TRI-THANKS: A NOTE OF APPRECIATION 
FROM THE MIC TRI-CHAIRS

As we seem to face "new normals" every few days right now, the chance to focus for a moment on a slightly more distant horizon can be a source of energy and uplift. We have found that to be the case with the work of the Mason International Collaborative, which, though mindful of the immediate and potential longer-term effects of the pandemic, has continued to work in committees and as a whole to advance the data collection and planning-to-plan phases of the work we set out to do as part of this two-year initiative. In light of the many variables of the moment, including the public health emergency and the changes in Mason’s senior leadership that have occurred or are imminent, in consultation with our terrific ACE adviser, Susan Carvalho, we have adjusted some of our timelines, but we’re committed to the overall shape of the larger strategic inquiry upon which the Collaborative embarked last fall.

The idea of Mason as an internationally aware, infused, and active university is vital in any conceivable future, and we have taken inspiration from our community’s willingness to remain engaged on this subject as we navigate the current crisis. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our community of MIC committee members, the co-chairs of the six committees, the Office of the Provost, University Life, and our Executive Sponsors, Michelle Marks and Rose Pascarell, for their continued support of MIC’s work. And we extend our gratitude to the Mason community at large for reserving at least a smidgeon of your bandwidth to think about a stronger future even as we scramble together to make sense of the present.

All the best for a successful conclusion to this unforgettable semester,

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

In the second phase of the ACE Internationalization Lab, the key objectives are to collect and analyze data on current internationalization efforts and perspectives. Committees are compiling data from a variety of sources including self-studies utilizing the ACE internationalization toolkit, existing institutional records, online focus groups with stakeholders, informal surveys for specific campus populations, hosting virtual special events, and examining best practices at other institutions. Data collection by the entire collaborative includes a faculty survey and benchmarking with peer institutions.

NEW! EMOU SYSTEM AT MASON

A joint collaboration between the Office of the Provost and ITS helped launch a new electronic Memorandum of Understanding system (EMOU) to more efficiently create, approve, and maintain all domestic and international MOUs across the institution. To introduce the system to all potential users of the system, a series of trainings will take place regularly. If you are interested in joining an upcoming EMOU training session or requesting a customized session, please complete the EMOU Training Request Form.

ACE ENGAGE

Engage is a peer-to-peer online learning platform created by American Council on Education. This online community provides learning through groups of common interest, such as internationalization on campus, and announces upcoming events. For more information and to create an account, see engage.acenet.edu

MIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE HOSTING LIGHTNING TALKS

All are invited to a lightning talks session on Friday, May 8 from 10 AM - Noon via WebEx. Faculty from a variety of disciplines will present about their international research, scholarship, and creative projects. This event is organized and hosted by the Research Committee: Padhu Seshaiyer (co-chair), Aurali Dade (co-chair), Rei Berroa, Constance Gewa, Lisa Kahn, Steven Harris-Scott.

You’re Invited!

The GMU community is invited to a lightning talks session hosted by the Mason International Collaborative’s Research Committee. This session highlights faculty who are involved with research, scholarship, and creative projects in international locations or on international topics. Confirmed talks include:

- Johanna Bockman on Globalization Studies | Rebecca Fox on Teacher Development
- Aimee Fullman on Cultural Diplomacy | Constance Gewa on Food Security and Nutrition
- Kristin Johnsen-Neshati on Theater | Mahesh Joshi on Entrepreneurship
- Lisa Kahn on Classical Archaeology | Peter Plavchan on Astronomy
- Mills Kelly on Digital Humanities | Lisa Rabin on Media Studies
- Padhu Seshaiyer on STEM Education | Chaowei Phil Yang on Computational Geography

For more information contact: mic@gmu.edu

Friday, May 8
10 am - Noon
WebEx Meeting PW: may8mic
MIC TEAM MEETING GOES VIRTUAL

More than 50 MIC team members joined online for the meeting on April 23. A highlight of the meeting was the committee reports:

**Curriculum** (Co-Chairs Brain Platt and Ioulia Rytikova): The committee is meeting regularly online to review what other universities have done and identify best practices. Through ACE *Internationalization in Action*, the committee noted that STEM generally receives the least amount of emphasis for curriculum internationalization efforts. The committee has identified specific STEM colleagues at Mason to share ideas on the internationalization of the curriculum.

**Enrollment Management & Partnership** (Co-Chairs Nana Bonsu and Matt Sacco): The committee decided that it would be most effective to split into subcommittees, recruitment/enrollment and partnership, to be able to fully address each area. They are focused on catalyzing conversations within the subcommittees and accessing internal resources to inform priorities for internationalization efforts.

**Education Abroad** (Co-Chairs Marie alice Arnold and Lisa Billingham): The committee is questioning: what is happening now and what criteria should we be looking at ahead? When can education abroad move to any sense of normalcy again? The committee may explore more virtual tools and experiences that could be used for study abroad.

**Faculty Development** (Co-Chairs Supriya Baily and E. Shelley Reid): Many questions remain: What impact is COVID19 having on faculty? How are faculty teaching remotely in intercultural ways or not? How does the current environment affect short-term and long-term trajectories for faculty? The committee is trying to be thoughtful about what to ask of faculty in light of the current crisis.

**Student and Campus Life** (Co-Chairs Jessica Biddle and Lewis Forrest): The committee is figuring out how to invite the student voice into this project. Student focus group protocols are being updated and may have to be limited to specific populations at this time. Also, given the situation, the committee is revisiting key questions and shifting to student knowledge of self and interaction with those who are different.

**Research** (Co-Chairs Aurali Dade and Padmanabhan Seshaiyer): The committee will be holding a faculty lightning talks session on May 8 via WebEx. Nearly 20 faculty have submitted talks on research, scholarship, and creative projects in international locations or on international topics. All are encouraged all to attend.

Full notes and resources from meetings are saved on Trello.