From the Dean

As the University of Florida rises to the top in the rankings of great public research universities, the UF International Center is honored to serve and support the university community’s global engagements. Beyond the numbers you will find here—of international students, visitors, collaborative partnerships, study abroad students, and more—this report highlights examples of the tremendous impact of our international connections in teaching, research and service.

In the pages that follow you will meet a visiting scholar who loves spiders; an international student working to ensure sustainable fisheries; an exchange student building trans-Atlantic scientific connections; a faculty member researching early childhood education in global contexts; and the faculty leader and participants in a life-changing study abroad opportunity in India. Through the efforts of each of these individuals—joined by thousands more of our students and colleagues—we are reminded that the search for knowledge and understanding are collaborative human endeavors, that this search knows no boundaries, and that success and progress depend on building bridges and not walls.

At UFIC we are pleased this year to have been able to strengthen and expand our contributions to this effort. We have hired new advisors and other staff members. Our five-year “Learning without Borders” QEP initiative has matured into the new Office of Global Learning, and moved into new and remodeled quarters in our office. Our programs in support of faculty international engagement continue to expand. And we are extending our efforts to serve as a clearinghouse of information on international engagement across the university and to the wider community. We are here to help, and as always we welcome your suggestions, and we thank you for your support!

Leonardo A. Villalón PhD
### GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Students</td>
<td>6,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Students</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Visiting Scholars</td>
<td>1,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries Represented on Campus</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-op &amp; Reciprocal Agreements</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad Students</td>
<td>2,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF Peace Corp Volunteers (since PC was established in 1961)</td>
<td>1,400+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulbright U.S. Program Scholars (since 2006)</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF Faculty &amp; Staff Traveled Abroad (143 countries)</td>
<td>3,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UF Global Rankings

- 1st Among institutions with the highest number of international students in Florida
- 1st Top Producer of Peace Corps volunteers among Florida colleges
- 5th Top Producer of Peace Corps volunteers among large schools for 10 consecutive years in the U.S.
- 21st In sending Study Abroad students by institution type in the U.S.
- 26th In hosting International Students by institution type across U.S.
Undergraduate Academic Programs
Preparing students for a globalized world through interdisciplinary studies

International Scholars Program
In 2018-2019 the International Scholars Program graduated its largest class. Sixty students received their graduation medallion and presented their eportfolios to showcase their academic work and global skills.

Conclusion of the Learning Without Borders initiative
We are proud of the great success of UF’s Quality Enhancement Plan for internationalization in augmenting international opportunities for undergraduate students, faculty, and staff during the past five years. With thousands of participants reached, the wide impact of this 5-year campus initiative is evident.

What’s next?
The Learning Without Borders initiative concluded in Summer 2019, and its main programs will remain under the new Office of Global Learning. This new unit at the International Center renews UF’s commitment to student learning by administering the International Scholars and Peace Corps prep programs. In addition, it will implement new faculty and staff professional development programs to enhance global teaching and learning across campus.

Exchange Visitor Services
Advancing UF’s research and teaching collaborations worldwide

Fiona Cross, (known as “Doctor Spider”) hails from New Zealand and is a Research Scholar in the UF Dept. of Entomology & Nematology conducting research while being a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Canterbury. With a background in Psychology, Fiona uses jumping spiders to investigate topics relating to animal cognition. Overcoming her fear of spiders and becoming fascinated by them, she uses these miniature predators to better understand what tiny brains are capable of doing. Fiona has published numerous scientific publications and has been invited to give talks in the U.S., Canada, Kenya, New Zealand, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. Fiona has been featured in news segments including the New York Times and the Washington Post. In March 2019 Fiona assisted with spider filming for Farimals, a children’s TV show in New Zealand which aired this Summer.
Isigi “Nelly” Kadagi was the 2017 winner of the UFIC’s Alec Courtelis Award for Outstanding International Graduate Students. Isigi recently defended her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Ecology with concentration in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the School of Natural Resources and Environment and is an example of the International Center’s core mission of developing a global network of scholars and promoting educational exchange.

Isigi successfully organized a regional fisheries stock assessment training in her home country, Kenya. UF professors Dr. Robert Ahrens and Dr. Mike Allen served as lead instructors during this eight-day training which brought together 56 participants from eleven countries across Africa.

Throughout her time at UF, Isigi has proactively contributed to the campus community in exceptional ways.
Exchange Student Services
Creating a welcoming setting to advance UF’s global mission

Ana Pilar Ysasi Cillero studies Mathematics and Physics at Universidad Complutense in her native Spain. She did not hesitate when she had the opportunity to attend the University of Florida as an exchange student through the Trans-Atlantic Science Student Exchange Program (TASSEP), whose consortium members include universities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Ana Pilar is currently conducting an internship with Professor Peter Bubenik in the Department of Mathematics working on persistent homology of random walks.

Ana Pilar considers her UF experience as an enriching and positive one. Besides enjoying campus life and academics, she is taking advantage of enriching extracurricular opportunities such as Gator Nights, the International Students Speakers Bureau and NaviGators International Group. One of the aspects that strikes her the most about her exchange is the diversity of cultures and people united to make the most of the college experience in a charming small college town like Gainesville. Ana Pilar attributes the TASSEP scholarship for new friendship and for important connections beneficial to her future career.

Global Fellows Program
Providing UF junior faculty with mentorship and opportunities to pursue international research

Number of Faculty Fellows Funded by College
- 18 Agricultural & Life Sciences
- 14 Liberal Arts & Sciences
- 3 Arts
- 3 Education
- 2 Medicine
- 2 Public Health and Health Professions
- 1 Design, Construction and Planning
- 1 George Smathers Libraries
- 1 Nursing

45 TOTAL $246,000 Total amount awarded for program

Research Abroad for Doctoral Students
Offering opportunities to Ph.D. candidates in STEM to conduct research abroad

Number of Students Funded by College
- 14 Agricultural and Life Sciences
- 14 Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 4 Engineering
- 2 Public Health and Health Professions
- 1 Design, Construction and Planning

35 TOTAL $163,141 Total amount awarded for program

Study Abroad Top Five Destinations
- Italy
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- China

Top Participating UF Colleges
- Business Administration
- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Journalism & Communications
- Engineering
- Agricultural & Life Sciences

Spain
Italy
Australia
United Kingdom
China
Dr. Tara Mathien, a 2018-2019 Global Fellow is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Unified Early Childhood ProTeach Program in the UF College of Education. Dr. Mathien has spent the majority of her academic career engaged in research and developmental practice in early childhood centers across geographic and culturally diverse settings. Her interest in how early childhood educators incorporate new beliefs and practices into their existing schema of education is central to developing innovative practice and cultural understanding. Dr. Mathien also studies the lack of access to early childhood education at low to middle-income countries and looks for solutions that value local culture while integrating borrowed practices from the west. As part of her Global Fellows sponsored research, she is working in Nepal where she collaborates with an educational group in Kathmandu to support ongoing professional development needs of teachers. The global experience and collaboration with teachers in other countries have afforded Dr. Mathien the data and insights to bolster international perspectives for research related to early childhood teacher education and training.

Since 2012, Dr. Muthusami Kumaran, an Associate Professor in the Family, Youth and Community Sciences Department has lead an intensive study abroad program to India. Subsequently, the ‘UF in India’ program has become one of UF’s most popular faculty-led study abroad programs and many students each year brave the selective application process in hopes of becoming a participant. This year the program is even more special because Dr. Kumaran has expanded the itinerary to include Nepal. ‘UF in India & Nepal: NGOs & Development was the biggest class yet with 26 students who had the opportunity to engage with NGO leaders while still managing to visit major historical landmarks.

Dr. Kumaran has proven to be a highly distinguished expert in his field. He was recently designated a 2019-2020 Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar and will travel to South Korea to teach a graduate course at Jeju National University, to research South Korean NGO capacity building, and to train environmental NGO leaders in protecting the natural resources of Jeju Island (one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature). The International Center thanks Dr. Kumaran for his dedication to UF students as he assists them in understanding our world and the field of non-profit work with an international perspective.
The UF International Center is pleased to have collaborated with the following departments and units across campus, and sponsored international programs and activities.

**Sponsored UF Colleges, Centers, Offices & Departments**

- African American/Africa Diaspora Studies
- African Students Union
- Center for African Studies
- Center for European Studies
- Center for Global Islamic Studies
- Center for Latin American Studies
- Center for the Humanities & the Public Sphere
- College of Design, Construction & Planning
- College of Journalism & Communications
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- College of the Arts
- Counseling & Wellness Center
- Department of English
- Department of Humanities
- Department of International Studies
- Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Religion
- Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
- Emerging Pathogens Institute
- Fulbright Lectures Committee
- Global Health Education Program
- Harn Museum of Art
- India Cultural & Education Center
- Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences
- Latina Women's League
- Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program
- School of Architecture
- School of Art + Art History
- UF Admissions
- UF Galleries
- UF Student Government
- University Relations
- Volunteers for International Student Affairs

We are also grateful to the following colleagues who make a world of difference at UF:

**International Council 2019**

- Allen Wysocki  
  College of Agricultural & Life Sciences  
- Jennifer Setlow  
  College of the Arts  
- Micaela Gibbs  
  College of Dentistry  
- Michael Kung  
  College of Design, Construction & Planning  
- Ana Puig  
  College of Education  
- Pingchien Neo  
  Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering  
- Chris Janelle  
  College of Health & Human Performance  
- Michael Leslie  
  College of Journalism & Communications  
- Kelli A. Murray  
  Levin College of Law  
- David Pharies  
  College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
- Paula Delpech  
  College of Nursing  
- Randell Doty  
  College of Pharmacy  
- Sarah McKune  
  College of Public Health & Health Professions  
- Brenda Chalifon  
  Center for African Studies  
- Amie Kreppel  
  Center for European Studies  
- Benjamin Soares  
  Center for Global Islamic Studies  
- Barbara Mennel  
  Center for Humanities and Public Sphere  
- Philip Williams and Mary Risner  
  Center for Latin American Studies  
- Ja'net Glover  
  Career Connections Center  
- Megan Forbes  
  English Language Institute  
- Beverly Sensbach  
  Florida Museum of Natural History  
- Ana Spiguel  
  General Counsel  
- Emilia Hodge  
  Graduate School  
- Matthew Jacobs  
  Bob Graham Center for Public Service  
- Allysa Peyton and Eric Segal  
  Harn Museum of Art  
- Wei Hu  
  Health International Center  
- Joe Rojo  
  Heavener School of Business  
- Sherry Larkin and Benita Bannis  
  IFAS International Support Team  
- Timothy Brophy  
  Institutional Assessment  
- Patrick Reakes  
  Library Administration  
- Terra DuBois and Marsha Pesch  
  Office of Research, Research Compliance & Global Support  
- Mary Kay Carodine  
  Office of Student Affairs  
- Ilaria Capua  
  One Health  
- Julie Henderson  
  P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School  
- Chris Hass  
  Provost Office  
- Mabel Cardec  
  UFIC Communications  
- Paloma Rodriguez  
  UFIC Dean  
- Sanda Russo and Julie Fesenmaier  
  UFIC Study Abroad Services and Executive Director  
- Leonardo Villalón  
  UFIC Study Abroad Services and Executive Director  

To donate to the UF International Center, please visit internationalcenter.ufl.edu or call 1 (352) 392-5323.