

IECA GLOBAL COMMITTEE 2018-2019



Chair
Patricia O'Keefe, Shanghai
patricia@shanglearning.com

PATRICIA O'Keefe's background includes: 18 years' work experience in Asia; 15 years presenting in Hong Kong, Beijing, Taiwan, Tokyo, Los Angeles, New Orleans & Houston on trends in international & higher education; 10 years with the University of Southern California (USC); 7 years as the Director of the USC Global Office Japan. As a former

foreign student and expat/global nomad herself, Patricia sees her primary mission as helping Asian and TCK students find and apply to wonderful colleges. Patricia is a Professional Member of IECA, Chair of the IECA Global Committee and a standing member of HECA, NACAC International ACAC & WACAC. She was elected Governor to the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce, Japan (ACCJ) in 2009 and was Chair of the ACCJ International Education Committee from 2006 - 2009.

She's attended 7 top-tier Universities: UCLA -B.A.; USC-MBA; UCI-Certificate in Educational Planning; La Sorbonne, The University of Paris, France; 香港中文大学 Chinese University of Hong Kong: Certified in two-year advanced Mandarin Chinese program; 北京□范大学— Beijing Normal University —

Chinese Studies; 慶応□学 KEIO University, Japan: Certified in Advanced Japanese Language Studies.



Vice-Chair
Marina Lee, Boston
marinalee@cogitaeducation.com

MARINA currently serves as the Executive Director of Cogita Education Initiatives, developing programs and managing teams to assist families, many international, with navigating the American

educational landscape. Born in Seoul and raised in Philadelphia, Marina has experienced firsthand the challenges of students from an "other" culture. From an early age, Marina volunteered to assist families with their transition to the United States and students with adaptation to the American school system. Her service to her community was awarded with the National Youth Service Award (one of 11 in the country given yearly) by President Clinton.

Marina received a Gallows Fellowship to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), where her studies focused on Admissions Policies, Culture, Education, and Identities. Marina has been an active member of IECA's Global Committee, has been serving as vice chair, and was asked to write the Principles of Good Practice for the NAIS by the Global Citizenship Chair.

Marina also frequently presents on international education, cultural competency and best practices at NACAC and schools throughout the world, including China, Korea, and the U.S. At Columbia and Harvard, she has been a guest speaker on mentorship and educational leadership and co-presents J-term seminars to undergraduates and graduate students at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is currently working on a book on Asian identities, education, and mental health.



Jennifer Ann Aquino, Geneva and Singapore
jennifer@jenniferannaquino.com

JENNIFER has over 20 years of experience in the field of international education spanning four continents from teaching, admissions and fundraising to educational publishing and university management. Her deep and varied global experiences in international education have afforded her a unique understanding and perspective of the competitive and ever-changing sector of international education. Born in the US, she has lived and worked

in education in Europe, Asia, the Pacific and is based between Geneva and Singapore. Jennifer works with individual families, students, schools and institutions. Her website is www.jenniferannaquino.com. She is the author of the first and only complete guide for international families navigating the US university admissions process: "The International Family Guide to US University Admissions", Wiley & Sons 2017. She is a Member of IECA, IACAC and ISCA. She has a Bachelors degree in Biology and Spanish with a pre-medical concentration from Boston College and a MA in Spanish degree from Middlebury College. Jennifer speaks English and Spanish fluently and French at the intermediate level. She takes Beginner Chinese.



Jennifer Bush, Singapore
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After working for years with VJB & Associates in the United States and in Europe, JENNIFER launched VJB & Associates in Asia in 2008 to help Asia-based families and students realize the benefits of education in America. Having lived in the United Kingdom, Brazil and Singapore, Jennifer is familiar with the intricacies of what makes an overseas experience a success. Jennifer received a Bachelor of Science form the University of Vermont and attended private and day

boarding schools in the USA. She has served on the University of Vermont CE Board, is a member of multiple educational associations.



Jack Cao, Beijing
jack@dyo.com.cn

JACK has worked with hundreds of families from mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong over the past 18 years. He advises younger generations to embark on a

promising educational journey to western countries to experience life as rising scholars and responsible citizens. As an avid cross cultural advocate between China and the West, Jack is particularly interested in encouraging and inspiring the younger generation to think big, do big, and accomplish big through the ever-plentiful global educational resources offered today. A frequent traveler, both in China and abroad, Jack visits schools/colleges, attend conferences, meets parents and students, speaks to the public, etc. He serves on the IECA Global Committee and was head of IECA Beijing Regional Group for two years.



Laura O. Gatzionis, Athens
laura@eduadvise.gr
(Ex-officio, Chair 2016-2018)

LAURA, Certified Educational Planner, guides students in various international educational systems applying to English-taught undergraduate and graduate programs in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe. Educated in the U.S., with a Bachelors degree from Northwestern University, a Masters of Education in International Counseling from

Lehigh University and a Certificate in College Counseling from UCLA, she instructs two graduate courses at the University of California-Irvine for the IEC certificate program in the Department of Continuing Education. Laura has lived abroad for more than 20 years and speaks Greek fluently. She established Educational Advisory Services in Athens, Greece in 2010. She has served on IECA's Strategic Planning Committee, and is an active member of the IECA Global Committee (Chair for two years) as well as International ACAC's Membership Committee for the past 4 years.



Julia Gooding, Shanghai
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Julia Gooding received a Master's in International Education Policy from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She attended boarding school at St. George's School, in Newport, Rhode Island for high school and graduated from Colgate University *magna cum laude* in Asian Studies and Spanish. After graduating from Colgate, she received a prestigious US government Fulbright research grant and studied for one year at Renmin University in Beijing.

Julia has worked with international students for the past 7 years in a variety of capacities as a teacher, admissions recruiter, manager of an international student program and now in college counseling in private high school day and boarding schools in Boston and New York. Julia is the founder and owner of One Sky Education (天一教育) and works with private clients around the world, primarily applying to boarding school and college.



Jennie Kent, Bogota
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Jennie Kent is an internationally acclaimed author of over 30 books for children, teens and young adults, with more than 850,000 copies of her books in print. Her innovative books and family products have a strong educational base, are recipients of numerous international awards, and have been adapted for television, short film or used in national campaigns in Colombia. Jennie has presented on the topic of financial aid and

scholarships for international students and visits roughly fifty schools and colleges per year, constantly trying to get a feel for the culture of each school and expand her knowledge, in order to better help families find the best possible fit for their student.



Sarah Loring de Garcia, Santa Caterina

sarah.loringdegarcia@gmail.com

Sarah Loring de Garcia is a graduate of the University of Kansas (B.S.Ed.) and SUNY Buffalo (M.S.Ed.). After working as a science, world geography, and dance teacher for five years in Kansas City, she accepted a position as a science teacher at the American School Foundation of Monterrey (ASFM) in August 2002. Her roommate was the College Counselor, and Sarah thought

her job looked absolutely fascinating! When the roommate moved on to Spain, Sarah applied for the position and was thrilled to be hired. She completed her College Counseling Certificate from UCLA Extension, and served as the College Counselor at ASFM from 2006-2017, helping 160+ seniors per year with their applications to universities around the world, while occasionally helping students from other schools on weekends and during the summer. In 2008, Sarah married "the IT guy" (something she highly recommends), and they welcomed a daughter in 2010. Sarah left ASFM to become a full time IEC in June 2017, and had a great first year with her students. She served as a faculty chair for the International ACAC Latin America Regional Institute in March 2018, and is delighted to be a new member of both the

International ACAC Admissions Practices Committee and the IECA Global Committee. In the future, she hopes to expand her practice to serve students interested in applying to MBA programs, and would also like to serve as a seasonal application reader for a college. Being an IEC has allowed Sarah to balance her love of this work with the joy of life and family, and for that, she is forever grateful.