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LETTER FROM THE VICE PROVOST

We had quite a year! While learning to navigate a new way of teaching and working in the virtual space and facing unprecedented challenges, we have some major accomplishments to celebrate! You will find many in this report. I am highlighting a few here:

- We exceeded our goal of 50 new donors during Big Orange Give, unlocking a challenge gift of $35,000 for international education.
- We hosted an exclusive Vol Town Hall for our international alumni in Asia on October 29. We plan to host Vols Town Halls for alumni in other parts of the world in 2021. Stay tuned!
- The Programs Abroad Office assisted 209 students in their return to the U.S., and academic contingency planning was completed for 219 students.
- We announced the first cohort of the Academy for Global Scholars.
- On March 18, International Student and Scholar Services began virtual immigration advising and moved entirely digital on March 23. Since then, over 250 virtual advising sessions have been conducted.

CGE has gone through a strategic visioning process as the whole university is laying our plans for the next five years. The Volunteer Experience is one of the priority areas the Chancellor and her team have put forward, as such global engagement is a critical component of our student experience. We are reflecting on and evaluating what we’re doing and how we engage our students and the world.

As a result of this pandemic, we are currently unable to travel, and yet the global crisis has emphasized how globally connected we are. Thus, the way forward is for CGE to lean into the complexities of this experience both in order to deal with the present crisis more effectively and to develop a pathway to greater resilience, cultural competency, and a deep understanding of our role as global citizens. CGE sees the opportunities that lie in these challenges as a means of reimagining much of what we do while holding true to the Volunteer spirit and the core mission of UT.

Looking ahead we have established goals to support a university culture that prioritizes and encourages global engagement by educating students to transcend national and cultural boundaries, provide resources for the campus community to extend their research across the world, and cultivate relationships with our international alumni.

In closing, we are proud of what we have accomplished this past year and stay optimistic about the years ahead and hope you will join us on this journey to bring UT to the world and bring the world to UT.

Best Regards,

Gretchen Neisler,
Vice Provost for International Affairs
OUR PURPOSE

The Center for Global Engagement provides leadership to strengthen the university’s global reach and impact, foster international and intercultural awareness and understanding, assist faculty to internationalize their teaching and scholarship and prepare students to become globally engaged citizens.

With approximately 1,200 international students from over 100 different countries, some 500 international scholars, and more than 1,500 UT students studying abroad every year, the CGE keeps UT connected around the world.

Global Values

Building on UT’s distinctive history as a land grant university, we value improving the lives of Tennesseans in their interconnections with the world through commitments to:

• Producing innovative global research and teaching

• Engaging meaningfully with existing partners and developing new long-term partners

• Fostering lifelong engaged learning among UT students, UT alumni, and Tennesseans

UT Vision

A world enriched by the power of ideas, made better through action, and inspired by the Volunteer Spirit of service and leadership.

Global Mission

• Create a campus that embraces global engagement as a core value. Empower and facilitate cutting edge research that meets community, state, and global societal needs.

• Provide opportunities for our students through academic and experiential learning to prepare them to adapt to a changing world and contribute to bettering it.

• Promote a culture of collaborative innovation in research, learning, and engagement.

• Foster global cultural diversity and inclusiveness to benefit our university stakeholders and the residents of Tennessee.

• Extend the impact of our work with international and national partnerships that reflect our university Vision and Global Values and increase the visibility and reputation of the university.
COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 has directly impacted around 2,500 UT students and scholars served by the Programs Abroad Office, the English Language Institute, and the International Student and Scholar Services. By the close of FY2020, the direct loss of revenue for CGE is over $200,000. Highlighting the significance of partnerships and networks, substantial financial loss was mitigated due to the PAO’s strong working relationships with partner affiliates and host institutions. The PAO team worked individually with 60 partner organizations to implement individualized alternative programming, refund agreements, and mobilize our students.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

English Language Institute
- ELI pre-pandemic total enrollment spring II: 38
- Withdrawals: 13
- Deferrals to summer term: 2
- Students who remained enrolled after departing: 6
- Total enrollment after withdrawals/deferrals: 23
- ELI revenue for spring II was reduced by $31,918 as a result of student withdrawals

Global Research Office
- Started regularly communicating about health and safety during the evolving pandemic beginning in January, reaching out 170 UT students, staff, and faculty traveling internationally for business purposes
- Secured international health insurance for all active UT travelers
- Revamped health and safety procedures of UT’s international travel registry

International Student and Scholar Services
- 950 Degree-seeking international students (36 known departures)
- 22 Short term exchange students (all departed UT, but two remained in the country with relatives)
- 246 former students engaged in Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation
- Approximately 25 international visiting scholars canceled their visits to UT

International House
- Closed since March, the I-House canceled eleven programs, four weeks of tax advising, and six weeks of language table practice
- Spring semester, they were closed for seven weeks and canceled 109 reservations
- The I-House lost approximately $3,000 in cancellations and nonrefundable program fees

Office of Asia Engagement
- OAE proactively provided information and education opportunities for the campus community to understand the pandemic and mitigate the stress our international community experienced during this challenging time
- The Coronavirus public forum on February 28, 2020, yielded 200 attendees
- 207 people attended the “Navigating Racism and Bias” panel discussion supporting UT and local Asian communities in unprecedented times

Programs Abroad Office
- Total number of students impacted 219 (outbound spring) + 92 (outbound spring break) + 21 (inbound spring exchange) + 844 (outbound summer) = 1,176
- 209 students assisted in their return to the U.S. and academic contingency planning was completed for 219 students
- PAO loss of revenue $168,175
The Center for Global Engagement hosted over 117 events in collaboration with various departments, international partners, and community organizations. These events include in-person, virtual, and hybrid events.

**International Festival**

The International Festival brings together all of the university’s international organizations to host booths with food and other artifacts representing their cultures. Hosted by the I-House, the 2020 International Festival featured a performance night and 12 booths over the course of 3 days! The International Festival presents an opportunity to explore cultures from around the world without ever leaving campus.

**Bringing the Community Together**

OAE was first to recognize the need for a COVID-19 educational session. On February 28, with our community partner, TN-China Network, OAE brought together campus experts, local health officials, and business owners to provide educational resources and lead an open discussion regarding the potential impact of COVID-19 in the form of a public forum, titled *Coronavirus: Fact, Myth, & the Impact on Tennessee.*

**Local Connections, National Reflections**

Committee on U.S China Relations held its 14th consecutive CHINA Town Hall, hosted by UT’s Office of Asia Engagement, Asian Studies Program, the Department of History, and TN-China Network, a non-profit organization supporting economic and workforce development in Tennessee. The committee president Stephen Orlins hosted an insightful conversation with featured guest speaker Ray Dalio, renowned investor, philanthropist, and New York Times best-selling author. On November 10, the local town hall attracted almost 100 attendees and featured a four-panel discussion from David Parsley, Larry Combs, John McDevitt, and Peter Zysk to discuss the implications of US-China relations.
Participants by College

Participants by Academic Level

Experiences by Program Type

Experiences by Term

Arch & DES
A&S
CCI
EHHS
HCB
HCA
INT
LAW
CoN
TCE
Uni
VET
MED

Professional
Doctorate
Masters
Graduate
Senior
Junior
Sophomore
Freshman

Academic Internship
Affiliate
Exchange
Direct
Faculty-Directed
Independent Study

Academic Year
Semester
Summer, Mini-Term, Spring Break, or Short Term
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

I-House Cultural Competency Program

The International House seeks to support all students, faculty and staff in their understanding of their own Intercultural Competency – the degree to which one can communicate and behave effectively and appropriate with someone from another culture.

Developing intercultural competence is an ongoing process and the I-House can facilitate that development by providing student groups, campus staffs, or classrooms with curated workshops.

“Navigating Racism & Bias”

Supporting UT and Local Asian Community in Unprecedented Times

In partnership with the Division of Diversity and Engagement, CGE held a panel discussion to address the issue of increased bias and discrimination shown toward the Asian community on campus as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to grow.

The panelists shared some ideas on how to connect our Asian population with resources and strategies for navigating implicit and explicit bias, as well as strategies for how others can be supportive of Asian faculty, staff, and students during this time.

CGE Common Read

The CGE Diversity and Inclusion Committee organized a unit common read of “How to be an Antiracist” by Ibram Kendi. The goal of the common read was to help educate CGE staff on the timely topic of race. Discussion groups met every other week to reflect on the reading, call to actions, and discussion questions.

The outcomes of the common read include:
- Experience personal growth and development
- Become better colleagues and community members
- Become more informed and aware of racial issues
- Gain cultural context to inform our work in CGE
- Strive to be antiracist

“The D&I committee plans to continue to provide opportunities for CGE staff to continue to learn and engage with topics of diversity and inclusion. The committee is finalizing a spring schedule of events with a consistent theme of how race impacts diversity. These events include lunch and learns, workshops, and speaker events on a variety of topics.

Diversity Peer Mentor Program

The Programs Abroad Diversity Peer Mentor Program allows prospective education abroad students to form meaningful connections and relationships with education abroad alumni. The program eases the prospective student’s transition to studying abroad and assists students from diverse populations in achieving the best education abroad experience possible by allowing them access to mentorship from a programs abroad alum of a similar background and/or identity.
Academy for Global Scholars

Collaboration with Division of Enrollment Management

The Academy for Global Scholars is a program for first-year students that provides them with a unique opportunity for global engagement and individual growth. The Academy offers a sense of community and prepares students for the global workplace.

Participants join by invitation and engage as a cohort in FYS 101 and a general education course, cultural programming, service activities, and a study abroad experience. 22 first-year students joined the inaugural cohort of AGS.

End Hunger/ FEED Change

In UT’s efforts to reach the United Nations’ goal of zero hunger by 2030, The End Hunger / FEED Change (EHFC) initiative was launched in 2020 to raise awareness about the global issue of food insecurity.

“The End Hunger/ FEED Change initiative is a collective effort across campus to highlight and increase awareness of all the way UT is helping to address hunger, from camus, in the state of Tennessee, and across the world.”

International Career Day

Collaboration with Center for Career Development & Academic Exploration

CGE partnered with the Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration to host the inaugural International Career Day to kick off International Education Week. The day long event included sessions co-hosted with the Haslam International Business Club, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, JET program, Fulbright scholarship, and UT Peace Corps.

“I see AGS helping me learn new skills like communication and networking so that I can give back to my community.”

- Anna Trevathan, AGS

“Being a part of AGS has made me want to celebrate every culture that will come into my classroom, understand them, and communicate with them.”

- Natalia Acuna, AGS
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE & GLOBAL IMPACT

UT Engages the UN SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

CGE launched an initiative to connect UT students and faculty with the United Nations’ 17 sustainable development goals. We identified more than 225 courses from 37 departments that satisfy one or more SDGs and created a website to search SDG-related courses by goal or department. CGE is in the process of developing a program to acknowledge students’ commitment to learning about the SDGs through their coursework and community service.

“By demonstrating UT’s SDG performance in several key areas, we believe that talented prospective students around the world will recognize key commitments that may spark their interest in the institution and the opportunities that exist at UT,” said Gretchen Neisler

UT joined the Global Challenges University Alliance (GCUA), a global consortium of universities working towards addressing the SDGs. In partnership with the Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture, CGE is leading the University’s involvement to expand our network for faculty, staff and students to engage in SDG-related teaching, research, and outreach activities.

The Global Research Office supported 7 grant submissions in 2020 working with faculty in Arts & Sciences; Communication & Information; Education, Health & Human Sciences; and Tickle College of Engineering.

Grants and Awards from CGE:

The Global Research Office awarded over $175,000 to 43 faculty, staff, and students

10 Awards  Global Catalyst Research Grants for Faculty
7 Awards  Global Catalyst Programming Grants
1 Award  Global Catalyst Teaching and Service Award
20 Awards  Global Catalyst Travel Grants for Students
4 Awards  McClure Scholars
1 Award  Mae Scheib Scholar

The 2020 Global Catalyst Award:
Scott Wall
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

VolSphere CGE Monthly Newsletter
The first CGE monthly newsletter, VolSphere was sent in October 2020 to 783 international alumni. Since then, the audience has grown to 7,361 recipients, including study abroad alumni, with an average 23.3% open rate.

Volunteer Postcard Program
CGE welcomed 910 international students to campus this year with customized postcards from international alumni!

Vol Town Hall in Asia
An exclusive Vol Town Hall with Chancellor Donde Plowman was held for our international alumni and friends in Asia. The town hall focused on the university’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Big Orange Give, and new ways the Office of Asia Engagement plans to stay connected. The virtual event yielded 83 attendees. In 2020, more than 15 Vol Town Hall virtual events were held for alumni around the world. At each event, multiple alumni hosts make a philanthropic contribution to the local alumni chapter’s scholarship or another fund of their choosing and encourage other participants to do the same.

225 GLOBAL CELEBRATION IN SHANGHAI, CHINA
56 international alumni, university partners, counselors and friends of the university gathered at the Sunrise on the Bund Hotel in Shanghai, China, to celebrate UT’s 225th anniversary.
An International Volunteer’s Small Donation has a Big Impact During COVID-19 Pandemic

UT international student, Yuxiang Xie from China, donated 200 surgical masks and an infrared thermometer to the international house.

Student Success Headlines

“16 UT Students Awarded Gilman International Scholarship”

“UT Announces Inaugural Cohort of Academy for Global Scholars”

“17 UT Students Offered Fulbright Awards”
CGE established a social media presence in January 2020. Total social media followers has grown to 968 across all platforms.

Top Performing Posts

1. Top Tweet earned 17.5K impressions
   - 23 incoming freshmen were invited to participate in the Academy for Global Scholars program AGS @UTKGlobal Read more about our Global Scholars cge.utk.edu/2020/09/11/ut... @UTKGlobal pic.twitter.com/3xQQ2a8GEO
   - 2,507 people reached
   - 62.5% engagement rate
   - 307 engagements

2. Top mention earned 111 engagements
   - UTIA @UTIA - Apr 16
   - Thanks to a generous donation from the East Tennessee Chinese/Chinese American Care group, over 1000 face masks have been donated to @UTAGResearch’s 10 research centers to protect workers. utiasnews.tennessee.edu/support-for-ut... #everywhere @UTIA_SVP @UT_President @UTSystemNews @UTKGlobal pic.twitter.com/lhDPM8mgCH
   - 294 impressions
   - 73.5% engagement rate

Total Impressions

- Facebook 3.7%
- YouTube 0.4%
- Instagram 6.0%
- Twitter 89.9%

Total Followers

- Twitter 26.9%
- YouTube 0.7%
- Facebook 28.7%
- Instagram 43.7%