

Non-College Units and Global UF

Submitted to the University of Florida Steering Committee
for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges Reaffirmation of Accreditation Report

Historically, international activities on the University of Florida campus have been driven by the interest of individual faculty members and largely focused on the areas of research, teaching and service. These efforts have yielded outstanding results, but as we seek to ensure that all of our graduates have a more global perspective we must also take a broader view of how an international experience can be accomplished. We realize that not all of our students will have the opportunity for study abroad, so UF must identify the ways in which inter-cultural experiences are available to all of our students.

The University of Florida accepts this obligation for internationalization as an important part of the student's academic preparation and believes in the value of interaction with those who have grown up in other societies. One of the ways to accomplish this goal is by welcoming international students, faculty, and visitors to the campus. Providing opportunities to experience other cultures beyond the classroom through activities such as productions, exhibits, lectures, and performances broadens the experience of students and faculty.

The focus of this self-study has been primarily in the core areas of the university's mission related to teaching, research, and service. Although the value placed on these areas is consistently demonstrated throughout this document, the university is a small community and therefore has a number of support functions that are essential to the vision of a Global UF. Support areas include the galleries and museums; personnel services; a campus police department, and student health care services among others. These support service areas are very important to meeting the goal of a Global UF because of their role in creating a welcoming and caring campus environment.

Support areas under the direction of the various vice-presidents were asked to respond to three questions related to the University of Florida's efforts to internationalize the campus. The questions provided follow:

1. Describe how you view your unit's contribution to the University's goal of a "Global UF".
2. Provide a descriptive overview of your unit's current international related activities, including any goals or objectives you may have established in this area.
3. Establish 5-year measurable goals for your unit that will contribute to the University's goal of a "Global UF".

In developing this section of the report, information provided in response to questions 1 and 2 are summarized together. The last section of this report will identify the 5-year goals established by the various units in response to question 3.

With its stated mission, "To enhance the educational experience and environment of UF's students, faculty, and staff by promoting a global perspective" the University of Florida International Center (UFIC) is at the core of international activity on campus. All International Center activities are directed at raising the level of internationalization in order to help achieve the goal of a truly global UF.

UFIC serves three distinct groups on campus. First, UFIC helps individual students incorporate a study abroad experience into their education. About 1200 students each year are guided through the process of choosing and participating in a program of study in a foreign country. The second and third groups that UFIC assists are the 3850 international students and 1300 international faculty and scholars at the University of Florida. UFIC helps these scholars obtain the necessary documents to come to the U.S., aids in maintaining their visa status while in this country and assists them to make the cultural adjustment necessary to ensure success in their academic endeavors.

UF is one of the largest universities in the U.S., and effective communication is a major challenge. To succeed at raising the level of internationalization campus wide, UFIC's programs must reach out to as many students, faculty, and staff members as possible. For UFIC to promote the internationalization of UF effectively, new initiatives

and new resources are required. The UFIC has recently been successful in obtaining additional resources via donations from alumni and friends. These donations are primarily for student scholarships, including study-abroad and international student support.

More effective marketing of these scholarships and the expanding opportunities to participate in study abroad programs is one way to promote the services the UFIC has to offer. Within the next three years, the UFIC will move into newly renovated space when the campus bookstore vacates space in the centrally located HUB. The move to this centrally located area on campus will help the UFIC to become the focal point for international activity. Location alone will provide greater visibility for the UFIC on campus. (Supporting information: <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu>)

The UFIC also works with other units on campus to facilitate programs for all UF students. Working with the University Police Department (UPD) is one example. UPD provides various personal safety and travel safety programs. These programs are offered at the request of the International Center for students who may be traveling abroad or for international students who are here to study. (Supporting information: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/community.htm>)

Admission of international students to the university is handled by the Office of Admissions which has staff members who act as liaisons to international students who might have questions about the admission process. These admissions officers are trained to evaluate international credentials. They maintain up-to-date skills in credentials review by using an extensive reference library and participating in workshops. Students can obtain information via an easy to navigate website with links to both the International Student Center and the English Language Institute. (Supporting information: <http://www.reg.ufl.edu/international-admissions.html>)

The Division of Student Affairs connects students with the many student organizations on campus to provide multiple opportunities for students to interact across cultural lines. Historically, one of the most significant areas of involvement with international students has been through the Village Communities (graduate student and family housing). In 2001-2002, 77.4% of the residents in the Village Communities were

international student families. One of the most popular programs offered by the Village staff is English as a Second Language. This program is primarily attended by spouses of international students and is designed to assist them in learning every day English.

Volunteers for International Student Affairs (VISA) is an organization of American and International students that are involved in promoting awareness of international diversity. It has been over 46 years since VISA was first founded, and it is continuing to grow as we begin the new millennium. Over the years, VISA has served to organize the many international voices present at UF in an effort to familiarize the university community with the global diversity that exists beyond the campus boundaries.

VISA, with more than 4000 members, is the largest student organization on campus; the exceptional blend of different cultures gives VISA a unique outlook. VISA aims to improve cultural relations and awareness by providing programs that will help UF's students learn about the cultures of the world without leaving the University of Florida campus. (supporting information: <http://www.grove.ufl.edu/~Visa/>)

The Institute of Black Culture and the Institute of Hispanic and Latino Cultures (La Casita) provide opportunities for international students and American students to share cultural similarities and differences. They are both part of the Multicultural Affairs unit of the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) and are open to all students on campus. This unit also includes the Asian Student Union that is an umbrella organization for six different Asian ethnic organizations. The Native American Indian Council is also a part of the Multicultural Affairs unit. During the fall of each year, there are a number of multicultural assemblies to welcome and inform new and returning students. (Supporting information: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/multicultural/>)

The International House at Weaver Hall has been successful at providing ongoing interaction between international exchange students and UF degree-seeking students who wish to take part in a cross-cultural living and learning experience. The International House program encourages and supports the acquisition of international perspectives and multiculturalism as well as the recognition of intercultural issues. (Supporting information: <http://www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/>)

The Student Health Care Center (SHCC) is one of the most important student support organizations on campus. The SHCC is committed to providing culturally relevant and highly accessible health care. At the time this report was developed the SHCC's staff included over a dozen individuals fluent in a total of eleven different languages. This is a tremendous asset in understanding a patient's medical needs. In the interest of providing excellent health care the SHCC has established a Diversity Council to provide information about, improve awareness of and enhance the effectiveness of healthcare provided by the SHCC. Additionally, UF affiliated individuals traveling abroad may obtain the necessary immunizations from the travel clinic at the SHCC.

The University of Florida's athletic program continues to be highly successful in all sports. Success provides opportunities for television and media coverage around the world. Recently the volleyball and men's basketball teams have competed in exhibition games in Europe providing another international dimension to the campus. These international activities provide an international experience for student athletes as well as enhance the university's recruitment of international athletes. At this time, UF has 31 international student athletes representing 19 countries. These young athletes are exceptional scholars who come to UF because of the academic quality of the institution and because of the outstanding athletic programs.

The Business Services Division includes the UF bookstores, Gator Dining Services, Gator 1 ID cards, Transportation and Parking, and several other units on campus. Personnel from all areas come into contact with many visitors to campus. (Supporting information: <http://www.bsd.ufl.edu>) The goal of Business Services is to provide an inclusive environment in all of its operations. Gator Dining Services uses food service concepts and menu offerings from many different cultures. The use of display chefs encourages food preparation to the customer's satisfaction and, to some extent, specifications. Gator Dining Service has a nutritionist on staff to work with students who have special dietary needs, including those associated with ethnic or religious backgrounds. (Supporting documentation: <http://www.bsd.ufl.edu/dining/>) A number of international students are employed by Gator Dining Services. This employment enhances the student's financial well-being and facilitates communication with foreign

visitors to the dining areas. Because a number of the Gator Dining Service chefs and cooks are from countries other than the U.S., they help to create a unique dining experience on campus.

Through the UF Bookstores, course materials can be shipped throughout the world. Visitors to the campus bookstores can find course materials as well as any number of specialty books related to languages, travel, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Business Services recognizes the unique book and supply needs of international students participating in the English Language Institute (ELI) and works with ELI personnel to address student needs.

In response to the Global UF initiative, the university's Division of Human Resources will launch a new training program in January 2003 called Diversity Awareness Training. This program will coincide with UF's People Awareness Week providing an opportunity to highlight both U.S. and International diversity. The goal of the program is to enhance awareness and understanding of how perceptions and stereotypes affect the way we think and act as well as how we communicate with and interpret the actions of others. Human Resources recognize the responsibility of the entire university community to participate in the educational process of students including their daily interactions across campus with a variety of individuals.

One of the most exciting contributions to the university's international efforts is from the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH). The Museum has conducted intensive ecological, historical and archaeological research in the Caribbean Basin for nearly 50 years and has undertaken extensive paleontological investigations in Latin America since the museum was established. (Supporting Information: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/ANTHRO/CARIBARCH/default.htm>) Many of the collections and research programs at the Museum have a strong international component. Each year, Museum curators and their students conduct field research in more than 20 foreign countries. The very strong Museum programs are built upon a tradition of international scholarship and a pursuit of science all over the world.

The Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art is deeply engaged in numerous collaborations with other UF departments in areas relating to international study.

Particular areas of focus in these partnerships are the arts of Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. In conjunction with its efforts to collect and exhibit art from these regions of the world, the museum also develops educational programming that enables museum visitors to understand the art of a particular nation or group in a broader historical and cultural context. Educational programs often feature international scholars, educators, artists, filmmakers, and performers as presenters. The Harn Museum is currently developing a digital database of all collections including information on every object. This digital database will provide a mechanism for worldwide access to the Harn collections.

Just as the Museum activities foster scholarship and provide opportunities for students to engage in international research, the University Honors Program encourages students to take advantage of study abroad opportunities. The Honors Program has dedicated resources to provide financial support to undergraduate students for travel-study programs. Each year six scholarships of \$1000 are awarded for summer study. For the past two years, two \$2000 awards have been provided for students to participate in a yearlong study abroad program. In addition, National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic Scholars are provided \$2000 in their scholarship award that may be used for study abroad. In the spring of 2002, UF selected an inaugural group of Lombardi Scholars, this is the largest and most prestigious scholarship UF has to offer, which includes study overseas each of the students four summers in their undergraduate program. (Supporting Information: <http://www.honors.ufl.edu>) Faculty affiliated with the Honors Program serve as advisors for Fulbright, Rhodes, Mashall, and other prestigious scholarships.

During the summer of 2002, the first eight Lombardi Scholars traveled to Mérida, the capital of the Yucatan in Mexico. This study abroad program gives students college credits in Anthropology and Spanish. The six-week intensive learning experience combines classroom instruction through the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, field trips to sites connected to the ancient Mayan civilization, and daily cross-cultural interaction. Students stayed with host families in Mérida and completed specific projects as Lombardi Scholars in addition to their regular coursework.

University Libraries, the Office of Public Relations/News and Public Affairs, and the University of Florida Foundation (UFF) each play essential but different roles in supporting UF's efforts toward internationalization.

The University Libraries are critical to the university's educational, research and scholarship missions. The libraries also play an important role in international outreach. UF libraries donate an extraordinary number of high quality books to developing countries and provide internships for librarians from a number of developing countries. UF has been a leader in several US library association activities. Most notably it has developed a US/Latin American joint project that resulted in very low-cost access by Latin American universities to bibliographic and full text information. (Supporting information: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu>)

Currently, a major effort is underway to find private funding to microfilm and digitize the *Protocolos Notariales* holdings of the Archivo Nacional de Cuba. This library initiative is strongly supported by UF faculty and Latin American scholars from many other universities because of the wealth of information available on the colonial history of Spain, Cuba, and Florida, as well as Latin America, the Caribbean, and Hispanic Asia. This collection contains an aggregation of information relating to the Spanish Diaspora that exists in no other repository.

The University of Florida Foundation's (UFF) activities aimed at cultivating and promoting stronger relationships with international alumni, friends, corporations, and governments complement the University of Florida's goal of a Global UF in a number of ways. Through Foundation activities, UF's profile is raised and the university is promoted internationally. This fosters networking between international alumni and helps to attract outstanding international students and faculty to the university. The Foundation's efforts are enhanced by UF's network of international advisors and experts including faculty and staff, the International Center External Advisory Board and the UFF Board. The number of International Gator Clubs continues to grow with clubs from Antarctica to Venezuela and from England to Taipei.

The UFF commitment to the internationalization efforts is exemplified through a new international initiative. In August, 2000, UFF designated an Associate Vice

President for Development to devote approximately 50% of her time to fund raising from alumni and friends with international addresses, and international/multinational corporations and organizations. (Supporting information: <http://www.uff.ufl.edu>; <http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu>)

UF's Office of Public Relations/News and Public Affairs (OPR/NPA) is dedicated to providing both leadership and active support for Global UF and will be critical to enhancing our image as an international campus. OPR/NPA provides the world with a window through which to view UF by providing media information about cutting edge research or announcing opportunities to visit the University of Florida to participate in conferences or seminars focused on dissemination of new information or information sharing. The OPR/NPA newly appointed Director of University Relations has extensive international experience including serving as CNN International Bureau Chief.

On a daily basis we are reminded of the need to be more global in our perspective. This need extends to every individual on our campus. Each of these support areas are integral to the university achieving its global mission through a commitment to a climate of diversity, respect for differences, and a campus wide involvement in finding ways to support international students, faculty, and staff. Feeling comfortable within any culture is predicated on knowledge of the culture and a feeling of acceptance for others.

5 Year Goals identified by Non-College Units (2002 – 2007)

Admissions Office

- Expand the national network of Admissions Officers for consultation on interpretation of international collegiate degrees.
- Provide the opportunity for Admissions Staff to participate in workshops that address international admissions issues.

Business Services Division

- Increase opportunities for interaction among students from diverse backgrounds through the creation of the new bookstore and visitors' center within the J. W. Reitz Student Union.

- Strengthen the partnership with student service administrative units--such as the Office of the University Registrar, Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Student Government--to ensure that the services provided by the division fully meet the needs of our diverse student population.

Florida Museum of Natural History

- Continue the development of current highly successful programs and expand their scope.
- Increase and enhance the traineeships provided to international students increasing their potential for employment in the leading universities and governmental agencies in their home countries.
- Sustain or increase the number of NSF and similar grants obtained by the Museum.

Harn Museum of Art

- Continued development of the Asian collection including the addition of examples of the art of Japan.
- Continued development of the African collection.
- Continued effort to make the 20th-century and contemporary collections of the museum more international in scope
- Development of more original exhibitions of international art that will travel to other venues in the United States.
- Development of new partnerships with other academic units and programs on campus in the area of international programs.
- Development of travel abroad programs for various groups, including museum members and patrons, schoolteachers and museum educators, and UF students.
- Expansion of educational programs relating to international collections and exhibitions at the museum.

Honors Program

- Establish at least one overseas studies program of one semester length for Honor's Program participants.

- Increase the number of students applying for prestigious awards, such as the Fulbright, Marshall, and NSEP.

Office of Public Relations/News and Public Affairs

- Increase to the level of “all-known” the on-line list of Spanish-speaking faculty willing to be interviewed by the news media.
- Establish an international story database for the purpose of collecting and shipping articles of international interest.
- Explore funding opportunities to provide support for increased international involvement by OPR/NAPA staff.

Student Affairs Division

- Become a regular participant in international conferences to expand the horizons of staff and visibility of existing programs and services to potential students.
- Increase the number of staff from diverse backgrounds to work with the Village Communities.
- Enhance the International House at Weaver Hall through assessment to track retention, expectations of participants and study abroad experiences.
- Coordinate one international trip per year through the Reitz Union.
- Present cultural theme weeks featuring art and classes.
- Increase the number of Leisure Courses in the Reitz Union with an international flavor from 25% to 33%.
- Increase participation of International Students in Student Activities (programs and events, including Gator Nights).
- Establish an ongoing relationship with the International Center to assist with New Student Orientation.

Student Health Care Center

- Prepare standard forms used by the SHCC in several different languages.
- SHCC brochure provided to first year students will be published in five basic languages (Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic and German).

University Athletic Association

- Continue to recruit worldwide students who have the academic and athletic ability to successfully graduate and to successfully compete at the University of Florida.
- Continue to improve and enhance services provided to international student-athletes as allowed by NCAA rules.

University of Florida Foundation

- Initiate and develop contacts with individuals with international addresses so that gifts raised exceed \$5 million annually.
- Increase the number of international Gator Clubs from nine to 15.
- Design and implement mechanisms to improve and expand international alumni/friend database information and increase repetitive contact with overseas individuals so that 75% of all alums/friends living abroad receive at least 5 contacts annually.

University of Florida International Center

- Expand the speakers program.
- Create an Annual Faculty Award for Recognition of International Activities.
- Provide matching funds to colleges and departments to underwrite the cost of faculty participation in international conferences.
- Increase scholarship opportunities for study abroad.
- Promote greater usage of the provision in Florida law that allows students from Latin America and the Caribbean to pay in-state tuition if they have a scholarship funded by the federal or state government.
- Create more international internships opportunities.
- Establish the Center for the Study of Transnational and Global Issues and obtain funding under Title VI from the Department of Education support.
- Support other groups on campus that will be submitting Title VI applications for Asian Studies and European Studies.
- Restructure UFIC's outreach and development capacity and the management of the World Citizenship Program by creating a position that is devoted to those three activities.

- Successfully implement the tracking of international students as required under the SEVIS program and ensure UF complies with the new federal requirements in this regard.

University Libraries

- Continue to recruit and train library bibliographers with the education and skills to oversee the development of strong area studies, language, and literature collections for the use of students and faculty.
- Create a home for the area studies collections by providing a floor off the new and renovated Library West to house them side-by-side. Service areas will adjoin collection space providing physical and intellectual access to area studies materials.
- Secure necessary funding to complete the *Protocolos Notariales* digitalization and microfilming project as well as the ongoing expansion of the Digital Library Center.

University Police Department

- The University Resource Officer will identify and make contact with each international student organization affiliated with UF.
- Pursue greater interaction and contact with universities in the Southern Hemisphere in an officer exchange program.