

FALL | 2024

# RED HAWKS ABROAD

A newsletter from International Academic Initiatives

## Internationalization Updates

In 2022-23 and 2023-24, International Academic Initiatives (IAI) contributed to the efforts of the Provost Office's **Global Reach Task Force**. The work of the Task Force and recommended next steps for strategic, campus-wide internationalization are featured on page 2. Regarding strategy, our IAI office has developed three guiding principles, illustrated below, to inform our work and that of the faculty, Chairs, Deans, and IAC we will partner with:



IAI was pleased to see that **Diversity and Intercultural Competency** is not only part of **SEEDS**, but one of five defining **SEEDS Values**. Our team partners with faculty, Chairs, committees, and Dean's offices so we can contribute to curricular internationalization. We do so via courses with a travel component, but also through the Visiting Scholar Program, Erasmus mobility, Fulbright, promoting COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) instruction, and other initiatives.

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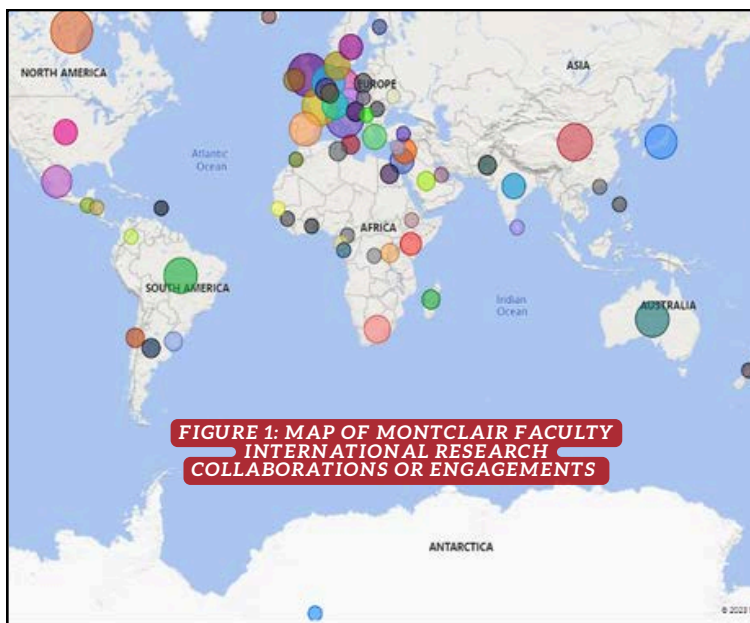
# Global Reach Task Force (GRTF)

The Global Reach Task Force (GRTF) was established in October 2022 as an inclusive committee of faculty, staff, and student representatives, built to address Montclair's need for a strategic, intentional approach to internationalization. Co-chaired by Ethné Swartz and Carlos Molina, the GRTF had several key goals:

- Create a cohesive strategy to enhance Montclair's global footprint, foster diverse collaborations, increase student mobility, promote international research, and cultivate cultural exchange.
- Bring together expertise in sociology, business, international affairs, technology, and other disciplines to create a robust, interdisciplinary approach to global engagement.
- Promote the understanding that higher education must actively engage with global challenges, and that a structured approach can amplify Montclair's global impact/visibility.

The committee's key recommendations were accepted by the Office of the Provost, and focused on building robust frameworks and partnerships to sustain international engagement. Four members of the GRTF formed an International Advisory Committee (IAC) Steering Committee in October 2024 to spearhead the implementation of urgent recommendations. It will lead and coordinate international efforts, working with and advising the Provost to create a comprehensive strategic plan for global education. The IAC will further enhance data-driven approaches to track and improve international engagement, and provide robust support for faculty to expand global research collaborations, especially in underserved regions. The GRTF will publish a final report later this fall.

Argentina Australia Austria  
Bahrain Belgium  
Brazil Cameroon  
Canada Chile China  
Colombia Congo  
Costa Rica Croatia Cyprus  
Denmark Egypt  
Ethiopia Equatorial Guinea  
Finland France Gabon  
Germany Ghana Greece  
Guatemala Guinea  
Iceland India Ireland  
Italy Israel Hungary  
Japan Kenya Lebanon  
Luxembourg Madagascar Malta  
Martinique Mexico Morocco  
Netherlands N.Zealand  
Pakistan Peru  
Philippines Poland Romania  
Rwanda Scotland  
Senegal Serbia  
Slovak Republic S.Africa  
Spain Sri Lanka  
States within the U.S.  
Saudi Arabia Sweden  
Switzerland  
Taiwan Tunisia  
Turkey Ukraine  
United Kingdom Uruguay



## GRTF Members

### Co-Chairs

**Dr. Ethné Swartz,**  
Feliciano School of  
Business

**Dr. Carlos Molina,**  
College of Science &  
Mathematics

### Members

**Dr. Fatima Decarvalho**  
Student Development  
& Campus Life

**Dr. Todd Kelshaw,**  
School of  
Communication & Media

**Ruth Kunstatter,**  
University Development

**Dr. Cristiana Kunyczka,**  
Office of Global  
Engagement

**Dr. Arnaud Kurze,**  
College of Humanities  
& Social Sciences

**Dr. Daniel Mengara,**  
C.H.S.S. and University  
Senate

**Carole Schaffer,** Office  
of Budget and Planning

**Dr. David Schwarzer,**  
College for Education  
& Engaged Learning

**Dr. Yanling Sun,**  
Instructional Technology  
& Design Services

**Dr. Tim White,**  
International Academic  
Initiatives

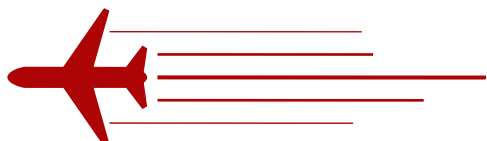
**Luis Huarcaya,**  
Graduate Assistant and  
student representative

**Shantal Proano,**  
Graduate Assistant and  
student representative



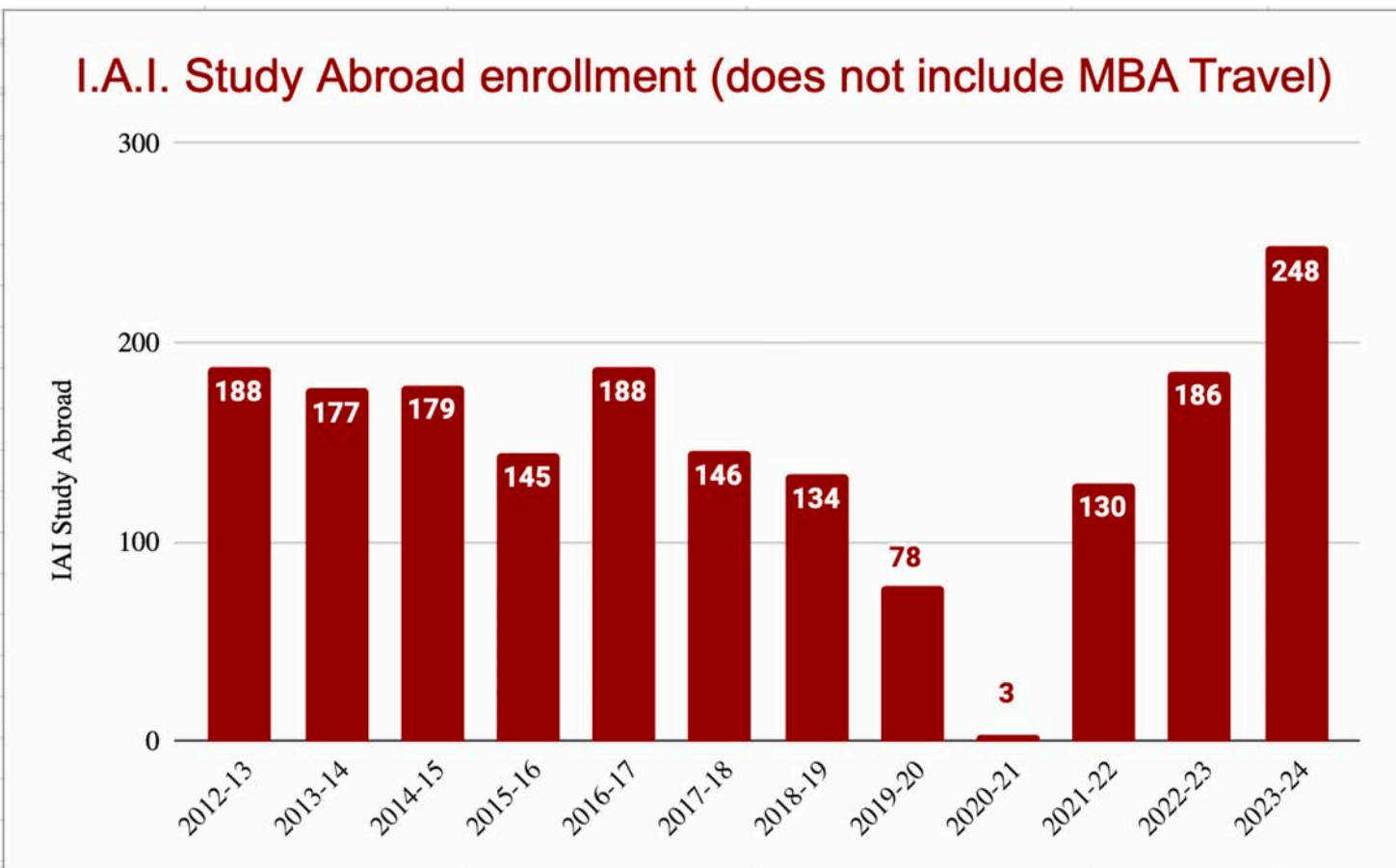
# International Advisory Committee (IAC)

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) was established to implement prioritized recommendations from the GRTF report, focusing on enhancing Montclair’s international engagement during a transitional period. Led by Arnaud Kurze, the IAC Steering Group includes diverse members from the original task force, ensuring continuity and expertise. The committee will collaborate closely with the Provost and President's office to create a cohesive Global Education Philosophy, aligning strategic goals with Montclair’s identity as a community-engaged, Hispanic-Serving Institution. Key initiatives include developing a clear agenda, setting timelines, and establishing a strong online presence to promote global initiatives. The IAC will also assist in the hiring of leadership to direct future international education efforts, ensuring Montclair’s growing global footprint is well-coordinated and sustainable.



## Study Abroad Growth

IAI sent a record **248 students** abroad in 2023-24, +32% above enrollment peaks since 2012. With a small team of only 4 full-time and 1 part-time staff, IAI sends students on credit-bearing programs in Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain, South Korea, and the U.K., just to name a few. We also have the National Student Exchange, a study away option for DACA/Dreamer students and others who prefer exchange in the U.S.



# International Partners

IAI has renewed pre-COVID partners and cultivated strategic new ones, with strong and strategic contributions from the Feliciano Global office. *Institutions/nations still in development are noted in italics:*

## Latin America

**Argentina** -- Universidad Abierta Interamericana

**Brazil**

*-- in development by IAI*

**Canada** -- HEC Montreal (Business),  
Université Laval

**Chile** -- *Universidad Mayor*

**Colombia** -- Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Bogota & Cali (Business)

**Costa Rica**

*-- in development by IAI*

**Dominican Republic**

*-- in development by IAI*

**Jamaica** -- *University of the West Indies*

**Mexico**

*-- in development by IAI*

**Peru**

*-- in development by IAI*



## The Middle East

**Morocco** -- Toulouse Business School

**United Arab Emirates**

*--campus of EM Normandie at Dubai*



## Europe & Eurasia

**Austria** -- UniGraz, KUG (Music)

**Belgium** -- ICHEC (Business)

**France** -- Groupe EDH,  
Toulouse Business School,  
EM Normandie (Business)

**Germany** -- Universität Konstanz

**Hungary** -- Maholy Nagy (Art & Design)

**Italy** -- Unicollege  
Conservatorio di Milano (Music)

**Netherlands** -- Hanze-Applied Sciences

**Norway** -- Agder University

**Poland** -- Kozminsky University

**Scotland** -- *University of Dundee*

**Spain** -- Nebrija University, University of Huelva, TAI Arts (THTR)

**Slovak Republic** -- Comenius University

**Sweden** -- Kristianstad University

**Switzerland** -- OST: Eastern Switzerland

**Turkey** -- Atlas University, Istanbul

**United Kingdom**

*-- Bournemouth University,  
Northumbria University*

## Africa

**Ghana**

*-- in development by IAI*

**South Africa**

*-- in development by IAI*



## Asia/Pacific

**Australia** -- University of the Sunshine Coast,  
Victoria University

**India** -- *Sharda University*

**Indonesia** -- *Negeri Manado*

**Japan** -- *Kansai Gaidai University,*  
*Komazawa University*

**South Korea** -- Dankook University, University of Seoul

# Opportunities for Faculty



Our academic initiatives can only be as strong as our on-campus partnerships. We are deeply grateful to our partners who help make our many initiatives possible. See below some featured or upcoming opportunities for getting involved with IAI:

## Erasmus+ Funding

IAI regularly applies for **Erasmus+** funding with our long-standing partner, **UniGraz**. We have funding for 1 or 2 full-time faculty to do a 5-day teaching/training mobility in **Graz, Austria** over **spring break 2025**, or in the window of **May 6th to June 1st, 2025**. The funding is for 7 days maximum, 5 days in Graz and 2 travel days, and is sent directly from UniGraz to the selected faculty. The amount is **1940 EUR**, 820 EUR for airfare and 224 EUR per day for 5 days of per diem stipend. Applications will be reviewed by an evaluation committee through the Office of the Provost and the International Advisory Committee. There should be more Erasmus+ funding for Graz travel in 2025-26. To learn more and download the proposal form, visit [montclair.edu/international-academic-initiatives/faculty-opportunities](http://montclair.edu/international-academic-initiatives/faculty-opportunities), and note that the brief **proposals are due by Dec. 6th, 2024**.

## International Faculty Lunch & Learn: U.S. Higher Education Oddities (Nov. 21st)

All international faculty are cordially invited to a Lunch and Learn session, **Thursday Nov. 21st, 12-1pm** in the **Feliciano School of Business room 140**. At this inaugural lunch of a new initiative launched by OFE and IAI, we welcome international faculty who would enjoy socializing with other faculty over lunch and a 20 minute mini-workshop focused on exploring the “hidden curriculum” of U.S. public colleges and universities. Some international faculty may benefit from additional resources, support, and community to navigate the university environment and engage effectively with American students. All questions are welcome, and there will be plenty of time to share insights and experiences. **Registration is required, using this link here.**



# Visiting Scholar Program



RAUL GALOPPE (SPAN) &  
JESSICA BRANDT (CHSS)  
WITH VISITORS FROM  
BUENOS AIRES

Since Sept. 2022, the **Visiting Scholar Program** has supported 19 applications for international scholars to make research visits to the departments of **Accounting & Finance, Educational Foundations, English, Kinesiology, Management, Mathematics, and Psychology** (some scholars have adjusted dates and are yet to arrive). Applications from other departments are fully welcomed. Your chosen scholar, who could contribute to the internationalization of your department for the duration of their stay, can visit for as little as one week or as long as 1.5 years, depending on the J-1 visa. Our process begins when the Montclair full-time faculty submits an **application (linked here)** to become “host faculty” for a proposed scholar, who would then visit for research, projects, workshops, etc. Applications need endorsement by Chairs and Deans, and must benefit both our university and the research of the visiting scholar. Host faculty should begin the applications well in advance, preferably at least 6 months before the start date.

## Academic Support for International Students

IAI is glad to have hired **Sandy Holder** as our new Coordinator for International Education. As part of her portfolio she offers academic support and liaison services to degree-seeking International students, mostly graduate students who are new to U.S. academic culture. In this role, Sandy advises via *Navigate*, supports retention and student belonging, and routes student questions to the correct offices.

## Faculty-Led Proposals for 2025-26

### Fall Break 2025 Programs

To align with the new Fall break, IAI welcomes proposals for faculty-led programs embedded into a Fall 2025 course, with travel Oct. 18th-25th, 2025.

Due date is Dec. 6, 2024 at 5pm

### Spring & Summer 2026 Programs

IAI also invites proposals for faculty-led programs in 2026, for J-Term, Spring 2026, or summer 2026. Travel is January, March, May (late spring), or summer, depending on the proposal.

Due date is Feb. 14, 2025 at 5pm

The application form requires academic and safety information, a logistical summary, and some explanation of proposed learning activities abroad. To learn more and download the application form, visit [montclair.edu/international-academic-initiatives/faculty-opportunities](https://montclair.edu/international-academic-initiatives/faculty-opportunities)

# Faculty-Led Programs

International Academic Initiatives (IAI) reviewed and will run many programs this year, all safely done through state procurement with strong risk management. The Jan. 2025 program *Dance in Panama* is enrolled and ready to go. For **March 2025**, **May 2025**, and **Summer 2025** programs, we need your help to recruit students to these career-boosting opportunities. Please share these exciting options with colleagues and students! To learn more, and to help your faculty colleagues enroll these credit-bearing programs, visit [montclair.edu/study-abroad](http://montclair.edu/study-abroad).

## **January 2025**

***Dance in Panama*** (DNCE)

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## **March 2025**

**Montclair in Iceland:** Exploring Geology & Sustainability (EAES)

**Montclair in Spain:** Acting Immersion in Madrid (THTR)

**Transatlantic Entrepreneurship Academy in Graz, Austria:** (ENTR)

**Travel Writing in Mexico:** Merida & Campeche, Mexico (WRIT)

**Business in Panama:** Panama City (MGMT)

**Cruise & Resort Management in Mexico, Belize, and Honduras:** (HSET)

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## **May 2025**

**Montclair in Greece:** Greek Civilizations (HUMN)

**Montclair in Costa Rica:** Communication / Hospitality & Tourism (CMST or HSET)

**Montclair in South Korea:** Fashion / International Business (FASH or INBS)

**Theatre in Buenos Aires:** (THTR)

**Montclair in Austria:** Crime, Justice, & Law (JUST)

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## **Summer 2025**

**Montclair in Rio:** Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed (TETD\*),  
\*grad students only.

**Montclair in Sicily:** Culture and Sustainability (HIST)





(Photo: Dr. Katia Paz Goldfarb, Associate Provost, at our 2024 event)

## FULBRIGHT @ Montclair

Montclair is full of Fulbright activity in 2024-25. For the 4th consecutive year, we were named by the IIE as a **Fulbright HSI Leader**, one of only 51 U.S. institutions to carry this honor. We are active through the **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program**, which brought Dr. Elni Usuh of Indonesia to CEEL in 2023-24. This program funds one-year visits by cutting-edge researchers, who bring valued international perspectives to campus. Looking ahead, IAI will apply to the **Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund**, to bring dynamic, global speakers here in 2025. To get involved in these initiatives or the programs noted below, please contact IAI's Director, Dr. Tim White.

## U.S. Scholar Program

Since 2000, 25 Montclair faculty have been funded through the **U.S. Scholar Program** for 9-10 month research stays in the country to which they applied. The competition is tough but Montclair faculty have done well in this program. Faculty are highly encouraged to apply. To learn more, contact Montclair's **U.S. Scholar Liaison, Dr. David Schwarzer**.



(Photo: Fulbrighter Dr. John Specchio & President Jonathan Koppell, himself a Fulbrighter in Shanghai)



(Photo: Lily Xie, Semi-Finalist in Spring '24 for Algeria)

## U.S. Student Program

IAI continues to grow the applicant pool for the **U.S. Student Program**, in partnership with faculty who mentor students, do language evaluations, and write recommendation letters. As a result of our investments in campus awareness and advising, a record of 24 students submit applications in Oct. 2023, with another record of 32 hitting submit in Oct. 2024. We eagerly await the results of this collective hard work. We thank faculty and staff for their help in convincing students to apply, and ask for your ongoing support with the next cycle. Please continue promoting this fantastic opportunity, and refer high-achieving students to **fulbright@montclair.edu**.

## NJ Fulbright Association @ Montclair

We are pleased to announce a partnership with the Fulbright Association. The **NJ Fulbright Association at Montclair State University** will have periodic events on campus, some of their own and some co-sponsored by IAI. Association members, all Fulbright alumni, will contribute to internationalization through their events and programs, their substantial human capital, and their mission of "fostering intercultural understanding by learning about and from each other." To learn more, visit <https://newjersey.fulbrightchapters.org/about-us/>. All are invited to the reception on Wed. Nov. 20th from 6-8pm in Cole 340. Kindly RSVP to [NJFulbright@montclair.edu](mailto:NJFulbright@montclair.edu).





# SOAR Scholarships



Our impressive study abroad enrollment growth has been largely due to the popular and impactful **Study Abroad/Away Opportunity and Access Resource Scholarships**, known as **SOAR**. Envisioned and funded by **Provost Junius Gonzales**, and implemented by **Assistant Provost Bradley Litchfield**, SOAR is for students of **demonstrated financial need only**. SOAR has already transformed the lives of **43 student recipients** in 2022-23, and **87 recipients** in 2023-24. The vision for SOAR is that the scholarships bring study abroad programs of all types within the financial reach of more diverse students, increasing access and affordability for programs that can be costly, but have tremendous potential to boost students' careers and professional development. IAI and the SOAR Committee are actively reviewing and awarding 2024-25 applicants, and we encourage ALL faculty and staff to spread the word that study abroad is now more affordable at Montclair, due to the Provost's vision.



**INBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND STUDY ABROAD PEER ADVISORS IN FALL'24, LEARNING ABOUT THE HIGH LINE IN NYC.**

**“Study abroad made me learn more about myself, helping me grow as a person...I became more independent and matured...I’ve always had a passion for learning about different cultures, and this experience gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in a culture I was unfamiliar with... Actually living with these people made me much more appreciative and open-minded.”**

**Taina Leyba, SOAR awardee:  
University of Graz, Spring 2024 Exchange**

**“As a first generation student, I had never traveled out of the country before. It was definitely life changing going on an airplane for the first time on my own. I have never felt more independent, excited, and nervous to be outside my comfort zone. More importantly, I embraced many culture shocks and language barrier situations which made me think back to my immigrant parents...All together, studying abroad brought a peace of mind to myself and taught me more about what I really want to do in life.”**

**Pamela Hernandez, SOAR Awardee:  
South Korea, Summer 2024**



**OUR RECORD COHORT OF 32 INBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN FALL'24, ON A CAMPUS TOUR**



# IAI Office Updates

Our team made a strong showing at the NAFSA Region X Conference in Atlantic City, NJ in October. Jess and Tim presented *Financial Aid Challenges for Study Abroad* with Joana Pirela De Gregorio (Rider). This session analyzed the challenges of applying financial aid to study abroad semesters, with some case studies and solutions from across NJ. Our newest team member, Sandy Holder, presented *International Intersectionality: The Importance of Identity in Education Abroad* with Malikka Hutchins of Rutgers-Newark. This well-attended and high-impact session explored the value of intersectional thinking for advisors, especially as it works in tandem with student belonging during programs abroad. Tim also performed in an “EA Cabaret”, with songs about the highs and lows of study abroad. The show raised \$400 in subsidy funding for airfare, for a Montclair study abroad student.



## Global Village, Global Belongings, & SAPAs

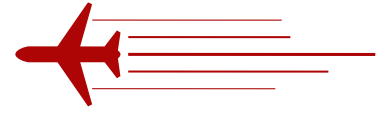
The IAI Office is proud to offer a **Global Village Living-Learning Community** to inbound exchange students and select study abroad peer advisors. Led by **Brooke Klinger** in partnership with *Residence Life*, this program fosters a globally-minded community in the Village Apartments, for exchange students, NSE students, **Study Abroad Peer Advisors**, and domestic Red Hawks. In line with the goals of the J-1 visa, these students commingle in meaningful ways both in and out of the classroom. Residents benefit from apartment-style living, essential for international exchange students, the train station, and excursions into NYC such as academic walking tours. IAI also oversees **Global Belongings**, which sustainably provides dormitory supplies such as sheets, comforters, pillows, appliances, decor, and kitchen equipment to Global Village residents free of charge. This sustainability effort has reduced financial issues tremendously for our exchange students.

Red Hawks who hope to study abroad can learn from **Study Abroad Peer Advisors (SAPAs)**, all participants in prior study abroad programs. SAPAs share details of their programs with interested students, volunteer at fairs and events, and visit classrooms. They also work on featuring study abroad in resumes and interviews, as part of their own career development.





# The IAI Team:



## **Tim White, Director, International Academic Initiatives**

Tim is excited to be in his 3rd year in this role, with strong enrollment growth. The team has added an exchange partner in Florence, Italy (Unicollege), after Tim visited their classrooms and facilities in June 2024 (photo). On the same itinerary he made his first visit to UniGraz in Austria, Montclair's longest-standing and most active international partner. Looking ahead, Tim hopes to infuse more strategy into IAI's ongoing enrollment gains. He also looks forward to partnering with the International Advisory Committee in 2025 and beyond.



## **Jess Epstein, Coordinator for Semester and Summer Programs**

Jess is sending a record cohort of students abroad for the Spring 2025 semester, and absolutely loves her job, advising about international experiences and intercultural exchange! She is also Coordinator for the National Student Exchange, facilitating "study away" semesters within 50 States, Canada, and most US territories. She has carried out 1,171 study abroad advising appointments so far in her two years at Montclair and hopes to expand access to bring these opportunities to even more students soon!



## **Sandy Holder, Coordinator for International Education**

Sandy embarked on her journey with IAI this fall and recently had the opportunity to present at the NAFSA Region X Conference in Atlantic City. She has been attending Dr. David Schwarzer's class, where she helps support international graduate students in their academic pursuits. Sandy is enthusiastic about her role and has been diligently preparing for the winter orientation for international graduate students scheduled for January 2025.



## **Brooke Klinger, Program Associate for Inbound Exchange and Campus Engagement**

Brooke Klinger celebrated her second year at Montclair in October while overseeing a record-breaking inbound exchange cohort on campus. She looks forward to fostering the growth of the *Global Village Living Community* with Residence Life and leading IAI's *Global Belongings* sustainability initiatives. She continues to represent Study Abroad at Open House, campus conferences and research symposiums, Accepted Student's Day, and more. Brooke is eager to continue her interdepartmental collaboration, classroom visits, recruitment, and engagement with student organizations this year.



## **Kyle Velez, Program Assistant: Communications (part-time position)**

Kyle works to support IAI's ever-increasing slate of short-term faculty-led programs, including new affordable options in Central and South America. He is interested in further developing Montclair's risk management training for faculty and students traveling abroad, and will be steadily recruiting for various trips leaving from January through July 2025.

