Today scholarship is both global and multidisciplinary. For our faculty and students, the borders of their disciplines have faded along with the borders separating countries. Global engagement is conveyed to our students in their teaching and through high impact experiences that reflect the state of the world today, both its deepest rewards and grandest challenges.

“...For our faculty and students, the borders of their disciplines have faded along with the borders separating countries...”

The world in which our students will emerge is globally connected, with technology evading borders and permitting seamless communication. Our students’ marketability, creativity and impact on the world in which they live will demand an awareness of not only their own cultural-, skill- and knowledge-identity, but of the great diversity, heritage, culture and abilities of others throughout the world.

Texas A&M benefits from a strong history of international engagement, beginning 100 years ago with efforts to address the critical Yellow Tick Fever crisis affecting the cattle industry. In 1917, faculty of our agricultural and veterinary programs worked throughout South Texas, crossing the border with Mexico to work with cattle producers, small and large, and bilaterally along the Cattle Trails to improve education, dispel misconceptions and improve animal and human health.

Our global engagement continues today with more than 5,000 of our students each year having an international experience abroad. The university has developed global partnership resources in Mexico City and Costa Rica to enable study, research and collaboration. We have signed signature partnerships for education abroad in Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy, now celebrating 32 years of participation; Doha, Qatar, celebrating 12 years; and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, entering our 2nd year. In addition to these we have utilized over 170 international service providers to support our study abroad efforts on every continent. Our students even engage in exploration of outer space, although we have yet to arrange formal interstellar opportunities.

Texas A&M faculty are noted for their scholarship in conferences, journals and books representing their disciplines to colleagues around the world, often in conjunction with their graduate students. Many have applied their field work and place-based research to the rivers of Saltillo, Mexico; the Large Hadron Collider of the CERN near Geneva, Switzerland; the supercomputing center of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; the lens of the Giant Magellan Telescope planned for Las Campanas, Chile; drilling the subsea
“The next few pages outline our way forward, honoring the strong individual commitments of colleges, schools and branch campuses...”

The next few pages outline our way forward, honoring the strong individual commitments of colleges, schools and branch campuses while demonstrating a collective emphasis and the impact of Texas A&M University as a whole. Texas A&M continues to enhance the administrative transition away from the traditional model of a centralized office of international initiatives to an embedded alignment of services, resources and focus to the appropriate organizational level, namely colleges, schools and branch campus leadership and within the operational infrastructure that exists to serve all faculty, students and visitors. This transition has not been without challenges and requires communication, process and relationship management.

To reignite these efforts across Texas A&M University, 2016 served as a time for planning discussions on global activities. Each college and branch campus reported on student mobility (international students in and domestic students abroad), partnership agreements underway, research initiatives pursued and critical targets of opportunity for their goals.

Five faculty forums, each focused on a different region of the world, were held not only to distill some of the collective information, but also to hear about opportunities and challenges, connect with one another’s efforts and share fellowship about global engagements. Additionally, each dean has issued initial philanthropic goals for their programs, including appropriate internationally focused opportunities for private investment and support.

*A&M Abroad: Global Engagement Plan 2020*, reflects what we have heard and is our plan to align these efforts with the university’s current strategic plan over the next 4 years, while addressing the unique impacts that our collective priorities in global engagement can have on our students, faculty and staff, which then will inevitably improve Texas, our nation and world.
Texas A&M will be a leader in the state and the nation in providing our students with a global perspective. Our scholarship and research will impact every continent and our students, faculty, and staff will be known and respected worldwide for their efforts to address the global challenges of today and tomorrow. Our global partnerships will strategically enhance mutually beneficial collaboration, resources and impact.

VISION

Graduating students at Texas A&M Qatar Campus.

Dr. Franco Marcantonio and students, College of Geosciences, study deep ocean sediment in the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP).

PRIORITIES

IMPROVE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

by increasing student participation in international experiences and enhancing their cultural awareness and skills through on-campus activities.

EMPOWER FACULTY

to increase their involvement in global engagement, international teaching and scholarship and to nurture a global community on campus.

ENHANCE OPERATIONS & PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION

to enable more impactful international research, education abroad and global engagement.
A&M ABROAD
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

International students demonstrate their talents and culture at International Student Association’s I-Week.

College of Science student visits CERN, Switzerland.

College of Liberal Arts student enjoying cultural interaction in Peru.

Dr. Norman Borlaug (1914-2009), University Distinguished Professor Emeritus, “Father of the Green Revolution” and inspiration of Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, lifetime commitment to fighting hunger, Rwanda.

Former President George H.W. Bush hosts former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Texas A&M University Galveston Campus student research at the South Pole.
IMPROVE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Texas A&M will be a leader in the state and the nation in providing our students with a global perspective. Our students will have increased access to international opportunities to prepare them for global citizenship.

GOALS:

INCREASE STUDENT CULTURAL AWARENESS AND CAPABILITIES TO SUCCEED IN GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE CAREERS

- Higher enrollments in global education (field trips, international intern-/externships, service learning programs and study abroad)
- Increase international student research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students
- Completion of pre- and post-international experience reflections with intent to deepen cultural aspects of the experience into personal ethos
- Better integrate returning students into study-abroad recruitment to influence peers and enhance their own personal experiences
- Higher number of career placements in international and multinational employers and admission to advanced study in international institutions
- Increased engagement with former students to enrich current student and faculty experiences through international opportunities, mentorships and on-campus interactions

REDUCE STRUCTURAL DISINCENTIVES TO STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPATION

- Increase access to student financial support for international experiences and research
- Create more cost-effective options for faculty-led study abroad trips
- Review study abroad and other international processes from both faculty and student perspectives to streamline and optimize
- Enhance outreach to faculty to support and increase faculty-led study abroad trips
- Identify resources to increase Global Opportunity funding for low-income students

Mays School of Business student study abroad in Sydney, Australia.

Student participating in international internship in Germany.
ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INTEGRATION

- Create two annual student recruitment focused events at international locations
- Better coordinate International Student Services with International Programs Committee
- Create centralized “international” portal to access all international activities such as international student services, global partnership services, immigration services, study abroad and others
- Enhance on-campus interactions between international and domestic students, especially by linking international students with students going to their country for study abroad

FORMALIZE PURSUIT OF PHILANTHROPIC RESOURCES FOR STUDENT INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Utilize development opportunities with specific objectives for financial assistance for study abroad, international service learning, intern/externships scholarships, international research and travel
- Increase number of endowments in colleges and/or student or academic affairs to provide financial support for international experiences with total value of >$50M
- Increase in total dollars awarded/distributed to enhance student international experiences
- Engage the International Advisory Board in building conduits to international partnerships and funding entities
EMPOWER FACULTY

Our scholarship and research will impact every continent and our students, faculty and staff will be known and respected worldwide for their efforts to address the global challenges of today and tomorrow. Global and Signature Partnerships will streamline and simplify regional strategic interactions and support our quest to diversify opportunities and destinations for students and faculty.

GOALS

ENHANCE DISCIPLINARY AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- Identify Texas A&M’s global footprint and regional international priorities
- Integrate cross-college international initiatives to leverage resources and maximize return on investments
- Improve coordination among faculty for major research funding grant development
- Continue regional engagement forums on campus to promote faculty interactions

ENHANCE GLOBALLY INFUSED CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Enhance workshops and increase outreach to faculty on how to plan and participate in faculty-led study abroad trips
- Provide training for faculty to utilize global resources and experiences in curricular design and development
- Invite at least one “Scholar at Risk” from per year who could provide international focus to specialized courses on politics, resiliency, or other disciplines during their stay

RE-IMAGINE THE GLOBAL FACULTY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- Create short-term appointments (2-3 years), with programmatic and geographic focus
- Awarded on competitive basis, representing various geographic regions and academic disciplines
- Permit applicants to propose their own initiatives that include outreach to other faculty

Dr. Guy Fipps, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, research and engagement, Afghanistan.

Dr. Tom Lacher, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and students, Dominica: Tropical and Field Biology.

Dr. Nicholas Suntzeff, College of Science, research will support the Giant Magellan Telescope observatory in Chile.
CREATE FACULTY ADVOCATES FOR SIGNATURE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS
- Individuals who can serve as a point of contact on campus and advocates for signature partnerships

CREATE LARGE SCALE MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANT SUPPORT
- Continue and enhance strategic matching grant programs, such as CONACYT, NSF-China, joint use equipment, supercomputing, etc.
- Enhance large-scale multidisciplinary research grant identification opportunities, utilize International Programs Committee as conduit to promote to interested faculty

ELEVATE FACULTY AS GLOBAL LEADERS
- Enhance support for our faculty to compete for Fulbright and other international scholar awards
- Establish local funding to supplement faculty professional development and limited resources from these scholar awards
- Promote faculty scholarship in international research, teaching and service
ENHANCE OPERATIONS & PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION

Our global partnerships will strategically enhance mutually beneficial collaboration, resources and impact.

GOALS

ENHANCE COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Hold Annual Global Engagement Summit to kickoff new and reflect on past year of impact
- Hold 2-3 faculty forums per semester with specific focus on:
  - Improving global engagement in teaching and scholarship
  - Regional focus or opportunity
  - Uniquely timed grant/research/student abroad opportunity
- Improve utilization of International Programs Committee (IPC) as conveyor of information and opportunity coordination
- Improve utilization of International Advisory Board as advisors, consultants and supporters of global engagement

ENHANCE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PROCESSES

- Finalize and implement new Global Partnership Agreement Process, procedures and policies
- Share approved templates for letters of intent, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreement, consortia
- Facilitate robust cataloguing of agreements and partnership
- Facilitate regular review and mutually beneficial agreed renewal as appropriate
- Coordinate training forums for college administration and faculty to effectively utilize agreement process

ENHANCE TEACHING, RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION UTILIZATION OF EXISTING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES AND SIGNATURE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS:

- Global Partnership Resources
  - Mexico Partnership Services
  - Casa Verde Corporation - Soltis Center
  - Texas A&M University Qatar Campus

- Signature Global Partnerships
  - Italart, Santa Chiara Study Center
  - CEISC, Hacienda Santa Clara

Students sing Aggie War Hymn, courtyard of Santa Chiara Study Center, Italy.

International Atomic Energy Agency, Director General Yukiya Amano visits veterinary tomography lab.
IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP RESOURCES OR SIGNATURE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE UNIQUE PRESENCE OPPORTUNITIES OR UNIVERSITY RESOURCE ALIGNED LOCATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL DURING LAST ACADEMIC YEAR:

- Chile – Giant Magellan Telescope
- China – Ocean University
- Israel – Haifa University
- European Union – Bonn, Germany or Brussels, Belgium
- South Africa
- Australia

FORMALIZE AND IMPROVE UNIVERSITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- Improved service quality and number of international visitor delegations hosted by Texas A&M
- Improved notification and coordination of International Scholars visiting Texas A&M

IMPROVE UNIVERSITY CONTINUING EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TECH TRANSFER AND PARTNER IDENTIFICATION PROCESSES FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Improve coordination between Research Administration and Global Partnership Services to identify opportunities to support faculty engaged scholarship
- Coordinate 2-3 “Trade Missions” per year

ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNATIONALLY LOCATED FORMER STUDENTS

- Host at least 2 global former student gatherings in locations where current or potential Global Partnership Resource agreements exist
- Host at least 2 global former student gatherings in countries where highest student study abroad activities occur
- Provide for annual global former student engagement communication and connection, include alumni survey, international student week promotion, outstanding international alumni award, etc.
- Connect study abroad students with formers students living at those locations