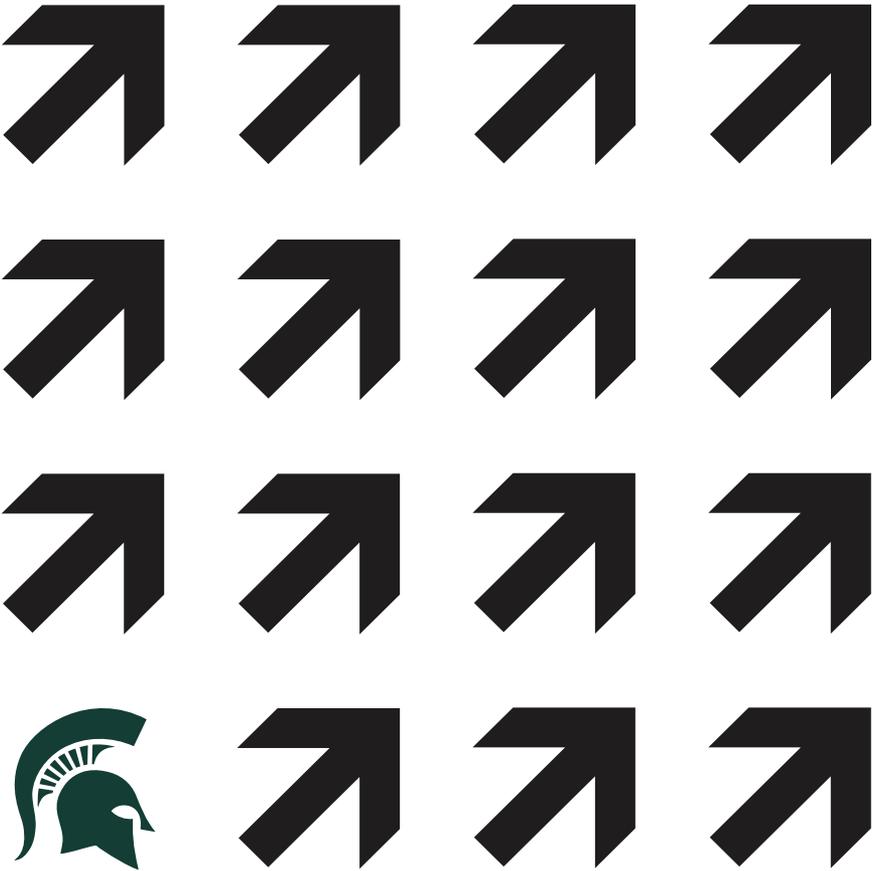


2015 LEARNING ABROAD CONFERENCE



Friday, November 20
12:30 PM - 6:00 PM
MSU International Center

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

→ Conference Overview

Welcome to MSU's fourth annual Learning Abroad Conference! What constitutes "being abroad" has always been a relative term since what is "home" to one person constitutes "abroad" for another. This is ever more true in today's global realities. MSU has a long-standing tradition of global student mobility, both in-bound and out-bound. This conference is designed as an outlet for student voices and, in a variety of media, feature presentations by students currently studying abroad at MSU or students who have returned from an experience abroad. This conference is designed to let students present their findings to the MSU community, as well as their family, and friends.

We extend a sincere thank-you to the conference organizers who made this event possible:

Paul Brown

Office of the Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Education

Fayyaz Hussain

Center for the Integrated Studies
in Social Science

Karen Kangas

Department of Theatre

Alison Kolodzy

Department of History & Office
of Study Abroad

Karen Lienhart

College of Natural Science

Oumatie Marajh

College of Social Science

Deborah Margolis

MSU Libraries

Elizabeth Matthews

Office for International Students
& Scholars

Joyce Meier

Department of Writing, Rhetoric,
and American Culture

Jessica Mestre

College of Education

Kristin Janka Millar

Honors College

Jennifer Rumler

College of Communication Arts &
Sciences

Inge Steglitz

Office of Study Abroad

Gail Vander Stoep

Department of Community
Sustainability

David Wong

College of Education

Finally, a special thank-you to:

Cheryl Benner, Office of Study Abroad (Conference Publicity)

James Dorsett, Director, Office for International Students and Scholars

Mike Gruszynski, G6 Studios (Videographer)

Jim Lucas, Assistant Dean, Office for the Associate Provost for
Undergraduate Education

Will Mianecki, Office of Study Abroad (Graphic Design)

Nick Schrader, Office of Study Abroad (Supervisor for Peer Advisers)

Peer Advisors, Office of Study Abroad (Conference logistics support)

→ Conference Schedule

12:30-1:10 PM

Welcome
Room 303

1:20 – 3:00 PM

Student Presentations
Rooms 303, 305, and 307

3:00-3:20 PM

Break
Room 302, Hallway 3rd Floor

3:20 – 5:20 PM

Student Presentations
Rooms 303, 305, and 307

5:30-6:00 PM

Closing Ceremony
Room 115

→ Student Presentations: Room 303

Moderator: Gail Vander Stoep

OPENING SESSION - Project Explore, “Hi Sir, Can I have Some White Rice?”

Yahang Zhang (China), USA

Can Wang (China), USA

Jiaqi Li (China), USA

Jiexiong Qin (China), USA

Siqi Wang (China), USA

Keting Liu (China), USA

Shuning Liu (China), USA

12:30 - 1:10 PM

Started in fall 2010, the Project Explore (Chinese Undergraduate Advisory Group) exists to advise the Office for International Students and Scholars and various departments on campus about providing services and programs for Chinese undergraduates at Michigan State University.

Chinese undergraduates are the fastest rising group of international students in the U.S. and this is also true at Michigan State University. Project Explore seeks to investigate special issues that Chinese undergraduates might encounter in adapting to MSU and create some best practices to serve their special needs. Issues of interest include social integration and acceptance when there are large numbers from one country and academic issues related to classroom performance and advising. Students selected to the team can expect to work closely with staff in OISS and different departments in MSU to help assess issues and create plans for useful activities.

If You Are Our of the Comfort Zone, Take Your Chance

Simon Lee (South Korea), USA

1:20 - 1:40 PM

The presenter is an international student from South Korea who began at MSU in 2011. He will talk about how he learned to step out of his comfort zone and embrace life on campus. The presenter will use stories and visual components to share his experience.

→ Student Presentations: Room 303

Moderator: Gail Vander Stoep

The Importance of Cultural Competency in Medicine

Felicia Jansen (USA), Mexico

1:40 - 2:00 PM

The presenter traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico with a faculty led study abroad program, Spanish for the Health Care Professions. She spent 6 weeks without translators shadowing health care providers and public health workers in one of Mexico's poorest states.

The Transition from A/C to Air Flow

Emmalena Verellen (USA), India

2:00 - 2:20 PM

The presenter traveled to the North Western region of India to trek amongst the Himalayan mountain range. Led by two MSU faculty members, the program was oriented around an ecological study of the mountains. The experience provided students with a hands-on perspective of the ecological, environmental and cultural status of the mountainous region and its rural inhabitants. The student's focus of this trek was environmental sustainability and she will specifically discuss the contrasting cultural perspectives towards it, as well as her post-travel realizations.

Everyone Deserves a Better Me

Anqi Qu (China), USA

2:20 - 2:40 PM

The presenter is an international transfer student from China and has experienced two different college lives in American and Chinese cultures. The experience helped her to compare the differences as well as reinforce her determination about why she decided to study abroad. She will also address her personal growth on the path to becoming a more independent and mature person.

→ Student Presentations: Room 303

Moderator: Gail Vander Stoep

Research Spaces in the UK

Nathan Leaman (USA), United Kingdom

3:20 - 3:40 PM

In summer 2015, Nathan Leaman participated in an MSU study abroad program entitled “English Literature in the UK,” in London, England. As a graduate student on a Doctoral Study Abroad Fellowship, Nathan’s role was to observe and support the program directors in the incorporation of course material with the on-site experience. Nathan is presenting one of the many engaging assignments: a spatial activity wherein students wrote about specific sites in London and how these spaces have an impact on how we read specific texts.

Spartan Family: Help Others, Create Value, and Never Give Up

Lu Li (China), USA

3:40 - 4:00 PM

The presenter is an international student from China who began attending Michigan State University three years ago for her Bachelor of Arts degree. Spartan spirit had a great influence and changed her life. She will address what Spartan spirit has taught her and her story of growth and experience.

The Refugee Crisis: Walk a Mile in Their Shoes

Rachel Manssur (USA), Greece & Turkey

Emma Shaw (USA), Greece & Turkey

Stephanie Culp (USA), Greece & Turkey

Haley Hoemke (USA), Greece & Turkey

Lindsey Spitzley (USA), Greece & Turkey

4:00 - 4:20 PM

This summer, the presenters journeyed to Greece and Turkey during one of the most significant times in the region’s recent history. Students experienced Greece at the peak of its’ economic crisis, as well as in the midst of perhaps one of the greatest humanitarian migration crises the world has ever experienced. Refugees have been flooding into Europe, entering through the island of Lesvos, the very island that these students called home for six weeks. Through MSU’s study abroad program, “Contemporary Culture, Politics and Society,” the students were expecting to learn about the sociological comparisons and general history of Greece. Little did they know that their experiences would introduce them to an immense humanitarian issue in a personal way, and thus, change their lives forever.

→ Student Presentations: Room 303

Moderator: Gail Vander Stoep

Recreating a 1899 Wedding Dress from the Victoria & Albert Museum

Stephanie Eubank (USA), United Kingdom

4:20 - 4:40 PM

While studying in London, the presenter researched Victorian English clothing construction and examined museum pieces of actual Victorian garments. She then recreated a Victorian wedding dress from the Victoria & Albert Museum by using historical sewing methods that the original creator would have used. She will present (and wear!) the finished garment, discuss how the process gave her insight into how women's culture was vastly different in the past, and show a tangible example of how to utilize independent study options to gain valuable experiences outside the classroom during a study abroad program.

Purgatory of Identity

Monica Watt (USA), China

3:20 - 3:40 PM

Monica participated in the language program at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China with two other Michigan State students. The trip provided nearly no guidance and definitely felt like an adventure into uncharted territory which is perfect for the flexible, free-spirit. She will be speaking about her experience as a Korean-American processing her identity in a country she blends into and the challenge of returning from studying abroad.

→ Student Presentations: Room 305

Moderator: Karen Lienhart

Expect the Unexpected: How My Medical Emergency Helped Me

Rachel Rolinski (USA), Spain

1:20 - 1:40 PM

The presenter is a pre-med student majoring in neuroscience and minoring in Spanish. She journeyed to Spain to improve her Spanish speaking skills and cultural understanding. Her two passions, medicine and Spanish language, collided unexpectedly when she was admitted to the hospital with a kidney infection while abroad. Her experiences with medical treatment in Spain taught her an important lesson about the importance of language and culture as a medical professional.

MSU – Where I Learned to Work Hard and Play Harder

Pik To Chan (Hong Kong), USA

1:40 - 2:00

The presenter is from Hong Kong under the American Semester Programme on her exchange period for one semester. The experience was designed to give students a taste of American culture and education. She will also address her personal journey and experiences as a Chinese student in the US.

Egeszegere: My Solo Adventure in Budapest, Hungary

Alexandra Menninger (USA), Hungary

2:00 - 2:20 PM

The presenter traveled to Budapest, Hungary through the direct enrollment study abroad program. The experience allowed for interactions abroad with people who think and are ideologically different, personal growth and a development of greater cultural awareness. She will also address studying abroad as the only Michigan State student in a country where Americans were a minority.

Power, Privilege, and Photographs: My Experience in Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Sapna Naik (USA), South Africa

2:20 - 2:40 PM

The presenter participated in a professional collaborative experience to South Africa in May 2015. The experience was designed to be an opportunity for graduate students at MSU to collaborate with students and staff at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and to understand the context for South African university students. The presenter will share her thoughts and photographs from during and after this experience.

→ Student Presentations: Room 305

Moderator: Karen Lienhart

The Birth of a Nation Through High Quality Coffee

Devin Foote (USA), Rwanda

Vincent Karenzi (Rwanda), USA

2:40 - 3:00 PM

The presenters spent two weeks in Rwanda with the Farm To Cup Program learning about coffee in Rwanda. This is an initiative between Michigan State University, Washington State University and University of Rwanda. The presenters will talk about the importance of coffee in farmers' livelihoods, the constraints farmers face, and suggestions on farmers' empowerment.

Carmeisha Goes to Japan: A Story of Personal Growth

Carmeisha Huckleby (USA), Japan

3:20 - 3:40 PM

The presenter journeyed to Japan through a direct enroll program with the Japan Center for Michigan Universities. The program was designed to improve students' knowledge of Japanese language and culture. Her presentation will address how her experiences in Japan contributed to her personal growth and self-acceptance.

Professionalism Abroad: An Exercise in Flexibility

Felicia Flowers (USA), Peru

3:40 - 4:00 PM

The presenter traveled to Lima, Peru with the College of Human Medicine for a service learning trip designed to educate medical students about the health care system in Peru. Through hands-on experiences in the operating room, assisting in health campaigns, and interacting with many different rural communities outside of Lima, the presenter and her classmates experienced a true immersion in another culture's health care system. She will also address the difficulties she had to overcome in order to grow from the experience and gain the most out of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

The Art of Isolating Beauty from Chaos

Tianjiao Wang

4:00 - 4:20 PM

The presenter is an international student from China. He devoted his free time to photography. In that personal way, he found his own path of understanding the cultural difference between two countries as well as developing himself in the U.S.

→ Student Presentations: Room 305

Moderator: Karen Lienhart

Holistic Community Health Activism in Zonkizizwe, South Africa

Brian Batayeh (USA), South Africa

Rachel Linnemann (USA), South Africa

4:20 - 4:40 PM

The presenters went on an internship abroad to work at a non-profit located in South Africa. They lived at the non-profit and worked there for 9 weeks running a class on holistic community health. They lived alongside the family that led the nonprofit and worked in collaboration with the youth in the township.

Visual Study Abroad

Hanbing Ling (China), USA, Spain, Italy, France, United Kingdom, & Estonia

Xumei Ling (China), USA, Spain, Italy, France, United Kingdom, & Estonia

4:40 - 5:00 PM

As landscape architecture students, the way the presenters experience the world while studying abroad is different from other professions. They have a particular way of capturing what they see through sketchbooks, rather than carrying huge cameras and several lenses. One shutter may only take a second, but what's really there may take a long time to observe. Sketching allows them to take time discovering their own vision, which recalls their knowledge of the site and captures the feelings of being there.

“What Does A Ferris Wheel Have to Do With It?”

Elena Brennan (USA), Finland

5:00 - 5:20 PM

As a Masters Candidate in the School of Social Work, the presenter travelled to Finland through the Department of Social Sciences, immersing herself in a two-week program focused on International Social Policy and Social Service Delivery. Her story will focus on the importance of personal and professional development outside of the comfort zone.

Water and Waste Treatment in an Indigenous Costa Rican Community

Gina Masell (USA), Costa Rica

Nicole Kruse (USA), Costa Rica

1:20 - 1:40 PM

The presenters traveled to Costa Rica and worked with Team “Shuabb Systems,” who have designed an integrated system to provide potable

→ Student Presentations: Room 307

Moderator: David Wong

water, wastewater treatment, and energy production for an ecotourism project led by the Shuabb Aborigine Women Association. By integrating green technologies such as water filters, anaerobic digestion and constructed treatment wetlands, the project aims to secure clean water for human consumption and treat solid waste and wastewater, while creating renewable energy on site. The project is in cooperation with the Gender Equity Office from the Technological Institute of Costa Rica, and can demonstrate the economic value of such development in a region with limited access to public services.

How the People of Ireland Expanded Marriage, and Why the People of the United States Didn't

Matthew Rappe (USA), Ireland

1:40 - 2:00 PM

This student traveled to Ireland as part of a Freshman Seminar Abroad. The class was focused on the political history of Ireland. The presentation will illustrate how the differences between the countries led to the passage of marriage equality in two distinct ways.

Coaching Soccer for Life: The Challenges I Faced While Coaching Adolescents in the Most Troubled Community in Sweden

Lucas Capalbo (Brazil), USA, Sweden

2:00 - 2:20 PM

While studying for his master's degree in Sweden, Lucas was hired to coach an under-15 soccer team in the most dangerous neighborhood in the country. In this presentation Lucas will share the challenges and lessons he learned when preparing his players for the biggest tournament of their lives.

Studying Abroad Changed my Life and It Can Change Yours Too

Ryan Edgar (USA) The Netherlands, France, and United Kingdom

2:20 - 2:40 PM

The presenter is currently a senior, majoring in advertising with a concentration in management and media. During her experience, she traveled to Amsterdam, Paris, and London, where she learned about the complexity and nuances of international advertising in global markets. She will also elaborate on the importance of participating in study abroad programs as an African American.

→ Student Presentations: Room 307

Moderator: David Wong

What a Good Pair of Boots and 200 Miles Can Teach You

Mikayla DeMers (USA), Spain

2:40 - 3:00 PM

The presenter traveled to Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago, a 200 mile journey across northern Spain. The religious studies minor wanted to find out who walked the Camino and why, and if there were still strong religious ties to the historical route. After only a few days she learned so much, including the importance of acceptance, brotherhood, and a good pair of hiking boots!

Expanding Borders

Hector Hernando Claros-Velasco (Colombia), USA & United Kingdom

3:20 - 3:40 PM

The presenter dreamed of continuing to develop himself in his profession as a Lighting Designer, but fears of learning another language and starting from zero prevented him from taking the first steps to expanding his borders. In 2012 he made the decision to start to learn English and apply to an MFA program in U.S. Now, thanks to the opportunity from the Department of Theatre of MSU, he has learned English, as well the new technologies that are necessary to create performances in the American and British ways of production, two of the most important schools in the world in the field of performing arts.

Effigies of Expression: The Art and Culture of Puppetry in the UK

Elsbeth Williams (USA), United Kingdom

3:40 - 4:00 PM

The speaker traveled to the UK with MSU's Theatre in London Program as part of her MFA in Theatre Design. While there she took part in an independent study focusing on the history and production of stage puppets in the UK. In addition to providing valuable research and skills for her career as a theatrical designer, this program gave her insight to the cultural background of that country and the art of puppetry as a whole.

Niche Programs Work!: Lessons of Leadership and Personal Growth as Experienced Through the Men, Masculinity, and Leadership Program

Kyle Sims (USA), Italy

4:00 - 4:20 PM

The presenter traveled to Italy with the Men, Masculinity, and Leadership study abroad program. The program, designed for men and specifically fraternity men, challenged participants to rethink the

→ Student Presentations: Room 307

Moderator: David Wong

traditional constructs of masculinity as they exist in contemporary society. By doing so, the program created a safe place for men to openly discuss issues that face college-aged men.

Traveling in Sri Lanka: A Tale of Tea, Temples, and Microfinance

Apoorva Dhingra (India), Sri Lanka

4:20 - 4:40 PM

This presenter, following a research fellowship in Sri Lanka this past summer, returned to Michigan State eager to share and inform others about her experiences. Her presentation will engage the audience in a stimulating discussion about the dynamics of post-conflict Sri Lankan society, the importance of tea within the nation, and the role of microfinance in helping individuals evade poverty society. By doing so, the program created a safe place for men to openly discuss issues that face college-aged men.

2,000 Years Below my Feet: A Tale of Learning to Let go from Amman to Meknes

Harrison Jones (USA), Jordan & Morocco

4:40 - 5:00 PM

The presenter has traveled to both Amman, Jordan and Meknes, Morocco with Amideast and the American Councils Flagship Program. These experiences were designed for intensive language learning as well as preparing students for a global career in Arabic language. He will also address his personal experiences and the global perspectives you acquire which are applicable after returning home.

Inspiration from Adaptation

Megan Cochrane (USA), United Kingdom

5:00 - 5:20 PM

The presenter ventured to London, England with MSU's Theatre Department. The Theatre in London program was designed to allow students the opportunity to intensely experience British theatre through performances, workshops, tours, trips and lectures while also exploring theatre history and actor training. The presenter will describe the lasting educational impact such an experience had on her.

→ Student Presenters

	Room	Time
Batayeh, Brian Senior, Biomedical Laboratory Science.....	305.....	4:20-4:40 PM
Brennan, Elena Graduate Student, Master of Social Work.....	305.....	5:00-5:20 PM
Capalbo, Lucas Graduate Student, Kinesiology.....	307.....	2:00-2:20 PM
Chan, Pik To Junior, Marketing.....	305.....	1:40-2:00 PM
Claros-Velasco, Hector Hernando Graduate Student, Design (MFA).....	307.....	3:20-3:40 PM
Cochrane, Megan Senior, Theatre & Journalism.....	307.....	5:00-5:20 PM
Culp, Stephanie Senior, Food Industry Management.....	303.....	4:00-4:20 PM
DeMers, Mikayla Sophomore, Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities.....	307.....	2:40-3:00 PM
Dhingra, Apoorva Junior, International Relations & Comparative Cultures and Politics.....	307.....	4:20-4:40 PM
Edgar, Ryan Senior, Advertising.....	307.....	2:20-2:40 PM
Eubank, Stephanie Graduate Student, Theatre Costume Design (MFA).....	303.....	4:20-4:40 PM
Flowers, Felicia Graduate Student, M.D. at The College of Human Medicine.....	305.....	3:40-4:00 PM

→ Student Presenters

Foote, Devin

Graduate Student, Community Food
Systems.....305.....2:40-3:00 PM

Hoemke, Haley

Junior, Advertising.....303..... 4:00-4:20 PM

Huckleby, Carmeisha

Graduate Student, Higher, Adult, and
Lifelong Education.....305.....3:20-3:40 PM

Jansen, Felicia

Senior, Biomedical Laboratory Science.....303.....1:40-2:00 PM

Jones, Harrison

Senior, Comparative Cultures and
Politics & Arabic.....307.....4:40-5:00 PM

Karenzi, Vincent

Junior, Agribusiness Management.....305.....2:40-3:00 PM

Kruse, Nicole

Senior, Biosystems Engineering307.....1:20-1:40 PM

Leaman, Nathan

Graduate Student, English.....303.....3:20 - 3:40 PM

Lee, Simon

Senior, Advertising Management.....303.....1:20-1:40 PM

Li, Jiaqi (Athena)

Senior, Accounting & International
Relations.....303.....12:30-1:10 PM

Li, Lu

Junior, Marketing.....303.....3:40-4:00 PM

Ling, Hanbing

Graduate Student, Landscape
Architecture & Environmental Design.....305..... 4:40-5:00 PM

→ Student Presenters

Linneman, Rachel

Junior, History, Philosophy, and

Sociology of Science.....305.....4:20-4:40 PM

Liu, Keting (Tim)

Junior, Accounting.....303.....12:30-1:10 PM

Liu, Shuning (Lyn)

Sophomore, Applied Engineering Science.....303.....12:30 1:10 PM

Manssur, Rachel

Senior, Interdisciplinary Studies, Human

Capital and Society.....303.....4:00-4:20 PM

Masell, Gina

Senior, Biosystems Engineering

& Political Science.....307.....1:20-1:40 PM

Menninger, Alexandra

Senior, World Politics;

specialization in Peace & Justice Studies.....305.....2:00-2:20 PM

Naik, Sapna

Graduate Student, Higher, Adult, and

Lifelong Education.....305.....2:20-2:40 PM

Qin, Jiexiong

Sophomore, Supply Chain Management.....303.....12:30-1:10 PM

Qu, Anqi

Junior, Communications.....305.....2:20-2:40 PM

Rappe, Matthew

Freshmen, James Madison.....307.....1:40-2:00 PM

Rolinski, Rachel

Junior, Neuroscience.....305.....1:20-1:40 PM

Shaw, Emma

Senior, Urban Planning.....303.....4:00-4:20 PM

→ Student Presenters

Sims, Kyle

Senior, Applied Engineering Systems..... 307.....4:00-4:20 PM

Spitzley, Lindsey

Senior, Professional Writing.....303.....4:00-4:20 PM

Wang, Can (Aiden)

Senior, Accounting.....303.....12:30-1:10 PM

Wang, Siqi (Emma)

Junior, Marketing 303.....12:30-1:10 PM

Wang, Tianjiao

Junior, Advertising..... 305.....4:00-4:20 PM

Wang, Xumei

Graduate Student, Landscape
Architecture & Environmental Design..... 305.....4:40-5:00 PM

Watt, Monica

Senior, International Relations, Media,
& Information.....303.....4:40-5:00 PM

Williams, Elspeth

Graduate Student, Production Design
(MFA).....307.....3:40-4:00 PM

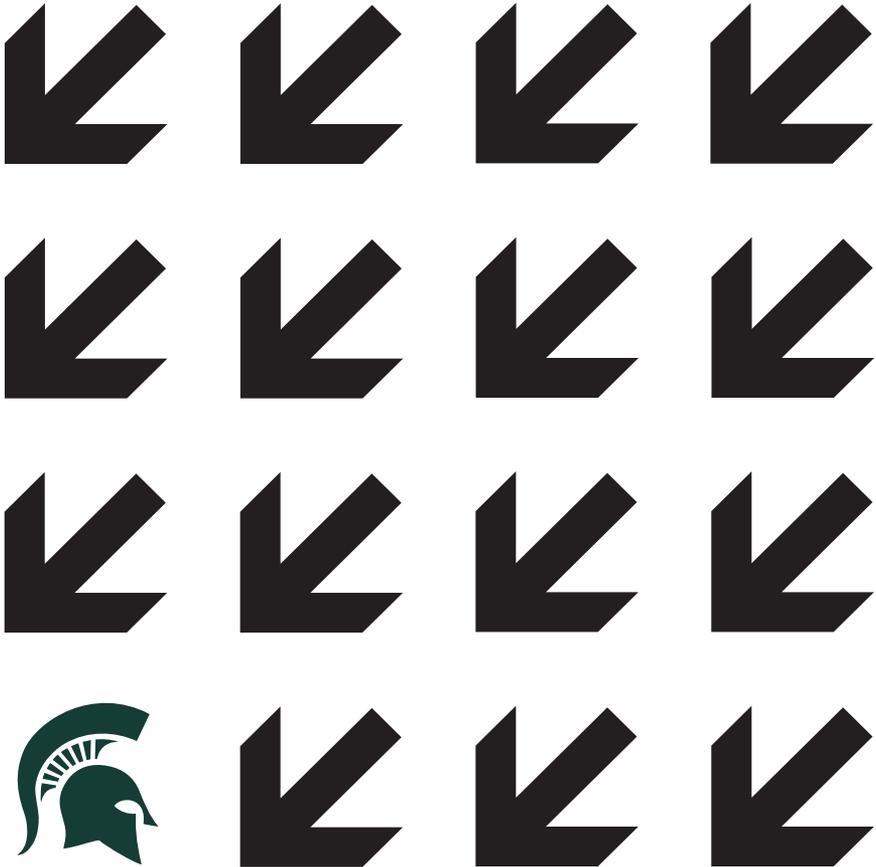
Verellen, Emmalena

Junior, English & Environmental Studies and
Sustainability.....303.....2:00-2:20 PM

Zhang, Yahang

Senior, Marketing.....303.....12:30-1:10 PM

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