Welcome back to — whatever we have all variously come back to, or in many cases never quite left. Note that we are resisting at all costs invoking the phrase "the new normal," both for cliché avoidance and in pursuit of accuracy; everything is continuously new, it seems, and nothing is yet approaching normal. But there is a welcome hum (rising to a buzz from time to time) both on campus and in the ever-more-active circuits of our tele-reality. Teaching and learning, research and service, and the myriad machinery of administration all proceed apace. So welcome back to all that from your friends at the Mason International Collaborative (MIC).

MIC has been busy this summer too, continuing data collection and launching a survey instrument to take the faculty's temperature on all things international. It remains open, so please take a few minutes to respond (click here to begin) if you haven't done so already. These data will play a major role in the second phase of MIC's work, designing and implementing strategies for successful internationalization efforts going forward. We have also been discussing a series of conversations for the fall semester, building on the Research Committee's well-received "Lightning Talks" last spring and incorporating new ideas from MIC's other committees.

Thank you for your continued support of Mason’s drive to be an even more authentically international community across all aspects of our work. All of us in leadership roles with MIC look forward to our partnership this year, while recognizing (and incorporating, where possible) the challenges of recent upheavals.

All the best for a safe and successful term,

Your MIC Tri-Chairs: Pam Patterson, Associate Vice President for University Life; Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; Karyn Kessler, Academic Director, INTO Mason
CURRENT STATUS: LAB PHASE II

The second phase of the ACE Internationalization Lab focuses on data collection and analysis of internationalization efforts around campus. Examples of this include:

**Faculty Survey**: MIC created and released a survey to gage faculty perspectives and engagement with internationalization.

**Peer Benchmarking**: MIC is reviewing websites on international initiatives and requesting for interviews with senior international officers at five selected peer universities.

**Virtual Talks**: The MIC Research Committee hosted and recorded lightning talks in which 17 faculty presented on international research, scholarship, and creative projects.

**Self-study**: Utilizing ACE *Internationalization in Action*, the MIC Curriculum Committee is noting best practices and specific interest in curriculum efforts for the internationalization of STEM.

**Higher Education Course**: Students in the summer session of HE 713, Internationalization of Higher Education, completed project-based learning that mirrored MIC committee topics.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MIC STEERING COMMITTEE**
*MIC Tri-Chairs, project manager, and committee co-chairs.*

- Monday, September 21, 1-2 PM
- Thursday, November 5, 4-5 PM

**MIC TEAM**
*All of MIC leadership and committee members.*

- Friday, October 9, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Monday, December 7, 1 - 2:30 PM

Meetings will be held by Zoom.

EMOU SYSTEM

Mason recently launched an electronic Memorandum of Understanding (EMOU) system. Questions or to request a customized training can be directed at Krista Uhrig, kuhrig@gmu.edu. More information about the system can be found at: emou.gmu.edu
MIC COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION ABROAD

By co-chairs Marie Alice Arnold, Associate Director of the Global Education Office, and Lisa Billingham, Professor of Choral Music Education:

The MIC Education Abroad committee is bringing renewed energy to fall activities. During the fall semester the committee will focus on defining and redefining what education abroad is, developing training for faculty on education abroad, and spreading the word about education abroad around campus. The committee also plans to organize a virtual event during International Education Week in November and increase discussions with partnering departments.

The pandemic has provided us with an unprecedented opportunity to showcase expanded education abroad options. While travel has been suspended, international educational experiences are still available. Through the use of technology, virtual student exchange and international internship experiences provide an opportunity for a deep connection with students' counterparts abroad, just without having to leave home. In fact, these options may prove more accessible to students for whom previously the travel component, due to cost and time, prohibited access.

The Global Education Office held a brainstorming session in August with faculty to explore different ideas. Some ideas include online course modules with visiting lecturers, project work with students from target country, and even virtual tours of locations. We appreciate the creativity of our faculty and also welcome comments by the MIC community on defining and redefining study abroad. Please reach out to an MIC Education Abroad committee member or email mic@gmu.edu to be involved in these conversations.

We would like to recognize and express appreciation to committee members: Sharon Doetsch-Kidder, Craig Esherick, Meggan Ford, Michal McElwain Malur, Trevor Thrall, Michael Von Fricken, Jane A Walker, Aimee Weinstein.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT


Comments and submissions for the MIC newsletter? Contact mic@gmu.edu