

## Snail Mail from the Southeast: A Snapshot of Recent Happenings in the US

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Salutations from South Carolina! 2018 has already been a busy year for [NAFSA Region VII](#), which is comprised of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Within the Southeast, these early months of the new year have been marked by important events and advancements, particularly in relation to education abroad as well as innovative conferences and symposia.

On February 13, "[Responding to Mental Health Issues in International Education](#)," a new NAFSA e-learning seminar, went live and was met with record-breaking attendance. More than 450 people participated in the webinar which was co-presented by Region VII's Kim Priebe, Director of Study Abroad in the Office of Global Engagement at North Carolina State University, and Gary Robinson, Director of Counseling Services at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. The session presented participants with tools and strategies to support both study abroad and international students in the area of mental health.

Similarly, North Carolina State University's Aimee Call, International Programs Coordinator in their Study Abroad Office, has created an innovative education abroad resource. Her pre-departure orientation model incorporates multiple sections based on various student identity issues while abroad, such as race, gender, sexuality, LGBTQ, and mental health. Call's model has been recognized by the Diversity Abroad Network as a "best practice" and is already being implemented by other institutions in North Carolina.

Further south in Georgia, important international education research is being advanced through the Consortium for Analysis of Student Success through International Education (CASSIE). The consortium is the second phase of the [Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative \(GLOSSARI\)](#) and is funded through a FY 2017 Title VI International Research and Studies grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of International and Foreign Language Education. The GLOSSARI project established a strong correlation between study abroad and academic achievement and college completion, especially for minority and at-risk students. For CASSIE, the University System of Georgia is

partnering with the [Institute of International Education](#). The two organizations are collaborating to develop a national databank and benchmarking system to help institutions analyze their success impact and improve student outcomes.

With respect to recent conferences, one of Region VII's most well-known symposia was held February 7-9 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Sponsored by Wake Forest University, the 10th Annual [Workshop on Intercultural Skills Enhancement \(WISE\) Conference](#) was attended by approximately 300 faculty, administrators, and international educators from all over the U.S., ranging from California to Colorado to Rhode Island. The conference helps participants hone their intercultural skills and knowledge, so they can, in turn, effectively support students in enhancing their own intercultural engagement and learning while abroad.

This year's theme, "Enhancing Intercultural Learning at Home and Abroad," featured a broad representation of speakers and topics with its dual focus. The conference showcased local presenters such as the resident team of Wake Forest students with Dr. Nelson Brunsting sharing their findings related to "Global Connections," a first-year academic program for international students. WISE also attracted well-respected speakers from afar like Janet Bennett, intercultural relations scholar and Executive Director of the [Intercultural Communication Institute \(ICI\)](#), who made the long flight out from Portland, Oregon to present two sessions: "Turning Resistance into Engagement: Training Design for Transformative Learning" and "Cultivating Intercultural Competence in MBA Programs." By attracting some of international education's leading minds and emerging talents and offering a rich breadth of salient topics, Wake Forest's WISE Conference continues its rise to national prominence.

While on a smaller scale, Clemson University in upstate South Carolina also recently hosted a unique and innovative symposium. Sponsored by the Office of Global Engagement, the inaugural [Clemson Global Learning Institute for Faculty](#) was held February 23-24 at the university's Watt Family Innovation Center and featured presenters from eminent higher education organizations and universities such as [American](#)

[Association of Colleges and Universities \(AAC&U\)](#), [American Council on Education \(ACE\)](#), Duke, and Cornell. The symposium was attended by Clemson faculty, staff, students, and alumni as well as community members from outside organizations such as Sister Cities International. As Vice Provost for Global Engagement Sharon Nagy noted in her opening remarks on Day 1, the primary purpose of the Institute was to emulate an international education conference, bringing the content directly to Clemson faculty for exploring ways of integrating global learning into their classes.

The thematic backdrop for the Institute was set in the opening session, “Global Learning for the 21st Century,” co-presented by Dawn Whitehead, Senior Director for Global Learning and Curricular Change at AAC&U, and Heather Ward, Associate Director at ACE’s Center for Internationalization and Global Engagement. A comprehensive and thought-provoking presentation from start to finish, Whitehead and Ward began by demystifying common catchphrases like “Global Learning,” “Global Citizenship,” and “Comprehensive Internationalization.” The main course was an analysis of data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and a survey of globally connected U.S. companies, and a discussion of the implications for global learning and students’ post-college employability. The pair concluded by outlining key global learning principles and sharing recommendations for “High-Impact Educational Practices,” such as first-year seminars, learning communities, and e-portfolios.

Whitehead and Ward expressed what became a reoccurring theme throughout the symposium: the best way to engage “Gen Z” and maximize global learning and problem solving is through utilizing technology. In his presentation, “Global Engagement through Digital Literacies: Innovative Solutions for a Changing World,” Clemson’s own Dr. Jan Rune Holmevik discussed how he creatively leverages electronic resources to engage digital natives and incorporate global learning into his English courses. Similarly, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), or virtual exchange, was another hot topic featured in many talks including Wofford College’s Dr. Courtney Dorroll’s presentation about the virtual exchange project she has been leading that connects her pupils with students in Egypt and Lebanon.

Attending the Institute, it was apparent Clemson University is taking big steps toward fulfilling its mission of infusing the curriculum with global learning guided by a rubric of global competency outcomes. In addition to the strong showing of support by faculty and

staff as attendees and presenters, some accomplished alumni returned to their alma mater to speak on how their experiences studying at Clemson translated to global careers. There was the father-daughter Schwehr duo—Mike, who has spent his career traveling the globe for ExxonMobil, and Vicky, who has worked for Amazon and studied abroad in France as an undergraduate student. And there was also Mohamed Abdel-Kader, Executive Director of the [Stevens Initiative](#) who gave the plenary speech for the symposium’s finale. The common thread through their talks was the idea of the “Clemson Family”—the close-knit and casual bond of the campus community despite the large population—and how this unique quality, especially if given a global learning focus, can allow faculty to deeply impact the trajectory of their students’ futures.

Finally, in addition to these noteworthy conferences and developments, the Southeast also yielded an impressive number of Spring 2018 [Gilman Scholarship](#) recipients. Of the total 964 awardees who will receive U.S. Department of State funding to study abroad, 93 are attending institutions in NAFSA Region VII. These 94 students represent 40 Southeast colleges and universities, with University of Florida topping the list of institutions with the most awardees (9 recipients).

Thus, concludes your spring postcard of international education news from the sultry Southeast. Until the next issue of JCIHE, as this California native and newcomer to the “Palmetto Sate” has taken to saying in his endearingly poor southern accent, “Take care, y’all!”

### **NAFSA (United States) Region VII Conferences, Events, and Publications**

#### ***Conferences & Events***

#### [Georgia Association of International Educators \(GAIE\) Winter Conference](#)

January 31-February 2, 2018 | King & Prince Hotel (St. Simons, GA)

#### [10<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop on Intercultural Skills Enhancement \(WISE\) Conference](#)

February 7-9 | Marriott Hotel Downtown (Winston-Salem, NC) | Wake Forest University

#### [2018 Florida Association of International Educators \(FAIE\) Annual State Conference](#)

February 15-16, 2018 | Student Center | Flagler College (St. Augustine, FL)

[Clemson Global Learning Institute for Faculty](#)

February 23-24 | Watt Family Innovation Center |  
Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

[5<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Debate Forum & Barkley Forum for Debate, Deliberation & Dialogue Tournament](#)

February 24, 2018 | 9:00am-5:00pm | Alumni Memorial  
University Center | Emory University (Atlanta, GA)

[2018 Mississippi Association of International Educators \(MAIE\) and Study Mississippi State Meetings](#)

March 9, 2018 | Jackson State University (Jackson, MS)  
| Registration Fee: \$40

June 15, 2018 | University of Southern Mississippi  
(Hattiesburg, MS) | Registration Fee: \$40

October 12, 2018 | Mississippi State University  
(Starkville, MS) | Registration Fee: \$40

[2018 North Carolina Association of International Educators \(NCAIE\) Annual State Conference](#)

March 9, 2018 | Guilford College (Greensboro, NC) |  
Pre-Conference Workshops held on March 8

[2018 South Carolina Association of International Educators \(SCAIE\) Annual State Conference](#)

March 16, 2018 | 8:00am-3:30pm | DiGiorgio Campus  
Center | Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) |  
Registration Fee: \$60 (\$30 for Full-Time Students, \$85  
for On-site Registration) | Session Proposals Deadline:  
March 2 | Pre-Conference Workshops held on March 15

[Georgia International Leadership Conference](#)

April 13-15, 2018 | Rock Eagle, 4-H Center (Eatonton,  
GA) | Registration Fee: \$110 | Registration Deadline:  
April 1<sup>st</sup> | Proposal Deadline: March 20<sup>th</sup> | Georgia  
Institutions of Higher Education

[North Carolina Study Abroad Reentry Conference](#)

April 7, 2018 | 8:30am-5:00pm | Koury Business School  
| Elon University (Elon, NC) | Registration Fee: \$15  
(\$20 after March 16) | Session Proposals Deadline:  
March 15 | "Two-To-Tell" Competition with cash  
prizes

[International Perspectives on University Teaching and Learning Symposium](#)

May 30-June 1, 2018 | Disney's Grand Floridian Resort  
& Spa (Orlando, FL) | Registration Fee: \$675 (\$575 for  
students) | Essay Proposals and Pre-Conference  
Workshops information on website | Auburn University

[Alabama Association of International Educators \(AAIE\) State Conference](#)

April 12, 2018 | 8:00am-5:00pm | Ferguson Student  
Center | University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL) |  
Registration Fee: \$60 (\$75 after March 23) | Session  
Proposals Deadline: March 9 | Travel Grant  
Applications Deadline: March 9

[2018 Alabama Association of International Educators \(AAIE\) State Conference](#)

April 12, 2018 | 8:00am-5:00pm | Ferguson Student  
Center | University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL) |  
Registration Fee: \$60 (\$75 after March 23) | Session  
Proposals Deadline: March 9 | Travel Grant  
Applications Deadline: March 9

[2018 NAFSA Region VII Conference](#)

November 10-14, 2018 | Historic Peabody Hotel |  
Memphis, TN

**Publications**

Anderson, Jed, Skare, Erik and Courtney

Dorroll. "Nothing to Fear, Nothing to Hide: Tools  
and Suggestions for Digital Data Protection." *The  
Qualitative Report*. (May 28, 2018).

Deardorff, Darla. "Assessing Intercultural, International  
and Global Learning Outcomes: The  
Changing Paradigm." In *Perspectives in Engaged  
Assessment*. (forthcoming).

Deardorff, Darla. "Intercultural Competence as a  
Pathway to Caring in the Classroom." In *Creating  
Caring and Supportive Educational Environments  
for Meaningful Learning*. IGI Global.  
(forthcoming).

Deardorff, Darla. 2018. "Theories of Cultural and  
Educational Exchange, Intercultural Competence,  
Conflict Resolution, and Peace Education."  
In *Cultural and Educational Exchanges in Rival  
Societies*, edited by Chuing Prudence Chou and  
Jonathan Spangler. Singapore: Springer

Deardorff, Darla, and Dawn Whitehead. 2018.  
"Bridging Silos in Global Learning and  
Assessment". In *Mind the Gap: Framing Global  
Learning in the University Experience*, edited by  
Darla Deardorff. New York: Elon University Center  
for Engaged Learning.

Deardorff, Darla, and Harvey Charles. 2018. *Leading  
Internationalization*. London: Stylus.

Dorroll, Courtney, Hall, Kimberly, and Doaa Baumi.  
2018. "On Teaching Islam across Cultures: Virtual  
Exchange Pedagogy." In *Teaching Islamic Studies  
in the Age of ISIS, the Internet and Islamophobia*,  
edited by Courtney Dorroll. Bloomington: Indiana  
University Press.

Dorroll, Courtney and Phil Dorroll. 2017. "Teaching Islam in Contemporary America: Digital Ethnography and the Affective Challenges of Islamic Studies Pedagogy." *Teaching Theology & Religion* 20(4): 304-313.