

12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



# GLOBAL LEARNING CONFERENCE

MSU INTERNATIONAL CENTER

| THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

| 11 AM – 4 PM

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# WELCOME

Welcome to MSU's twelfth annual Global Learning Conference!

Our conference this year focuses on a central theme: "Growing Through Global Learning."

This year's presenters will discuss how their education abroad experiences address issues related to this topic. MSU has a long-standing tradition of global student mobility. This conference is designed to allow students to share what they learned abroad with the MSU community, family, and friends. The conference features MSU students who have returned from various programs outside of the U.S.

We sincerely thank the presenters for their willingness to share their experiences and expertise.

We are also grateful for all the conference organizers, coaches, and moderators who have made this event possible:

**MARIA JOSE ARAUZ SANTAMARIA**  
Student Affairs Administration Program

**JONUS COTTRELL**  
Office for Education Abroad

**BRIAN EGAN**  
College of Arts & Letters

**JUSTIN JAGGER**  
The Eli Broad College of Business

**KRISTIN JANKA**  
Honors College

**KAREN KANGAS-PRESTON**  
College of Arts & Letters

**ANDREA KLINGER**  
The Eli Broad College of Business

**OUMATIE MARAJH**  
College of Social Science

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**HELENA STECH**  
Office for Education Abroad

**INGE STEGLITZ**  
Office for Education Abroad

**ANTOINETTE TESSMER**  
The Eli Broad College of Business

**CHLOE WEIGEL**  
Student Affairs Administration Program

**CHRISTIAN YANEZ**  
Office for International Students and Scholars

Finally, a special thank you to:

**CHERYL BENNER** Office for Education Abroad (Conference Publicity)

**RYAN COLE** Office for Education Abroad (Conference Publicity)

**OPAL LEEMAN BARTZIS** Assistant Dean for Global Learning and Innovation & Executive Director of Education Abroad, Office for Education Abroad (Welcome Speaker)

**SHERRY MARTINEZ-BONILLA** Office for Education Abroad (Conference Logistics Support)

**PEER ADVISERS** Office for Education Abroad (Conference Logistics Support)



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

<b>11:00 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	Registration (Lobby)
<b>11:30 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	Opening Ceremony (Room 303)
<b>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</b>	Panel 1 (Room 303, 305, 307)
<b>1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</b>	Panel 2 (Room 303, 305, 307)
<b>2:00 PM - 2:45 PM</b>	Panel 3 (Room 303)
<b>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM</b>	Closing Ceremony (Room 303)



## PANEL 1 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | ROOM 307

MODERATOR: Maria Jose Arauz Santamaria

### “HOLDING A MIRROR TO HEALTHCARE: REFLECTING ON THE DISPARITIES IN THE U.S. AND COSTA RICAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS”

*Costa Rica* | **Kyra Powers & Vidhya Premkumar**

Vidhya and Kyra will talk about how their Global Health experience in Costa Rica forced them to be creative in navigating barriers to accessible care, as they learned to implement more holistic, and less expensive, treatments. The lack of proper medical equipment available (i.e., one MRI for the entire country) encouraged them to rely more on patient history and physical exams to lead to a potential diagnosis. Ultimately, because the area they were in consisted mostly of underserved Nicaraguan refugees, they were able to significantly impact patients.

### “BEYOND THE DESK: LEARNING TO EMBRACE LIFE THROUGH STUDY ABROAD”

*Italy* | **Isabelle Langdon**

Isabelle traveled to Florence, Italy for a study abroad program to learn about the art of photography. She not only learned about the beauty of film photography but also, the art of slowing down. Immersed in the city’s serene beauty, she discovered the joy of appreciating her surroundings. She observed a culture that prioritizes family and personal well-being over relentless work. It’s this experience that changed her outlook on life.

### “FACING DIFFICULT HISTORIES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DUTCH AND AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY”

*The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and France* | **Emmett Flannery**

Emmett is a fourth-year History Education major. While studying abroad in the Netherlands, he researched difficult parts of Dutch and American history education to better understand the cultural, social, historical, and political forces that influence teaching and learning around this topic. Through a comparative analysis of Dutch and American education, he discovered that debates around difficult histories are happening in both countries. His presentation examines the rhetorically similar but uniquely nationalist right-wing political movements in America and the Netherlands to inform how history educators can combat anti-history movements at home and in the classroom.





# PANEL 1 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | ROOM 305

MODERATOR: Chloe Weigel

## “WHAT I LEARNED AS AN OUTSIDER IN AZERBAIJAN”

*Azerbaijan* | **Eleanor Pugh**

Eleanor studied Azerbaijani in Baku, Azerbaijan through the Critical Language Scholarship Program. During her time in this less-common study abroad destination, she immersed herself in a rich culture and complex political landscape by living with a host family, forging friendships with local university students, and leading English language practice sessions. These experiences deepened her understanding of international politics and enriched her perspective on America’s role in the world.

## “SELF-DISCOVERY AND SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION IN ROME”

*Italy* | **Bella Hilden**

Emphasizing the transformative nature of her six weeks studying biology at an Italian university in Rome, Bella Hilden highlights her newfound sense of confidence, resilience, and academic adaptability. From commuting every day to her classes to learning to communicate cross-culturally with her Italian professors, Bella shows how friendships with other U.S. and Italian students, along with the support of staff at the MSU learning center abroad, helped facilitate her transformation. Bella also describes how her experiences were further enriched by scheduled tours examining the history of Rome, which helped ground and contextualize her learning.

## “CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN TREATING THOSE WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER”

*Australia* | **Brittany Garza**

Substance use disorder (SUD) affects people globally, and its treatment is complex and often leaves patients prone to relapse. While studying in Australia, Brittany Garza, a medical student at MSU, observed their advanced approach to SUD treatment compared to the U.S. In Australia, the toxicology team evaluates patients and recommends medications for withdrawal, admitting them until detox beds are available—unlike in the U.S., where patients often wait days in emergency departments. Patients can also spend time outside to aid recovery. A robust network of social workers, case managers, and trained physicians improves patient outcomes and supports long-term sobriety. Brittany will share how these observations have changed her thinking and approaches to treatment for SUD.





# PANEL 1 | 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM | ROOM 303

MODERATOR: Antoinette Tessmer

## “BECOMING A TRUE GREEK SPARTAN”

*Greece* | **Rashad Bates**

As an MSU student, Rashad studied abroad in Greece, focusing on archaeology and its role in shaping cultural and political identities. His presentation will explore how engaging with ancient sites and local scholars deepened his understanding of the global significance of archaeology. Rashad will discuss how this experience expanded his perspective on how history is preserved and used in modern debates, illustrating the transformative power of global learning in both academic and personal development.

## “42 SHOWS IN 45 DAYS: HOW STUDYING LONDON’S WEST END HAS CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE AS A THEATRE DESIGNER”

*United Kingdom* | **Kessler Jones**

During the 2024 summer semester, Kessler spent six weeks in London studying British theatre and theatre design. As part of the Exploring British Theatre program, they saw a wide range of theatre styles on the West End, spoke with industry professionals and traveled across London and beyond to gain a first-hand experience of English theatre history and traditions. Kessler will be sharing their observations and experiences, focusing on how British theatre has transformed and grown their work as a theatre designer, both at MSU as a current graduate student, but also as a future industry professional.





## PANEL 2 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ROOM 307

MODERATOR: Laurel McGerty

### “A MULTICULTURAL LENS TO BRING BACK HOME: CONFRONTING POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS”

*Belgium* | **Chloe Francis**

Chloe Francis is an Honors College student pursuing a degree in Spanish and International Relations. She studied abroad in Brussels, Belgium, with James Madison College. She also traveled to Amsterdam and Paris, where she was confronted with questions regarding political perspectives from the United States. Through these conversations, Chloe grew as a student and became more cosmopolitan. She continued to bring these diverse perspectives to campus through refugee outreach (ROC), ESL tutoring for refugees, and JMC's College Inclusion Committee. These experiences helped her evolve as a student and become a better citizen for positive multicultural global change.

### “SPEAK UP: NAVIGATING AN EXPERIENCE OF FIRSTS”

*Italy* | **Joshua Tomlinson**

Joshua participated in a First-Year Seminar Abroad Program to Italy in the summer leading up to his first year. As a high schooler, he never put himself out there and reaped the consequences of FOMO- fear of missing out. Joshua's presentation focuses on his experience with speaking up and making attempts to connect to his peers, stepping out of his comfort zone and the wonderful relationships he formed because of it.

### “DISCRIMINATION LEADS TO HEALTHCARE INEQUITIES ABROAD AND AT HOME”

*Costa Rica* | **Sarah Ferris, Brittany Garza, and Sophia Ripley**

Refugees often face discrimination in their host countries, particularly in healthcare, leading to reduced access to care and uncontrolled chronic conditions. In Costa Rica, Sarah, Brittany, and Sophia witnessed Nicaraguan refugees struggling to obtain insurance and necessary medical care. They realized that this situation mirrors the challenges faced by marginalized populations in the United States. In this presentation, they will share how their experiences in Costa Rica informed their approach as physicians to try and reduce healthcare inequities and strive for a world where everyone receives equitable and compassionate medical care.





## PANEL 2 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ROOM 305

MODERATOR: Helena Stech

### “MIS SUEÑOS NO TIENEN FRONTERAS – MY DREAMS HAVE NO BORDERS”

*Mexico* | **Bella Hilden, Lizzie Ochoa, & Selena Salinas**

Lizzie Ochoa, Selena Salinas, and Bella Hilden studied abroad in a non-traditional location-Huatulco, Oaxaca, and Oaxaca City, Oaxaca. During this experience, they immersed themselves in Oaxaca’s culture and fostered meaningful connections with students while engaging in community efforts to restore the school. During this time, the presenters learned about indigenous cultures, gaining a different perspective outside of US customs as well as learning from others in a foreign country. The presenters also learned about the community and culture while engaging with the students on campus and recognizing their environmental struggles.

### “MICHIGAN STATE AT PROJECT ALAJUELITA”

*Costa Rica* | **Jaynlynn Sosa**

Jaynlynn is a third-year medical student at Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine. She traveled to Costa Rica with a group of medical students and physicians to volunteer at The Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC) Project Alajuelita, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing healthcare to its community using a network of outpatient clinics, health education programs, and psychological services. She will present about her experience in this international volunteering opportunity and highlight some of the challenges her group faced.

### “WALKING WHILE DISABLED: A GUIDE FOR MAKING STUDY ABROAD ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE”

*The Netherlands* | **Carly May Kalkauski**

Disability is a spectrum that’s much more complicated than being able to run a 5k versus needing a wheelchair. Traveling to Amsterdam made Carly May realize this in real-time as they struggled physically and mentally to keep up with their education abroad program. So, they did what any James Madison student would do: Create a detailed guide for study abroad students with accessibility considerations featured front and center. Valuable for all prospective study abroad students, faculty intending to lead a study abroad experience, or anyone hoping to understand the grey area of disability a little better, their presentation will include sharing the accessibility guide they created as well as telling the tale of how they kept moving forward while their own feet crumbled beneath them.





## PANEL 2 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ROOM 303

MODERATOR: Antoinette Tessmer

### “STANDBY THEATRE IN LONDON ...GO!”

*United Kingdom* | **Allison Kate Doederlein**

Allison studied abroad in London, England during the summer of 2024. She enrolled in two courses as well as an independent study. Her theatre history and theatre in London coursework, as well as living in London, expanded her basic knowledge of theatre in England. Her independent study compared and contrasted stage management practices in the United States versus England through practical experience. Allison’s presentation focuses on her experiential learning in England and how living there and experiencing the theatre industry first hand supported her research. Allison’s five weeks in London has opened her mind to pursuing a career abroad.

### “REDEFINING POSSIBILITIES: OVERCOMING BARRIERS AS A FIRST-GEN STUDENT ABROAD”

*Greece* | **Norma Makki**

Norma Makki participated in the Business Law, Ethics, and Sustainability program in Athens, Greece, during the summer semester. As a first-generation college student, she faced significant financial challenges, from securing scholarships to budgeting for international travel, all while explaining the unfamiliar concept of studying abroad to her parents, who had never attended college and were unfamiliar with the process. With little familial guidance, Norma had to independently seek out the necessary resources and support. In this presentation, she will discuss how she overcame both financial and personal obstacles and how the experience strengthened her confidence and independence. By sharing her journey, Norma hopes to inspire other first-generation students to embrace global learning opportunities, highlighting how these experiences can be transformative and empowering.

### “GAINING CONFIDENCE ACROSS THE GLOBE”

*Dominican Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain* | **Grace L. Elling**

Grace is a senior who has studied abroad four times through MSU’s Institute of Global Health traveling to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Spain. Her majors in physiology and human biology aided her as she shadowed in hospitals and took various courses about medicine, common illnesses, and health policies. Grace plans to present on how she immersed herself in the local cultures, experienced different healthcare systems, and used her Spanish language skills to communicate and learn with the physicians and community members abroad. Grace plans to use her newfound knowledge in her future career as a physician assistant.





## PANEL 3 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | ROOM 303

MODERATOR: Joyce Meier

### “REDEFINING SCIENCE FROM A SOUTH KOREAN PERSPECTIVE”

*South Korea* | **Rachel Lynn Roberts**

This presentation highlights the experience of studying “Science, Medicine, and Society” and “Genetics” in South Korea. It explores how the experience broadened the presenter’s perspective on science’s role in society globally. Through exposure to South Korean views on medicine and genetics, the presenter gained insights into how culture shapes scientific discourse. The discussion emphasizes how global learning abroad fostered both academic and personal growth through engagement with a different cultural context.

### “BEYOND THE BOOKS: A FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT’S JOURNEY TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC”

*Dominican Republic* | **Yassir Mehmood & Kareem Wells**

Yasir and Kareem’s journey to the Dominican Republic, facilitated by the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Institute of Global Health, transformed their understanding of trust in healthcare. Encountering cases from routine check-ups to optic neuritis highlighted the vital role of trust across diverse communities. In community clinics, they fostered this trust through health fairs and accessible check-ups, tailoring health education to local customs and languages. Interpreters bridged communication gaps, reinforcing inclusive care. They also emphasized the partnership between MSU and Universidad Central del Este (UCE), which empowers communities to confidently manage their health.





# PRESENTERS

# LOCATION AND TIME

**RASHAD BATES**

Senior | Global History and Theater

Room 303: 12:15 - 12:30 pm

**ALLISON KATE DOEDERLEIN**

Junior | Stage Management &amp; Business Management

Room 303: 1:00 - 1:15 pm

**GRACE L. ELLING**

Senior | Physiology and Human Biology

Room 303: 1:30 - 1:45 pm

**SARAH FERRIS**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 307: 1:30 - 1:45 pm

**EMMETT FLANNERY**

Senior | Social Studies Education

Room 307: 12:30 - 12:45 pm

**CHLOE FRANCIS**

Sophomore | International Relations &amp; Spanish

Room 307: 1:00 - 1:15 pm

**BRITTANY GARZA**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 305: 12:30 - 12:45 pm (solo) Room 307: 1:30 - 1:45 pm (group)

**BELLA HILDEN**

Senior | Human Biology

Room 305: 12:15 - 12:30 pm (solo) Room 305: 1:00 - 1:15 pm (group)

**KESSLER JONES**

Graduate/Professional | MFA Theater Design

Room 303: 12:30 - 12:45 pm

**CARLY MAY KALKAUSKI**

Senior | Social Relations and Policy

Room 305: 1:30 - 1:45 pm

**ISABELLE LANGDON**

Senior | Physiology &amp; Photography

Room 307: 12:15 - 12:30 pm

**NORMA MAKKI**

Junior | Supply Chain Management and Economics

Room 303: 1:15 - 1:30 pm

**YASIR MEHMOOD**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 303: 2:15 - 2:30 pm

**LIZZIE OCHOA**

Junior | Human Biology

Room 305: 1:00 - 1:15 pm

**KYRA POWERS**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 307: 12:00 - 12:15 pm

**VIDHYA PREMKUMAR**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 307: 12:00 - 12:15 pm

**ELEANOR PUGH**

Sophomore | International Relations &amp; Russian

Room 305: 12:00 - 12:15 pm

**SOPHIA RIPLEY**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 307: 1:30 - 1:45 pm

**RACHEL LYNN ROBERTS**

Junior | Biomedical Laboratory Science

Room 303: 2:00 - 2:15 pm

**SELENA SALINAS**

Junior | Criminal Justice

Room 305: 1:00 - 1:15 pm

**JAYNLYNN SOSA**

Graduate/Professional | Human Medicine

Room 305: 1:15 - 1:30 pm

**JOSHUA TOMLINSON**

First-Year | Plant Biology

Room 307: 1:15 - 1:30 pm

**KAREEM WELLS**

Graduate/Professional | Osteopathic Medicine

Room 303: 2:15 - 2:30 pm

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