



**The Graduate School and
International Education,
Strategic Plan 2012: Third Annual
Update (November 18, 2015)**



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

GRADUATE SCHOOL
& INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION

grad.uark.edu

Between November 2014 and
November 2015, we said hello
to...

Dean Rom



Christina Abreo



Stephanie Beaver (GA)



Bart Betnar



Vince Capps



Liz Carneal



Marco Cruz



James Flammer



Starts November 23

Casey Kraichoke (GA)



Mengjiao Liao (GA)



Antoinette Longcrier (GA)



Sarah Malloy



Veronica Mobley



Grace Monk



Kate Morovat (GA)



Minji Park (GA)



Cheri Poellot



Valeria Quiroga (GA)



Brittany Smith



Mayra Torres



Mikel Wallace



Kathy Wedding



Chenwei Wu (GA)



And we said goodbye to...

- Tia Ade-Salu
- Nami Bagirimvano
- Mohamed Boudhoum
- Danette Lynn Brooks
- Tom Fisher
- Patty Gamboa
- Joe Green
- Chelsea Prince-Redman
- Massiel Rodriguez
- Xavier Santos
- Jerusha White



VISION



The Graduate School and International Education assists the University of Arkansas in excelling at research, teaching, training, and service while fostering student and scholar success and enhancing the overall student academic experience.

MISSION

The Graduate School and International Education supports the strategic goals of the University of Arkansas to continue as a very high research university; recruits, retains and graduates high-caliber students; advocates for students and student success; facilitates intercultural and international experiences to increase global competencies; and assists in the development of international, interdisciplinary, and graduate programs.



Goal One

Advance the visibility and reputation of the University of Arkansas within the nation and around the world and promote the UA as a destination of choice for students and scholars.



Goal One (continued)

- DeDe Long chaired the 2015 NAFSA meetings in Boston
- Yassaman Mirdamadi received the Service Recognition Award for Professional Contributions to the NCTA
- Sponsored Students received the 2015 LASPAU University Award



Goal One (continued)

- Dr. Mirdamadi and Heather London led a training session entitled “The GED Candidate’s Journey” in Little Rock in October, 2014



- Amanda Cantu promoted GSIE through multiple newswire articles, press releases, on-campus print media and social media outlets
- Press releases were carried by local, national and international news outlets
- Graduate student research was featured in the spring issue of *Research Frontiers*

Goal One (continued)

- We hosted the first annual SILC/UA day bringing SILC students to campus to encourage connection with the UA.
- We hosted EducationUSA advisors from Bolivia.
- We hosted academic officials from USMA/Panama as part of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative.
- Karl Anderson is the Arkansas State Representative for NAFSA Region III



Goal One (continued)

- Cameron Caja presented at a Study Abroad Foundation Seminar in Beijing
- Several staff presented at the national and regional NAFSA conferences
- Dr. Adnan Al-Rubaye and Sponsored Students laid the foundation for several new MOUs



Goal One (continued)

- The International Culture Team of 523 students and scholars reached 6,539 community members while iFriend matched 204 international students with 184 local families and individuals



Goal One (continued)

- Representatives from graduate recruitment, international recruitment, Sponsored Students, ISS, Study Abroad and International Exchange, and SILC, visited with potential students and GSIE friends across the US and the world. So did Dean Needy and Dean Rom!



Goal One (continued)

- The University of Arkansas welcomed 19 PAPSS scholars to campus in January 2015. The total number of scholars enrolled at the U of A is 98, with 10 enrolled at SILC, for a total of 108.
- The U of A enrolled 1,545 international students in the fall 2015 semester, 20 more students than in fall 2014 (itself a record enrollment year)
- In Fall 2015, we saw a total of 330 enrolled sponsored students
- There are 52 Distinguished Doctoral Fellows, 184 Doctoral Academy Fellows and 8 SREB-State Doctoral Fellows. Five DDFs and 7 DAFs also hold NSF graduate fellowships.
- Fall graduate enrollment was 4,221, a 5% increase over Fall 2014

Goal One (continued)



- Christina and Vicky provided leadership and support for the REU programs across the U of A
- Domestic graduate recruiters attended events at more than 70 schools and conferences to promote the U of A as a destination of choice

Goal Two

Initiate and maintain strong connections with, and advocate for, graduate, international, and study abroad students and scholars from the time of initial inquiry through post graduation.



Goal Two

- Testing Services tested approximately 12,000 students and prospective students; implemented an online registration system; adapted testing schedules to assist students in meeting deadlines; and provided flexibility in scheduling to accommodate individuals with disabilities.



Goal Two (continued)

- International Recruitment hired a new international recruiter to focus on expanding social media outreach and communication, began an international student ambassador program, and implemented live chat.
- Admissions processed over 8,000 applications, implemented the new workflow automations: ImageNow and ISIS. They also worked with Nick and LeAnn to implement a new applicant center, applicant summary page, and continued to automate correspondence.



Goal Two (continued)

- Nearly 250 students attended the Teaching Assistant Orientation
- Nearly 300 students attended the First Year Graduate Student Orientation
- Amanda organized the largest graduate student poster competition in GSIE history, with nearly 150 participants
- We hosted the annual Graduate Student Family Picnic
- Michelle developed a GSIE bookmark to present to students who have submitted their thesis or dissertation
- We organized the largest commencement ceremonies ever



Goal Two (continued)

- ISS reinstated the international student alumni newsletter
- ISS offers an online pre-arrival orientation for visiting students
- Several GSIE units offer recognition ceremonies for graduating students, volunteers, faculty and staff



Goal Three

Actively seek to promote and strengthen strategic relationships with partner institutions, academic units, university departments and the community.



Goal Three



- We rolled out the new applicant summary modules in ISIS enabling graduate programs to have immediate access to applications and supporting documents and to make admissions decisions directly into ISIS.

Goal Three (continued)

- We streamlined the course registration process for students in the Operations Management and Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies programs
- We explored the possibility of depositing theses/dissertations in a database run by the U of A rather than ProQuest
- ISS hosted representatives from SAF China and SAF Incheon to strengthen the partnership between their institutions and the U of A
- ISS and Amanda are working with Global Campus to develop an on-line orientation to launch Spring 2016

Goal Four

Serve as the central unit for tracking and providing risk assessment for international education mobility.

- ISS updated Homeland Security with academic enrollment and address information for all F and J students and scholars
- ISS assessed the welfare of Nepalese students and their families after the earthquake
- DeDe kept everyone updated about our study-abroad students, following the Paris terrorist attacks

Goal Five

Facilitate the development and management of innovative and educational graduate, international, and interdisciplinary programs.



Goal Five

- Many of our units have begun using electronic means – chat services, Blackboard, etc. – to better communicate with potential students, incoming students and graduating students, as well as faculty and staff
- Fall 2015 enrollment in interdisciplinary graduate programs is 252, a 1.2% increase over Fall 2014.
- In the 2014-15 graduation year, GSIE awarded 26 interdisciplinary master's degrees (doubling the number from the previous graduation year) and 32 interdisciplinary doctoral degrees (a 28% increase)

Goal Six (A)

Increase the quantity and diversity of qualified international and graduate applications;

- The Attracting Intelligent Minds (AIM) conference was held here in February to attract a more diverse pool of applicants*



Goal Six (B)

Increase the percentage of graduate students to 20% of the total student headcount enrollment by 2020:

- In Fall 2015, graduate students represented 15.8% of the University census, up from 15.3% the previous year
- Headcount enrollment of graduate students in Fall 2015 is 4,221, up 199 from Fall 2014.



Goal Six (C)

Increase the percentage of international graduate students to 20% of the total graduate student headcount by 2020;



Goal Six (C, continued)



- In Fall 2015, there are 283 international master's students and 424 international doctoral students. This represents 11.2% of the master's enrollment and 31.2% of the doctoral students.
- Counting all international graduate students (master's, doctoral, graduate certificate and nondegree), the percentage is 17.0%

Goal Six (D)

Increase the percentage of international students to 10% of the total headcount enrollment by 2020, with at least 200 international first-time, full-time freshmen;

- In Fall 2015, graduate and undergraduate international enrollment is 1,545 students or 5.8% of the total University headcount
- There are 187 international freshmen, up from 121 in Fall 2014.

Goal Six (E)



Increase the number of sponsored students to 20% of the international headcount enrollment by 2020;

- The 330 enrolled sponsored students in Fall 2015 represents 21.4% of the international headcount.

Goal Six (E, continued)

Increase the number of enrolled visiting students to 125 each semester.

- There are 131 enrolled visiting students in Fall 2015.



Goal Six (F)

Maintain an average of 120 countries represented in the international student population and strengthen the enrollment from countries with less than 10 students on campus;

- Fall 2015: 114 countries represented by students
- 2014-15: 50 countries represented by scholars



Goal Six (G)

Increase the participation rate of graduating seniors completing a significant international experience to 25% by 2020;



- 900 students completed a study abroad experience in fall 2014, spring, intersession and summer 2015 (compared to 800 the year before - a 12.6% increase.)
- There were 51 countries visited
- The undergraduate students represent 12.6% of the 6,442 seniors enrolled in Fall 2014.

Goal Six (H)

Increase the number of outbound UA students enrolling in reciprocal exchange programs to 15% of the total study abroad population per year by 2020.



- 47 students were enrolled in reciprocal exchange programs in 2014-15
- The number of UA students enrolling in reciprocal exchange programs had only a slight increase this past year, reflecting the growing popularity in short term programs during summer and intersession and challenge of getting students to spend a semester or year abroad.

And for the future:

- Refresh the strategic plan
- Grow resources
- Develop a CRM system
- Work with new central administration



Happy Thanksgiving!

