

Gretchen C. Dobson

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CAREER SUMMARY

Accomplished **Higher Education Professional** with over 23 years of progressive experience in student affairs and domestic and international alumni relations, development, volunteer and special event management. Following the successful completion of a \$1.2 billion campaign at Tufts University in 2012, founded the first international alumni relations consulting firm and is now co-leading a comprehensive international education sales consultancy headquartered in New York City and Brisbane, Australia. Documented strengths include creating institutional partnerships with academic, admissions and advancement functions. Proven ability to fundraise, contribute leadership and direction to strategic planning processes, and measure effectiveness of volunteer efforts on an annual basis. Passionate about cross-cultural constituent relations and developing boards and teams to achieve institutional, organizational and personal goals. Committed to advancing international higher education and continuing to contribute to future research and publications. Active participation in industry professional associations includes leadership and coaching roles. Extensive experience working in the United Kingdom, Europe, Turkey, India, China, Korea, Southeast Asia, Africa and Australia.

EDUCATION

Ed.D., Higher Education Management, Graduate School of Education,
University of Pennsylvania, 2013

M.A., Higher Education, Lynch Graduate School of Education,
Boston College, 1995

B.A., Political Science
Boston College, 1991

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Assembly, Inc., New York City and Brisbane, Australia

Vice President, International Alumni & Graduate Services

2016

Managing Director, Australia

www.academicassembly.com

Leads a division with Academic Assembly, Inc. (AAI) that aims to build lifelong relationships between institutions, governments and non-profit membership organizations and their international alumni families. Working with AAI, client partners will identify tactics for tracking down lost alumni, discovering, recruiting and retaining more international alumni volunteers, creating an infrastructure to support both short- and long-term alumni relations, planning new and improved international events, and identifying, developing and/or expanding international volunteer management opportunities and practices. AAI provides planning strategy and support, coaching and where needed, contracted services. The end goal is to build institution's alumni into a successful platform to extend their global success.

Gretchen Dobson LLC, Brisbane, Boston, Chengdu, PRC, London, and Delhi

2012 - 2016

Founder and Global Strategist

www.gretchendobson.com

Assist educational institutions and non-profit member organizations facilitate international alumni engagement, student recruitment, and academic partnerships. Work with consulates and embassies to engage alumni of government sponsored exchange programs. Provide professional coaching for international advancement and academic officers. Manage international special events and meetings for clients with particular needs outside their home country. Recent projects include:

- Alumni Homestay Network, USA/AUS: Creating first homestay network matching international students with local alumni.
- Victorian State Government, Australia: Facilitated first long-term global alumni engagement framework for stakeholders.
- American International School of Lagos, Nigeria: Building first alumni relations program for School celebrating 50 years.
- University of Warwick, Coventry, UK: Developed an integrated international alumni engagement strategy.
- SOAS, University of London: Academic year-long coaching in international alumni relations best practices.
- U.S. Department of State, Vienna, Austria: Trained alumni officers representing Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe.
- British Council: Chief advisor and chair of selection committee, Education UK Alumni Awards (USA).

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Tufts University, Medford, MA

2002 - 2012

Senior Associate Director for Domestic and International Programs (2008 - 2012)

Associate Director (2005-2008)

Assistant Director (2004-2005)

Alumni Relations Officer (2002-2004)

Responsible for all regional programs outside the Boston area designed to re-integrate 110,000 alumni with the university and to engage parents of current students and friends of the university.

- Aggressively expanded the breadth and depth of the program by increasing the number of regional chapters from 15 to 70 in less than seven years including 27 new international chapters. Staffed President, Provost, Deans, Faculty and Trustees.
- Designed programs with admissions and development offices to provide greater continuity for the Tufts global brand and gain economic efficiencies while working to increase philanthropy and volunteerism among alumni.
- Stewarded a prospect pool of 115 domestic and international donors, securing gifts from \$1,000 - \$100,000/annually.
- Created the "Tufts Entertainment, Art and Media (TEAM) Network," a high-profile shared interest group aimed at helping Tufts and our alumni in the creative industries build stronger brands.

Wheelock College, Boston, MA

1998 - 2001

Director of Residence Life

Provided strategic leadership and pragmatic oversight for 500 resident students. Managed professional staff of five resident directors and student resident assistants. Responsible for crisis management and judicial administration.

- Built community among undergraduates through the design and execution of educational, social and service-related programming.
- Integrated residence life with other university departments and organizations to foster a more rewarding student experience.

Dean College, Franklin, MA

1997 - 1998

Student Involvement Coordinator/Assistant Director of Residence Life

Responsible for student leadership training year-round and managed residence communities.

- Designed and executed new student orientation.
- Created and facilitated Leadership Speaker Series.
- Managed residence professional and student residence life staff.

Regis College, Weston, MA

1994 - 1997

Resident Director

Oversaw student staff, programming and judiciary functions for 200-student residence hall.

- Proactively created campus-wide student engagement in community service activities (e.g., Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge annual spring break experience).
- Chaired Employee Handbook Committee, presidential appointment, 1996.

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

1992 - 1994

Assistant to the Associate Director of Housing

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Staying Global: How International Alumni Relations Advances the Agenda, editor (Amsterdam, NL: EAIE, 2015)

International Travel Handbook: Engaging Constituents Abroad (Denver, CO: Academic Impressions, 2014).

Being Global: Making the Case for International Alumni Relations (Washington, DC: CASE, 2011).

"Programming Internationally," a chapter of the second edition of *Alumni Relations: A Newcomer's Guide to Success*, Feudo, J., ed. (Washington, DC: CASE, 2009).

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Articles

"Transnational Alumni," *FORUM*, (EAIE, 2016)

"Foreign Service: four ways your institution can enlist your graduates in your strategic plans," *CURRENTS* (CASE, 40:3)

"Setting the Agenda: Corporation and Foundation Support of Higher Education," *Internationalisation of Higher Education*, European Association for International Education, Volume 2, 2013

"International alumni relations: Considerations for 2012 and beyond" (The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, 2011).

INDUSTRY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2009 CASE International Silver Award for Excellence in Alumni Programming ("NYC and Shared Interest Groups")

2009 Chronicle of Higher Education Innovator in Internationalization

2008 CASE Rising Star Award (District 1, New England, Quebec, Canada)

2006 CASE International Gold Award for Excellence in Alumni Programming ("Tufts World Day")

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT AND SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Presenter – EducatePlus "Working with Government to Promote International Alumni Engagement" (September 2016)

Co-presenter – EAIE Webinar "Engaging Alumni with Online Management Tools" (June 2016)

Faculty Member – AIEA/AIRC Forum "Strategies for International Student Success" (Knoxville, TN, April 2015)

Faculty Member – CASE International Alumni Relations Conference (New York City, February 2015)

Faculty Member – CASE/Asia Summer Institute on Alumni Relations (Singapore, August 2012)

Faculty Member – CASE/Asia Masterclass (Kuala Lumpur, ML – August 2012)

Keynote Speaker – CASE/Europe Annual Conference (Birmingham, U.K. – 2011)

Panelist – Global Positioning in Higher Education - sponsored by Chronicle of Higher Education (London, U.K. - 2010)

Faculty – CASE in India/Introduction to Alumni Relations and Annual Giving (Delhi and Hyderabad - 2009)

INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIPS

Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), (2003-present)

Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), (2009-present)

European Association for International Education (EAIE), (2012-present)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND RECOGNITION

United Planet, Board of Directors, leading NGO promoting international service learning in 35 countries (Chair, 2016-2019)

British Council, Chair of Selection Committee, British Council Education UK Alumni Awards for USA (2015, 2016)

Higher Education Representative, Boston World Partnerships, City of Boston (2009-2012)

2000 Boston College Young Alumni Achievement Award, Boston College Alumni Association

National Board Member, Boston College Alumni Association (1997-1999)

Director of Special Events, Massachusetts Special Olympics (1991-1996)