

**Division of Student Affairs
FY18 Annual Report Template**

Department: Office of International Affairs

I. MISSION STATEMENT & DEPARTMENT GOALS:

The mission of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) is to:

- Provide quality programs and services for the international community at UL Lafayette
- Facilitate transition into the general university population
- Promote the intellectual, emotional, physical and social growths of students while helping Acadiana learn more about international matters
- Be involved in the linkages with foreign governments, agencies and foundations and collaborate with foreign universities

II. FY18 ASSESSMENT UPDATES:

We used evaluation forms and an electronic survey via SurveyMonkey for our assessment strategy.

Student Learning Outcomes 2017-2018

Humanitarianism & Civic Engagement

Description: The Office of International Affairs along with several international student organizations hosted Multicultural Week from March 19 – March 25, 2018. Events during Multicultural Week included a Multicultural Expo, Trivia Night, Ms. International Pageant, Immigration Session, Diversity Night and community service (aka the Big Event).

Population: UL Lafayette students, faculty, staff and the general public.

Assessment: A brief reflective survey was distributed to all international students (on non-immigrant visas) to determine how effective Multicultural Week was in promoting the ability to understand and appreciate cultural and human differences and global perspective. (See attached questions and results from survey.) Survey included both quantitative and qualitative questions.

Multicultural Expo 3/20/18 – This event featured tabletop displays from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Africa, Oman, India, Vietnam, Germany and Bangladesh. It was held in the hallway of the Student Union. Students who walked by were offered food and drinks from around the world and learned interesting facts from student representatives from each country. This event was successful in that it engaged many domestic students walking through the Union and exposed them to other cultures.

Trivia Night 3/20/18 – This event features international trivia and encourages friendly competition for any UL Lafayette student who wants to participate. Students team up and learn interesting facts about our world. The winning team receives a trophy at Diversity Night.

Ms. International Pageant 3/21/18 – The Ms. International Pageant is an event that highlights the talents of international female students. (Mr. International is also held if there is enough participation.) Female students who are nonimmigrants, immigrants, or 1st generation U.S. citizens are eligible to participate. Judges are selected by the International Student Council and are frequently UL faculty and staff members.

Immigration Session 3/22/18 – Immigration attorney, Ms. Kathleen Gasparian, presented on the topic ‘Finding The Right Path: Immigration Options For International Students and Faculty.’ This was a free event open to everyone.

Diversity Night 3/23/18 – Diversity Night is an international talent show and celebration of world cultures. It includes musical acts, fashion shows, poetry readings, dance competitions, and comedy. The general public is invited to attend to learn more about the cultures of our international student population.

Community Service 3/25/18 – Our International Student Council members participated in a community service project through the campus-wide Big Event. We help plant 6 poplar trees and mulched 20 trees at Bourgeois Park with the help of our university’s horticulturalist to provide much needed shade for our students.

Cognitive Complexity

Description: The Office of International Affairs hosted two Tax Information Sessions.

Population: International students on non-immigrant visas who need information or assistance with U.S. income tax preparation.

Assessment: After each workshop, students completed and submitted the attached evaluation form.

Tax Info Session 1/30/18 and 2/26/18 -- International students are subject to taxation for money made while in the United States. While we do not provide any specific tax advice, the Tax Information Sessions addressed some of the most frequently asked questions from international students studying in the United States. This information can be helpful as students work with a tax professional, or if they decide to file their own taxes.

III. HIGHLIGHTS

- **Highlight 1:** The University hired its first Executive Director for Global Engagement, Dr. Gabriel Carranza, who will facilitate the merging of the Office of International Affairs and Study Abroad Programs under one Academic Affairs unit, the Office of Global

Engagement. This position was created at the request of University stakeholders (faculty and staff) who participated in 2012's International Task Force and saw the need to enhance globalization efforts at the University. Dr. Carranza will oversee all of the University's internationalization efforts including academic partnerships, study abroad, international student services, recruitment, language programs and visa regulations for faculty and students. Dr. Carranza has already initiated a letter of intent between UL Lafayette and Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, his former institution in Brazil.

- **Highlight 2:** The Spring 2018 commencement includes the University's first official 'International Ambassadors' who were presented with silver stoles at our 2018 Farewell Reception hosted by the Office of International Affairs, Lafayette Consolidated Government, the Alumni Association and Le Centre International Lafayette. These 'International Ambassador' stoles demonstrate their successes as international students and their willingness to become ambassadors and engaged alumni when they return to their home countries.
- **Highlight 3:** The University promoted educational and cultural exchange by hosting 14 exchange students (13 from France and 1 from Mexico), 3 student interns (2 from France and 1 from Turkey) and 47 visiting scholars (33 from China, 4 from India, 4 from Thailand, 2 from Brazil, 1 from France, 1 from Japan, 1 from South Korea and 1 from Mexico). Included in this was the first J-1 scholar from Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Centla (a consortium of 20 universities in Tabasco, Mexico). In addition, the Office of International Affairs, Academic Affairs, Administrative Services and Operational Review renegotiated an MOU with Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara (Mexico) and hosted our first J-1 exchange student from that institution.
- **Highlight 4:** The OIA worked collaboratively with Study Abroad to facilitate semester-long study abroad experience for UL Lafayette domestic students at partner institutions in Paris, France and Mexico.
- **Highlight 5:** The OIA collaborated with both Undergraduate Admissions and the Graduate School to create a smoother matriculation process for Intensive English Program students interested in pursuing degrees at the University.
- **Highlight 6:** The OIA and Intensive English Program hosted an International Hour to promote Venezuelan culture and highlight the current political and economic crisis in Venezuela. The event featured food donated from a local Venezuelan restaurant. Venezuelan students in the Intensive English Program gave presentations in English about various aspects of Venezuelan culture and the event was even featured by KATC, a local news affiliate.
- **Highlight 7:** The OIA and the Graduate School participated in a recruitment event on 3/13/18 at LSU-Alexandria's campus and recruited 5 international graduate students from Ecuador, Morocco, and Brazil who will enroll in the MBA program in Fall 2018.
- **Highlight 8:** International student, Peace Eze (Nigeria) received the University's Fall 2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Award. Peace earned her B.S. in Geology and served in the following student organizations during her time at UL Lafayette: University Honors Council, University Program Council, African Students Association, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, National Society of Black Engineers. Eze collaborated with faculty

members from Stanford University on a research project called “Seismic Characterization of the Terrebone Mini Basin: A hydrate rich depositional system in the Gulf of Mexico.” She also developed a tutoring program in math, science and English for underprivileged students, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, the Big Event and New Hope Community Development of Acadiana.

- **Highlight 9:** The Office of International Affairs, Academic Affairs and the Colleges of Business, Liberal Arts and Engineering met with La Rochelle Business School (France), Montpellier Business School (France) and ECAM-Brussels Engineering School (Belgium) to discuss potential academic partnerships.
- **Highlight 10:** By traveling to Oman in November 2017, the Director of the OIA was able to engage with Omani alumni and assist in the creation of the first Omani alumni association for the University, *Ragin’ Cajuns Oman*. We have over 100 international alum working in Oman.

IV. COLLABORATION EFFORTS

We collaborated with the Alumni Association for the Annual International Student Graduation and Farewell Reception for the past 2 years. Since then we have given 2 outstanding international alumni awards to 2 deserving international alumni (Mr. Ema Haq and Dr Ramesh Kolluru). We want to use this award to recognize the accomplishments and contributions these alums have made. We also want our new international alumni to be inspired by these recipients in ways they too can remain engaged and connected with the university that they have called home for several years.

Director of the OIA was invited for the second year to join LAGCOE (Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition) to attend ADIPEC (Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from November 13-16, 2017. The purpose of this trip is to expand UL Lafayette’s international exposure to international attendees that are in the oil and gas industries and to reconnect with our international alumni that are working and living in the area.

Director of OIA also visited Muscat, Oman on November 16, 2017 for an alumni dinner. This was a successful visit because the director was able to meet several new incoming international students and to establish the first Omani alumni club for the University, *Ragin’ Cajuns Oman*. It is estimated that we have over 100 international alum that are working in Oman.

The Office of International Affairs facilitated Dr. Joshua Vaughan (Mechanical Engineering) in hosting 3 student interns from South Korea’s Kumoh National Institute of Technology in January of 2018. Dr. Swing-Wook Hong and Mr. Gapju Son from Kumoh's administration discussed with Dr. Honegger and Dr. Vaughan about the possibility of future collaboration between both universities.

V. APPENDICES

- Student Learning Outcomes 2017-2018
- Multicultural Week Survey and Results
- Tax Session Workshop Evaluation
- Tax Session Workshop statistics – Spring 2018

VI. FUTURE GOALS

Merging the Study Abroad office and the OIA – collaborative efforts towards global education

Division of labor & development of new positions

Recruit students abroad for degree seeking programs and Intensive English Program

Enhance orientation and guidance for J-1 students and scholars