Siân went back to the UK, where she applied for and received a position as “Study Abroad Rep,” talking to students and their parents about the benefits of study abroad. She writes, “Although it is scary, I’ve decided that I enjoy speaking in public. This is definitely a skill that I learned since being at UF. My exchange experience at UF improved my confidence so much!”
Global Fellows Program (GFP)
GFP allows junior faculty the opportunity to pursue international and/or cross-cultural research. It supports faculty international travel, field data collection, international scholars meetings, access to resources not available at UF, and any additional activity that advances research abroad. The program offers a workshop series on sponsored research topics such as: developing international proposals, working with international partners, navigating compliance regulations, and adding an international component to their teaching. This year, 10 faculty members were awarded $5,000 (each) across four colleges for the development of international projects. Since the program inception in the 2015-2016 academic year, the program has received 73 applications and funded 33 faculty.

Building Strategic Partnerships
The Office for Global Research Engagement provides exploratory grants to provide faculty with an opportunity to explore a geographic region to develop a program for study abroad experiences, a service-learning course, and/or to conduct research in the region. This year, grants were awarded to 17 faculty members for the development of programs in Swaziland, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador.

Research Abroad for Doctoral Students (RADs)
Through RADs, PhD candidates in STEM have the opportunity to conduct research at a foreign laboratory or field site. RADs is sponsored by the International Center, the Graduate School, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost’s Office. This year, $40,170 were awarded to nine students from five different colleges. Funding supported student field work in Central and South America, Africa, and Europe. Since the inception of the program in the 2015-16 academic year, RADs has received 84 applications and has provided 22 awards totaling $120,170.

Dr. Christopher L. Busey is Assistant Professor of Curriculum, Teaching, and Teacher Education at the School of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education. His research examines Afro-Latinx/Afro-Latin American history and citizenship education, intersections of African-American and Afro-Latin American racial thought, and the racial politics of education for Afrodescendants in the U.S. and Latin America. Dr. Busey received the 2017-2018 Global Fellows Award from UFIC to support his most recent research project, which situates black ethnic education within broader political reform efforts driven by black activism.

Dr. Busey has published over 15 scholarly manuscripts related to his research interests. He is a member of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) and the American Educational Research Association (AERA). His paper on anti-black racism in Latin America and a transnational conceptualization of Critical Race Theory won the 2018 AERA’s Social Studies Research SIG Outstanding Paper Award.
Dr. Phil Kaufman and Dr. Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman are the faculty directors for the UF in Florence - Global Perspectives program. This six-week program is offered in collaboration with Florence University of the Arts (FUA).

“While directing the program, we co-teach a study abroad course. This course was initially offered as ‘Insects in Italy,’ but in 2018 we changed the title to ‘Feast or Famine in Florence.’ This name change helped us reach out to a wider audience, and we were able to more than double our course enrollment. Plague, Galileo, silk production and trade, and the Medici’s influence on artists (who are considered by many to be scientists) has shaped human history and the food we eat. Students in our course are immersed in these topics as they explore art, science, and food production in Italy. While study abroad may not be financially feasible for many students, we both encourage faculty to promote a globalization of the classroom, where students are exposed to more international perspectives, needs, and practices. This is a low-cost way to ensure our students are prepared to serve, and are ready to explore, the world outside of Florida,” said the Kaufmans, who are both faculty in the UF/IFAS Entomology & Nematology Department. Phil specializes in veterinary and medical entomology and Jennifer specializes in pests that impact olive production.
Winning the Simon Award is an accomplishment we share with all who collaborate with us daily to further the internationalization of the University of Florida.

Thank you for making a world of difference!

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