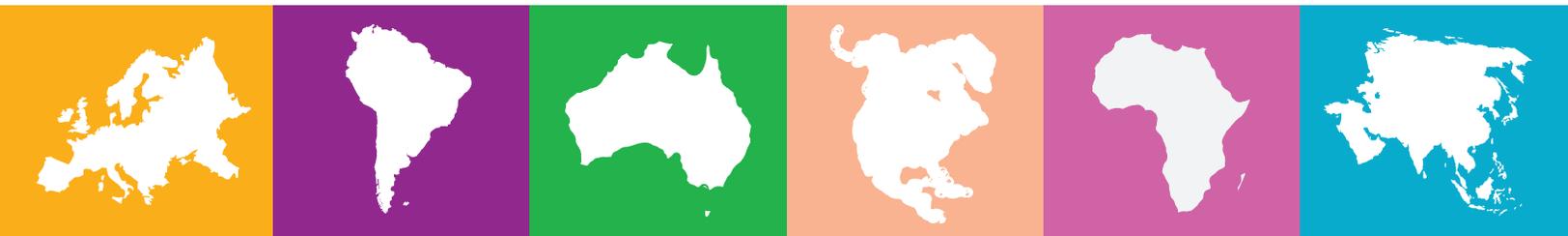


2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**LEARNING  
ABROAD  
CONFERENCE**



Friday, November 15, 2013  
1:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
MSU International Center

# WELCOME!

Welcome to MSU's second 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, features 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 thank our presenters and moderators for their willingness to share their experience and expertise.

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

**Shannon Burton**

Office of the Ombudsperson and The School of Hospitality Business

**Karen Kangas-Preston**

Department of Theatre

**Oumatie Marajh**

College of Social Science

**Elizabeth Matthews**

Office for International Students and Scholars

**Rick Paulsen**

Department of Community Sustainability

**Pamela Roy**

Department of Educational Administration

**Jennifer Rumler**

College of Communication Arts and Sciences

**Rebekka Sherman-Loeffler**

Department of History

**Inge Steglitz**

Office of Study Abroad

**Taylor Sandweg**

College of Education and 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)

**Mike Gruszynski**, G6 Studios (Videographer)

**Reid Masimore**, Office of Study Abroad (Conference publicity and photographer)

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

**Peer Advisers**, Office of Study Abroad (Conference logistics support)

# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Welcome</b> In Room 115	
1:40 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Student Presentations</b> In Rooms 201, 303, 305, 307	pp. 1 – 8
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b> Hallway 3rd Floor	
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Student Presentations</b> In Rooms 201, 303, 305, 307	pp. 1 – 8
4:40 – 5:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Ceremony</b> In Room 115	
	<b>Student Presenters</b> (Alphabetical Order)	pp. 8 – 12

## STUDENT PRESENTATION THEMES

### Advocacy

how has living and learning abroad motivated students to tackle global problems and contribute to others' well-being at home and/or abroad

### Cultural Awareness

how has living and learning abroad enhanced students' understanding and appreciation of a different culture, as well as their own

### Personal Growth

how has living and learning abroad affected students' development as an individual

### Professional Growth

how has living and learning abroad affected students' development as scholars towards strengthening their personal career goals.

### Overcoming Obstacles

how students overcame challenges at home and abroad in order to learn abroad.

**1:40 p.m.****10 Pounds of Culture**

Europe (Cultural Awareness)  
Quan Blunt

The presenter studied abroad in Italy, the United Kingdom, France, and Switzerland on the *International Food Laws* program. Quan's presentation will focus on the interactions of food and culture.

**2:00 p.m.****Japan: Unpacking Another Culture**

Japan (Cultural Awareness)  
Jared Hirsch

The presenter spent time in Japan on the *Business and Culture in Japan* program. Jared discovered the intricacies of another culture which has prompted him to briefly introduce Japanese culture, as well as critically examine his own.

**2:20 p.m.****Residence Education Goes to China: Exploring Student Affairs in China**

China (Cultural Awareness)  
Tramaine Austin-Dillon

The presenter journeyed to *China* with MSU's Residence Education and Housing Services department. The experience was designed to reinforce the importance of cultural awareness in Tramaine's workplace where many Chinese students are housed. He will also address his personal journey and experiences as an African American male in China.

**2:40 p.m.****The Republic of Chan Chan: Music and Tourism in Old Havana**

Cuba (Cultural Awareness)  
Tom Taylor

This presenter learned abroad as part of the *Culture and Sustainable Development in Cuba* program. He will focus on the production of culture, by showcasing the change of a foreign song to a national one

# PRESENTATIONS

Moderator: Rick Paulsen

**3:00 p.m.**      **Break**

**3:30 p.m.**      **Personal Growth & Reflection as a Result of Civic Engagement in Mexico**

Mexico (Advocacy)

Jessica Hernandez, Ali Sanchez, Michael Suarez, and Jesus Vega

The presenters spent an intense time in Mexico on the *International Engagement in Mérida* program. Their experiences inspired the four to advocate for change of existing inequitable structures in Mexico.

**3:50 p.m.**      **Parasites and Piranhas: Practicing Medicine in the Peruvian Amazon**

Peru (Advocacy)

Tiffany Abrahamian, Anthony Agrusa, Maddi Massa, and Lauren Pitters

The presenters journeyed into the Peruvian Amazon with the College of Osteopathic Medicine's *2nd Year Service Learning in Peru* program. The four presenters learned about, and helped to partly alleviate the needs of an underserved community, which reinforced their passion for their chosen careers.

**4:10 p.m.**      **Ghana: A Subjective Journey Experienced Together**

Ghana (Advocacy)

Joel Arnold, Kendall James, and Neda Senehi

The presenters traveled to Ghana as part of the *Public Health in Ghana: Community-Based Field Research Methods* program. Once in Ghana, they quickly abandoned their original concerns of hand sanitizer in favor of immersing themselves in the community. Their immersion and project were so successful that they have been invited back to the community.

1:40 p.m.

**The International Student Metamorphosis**

United States of America (Personal Growth/Cultural Awareness)

Audrey Mabiza

This presenter is an international student from *Zimbabwe*, studying abroad at MSU. Audrey will be describing her transformation from a shy and introverted to a thriving Spartan, who in addition to being elected to homecoming and serving as an Intercultural Aide participated in another Spartan experience: a faculty led program to the United Kingdom. Audrey thus studied abroad on the while studying abroad at MSU!

2:00 p.m.

**Fitting into Shoe**

United States of America (Personal Growth/Cultural Awareness)

Sharon Akinyi Onyango

This presenter is an international scholar from *Kenya*, learning abroad at MSU with the *Mastercard Foundation Scholars* program. Sharon is spending her first semester at MSU, navigating the intricacies of a new culture and of being a Spartan.

2:20 p.m.

**How I Unintentionally Became a Cultural Broker at MSU**

United States of America (Personal Growth/Cultural Awareness)

Hiu See (Cecilia) Tang

This presenter is an international MSU alumna from *China*. Cecilia asks the difficult question of how do we position ourselves with and/or against the identities assigned us? She wants to share her “synergetic process” of situating and negotiating her Hong Kong identity in specific contexts. She hopes to suggest some tools for the audience to reflect on their seeing and understanding their own identities, the socio-cultural context they are part of, as well as other people’s identities.

2:40 p.m.

**Living in the Spirit of uBuntu:What I Learned from the South African People**

South Africa (Personal Growth/Cultural Awareness)

Melissa Vader

This presenter embraced the spirit of uBuntu, on her travel with the *Education, Society and Learning in South Africa* program. Melissa experienced the power of human kindness exemplified by uBuntu in South African culture. She will share how this has impacted her personal life and possible applications of uBuntu on a larger scale.

# PRESENTATIONS

Moderator: Gail Vander Stoep

3:00 p.m.

## Break

3:30 p.m.

## **A Family Experience: Studying Abroad for People with Young Children**

United Kingdom (Overcoming Obstacles)

Allen Clarkson

This presenter learned abroad in the United Kingdom on the *21st Century Law Practice in London* program. He was able to overcome several obstacles and enabled his family to join him on his experience, thus increasing not only his own horizon and cultural awareness but also those of his children and spouse.

3:50 p.m.

## **The One at Odds**

United States of America (Overcoming Obstacles)

Xinyi (Jessica) Fang

This presenter is an international student from *China*, studying abroad at MSU. Jessica shares her ongoing journey of embracing the MSU culture and the community outside of MSU. She started her Spartan journey feeling conflicted by her cultural identity and enclosing within herself to going out in the public and dedicating herself to the community in and out of MSU.

4:10 p.m.

## **Grappling with my Cystic Fibrosis Abroad: Challenges and Obstacles**

United Kingdom (Overcoming Obstacles)

Julia Ruggirello

This presenter spent time in the United Kingdom with the *History/Social Science Program in the UK*. Julia battles cystic fibrosis, which almost made her miss her program due to hospitalization. Her goal is to be alive and she demonstrated this every day on her journey, while simultaneously raising awareness for her medical condition.

1:40 p.m.

**A Morning with the Prince's Tailor**

United Kingdom (Professional Growth)

Brigitte Bechtel

This presenter journeyed abroad with the *Theatre in London* program. She demonstrated great initiative, and took steps toward her future career, when she set up an appointment with the Prince's tailor in London.

2:00 p.m.

**Roles Reversed: Communication Barriers Abroad**

Italy (Professional Growth)

Michelle Proschek

This presenter spent a semester at *John Cabot University in Rome*. She experienced aspects of her future career first hand, when she encountered communication barriers based on language and culture in Rome, while attempting to teach Italian children English.

2:20 p.m.

**How One Month Changed my Path**

Nepal (Professional Growth)

Caroline Williams

This presenter traveled to Nepal on the *Technion Israel Institute of Technology in Kathmandu Engineering for Developing Communities* program. Caroline's experience in an underserved community led to her changing and focusing her career plans. It has inspired her to serve these communities.

2:40 p.m.

**7,000 Miles, 6 Showers, and 4 Budding Careers**

Uganda (Professional Growth)

Ruth Adamus, Mathieu Gervais, Annette Lundberg, and Riley Ravary

The presenters participated in the *Evolution of Uganda's Forest Biodiversity: Apes and Aves* program. They have attended numerous conferences presenting the research gathered during their program. In addition to moving into the direction of their chosen careers, they have also grown as individuals.

# PRESENTATIONS

Moderator: Nick Schrader

**3:00 p.m.**

## **Break**

**3:30 p.m.**

## **Ecuador: How Latin America Reshaped My Thinking**

Ecuador (Personal Growth/Professional Growth)

Katherine Barren

The presenter spent a semester at the *Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador*. The stay helped Katherine achieve her goal of becoming bilingual, but also how to reprioritize life goals. She also experienced a culture that puts less emphasis on stress, challenging Katherine's notions of how to live a successful life.

**3:50 p.m.**

## **Negotiating Self in West Africa**

Senegal, Niger (Personal Growth/Professional Growth)

Hannah Feig

Now a Masters student in Anthropology at MSU, this presenter spent time in Senegal with on a *non-MSU program*, and will also draw upon previous experiences in Niger. Hannah honed her French skills and cultural awareness. Yet the experience also led to the clarification of her future career path, as well as the renegotiation of her core values.

**4:10 p.m.**

## **A Midsummer's Dream of Fish and Chips: Theatre in London**

United Kingdom (Personal Growth/Professional Growth)

Daniel Hobbs, Melissa Motz, and Jenna Jo Pawlicki

The presenters studied abroad in the United Kingdom with the *Theatre in London* program. They will emphasize how study abroad can create access to career resources that are simply not available on campus. Learning abroad has enabled these four budding theatre artists to deepen the understanding of their craft.

**1:40 p.m.****South Africa: A Continuous Adventure**

South Africa (Personal Growth)  
Caitlin Riddle

The presenter spent a semester at the *University of KwaZulu-Natal* in South Africa. Caitlin experienced a journey of self-discovery as she learned how wonderful a solo journey can be while experiencing academics, travel, adventure and friendships abroad.

**2:00 p.m.****Good Mates and Kookaburras: An Experience Never Forgotten**

Australia (Personal Growth)  
Kari Grigowski

Kari used her experience of spending a semester at *La Trobe University* for personal growth, by becoming more content and in control of her life, while also forming life-long friendships in Australia. She feels inspired to discover more of what this world has to offer.

**2:20 p.m.****Beyond the Froth: Getting the Most Out of Your Study Abroad Experience**

United Kingdom (Personal Growth)  
Humphrey PetersenJones

The presenter studied at *Lancaster University* in the United Kingdom for a full academic year. Humphrey experienced great personal growth and self-discovery during his time abroad. He wants to share his story to benefit fellow Spartans on their future learning abroad experiences.

**2:40 p.m.****Authenticity: Creating a Personal Brand**

Italy (Personal Growth)  
Elissa Crabbe, Samantha Harwell, and Luke LoVasco

The presenters journeyed to Italy with the *Made in Italy* program. While the three had a good sense of self as individuals and as group before the program, their study abroad experience challenged them to develop a public personality and brand. It led to them becoming well rounded individuals.

# PRESENTATIONS

Moderator: Cindy Chalou

3:00 p.m.

**Break**

3:30 p.m.

**Destination Uganda: A Two Year Road of Education**

Uganda (Advocacy, Personal and Professional Growth)

Katie Ott

The presenter participated in an *independent James Madison College internship in Uganda*. A self-described rebellious freshman and proud Spartan, Katie learned to reconcile her Spartan values with her professional goals, while maturing into a focused and driven senior.

3:50 p.m.

**Malaysia: Natural Beauty and Vibrant Cultures**

Malaysia (Advocacy, Personal and Professional Growth)

Julia Miller

The presenter traveled to Malaysia with the *Wild Borneo: Exploring the Diversity of Southeast Asia* program. Julia was able to dive into unique cultures and ecosystems, where she experienced Ramadan and encountered rare flora.

# STUDENT PRESENTERS

	Room	Time
<b>Abrahamian, Tiffany</b> ..... Graduate student, Osteopathic Medicine	201	3:50 - 4:10 p.m.
<b>Adamus, Ruth</b> ..... Senior, Zoology	305	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Agrusa, Anthony</b> ..... Graduate student, Osteopathic Medicine	201	3:50 – 4:10 p.m.
<b>Arnold, Joel</b> ..... Junior, Psychology	201	4:10 – 4:30 p.m.
<b>Austin-Dillon, Tramaine</b> ..... Graduate student, Student Affairs Administration	201	2:20 – 2:40 p.m.
<b>Barren, Katherine</b> ..... Junior, Neuroscience	305	3:30 – 3:50 p.m.
<b>Bechtel, Brigitte</b> ..... Graduate student, Theatre	305	1:40 – 2:00 p.m.
<b>Blunt, Quan</b> ..... Junior, Food Science	201	1:40 - 2:00 p.m.
<b>Clarkson, Allen</b> ..... Graduate student, Law	303	3:30 – 3:50 p.m.
<b>Crabbe, Elissa</b> ..... Senior, Communication	307	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Fang, Xinyi (Jessica)</b> ..... Senior, Psychology	303	3:50– 4:10 p.m.
<b>Feig, Hannah</b> ..... Graduate student, Anthropology	305	3:50 – 4:10 p.m.
<b>Gervais, Mathieu</b> ..... Senior, Environmental Biology/Zoology	305	2:40 - 3:00 p.m.

	Room	Time
<b>Grigowski, Kari</b> ..... Junior, Dietetics	307	2:00 – 2:20 p.m.
<b>Harwell, Samantha</b> ..... Junior, Communications	307	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Hernandez, Jessica</b> ..... Sophomore, Supply Chain Management	201	3:30 – 3:50 p.m.
<b>Hirsch, Jared</b> ..... Senior, General Management	201	2:00 – 2:20 p.m.
<b>Hobbs, Daniel</b> ..... Graduate student, Theatre	305	4:10 - 4:30 p.m.
<b>James, Kendall</b> ..... Graduate student, Human Medicine	201	4:10 – 4:30 p.m.
<b>LoVasco, Luke</b> ..... Junior, Integrative Studies in Social Sciences	307	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Lundberg, Annette</b> ..... Senior, Zoology	305	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Mabiza, Audrey</b> ..... Senior, Chemical Engineering	303	1:40 – 2:00 p.m.
<b>Massa, Maddi</b> ..... Graduate student, Osteopathic Medicine	201	3:50 – 4:10 p.m.
<b>Miller, Julia</b> ..... Senior, Plant Biology	307	3:50 – 4:10 p.m.
<b>Motz, Melissa</b> ..... Senior, Theatre	305	4:10 – 4:30 p.m.
<b>Onyango, Sharon Akinyi</b> ..... Freshman, Chemical Engineering	303	2:00 – 2:20 p.m.
<b>Ott, Katie</b> ..... Senior, Social Relations and Policy	307	3:30 – 3:50 p.m.



# STUDENT PRESENTERS

	Room	Time
<b>Pawlicki, Jenna Jo</b> ..... Senior, Theatre	305	4:10 - 4:30 p.m.
<b>PetersenJones, Humphrey</b> ..... Senior, Physiology	307	2:20 – 2:40 p.m.
<b>Pitters, Lauren</b> ..... Graduate Student, Osteopathic Medicine	201	3:50 – 4:10 p.m.
<b>Proschek, Michelle</b> ..... Senior, Family Community Services	305	2:00 – 2:20 p.m.
<b>Ravary, Riley</b> ..... Senior, Zoology	305	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Riddle, Caitlin</b> ..... Senior, Social Work	307	1:40 – 2:00 p.m.
<b>Ruggirello, Julia</b> ..... Senior, Special Education/Disabilities	303	4:10 – 4:30 p.m.
<b>Sanchez, Ali</b> ..... Senior, Education	201	3:30 -3:50 p.m.
<b>Senehi, Neda</b> ..... Graduate student, Human Development and Family Studies	201	4:10 – 4:30 p.m.
<b>Suarez, Michael</b> ..... Sophomore, Communication	201	3:30 – 3:50 p.m.
<b>Tang, Hiu See (Cecilia)</b> ..... Alumna, Comparative Cultures and Politics	303	2:20– 2:40 p.m.
<b>Taylor, Tom</b> ..... Senior, Integrative Studies in Social Science	201	2:40 –3:00 p.m.

	Room	Time
<b>Vader, Melissa</b> ..... Junior, Teacher Education	303 .....	2:40 – 3:00 p.m.
<b>Vega, Jesus</b> ..... Junior, International Relations	201 .....	3:30 – 3:50 p.m.
<b>Williams, Caroline</b> ..... Senior, Civil and Environmental Engineering	305 .....	2:20 – 2:40 p.m.

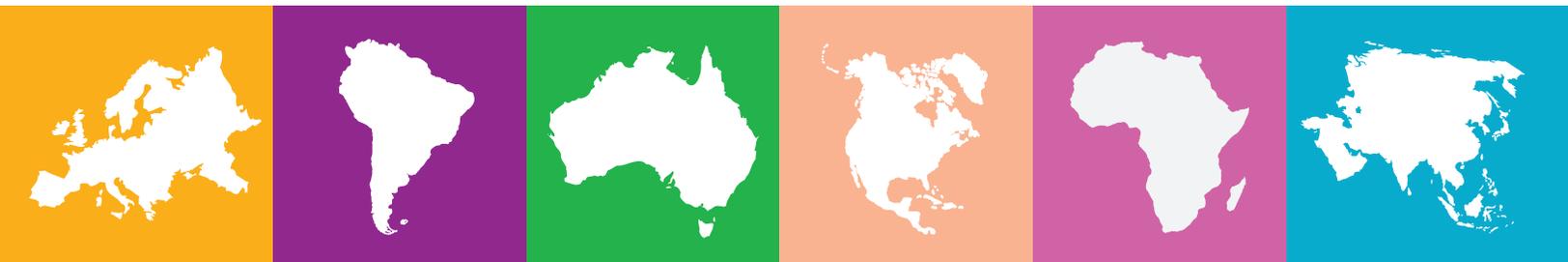


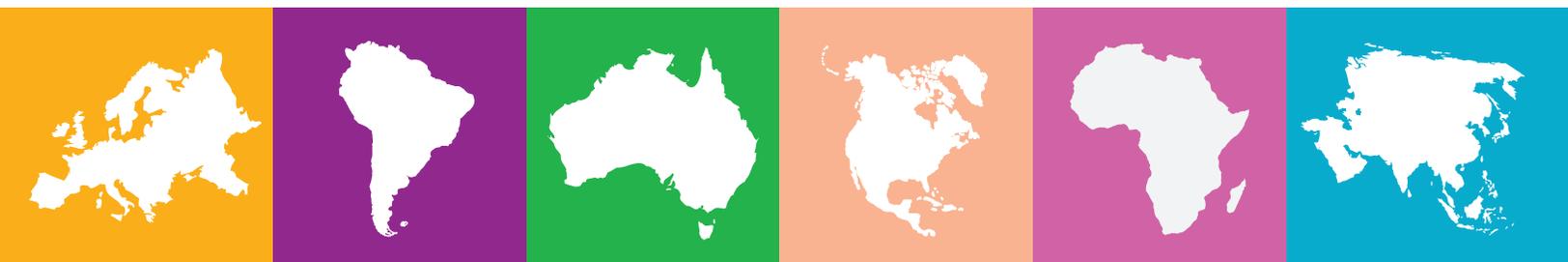
# NOTES



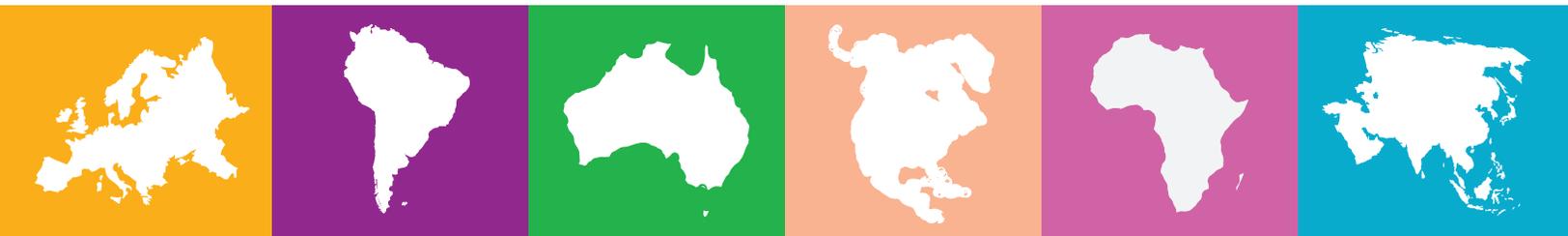
# NOTES







**GO GREEN,  
GO WHITE,  
GO ABROAD!**  
Thanks for joining us!



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
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