Office of Global Learning  
Internal Annual Review  
Academic Year 2006-2007  
Summary  
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Associate Provost for Global Learning

Introduction:

FY 06-07 was a significant year for Global Learning:

1. Received a Special Purpose Grant from the State of N.J. that supported much of our programming,
2. Organized a highly successful and well-attended Symposium on Human Rights & Conflict Resolution,
3. Promoted the Manager of Global Initiatives to Director, Office of Global Learning, and hired a U.N. Program Coordinator,
4. Convened a university-wide Study Abroad Committee, creating a Report that recommended a new structure and guidelines for Study Abroad at FDU.

Priorities for FY 06-07:

- Continue to strengthen the current programs — including the United Nations Pathways, the Global Virtual Faculty and Global Issues Gateway (GIG) — with a particular emphasis on involving more faculty and students in these programs.
- Continue to support and promote interdisciplinary areas studies programs, including African Studies, Middle East Studies, and Human Rights and Conflict Resolution.
- Work with relevant offices to enhance study abroad opportunities and support more faculty-led short-term travel excursions.
- Bring more students into Global Learning programming by creating internships and opportunities for volunteerism.
- Become a more valued resource in helping academic programs incorporate global themes throughout the curriculum.

Special Purpose Grant for Global Education [Final Narrative Report]:

The Special Purpose Grant Global Education Initiative enabled Fairleigh Dickinson University to broaden and deepen the impact of global learning. Through the Office of Global Learning, this grant supported new and existing academic and extra-curricular programs that strengthened the global mission of FDU by reaching a broad number of students, faculty and community members, both within the state of New Jersey and as
internet users of the world wide web. The grant award, originally for the period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, was extended six months, ending on June 30, 2007. Because of the academic calendar of the University and the semester-based structure of the curriculum, most funds were expended in the 2006-07 academic year, with the majority of new programmatic funds reserved for the 2007 Spring Semester.

United Nations Pathways Program:

FDU has a long-standing and important relationship with the U.N. resulting in existing programming that impacts hundreds of students and countless numbers of internet guests. During the grant period, many U.N. Ambassadors visited our campuses to speak about a range of topics specific to the region they come from, the work of the U.N., current events, and issues of global significance. They included the Ambassadors from Syria, South Africa, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tanzania, Eritrea, Croatia, Cyprus, Norway, and Timor-Leste. All lectures, followed by Q & A, were taped and made available in video streaming format on the Global Issues Gateway, www.gig.org, website. These open public forums with key diplomatic and international representatives drew over 1,000 attendees, mostly FDU students, who then interacted with the experts, some over formal dinners that followed each lecture. FDU was also the hub for a series of interactive videoconferences in collaboration with the U.N. Ambassador's Club. These sessions, broadcast from the U.N., were then simultaneously transmitted to other participating universities and high schools. All videoconferences were taped and available on gig.org. They included discussions on children's rights, post-conflict peace-building, terrorism, violence against women, non-state entities, international sex-trafficking, and the empowerment of Latin American women. Among the participating sites were Montclair State University, Montclair High School, Rider University, Lock Haven University, Western Michigan University, Arcadia University, and Roger Williams University. Each videoconference brought together at least six separate academic sites, consisting of some 75 students and faculty members. FDU's activities with the U.N., which also consist of tours, briefings, clubs and alliances, have increasingly connected to the curricula of specific academic programs and courses, some with a study abroad component, in global studies, international affairs, human rights, women's studies, Middle East studies, African studies, global business, and international tourism.

Global Issues Gateway Website:

The www.gig.org educational website, which serves as a gateway between the university community and the world and acts as a major resource in preparing world citizens, was significantly enhanced during the period of the grant. Because of new features developed through the grant, the new site will have a significant impact on the FDU community and will draw in a far greater number of outside visitors. Indeed, the site was put "on hold" for the duration of the grant to allow for an extensive revamping. Apple products, including both hardware and software, were purchased to upgrade the complete Production Environment of the site and extend the database. Adobe software products such as the Flash Streaming Server were purchased to improve the Development
Environment of the site. The latest web technologies have helped to establish the state-of-the-art streaming technology for the new gig.org website and have gone a long way in improving the web design capacities of the site. In addition, cameras, camcorders, scanners and printers, were purchased to enhance the Post-Production Environment for the site, allowing for further dissemination of global learning. For instance, the recording equipment will be used by students traveling abroad to document their experiences on the gig.org site. The extensive technology purchases will expand the reach of the live streaming of U.N. and other global events and will enhance the ITV technologies currently in use. Some of the results are already in evidence on the site: video streaming of FDU global events means that huge numbers of interested educators can now access lectures and workshops that they could not attend in person. These include 15 sessions from the highly successful Fall '06 Symposium on Human Rights & Conflict Resolution: The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the U.N. on conflict resolution, the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch on the state of human rights today; and notable speakers, victims, activists on many topics such as the genocide in Darfur, persecuted writers, realities of torture, internet freedom in China, gender and human rights, the truth and reconciliation process, and democratization in Africa. Other global events organized by Middle East Studies, the Institute for Sustainable Enterprise, and the Interrogating Boundaries lecture series are now searchable and accessible with interactive streaming multimedia. The newly revamped website also includes a new feature, The Global Virtual Classroom [GVC], a unique tool that allows two classrooms anywhere in the world to interact in a virtual online space. This feature, an extension of FDU's highly successful Global Virtual Faculty (GVF) program, allows an FDU faculty member who is collaborating with a GVF member, to broaden the educational experience, enabling the GVF member to bring in her foreign classroom to the New Jersey campus. For example, in Spring 2007, an FDU professor partnered with a professor in Russia to discuss gender and culture issues along with over 40 students. Another new feature of the www.gig.org website is Exploring Globalization: a peer-reviewed academic online journal with essays, interviews, book reviews, pedagogy, and interactive forums. Utilizing a sophisticated office management system, the journal will offer expert scholarly material and interactive responses, creating a democratic forum for the ongoing debate on, and teaching of, globalization. Nine FDU faculty members, constituting the main editorial board, work with the staff of the Office of Global Learning to develop this new feature of the website. Indeed, the Global Issues Gateway website depends on broad ownership and extensive use, both by the FDU community and external visitors to the site. As such, the website offers a Technology Internship Program that provides unique opportunities for FDU students in Information Technology and Computer Graphics.

Interdisciplinary Area Studies:

10% of the grant was allocated to new academic area studies, creating or enhancing curricular and extra-curricular programming that had a palpable impact on the FDU community in four distinct areas:

**Human Rights & Conflict Resolution:** The Office of Global Learning organized this major two-day conference on both NJ campuses in October,
2006. With some 50 experts leading over 30 lectures, plenary sessions and workshops, the Symposium drew over 1,200 attendees. Some of the speakers included H.E. Ibrahim Gambari, then under-secretary general for political affairs at the U.N., Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, plus student activists, writers, survivors of torture, religious leaders and academics. Fifty FDU student volunteers assisted with conference logistics. Online evaluation forms praised the impact and import of the Symposium and recognized the transformative effects of this international mega-event. To continue the momentum of the Symposium into the Spring 2007 semester, the following programs supported by the grant took place: Post Symposium Human Rights Speaker Series on the Metro Campus [6 events, totaling 100 attendees]; "Capital Punishment, Where do we Stand?" event on the Florham Campus [event featured members of the NJ Death Penalty commission and a death row exoneree, and was attended by over 300 students]; workshops on each campus by Paul Martin, founder and director of Columbia University's Center for the Study of Human Rights, for FDU faculty interested in factoring human rights content into their course materials [attended by 28 faculty members]; "Rock for Human Rights" student Amnesty International event on Metro Campus; and competitive student prizes for Green Day event, focusing on sustainability and human rights concerns, on Florham Campus. [Please refer to supplementary materials].

**Middle East Studies:** In order to bolster a new academic minor on both campuses in M.E. Studies, the Office of Global Learning through the grant allocated funds to purchase resources [5 reference books and 12 documentaries], to hire an Arabic language adjunct professor to teach an introductory course to a dozen students, to send two faculty members to Israel for a conflict resolution workshop between Arabs and Jews, to support a faculty member developing a new course on "Voices of Peace in the M.E.," to send 7 faculty members for enrichment events on Palestinian culture and Human Rights for Women in the M.E., and to create "Current Intellectual Debates in the Arab World": a standing-room only event that featured Elias Khoury, the Global Distinguished Professor of M.E. and Islamic Studies at NYU and a prominent Arab novelist, intellectual, and journalist [75 attendees]. These collected activities supplemented relevant programming from the United Nations and the Symposium on Human Rights & Conflict Resolution to greatly enhance the visibility of the new academic Middle East Studies minor that is beginning to take root on both FDU campuses.

**African Studies:** In order to strengthen the minor on the Metro Campus and to generate interest on the Florham Campus, the Office of Global Learning through the grant allocated funds to purchase resources [10 documentaries]; to create "Examining the Impact of Donor-Funded Initiatives in the Education Sector, Developing Women Leaders in South
Africa" [a lecture panel on the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, 60 attendees] and faculty workshop to integrate issues into African Studies courses [attended by 12 faculty members]; cultural excursion to Senegalese Quarter of Harlem, Manhattan [Prof. of African History and Prof. of African Literature and a dozen students for experiential learning in local African market economy; promotion of minor and related link to Senegalese GVF and study abroad]; to support membership in the Association of African Studies Program and West African Research Center; to fund one faculty participation in African Literature Association conference in West Virginia; to fund one graduate student participation in African conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

**Institute for Sustainable Enterprise:** this relatively new Institute at FDU's Silberman College of Business is engaged in research and related activities that promote human rights, economic sustainability and the agenda of the U.N.'s Global Compact. Monies from the grant supported faculty attending the "Business as Agent for World Benefit" conference sponsored by the United Nations in Cleveland, Ohio; funded travel to INCAE, a leading business school in Costa Rica, to promote collaborative research and pedagogy projects; and covered transcription services for a case study of E+Co, a global organization dedicated to bring clean affordable energy to the world's poor.

**Office of Global Learning:**

The Special Purpose Grant Global Education Initiative provided for a percentage of full-time staff salaries and fringe benefits as well as attendance at conferences. The grant also covered a number of student assistants who worked on the U.N. and the gig.org programs for the Office of Global Learning. It also supported stipends for faculty who took on administrative duties with the gig.org journal, the GVF and GVC new initiative, and the human rights, African and Middle East studies programs. The grant also paid the stipends of some of the Global Virtual Faculty members who are integral to the project of integrating global education through technology and the Internet. Some consumable supplies that supported our internationalization efforts were also placed on the grant, as well as fees for video equipment and production for our U.N. and gig.org global events section.

In conclusion, the generous Special Purpose Grant allowed FDU to further its mission of becoming "a center of academic excellence dedicated to the preparation of world citizens through global education." The Office of Global Learning expanded the reach of its U.N. programming, renovated the technology of its flagship global website, and provided new features for its nationally recognized Global Virtual Faculty program. It also helped seed and support new academic interdisciplinary programs that strengthened both the Middle East and African Studies minors across the University and helped build new human rights, conflict resolution, and sustainability units into multiple disciplinary courses. In total over 4,000 students, faculty, and N.J. community members were directly impacted.
by activities supported by the grant funds, and this is not counting the many who visited the gig.org website even while it was under reconstruction. Because of the grant, the website will be relaunched, allowing for extensive global outreach and the further dissemination of Fairleigh Dickinson University's global programming.

**Staff of Office of Global Learning:**

**Elise Salem,** Associate Provost for Global Learning.

**Diana Cvitan,** Director, Office of Global Learning.

**Mahesh Nair,** Sr. Project Manager, Web Development.


**Joseph Chuman,** Symposium Organizer.

**Salina Singleton,** Student Coordinator.

**Eli Amdur:** U.N. Faculty Coordinator [Interim].

**Dolores Stasion,** Administrative Assistant.

**Faculty coordinators:** they serve as central contacts within the colleges, facilitating collaboration and information assimilation. Each of the 4 faculty members was also previously on the 2004-05 Global Education Strategic Planning Committee: Aixa Ritz [Petrocelli College], Gerard Farias [Silberman College of Business], Khyati Joshi [University College], and Alice Shumate [Becton College].

**Student assistants:** the office houses students as interns, work study, undergraduate and graduate assistants. At the **Metropolitan** Campus the students are Salina Singleton, Andrija Sekulic, Sushma Sathyaprakash, Kelly Santana and Rachel McGurr. At the Campus at **Florham**, our students are Valerie Colotov, Katie Kleinschuster, Sean Green, Rebecca Eleyi and Tramaine Cooper.

**Volunteers:** 50 students for the Symposium on Human Rights & Conflict Resolution.