# Table of Contents

**Executive Summary**........................................................................................................................................3

**IISE’s Mission, Goals and Strategies**............................................................................................................4

**IISE’s Three Themes**........................................................................................................................................5

**Theme 1: Connecting the Local and the Global**.............................................................................................5

- Symposium Series 1: IISE 4P Event (Poster Presentation & Potluck Party)......................................................5
- Symposium Series 2: Connecting the Local and the Global I............................................................................6
- Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)................................................................................................................6

**Theme 2: Preparing a Global Generation**........................................................................................................10

- Teaching........................................................................................................................................................10
- Book Review..................................................................................................................................................11
- Study Abroad................................................................................................................................................11

**Theme 3: Addressing Global Gendered and Inclusion Issues**........................................................................12

- Gendered Installation......................................................................................................................................12

**IISE’s Partnerships and Social Events**........................................................................................................13

- International Education Week.........................................................................................................................13
- Visiting Scholars’ Tea.......................................................................................................................................13
- IISE Alumni Panera Get Together................................................................................................................13
- IISE Faculty and Affiliates Stories..................................................................................................................14
- IISE-BSU Cooperation....................................................................................................................................16
- IISE Volunteers................................................................................................................................................17

**Looking Ahead**............................................................................................................................................17
Executive Summary

The Academic Year (AY) of 2017-2018 marked the 30th year for the Institute for International Studies in Education’s (IISE) development. It also saw a management change. Dr. Maureen McClure was named the new Director, and Dr. Maureen Porter, Associate Director. During this transition year, IISE worked to preserve its significant legacy, while adjusting to new conditions. At the heart of IISE is local learning, global sharing. This year IISE focused both on strengthening its existing efforts, and on extending its outreach activities in new directions, across the school and the university.

One foundational priority has been IISE’s support for international research collaboration, through both graduate faculty members and students. This year attention focused on strengthening IISE’s popular Visiting Scholars program. This meant strengthening administrative, research and professional support, as well as improving social activities. International faculty members and doctoral students were asked to submit research proposals designed to work with specific faculty counterparts. They reviewed them for acceptance. Small seminars for research presentations helped strengthen Visiting Scholars’ professional skills.

In addition, more social events were added to help them think beyond their personal research to building cohorts and networks. Some visiting scholars sat in on and contributed to course discussions through their research, experience, and skills in helping others “see” better with sometimes wildly different cultural lenses. Finally, as the Visiting Scholars’ publication records build, they will be made available on the website.

IISE’s priority to support international, global and intellectual diversity across the School of Education extended to graduate students in several ways. First, teaching. IISE faculty taught international and global education-related classes across the school. For example, the Department of Instruction and Learning has a strong Foreign Language Education program. They invited IISE Faculty to teach the International and Global Education course. Second, course-based collaborative research. Students in the Social and Comparative Analysis in Education’s (SCAE) Comparative Education class, for example, reviewed a book on Citizenship Education and Global Migration for Teachers College Press.

Third, the international experience, or study abroad. This priority has taken root and this year is blossoming. An advocate, Dr. Porter’s classes are not only taught from a disciplinary foundation (Anthropology), she also often includes rigorous qualitative analysis of fieldwork, both locally and internationally. Her long-standing concerns for gender and education globally, are visible across her research and teaching. Fourth, professional development. IISE faculty across the school have been engaged in local outreach efforts from field trips to curriculum development.

Finally, IISE has a long-term commitment to developing institutional partnerships internationally. This year it revisited and revised older ones, and reached out to new ones.

Moving forward, IISE’s highest priority plans for next year include greater visibility for the Visiting Scholars’ program, forming a focused research group “conversation,” the development of an Advisory Board, strengthening alumni relations, and improving its net presence.
The Academic Year (AY) of 2017-2018 marked the 30th year of IISE’s development. Dr. Maureen McClure became the new director, and Dr. Maureen Porter, Associate Director, after its former director, Dr. James Jacob, left the University for the University of Memphis. During this transition year, IISE moved to "the Pitt international hub" on the fourth floor of Wesley W. Posvar Hall. The IISE Seminar Room was fully equipped with state-of-art devices, accommodating the Symposium Series and other events hosted by IISE, including doctoral dissertation defenses and the year-end meeting of the Administrative and Policy Studies Department.

IISE is built on a long-established mission and goals as a premier university research and training institute in comparative, international, and development education. During 2017-18, IISE began to refocus its initiatives toward connecting local learning to global sharing, as many creative local efforts have much to offer a global audience. A key goal for IISE is to strengthen the linkages between local and global communities in educational research and practice.

Historically, IISE addressed issues related to: 1) education and its interdisciplinary consequences, 2) international and comparative research, and 3) institutional design and development. Today, IISE focused on intellectual diversity, seeking to gather School of Education and University faculty, staff, students, alumni, visiting scholars, and affiliated-constituencies, to engage in research that:

1) Connects the local to the global for education and development
2) Designs international and global education for a generational experience
3) Address global gendered and inclusion issues

In addition, IISE is setting priorities for more focused training, consultancies, partnerships, service, policy making, teaching, and other forms of practice in local, regional, national, and international contexts.

These established and expanded missions have driven IISE toward three strategic goals – 1) to connect the local and the global, 2) to prepare a global generation; and 3) to address global gendered and inclusion issues. The goals align with Pitt’s and SOE’s strategic plans for 2016-2020. They include setting realistic priorities regarding innovative research, extending our global reach, embracing the values of impact on academic excellence, along with respect for persons, diversity and inclusion.
In seeking ways to achieve our strategic goals, IISE has developed three operational themes for its activities.

**Theme 1: Connecting the Local and the Global**

The Symposium Series has been one of IISE's core activities. It features study presentations by national and international researchers, scholars, and practitioners who are interested in issues of comparative education and the international/global. More specifically, the Symposium Series provides IISE Visiting Scholars, Senior Research Fellows and Affiliated Faculty Members, advanced doctoral students, and professionals from around the world with opportunities to share their studies.

The ultimate goal of Symposium Series is to enhance mutual in-depth understanding of national and global problems and then how those in local contexts have addressed them. During the academic year of 2017-18, IISE hosted two Symposium Series.

**Symposium Series 1: IISE 4P Event (Poster Presentation & Potluck Party)**

We had our inaugural event in the new IISE space on February 1, 2018. It was our first 4P, which translates into a Poster Presentation and a Potluck Party. IISE visiting scholar, Prof. Xiangling Li from Guangxi Teacher Education University, shared her research on the study of the first experiences of a male kindergarten teacher in China. Another visiting scholar, Prof. Xinhong Wang from Xi'an Jiaotong University, used both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the drop-out phenomenon among Chinese PhD students in China. IISE faculty members, staff engaged in lively discussion of the two poster presentations.
On April 10, 2018, IISE held symposium series entitled “Connecting the Local and the Global I.” This Series was co-sponsored by the University Center for International Studies (Asian Studies Center, Global Studies Center, and European Center). The findings of two studies were shared and discussed in the Symposium. Chris Chirdon, a PhD student in the Social and Comparative Analysis in Education (SCAE) program in the School of Education, looked at bike culture in Germany, analyzing some of the complex issues involved in cultural transfer to the U.S. Li Zheng, an IISE Visiting Scholar, a third year PhD Candidate from East China Normal University, shared his examination of the knowledge structure of front-line workers in several service occupations. This study may provide guidance for curriculum development and teaching in vocational schools in China.

Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)

Central to IISE is strengthening the linkages between local and global communities in educational research and practice. The Visiting Scholars Program aims to offer a premier opportunity for international scholars in the field of education, or affiliated fields, to further their own research by working with School of Education faculty members, and colleagues elsewhere at the University of Pittsburgh. The program offers a balance of administrative, research, professional, teaching and social support opportunities for scholars to collaborate not only with Pitt faculty members, but also with each other. It helps them join an international network for scholars at any stage of their career, assisting them in their professional development. Finally, the program demonstrates the active role IISE plays in connecting the local and global research through working among scholars from diverse disciplinary, institutional, and geographic backgrounds and SOE faculty members.

IISE accepts visiting scholar applicants on a rolling basis throughout the year. Scholars stay for different periods of time, ranging from a few weeks to a couple of years. As of the end of May 2018, there were applicants for the Visiting Scholar Program at IISE from Mainland China, Germany, Pakistan, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.
Over the past year, we focused on updating policies and practices related to our visiting scholars.

1) We redesigned support protocols for visiting scholars’ work with SOE faculty members.
2) We offered opportunities for three visiting scholars to present their studies at our Symposium Series.
3) At the end of Spring semester, we awarded ten IISE Visiting Scholar Certificates to those who had successful completed their Visiting Scholar Appointments.

Below is the Table reflecting the 2017-2018 Visiting Scholars and Their Research. Ten of them have completed their Appointments and one of them - Dr. Lunxuan SUN - is in progress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position, Department/Institute</th>
<th>Institution, Country</th>
<th>Faculty Sponsor</th>
<th>Research Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamal M. AL KHATEEB</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Counseling &amp; Special Education</td>
<td>University of Jordan, Jordan</td>
<td>Louise Kaczmarek</td>
<td>“Parents’ Perceptions of Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Arabic Countries: A Comparative Review”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huimin CHEN</td>
<td>PhD Student, Faculty of Education</td>
<td>Beijing Normal University, China</td>
<td>Jean Ferketish</td>
<td>“Research on Endowed Chairs in American Top Research Universities”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiangling LI</td>
<td>Professor, School of Education Science</td>
<td>Guangxi Teachers Education University, China</td>
<td>Shannon Wanless</td>
<td>“A Comparative Study of Early Childhood Education Between the U.S. and China”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zheng LI</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Institute of Vocational &amp; Adult Education</td>
<td>Eastern China Normal University, China</td>
<td>Sean Kelly</td>
<td>“A Qualitative Study on the Knowledge Structure of Front-Line Workers in Service Occupations”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tingting LIU</td>
<td>PhD Student, National Engineering Research Center for E-Learning</td>
<td>Central China Normal University, China</td>
<td>Alan Lesgold</td>
<td>“Research on the Smart Education Based on Video-Image Intelligent Analysis Technology”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yanhong LIU</td>
<td>PhD Student, School of Administration</td>
<td>Jilin University, China</td>
<td>M. Najeeb Shafiq</td>
<td>“A Study on The Academic Evaluation System in Higher Education Institutions”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanyan QIN</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Institute of Education</td>
<td>Xiangnan University, China</td>
<td>Anthony Petrosky</td>
<td>“Research on Teacher Education in the United States”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, for the first time, IISE honored nine SOE faculty members with Certificates of Recognition for their scholarly mentoring of the visiting scholars over the past year. These included: **Dr. Jean Ferketish, Dr. Louise Kaczmarek, Dr. Sean Kelly, Dr. Alan Lesgold, Dr. Maureen McClure, Dr. Maureen Porter, Dr. Anthony Petrosky, Dr. Najeeb Shafiq, and Dr. Shannon Wanless.**

**Xi Wang**, helped design and coordinate the Visiting Scholars program. She has served as a Program Coordinator at IISE for more than 3 years. She is a PhD student in the Social and Comparative Analysis in Education program, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, School of Education. During the AY 2017-2018, she was responsible for the following IISE daily operational tasks:
Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE)

- Oversaw the Visiting Scholars (VS) Program including: collecting VS’ application documents, conducting background checks, contacting faculty counterparts, coordinating department check-in, helping to organize VS’ social activities, coordinating VS to join symposium series, and awarding them with certificates

- Maintained and updated the IISE website and social media

- Organized IISE symposiums series, social events, and wrote and edited IISE reports

- Interested in low cost, high impact online learning, including MOOCs, for professional development. Currently working with Dr. McClure on research examining how MOOCs may help professional development in higher institutions in China.

“Being an international student myself, IISE provides me with the best opportunity to engage in dynamic and global-oriented work and research. It has been a valuable experience for me to serve as the program coordinator of the Visiting Scholars program. Not only have I learned a lot about administration work in the US higher education context; more importantly, I have also experienced differences in culture, learning, and research between the U.S. and many other countries in the world. Many Visiting Scholars have shared with me how important this experience has been for their research, global understanding, and even life. Whenever I hear these, I can feel the important role IISE visiting scholars’ program plays, and the meaningfulness of my job. I will never forget such valuable experience, and IISE is my forever family wherever I go.”

Below are comments shared by some Visiting Scholars about their experience at the University of Pittsburgh:

Tingting Liu, “I love the academic atmosphere at Pitt. People here are warm-hearted, easy-going and rigorous in research works. I like the way in which professors give instructions in and after class as well as the frequent discussions with my classmates and teammates, which helped me a lot in my research project. I would like to express my special thanks to my advisor Professor Alan Lesgold, who offers me the precious chance to come to the U.S. If it was not for him, I would never have enjoyed the life that brings me new and interesting experiences.”
Zheng Li, “IISE is not only a platform that enables me to get in touch with the frontier research works in education, but also a warm family that offers me opportunity to experience the American culture. Professor Sean Kelly, my research partners, and all the staff members in IISE gave me a lot of valuable help on my research. For its excellent academic resources, excellent scholars and liberal academic atmosphere, I strongly believe that IISE is an ideal place for global scholars to communicate and cooperate with each other.”

Huimin Chen, “I spent a wonderful life at Pitt as a visiting PhD student at School of Education. There are two things I learned. One is being a good researcher with a wonderful life. Doing research aims to make human's life better and better. The other one is about the nature of research. When I got stuck on my research on endowed chairs, Professor Jean Ferketish always encouraged me to keep going and helped me fix it, and inspired me to see my research from a new perspective. I will remember what she said to me, ‘it is the nature of research forever. I am very appreciative that everyone that I met here helps me make progress.’”

Theme 2: Preparing a Global Generation

Teaching

IISE worked across the SOE to promote international and global education awareness in teaching. The Department of Administrative and Policy Studies (ADMPS), in partnership with the Department of Instruction and Learning’s (IL) Foreign Language Education program to offer two sections of the International and Global Education course during the Fall term. The course was taught by Dr. Marzia Cozzolino and Dr. McClure.
Additional IISE-related courses taught in ADMPS included Dr. Noreen Garman’s Education and Culture, Dr. Najeeb Shafiq’s Economics of Education, Dr. McClure’s International Organizations and Comparative Education, Dr. Porter’s courses in Anthropology and Gender Studies, Dr. Jorge Delgado’s Social Theories & Education Global Context and Comparative Higher Education. In Psychology and Education (PIE), Dr. Robert Gallen is teaching a course this summer on War and Children. Many of these courses are cross-listed beyond the School of Education.

**Book Review**

Global citizenship education is a topic of interest to a number of SOE students. *Teachers College Record* had invited Dr. Maureen McClure, IISE Director, to write a scholarly review of the book "Citizenship education and global migration: Implications for theory, research, and teaching," edited by James A. Banks (2017), and published by the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Professor Banks is a "guru" of citizenship education. Dr. McClure, in turn, invited a group of four Ph.D. students in SOE to analyze the book’s different regional approaches to citizenship education and migration. They highlighted issues such as thinking locally and acting globally, and the centrality of social cohesion. This utterly necessary social goal, however, is situated in the complex and often perilous contexts of class, colonial legacies, ethnicity, human rights, identity, immigration, indigenous and minority cultures, race, and religion. Balance may be both requisite and intractable. In addition, the book’s editor, James Banks, will be a keynote speaker at the Center for Urban Education’s (CUE) Summer Educator Forum on June 26-27, 2018.

**Study Abroad**

*Developing Flexible Curriculum on Ethiopia for K-12 Students*

In the past AY, Dr. Porter continued to devote her scholarship and management to the project "Ethiopia: Indigenous Wisdom and Culture" sponsored by Pitt’s African Studies Program and IISE. The inputs of the Project are from the **four-week study trip to Ethiopia**
In Summer 2017, funded through a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant. In this trip, she and the American educators worked directly with Ethiopian educators, interviewed entrepreneurs and religious leaders, and experienced the culture and traditions by learning to dance and sing alongside local performers. The key output of this project is a flexible curriculum on Ethiopia for K12 students in the United States. Currently, the resulting lesson plans are online and can be adapted to any learning environment.

Under this endeavor, she worked closely with Pitt's African Studies Program to hold a "Teach Africa Workshop" in February, with the participation of more than 20 educators from regional public and private schools. The workshop highlighted the importance of integrating Ethiopian culture and wisdom into K12 curriculum and provided the educators with an opportunity to discuss and learn more about the lesson plans and how they might adapt Ethiopian cultural features to their classroom practice.

Theme 3: Addressing Global Gendered and Inclusion Issues

Gendered Installation

Dr. Maureen Porter, IISE Associate Director, launched the installation "Catch a Wave Forward: Voyage through the Ebbs and Flows of Gender Education & Development" in April 2018 to highlight gender education issues around the world and imply fundamental and critical solutions based on gender mainstreaming perspective. This event was co-sponsored by the African Studies Program, the Asian Studies Center, and IISE.

The Gender and empowerment project in Uganda is another project she committed to contribute to girls and women in African region and to diverse teaching and learning in the U.S.

A member of GSWS Steering Committee (2016-2019): since 2016, Dr. Porter has served as an active member of the Gender-Sexuality & Women Studies (GSWS) at Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. She has contributed to policy-making decisions about the gendered programs as well as the general the operations of GSWS.
As mentioned above, IISE closely worked with the University Center of International Studies (UCIS), the Asian Studies Center, the Global Studies Center, the African Studies Program, and the European Studies Centers for holding Symposium Series in Spring 2018 and Gendered Installation in April 2018.

**International Education Week**

In celebrating the International Education Week hosted by the University Center of International Studies (UCIS), IISE coordinated an international week booth display from Oct. 17 – Oct. 19, 2017 on the fifth floor of Wesley W. Posvar Hall. The booth provided students with information about opportunities to find international study, work, and research experiences. The event was sponsored by IISE and co-sponsored by the School of Education and the Study Abroad Program in UCIS.

**Visiting Scholars’ Tea**

During the last week of the Fall 2017 semester, IISE held its first annual Visiting Scholars’ Tea. The event provided current visiting scholars the chance to learn more about each other, as well as IISE staff members. It also provided a good opportunity for visiting scholars to share both their research and their lives in Pittsburgh. IISE organizes visiting scholar get-togethers regularly in order to better provide them with academic, administrative, and social support.

**IISE Alumni Panera Get Together**

An affiliated faculty member, Jorge Delgado, organized a gathering of current and former IISE-affiliated faculty, alumni, visiting scholars, and international students on December 19, 2017. IISE is increasing networking and social opportunities for all affiliated faculty, visiting scholars, and students. During these
events, we hope to reduce some of the social isolation some of them may feel. This way these scholars begin to see themselves as a cohort, not only with academic and administrative support, but also as a network of colleagues who not only help each other now, but who also will want to continue these relationships after they return to their sending countries.

**IISE Faculty and Affiliates Stories**

Many of our IISE faculty members and affiliates are engaged in internationally-related research and projects during this AY. They make strong efforts to help develop a global orientation and international understandings among faculty, staff, students, and alumni at the University of Pittsburgh. Below is a small sample of a variety of experiences, within IISE, across the School of Education, and with alumni:

**M. Najeeb Shafiq**, Professor of Education, Economics, and International Affairs, Chair of ADMPS and IISE faculty member.

This year he contributed to the 2018 World Development Report (WDR): *Learning to Realize Education's Promise*. “The WDR is the World Bank's flagship report and each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development. Past WDRs have considered such topics as agriculture, public services delivery, the role of the state, labor, infrastructure, health, the environment, and poverty. The 2018 WDR is “the first ever devoted entirely to education.” With colleagues at the World Bank, he prepared background papers that used novel data and econometric methods to examine schooling (early childhood, elementary, secondary, and higher education levels), cognitive skills, socio-emotional skills, equity, and social mobility in low and middle-income countries.

**Robert Gallen**, Assistant Professor of Practice, and Coordinator of the Masters of Science Programs in Applied Developmental Psychology, School of Education
Robert is teaching a course this summer at Pitt that will examine the impact of war and trauma on young child development in refugee and immigrant populations. Students will take a “War and Childhood” course, and a neuroscience course on the impact on war/trauma on the developing brain. A third “leg” to this course will be to meet refugee and immigrant individuals who have moved due to conflict in their home nations, so that student can be with the very people they are trying to understand academically.

“The class will run for two weeks in PGH (June 4-15) and then in London where we will learn at the Anna Freud Centre, engage in refugee week activities, and learn about this topic from an international perspective with various other site visits, expert talks, etc.”

Michelle F. Heryhord, Director of Confucius Institute and IISE affiliate.

“One of the larger programs I am working on right now is a documentary film with our local public television affiliate, WQED. This film will be a PBS distributed film about the Jewish refugees who lived in Shanghai during WWII. We are currently writing grants to secure funding for the film and anticipate filming to begin in January of 2019. The film’s producer, Ms. Darryl Ford Williams, and I have already gone to China to meet with our constituents and scholars in Shanghai and Beijing, who will be instrumental in helping us to tell this important piece of history. In addition, I am working with members of the Russian and East European Studies Center and GSPIA on a series of lectures and a conference on the impact of One Belt, One Road as it is being understood from Central Asia.”

Dao Nguyen, IISE Program Coordinator and PhD student in Higher Education Management, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, School of Education.
Dao joined the Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) Working Group at the University’s Ford Institute for Human Security in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), as a graduate student researcher over the past year. Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) is an international project initiated by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). It aims to bring attention to the state of gender equality globally in public administration (PA) by gathering and analyzing data on women’s global representation in PA. The GEPA Working Group at the University of Pittsburgh has been co-led by Dr. Müge Finkel of GSPIA, and Dr. Melanie Hughes of Sociology, since the Fall of 2015. It has convened a multi-disciplinary group of researchers. Dao's case studies concentrated on women's participation in PA in post-conflicts in Vietnam and Ethiopia.

In November 2017, she presented her findings on Vietnam at the GIRL (Gender Inequality Research Lab) Workshop co-organized by the UNDP New York and the University of Pittsburgh. And on March 3, 2018, the results of her case study on Ethiopia were reported at the Conference "Women's Leadership in Conflict Affecting Public Institutions" organized at the UNDP Headquarters in New York.

_Jill A Perry_, Associate Professor in ADMPS, School of Education and IISE faculty affiliate.

“I run the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate that has three international members in Canada and New Zealand. The work we do impacts the understanding and design of the EdD in various countries that offer the degree--Asia, Australia, UK etc. I have a chapter, The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate: Transforming education practice in multiple contexts that will be coming out in the edited volume, The Sustainability of Higher Education massification: Cases from Asia Pacific and the U.S., edited by Ka Ho Mok, Deane Neubauer and Jin Jiang.”

**IISE-BSU Cooperation**

In March 2018, IISE began conversations about potential cooperation with the top-ranked physical education university in China, Beijing Sport University (BSU), a national center for Olympic sports. BSU’s School of Education will be discussing with SOE’s Dean’s Office about the potential for academic research, teaching and exchanges. Both schools seek high quality academic experiences that can deepen
their students’ knowledge, expand their horizons, and prepare them for the future. We hope more details can be discussed and initiated during the coming semester.

**IISE Volunteers**

IISE couldn’t function very well without those who volunteer their time and expertise. Special thanks go out to: **Prof. Jean Ferketish**, as she generously provided all visiting scholars with free basketball tickets to make their life in Pittsburgh a little richer and more colorful. **Veysel Gokbel and Shangmou Xu** dedicated their time as photographers, helping visiting scholars with individual professional portraits. They also took photos during IISE Symposium series. Visiting Scholars **Tingting Liu, Huimin Chen, and Zheng Li**, volunteered to help IISE organize different events.

**Looking Ahead: Local Learning, Global Sharing**

We hope we have honored IISE’s storied past, and we hope to adapt it to an increasingly complex and international world. We plan to continue to design and operationalize our three themes for IISE activities in the coming year. In order to overcome current constraints in human and financial resources, we are currently planning to focus on the following:

1) **Strengthen and promote the Visiting Scholars program**. In addition to research and administrative and presentation support, we will include a few meetings to discuss more general professional development-level seminar topics related to the US cultures of research, such as opportunities explore intellectual diversity. It will also include regular small social activities for visiting scholars.

2) Build an **Advisory Board** to help us with our strategic planning.

3) Build an **“Alumni Corner”** on IISE’s social media so alumni and friends can catch up with each other online. Its purpose would be to explore opportunities for mentoring, networking and research.

4) **A Research Working Group** may be formed to help amplify IISE’s research profile. One topic being considered is **Education and a Global Generation’s Experience**.

5) **IISE’s website and other social media** will be updated to better enable global audiences access to IISE-related research, events and activities.