Global Engagement in University College

Annual Report 2013-2014
University College is committed to enhancing students' global understanding and engagement from their first to final semester on campus. The college offers a variety of courses that explore global and multicultural issues from first-year seminars to leadership studies. Each of the academic departments and the Center for Student Leadership also sponsor education abroad opportunities, and the college houses KSU's ESL Study and Tutorial for international students.

The transformative Conversation Partners Program is also administered by University College. Through curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular offerings, the college helps students, faculty, and staff "Get Global".

One of the college's signature programs is the University College Global Engagement Scholars. Each December, 10 first-year students travel to Washington, D.C. for a week of specialized programming to interact with government officials, non-profit organizations, and key legislators regarding global challenges and their impact on the students' futures.

For more information, please contact the Department of First-Year and Transition Studies at fyts@kennesaw.edu or 470-578-2471.

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University College includes the Department of First Year & Transition Studies, the Department of University Studies, and the Center for Student Leadership.

In 2013-2014, the faculty and staff in University College participated in many important activities related to global engagement.

In April 2014, Mike Keleher (PI), Carolee Larsen (Co-PI), Deborah Mixson-Brookshire (Co-PI), Heather Scott (Co-PI), and David Schmidt (Co-PI) prepared a successful Strategic Internationalization Grant proposal, “Global Gateways: Learning Communities for International Students.” The project was awarded $45,000 by the Institute for Global Initiatives for the 2014-2015 academic year.

A second $45,000 Strategic Internationalization Grant was awarded to a project led by Sabine Smith. The SIG team for this project includes University College’s Linda Lyons and Judy Craven.

Interim Dean Keisha Hoerrner and Ken Hill are two of fifteen AASCU Global Engagement Scholars. As such, they work to enhance global learning at public colleges and universities across the country. During the spring and summer of 2013, they teamed with KSU colleague Todd Shinholster to write the student guide Global Challenges: Promise and Peril in the 21st Century for the AASCU Global Challenges eCourse. The student guide is embedded in the blended learning course but can also be purchased as an ancillary text for any course that utilizes the Global Challenges framework.

The guide includes a summary of each of the global challenges, a discussion of their interconnections, critical thinking questions, resources for additional exploration, and activities such as concept mapping. The guide was used by hundreds of students at more than a dozen schools in Fall 2013 and continues to be utilized at several more institutions.

Deans Hoerrner and Ralph Rascati (along with C. Caplinger and S. Elliott-Gower) were co-presenters at the Fall 2013 Students in Transition Conference.

They presented “Transitioning Students into Globally Competent Citizens: Strategies for the First Two Years.”

In Fall 2013, Lynda Lyons participated in three President’s Emerging Global Scholars (PEGS) workshops.
The First-Year Seminar learning outcome most directly connected with global learning states that students will be able to:

- Explain the importance of global perspectives
- Define ethics and apply their knowledge of it
- Identify leadership styles and traits
- Define citizenship
- Describe and explain diversity and inclusiveness

In Fall 2013, Hillary Steiner (KSU 1101), Jeannie Beard (ENG 1101), and Gail Scott (PSYCH 1101) taught courses in the “Girl Talk” learning community. The theme of this community was the plight of women in India. Students learned about issues such as sex trafficking, rape, and women’s roles in Indian society. Students also organized a service project that raised $850 for a women’s shelter in India.

During the month of November 2013, Deborah Mixson-Brookshire and Stephanie Foote hosted the second visit of a group from Kansai University of International Studies (Japan), including the university’s president.

Additionally, Deborah Mixson-Brookshire and Stephanie Foote established a Letter of Intent between KSU and Kansai University of International Studies.

One of four categories of learning outcomes for all 38 first-year learning communities offered in Fall 2013 was Global Engagement for Engaged Citizenship, as defined by the AAC&U Value Rubric.

Student learning outcomes for Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship were assessed and reported by Carolee Larsen, University College Assessment Director.

More than 300 students from 21 learning communities participated in the first annual Academic Extravaganza, a campus-wide event designed to showcase the work of learning community students and faculty. Many students showcased posters, PowerPoints, original works of art, and performances related to global learning.

In addition to meeting global learning outcomes, the following 2013 Learning Communities deserve special recognition because they were dedicated to global themes:

- The Environments for Business – for students interested in business
- Great Debates: Government, Politics, and History
- Explorations of Diversity
- Global Challenges and You
- Thrive – Future CEO’s
University College has experienced exponential growth in the past five years. Most notable are trends of the KSU 1111 course sections as well as the globally focused Learning Communities sections.

**First-Year Growth of KSU 1111 Students**

In April 2014, Stephanie Foote and Deborah Mixson-Brookshire gave an electronic poster presentation, “Engaging Learners through Technology: Pedagogies and Practices that Influence Learning in Online/Blended Courses” at the Annual Emerging Technologies for Online Learning International Symposium in Dallas, Texas.

In May 2014, Stephanie Foote was appointed as the Faculty Liaison for NASPA’s International Education Knowledge Community (IEKC). This is a 2-year appointment.

In June 2014, at the European First-Year Experience International Conference in Nottingham, UK, faculty presented the following work:

- Deborah Mixson-Brookshire and Natsha Lovelace Habers presented the study “Assessing First-Year Induction”
- Stephanie Foote and Deborah Mixson-Brookshire presented “Creating an Engaging Online Environment: An Examination of the Induction and Transition of Students in Online First-Year Seminars”
- Deborah Mixson-Brookshire, Donald Brookshire, and Tara Parker presented “Student Recreation: Achieving a Well-Balanced First-Year Student”
- Stephanie Foote presented her paper, “College Students in Transition: New Directions in Research and Practice.”

During 2013 and 2014, with the help of Dean Robin Dorff, Ken Hill and Todd Shinholster established a relationship with Pentagon officials that resulted in two visits by the University College Global Engagement Scholars and one visit by the PEGS second-year cohort.

Impressed by the KSU students, Pentagon personnel worked with Hill to establish a four-week internship which should be implemented in the spring of 2015.
Dedicated to Engaged Learning
With a strong commitment to global education, the Department of University Studies boasts several courses that have a global focus. In the fall of 2013, ESL Program Director David Schmidt taught ESL 1105 Grammar Seminar followed by a Spring 2014 international student section of ENGL 1102 Composition II.

Additionally, in the fall of 2013, the staff at the ESL Study & Tutorial Center met with students 460 times for tutoring or advising. In spring of 2014, the staff met with students 478 times. The signature program of the ESL Program, Conversation Partners, had great success in the 2013-2014 academic year. The Conversation Partners Program matched international students with native English-speaking students, faculty, and staff with partnerships of 244 individuals from 39 countries for Fall 2013 and 246 participants from 32 countries in Spring 2014.

The Leadership Studies program had two course offerings with a global focus. Two sections of LDRS 3200: Leadership in a Global Society were offered in the Fall 2013 with instructors Debbie Smith (LDRS Program Director) and Shannon Ferketish. Sam Allman taught the course in Spring 2014 in an online format, while Todd Shinholster taught a face-to-face section. Jennifer Purcell served as instructor for a Summer 2014 online section.

In addition to course offerings with a global focus, University Studies faculty are working on several globally focused initiatives and projects.

In March 2014, Leadership Studies faculty Heather Scott planned and hosted the Women in the World Leadership Symposium, which included the Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead book discussion and the screening of the film No Woman No Cry. The film was followed by a presentation by Dr. Tomekia Strickland about her work as a global maternal health advocate.

President Emeritus Betty Siegel and Dr. Joan E. Leichter Dominick’s most recent international project on the college senior-year transition is showcased in a case study in the text Supporting Student Diversity in Higher Education, edited by Michelle Morgan and published in July 2013 by Routledge Publishers, United Kingdom. The case study by Dr. Siegel and Dr. Dominick is titled “The Complete Graduate Resource.” This case study focuses on KSU 4401: Senior Seminar and the course website designed to assist college seniors with developing their portfolios, the career search process, graduating in a digital world, and becoming a global citizen.
Dedicated to Academic Inquiry
Since its inception in 2005, The Center for Student Leadership (CSL) has been dedicated to global engagement for students and staff. The CSL travelled to eighteen countries across the globe, including Australia, Greece, China and Peru. Committed to empowering students to be holistic, ethical leaders, the CSL emphasizes the development of international relationships and intercultural competence as part of a student’s leadership development.

During the FY 14 academic year, the CSL provided international experiences for the following groups:

**Leaders In Kennesaw (LINK)**

As the capstone experience for the LINK three year ethical leadership program, the third year cohort chose to establish a relationship with the Year of Japan Program in the Division of Global Affairs. Eighteen students spent the year learning about Japan through Year of Japan activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Participation in J-Con, an opportunity to experience Japanese pop culture
- Participation in various Year of Japan lectures that were held throughout the academic year
- Year of Japan International Conference: Humanitarian Responses to Crisis
- Hosted the Kurosawa Film Festival
- Hosted students from Aichi University in Nagoya, Japan for a week of activities on the KSU campus
- Built a close relationship with Toshi Kano, a Japanese exchange student who was studying at KSU for the year

This year of intercultural learning culminated in 12 students and two staff advisors travelling to four cities in Japan during May 2014, including visits to Soka University in Tokyo and Aichi University in Nagoya.

At Aichi, LINK students had the opportunity to develop social relationships with local students, learn about Free Trade, participate in an origami class, and attend academic classes with their student partners.

Other cities visited were Kyoto and Hiroshima.

For future trips, the CSL will continue a partnership with the Year Of program to develop intercultural learning opportunities for interested students.

The CSL is currently preparing a visit to Oman, as the capstone experience for the Year of the Arabian Peninsula.

**The Final Frontier Video**

[https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bw1nH2w89DtkVA2WWxIRkk3Q1k/edit?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bw1nH2w89DtkVA2WWxIRkk3Q1k/edit?pli=1)
President’s Emerging Global Scholars (PEGS)

In partnership with the Honors College, the President’s Emerging Global Scholars Program (PEGS) conducted two trips with significant global focus during FY 14.

Twenty first-year students shared in an international experience to Salvador, Brazil. As part of the trip, students participated in:

- A week long home-stay and cultural immersion experience with UNIFACS University
- An exploration of the seven Global Challenges through first-hand site visits with UNIFACS University
- Interaction with The Odebrecht Foundation, local government, and non-profit organizations during the second week of their visit

In preparation for future global immersions, twenty second-year PEGS students traveled to Washington DC to explore the domestic impact of the global challenges and the United States’ role and responsibility in global affairs. Site visits included:

- The Pentagon
- Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Partners for the Americas
- The Department of State

In alignment with their academic curriculum, PEGS students also participated in a KSU 1111 course, designed to increase their awareness of the existing global challenges and trends.

By conducting a joint research project with UNIFACS University, students worked to analyze various cultural perspectives on of the seven global challenges and the societal implications associated with them.