

# 2025 FLORIDA LESSONS FROM ABROAD CONFERENCE

The statewide conference celebrating the  
impact of learning abroad and global citizenship.

Friday, April 4, 2025

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

University of South Florida | Judy Genshaft Honors College

*Free! Sign up to present by March 7 or register to attend by March 14.*



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

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10:00 AM      **OPENING REMARKS**  
HON 1030 - Forum

10:30 AM      **MORNING SESSIONS**  
HON 3040, 3042, 3002 - 3rd Floor

12:00 PM      **LUNCH**  
HON 1030 - Forum

1:10 PM      **AFTERNOON SESSIONS**  
HON 3040, 3042, 3002 - 3rd Floor

2:45 PM      **CLOSING REMARKS**  
HON 1030 - Forum

# Presentation Information

## 10:30 - 10:45 AM Sessions

### From Castles to Coastlines: Study Abroad Insights from Ireland & New Zealand

Maya Adkins, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

HON 3040

IN THIS PRESENTATION, WE WILL EXPLORE THE KEY LESSONS LEARNED BY STUDENTS WHO STUDIED ABROAD IN IRELAND AND NEW ZEALAND, FOCUSING ON CULTURAL ADAPTATION, ACADEMIC DIFFERENCES, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND FORMING CONNECTIONS. THROUGH A COMBINATION OF STUDENT TESTIMONIALS AND POWERPOINT WE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF IMMERSING IN IRISH AND KIWI CULTURES, FROM NAVIGATING UNIVERSITY LIFE AND CLASSES ABROAD TO EMBRACING LOCAL CUSTOMS. THE SESSION WILL ALSO PROVIDE PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS FOR FUTURE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS, HELPING THEM MAXIMIZE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN THESE COUNTRIES.

### My Study Abroad Experience: A Life Changing Journey

Doyeon Kim, Stetson University

HON 3042

IN THIS LECTURE, THE PRESENTER WILL SHARE HER EXPERIENCES AS THE ONLY KOREAN EXCHANGE STUDENT AT STETSON UNIVERSITY. SHE WILL DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COLLEGE LIFE IN KOREA AND THE U.S., AS WELL AS HOW HER TIME IN AMERICA HAS SHAPED HER MINDSET. SHE WILL EXPLORE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF LIVING INDEPENDENTLY ABROAD AND HOW OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF AN UNFAMILIAR CULTURE CAN ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO EMBRACE CHALLENGES. THROUGH HER JOURNEY, SHE HOPES TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO STEP OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONES AND TAKE ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

### An American Solo Traveler in Western Europe

Miles Reynolds, Stetson University

HON 3002

THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER MY EXPERIENCES WHEN I WAS ALONE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. I WILL BE REFLECTING ON MY EXPERIENCES VISITING THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND FRANCE IN 2024. I WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON HOW IT HELPED ME DEVELOP AS A TRAVELER WHILE I WAS ABROAD.



# Presentation Information

10:50 - 11:05 AM Sessions

## A Two-Way Road: Bridging Global Perspectives with Local Impact

Miki Ohotaguro, Stetson University

HON 3040

THE PRESENTER WILL SHARE HOW THEIR EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PERSONAL PROJECT IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY. LEARN HOW CULTURAL EXCHANGE LED TO THE CLOSING OF A CHAPTER AND THE OPENING OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES. THIS SESSION WILL EXPLORE HOW STUDYING ABROAD SHAPED THE PRESENTER'S PROFESSIONAL CHOICES, UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING GROWTH WHILE STAYING CONNECTED TO ONE'S ROOTS. THROUGH PERSONAL ANECDOTES, THE PRESENTER WILL EMPHASIZE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES IN FOSTERING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

## How Going To Taiwan Gave Me A Second Family

Eriel Sexton, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

HON 3042

I HAVE BEEN STUDYING MANDARIN SINCE 1ST GRADE, AND WHILE MY READING AND WRITING HAD PROGRESSED, SPEECH WAS THE ONE THING THAT WAS GENERALLY HOLDING ME BACK. GOING TO TAIWAN AND BEING ABLE TO NOT ONLY PRACTICE, BUT HAVING TO WORK MYSELF OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE WHO CAME TO ME FIRST WAS SOMETHING THAT TRULY TIGHTENED MY SKILLS UP AND HELPED ME BUILD MORE CONFIDENCE. IT ALSO ENDED UP WITH ME GAINING NEW FAMILY FRIENDS AND ULTIMATELY A FAMILY AWAY FROM MY OWN.

## Between Two Worlds: The Untold Realities of an International Student

Kira Zaitsava, Stetson University

HON 3002

STUDYING ABROAD IS OFTEN SEEN AS AN EXCITING ADVENTURE, BUT WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND THE HIGHLIGHT REEL? IN THIS PRESENTATION, I'LL SHARE THE REAL, UNFILTERED EXPERIENCE OF BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT—THE CULTURAL SHOCKS, ACADEMIC CHALLENGES, AND PERSONAL GROWTH THAT COME WITH LIVING BETWEEN TWO WORLDS. WE'LL EXPLORE: EDUCATION ACROSS BORDERS, HIDDEN CHALLENGES OF LANGUAGE, SOCIAL NORMS, AND ADAPTING TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE, OVERCOMING LONELINESS, AND STAYING CONNECTED TO HOME.

# Presentation Information

## 11:10 - 11:25 AM Sessions

### I Came, I Saw, I Panicked: Navigating Anxiety While Studying Abroad

Delaina Rowe, Stetson University

HON 3040

A PRESENTATION THAT EXPLORES WHAT MANY STUDENTS EXPERIENCE WHILE STUDYING ABROAD YET NEVER TALK ABOUT. ANXIETY. FILLED WITH RECENT VIDEOS THAT PORTRAY REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES, FROM AIRPORT PARKING TO TERMINAL NAVIGATION AND EVEN THROUGH GREEK CITIES, THIS PRESENTATION PROVIDES A FIRST-HAND LOOK INTO WHAT ANXIETY LOOKS LIKE WHEN ABROAD. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WILL GET REAL LIFE TIP, TRICKS, AND ADVICE THROUGH MY FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN ATHENS, GREECE. THIS PRESENTATION AIMS TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS TO NOT LET ANXIETY HINDER THEM FROM A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE BUT ALSO TO GIVE POWERFUL ADVICE THAT LEADS THEM TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL TRIP.

### From Morcote to Microbiomes: How Switzerland Redefined My Career Path

K'yana Edwards, University of South Florida

HON 3042

IN THIS PRESENTATION, I WILL SHARE HOW MY STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IN SWITZERLAND TRANSFORMED MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF HEALTHCARE, TOURISM, AND SUSTAINABILITY. IN THE SWISS VILLAGE OF MORCOTE, I COLLABORATED WITH A DIVERSE TEAM TO ASSESS ECOLOGICAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PRACTICES. THIS EXPERIENCE INSPIRED ME TO PURSUE A CAREER AT THE INTERSECTION OF HEALTHCARE, TOURISM, AND DATA SCIENCE. I WILL DISCUSS HOW THIS JOURNEY SHAPED MY GOAL OF ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN TOURISM-DEPENDENT REGIONS THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN STRATEGIES.

### Research Experiences Abroad

Zain Malik, University of North Florida

HON 3002

WE WILL COMPARE OUR RESEARCH EXPERIENCES THROUGH FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS VERSUS AN INTERNSHIP ABROAD.

# Presentation Information

## 11:30 – 11:45 AM Sessions

### Expanding Horizons: The Positive Impact of Study Abroad

Joseph Do, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

HON 3040

I WILL START WITH WHY I DECIDED TO STUDY ABROAD, WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY FIRST STUDY ABROAD AND HOW THAT INSPIRED ME TO STUDY ABROAD A SECOND TIME. I WILL DESCRIBE AN ICAO CONFERENCE I ATTENDED IN LIMA, PERU AND HOW THAT ONE DECISION SNOWBALLED INTO MY PATH AND CAREER CHOICE TODAY.

### The Meaning of Indigeneity to Saraguros

Jazlyn Gregory, Stetson University

HON 3042

THE RESEARCH ANALYZES THE MEANING OF INDIGENEITY TO THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF SARAGURO, ECUADOR. THE HYPOTHESIS PROPOSES THAT RESIDING IN SARAGURO, ECUADOR, BEING BORN INDIGENOUS, AND CONTINUING TRADITIONAL PRACTICES SUCH AS LANGUAGE AND LONG HAIR IDENTIFIES SOMEONE AS INDIGENOUS SARAGURO. THE FINDINGS SHOWED THAT THE IMPORTANT FACTOR OF INDIGENEITY IS THE COMMUNITY AND THOUGH PHYSICAL FACTORS SUCH AS LONG HAIR, CLOTHES, AND LANGUAGE ARE IMPORTANT, IT IS NOT WHAT DEFINES THEM. EMIGRATION IS A THREAT TO LOSING THIS IDENTITY, BUT THE CHILDREN OF INDIGENEITY ARE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND CONTINUING THE INDIGENOUS IDENTITY DESPITE THE PUSHBACK FROM MODERN POLITICIANS.

### Cross-Cultural Competency: Learning How to Learn About Other Cultures

Sathvik Nelluri & Theresa Bernardo, University of South Florida

HON 3002

OUR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM WAS UNIQUE IN THE SENSE THAT THE COURSE TOOK PLACE IN FLORIDA AND THEN HAD A PRACTICAL SUMMATION OF ITS CONTENT AS WE EXPLORED SEOUL OVER THE SUMMER. THROUGH OUR INTERACTIVE LECTURE, WE WOULD DISCUSS WHAT WAS TAUGHT IN THE COURSE (THE SKILL OF CULTURAL COMPETENCY) AND THEN SHARE EXAMPLES OF HOW WE UTILIZED OUR LESSONS WHILE ABROAD.

# Presentation Information

## 1:10 - 1:25 PM Sessions

### Lights, Camera, Culture: Capturing Europe's Heartbeat Through Film

Sofia Fernandez de la Reguera, University of North Florida

HON 3040

TRAVELING THROUGH FRANCE, ITALY, CROATIA, AND SWITZERLAND, THE PRESENTER CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF EACH COUNTRY—ITS PEOPLE, FOOD, HISTORY, AND TRADITIONS—THROUGH HER LENS. THIS PROJECT ISN'T JUST ABOUT STUNNING LANDSCAPES; IT'S ABOUT THE CONNECTIONS SHE MADE AND THE MOMENTS THAT SHAPED HER EXPERIENCE. WITH EACH VIDEO, SHE REFLECTS ON THE CULTURAL RICHNESS OF THESE COUNTRIES AND HOW THEY'VE TRANSFORMED HER VIEW OF THE WORLD. IT'S A HEARTFELT EXPLORATION OF TRAVEL, CULTURE, AND PERSONAL GROWTH.

### France in a Nutshell

Alexandria Gerber & Tiara Oglesby, Stetson University

HON 3042

OUR MAIN FOCUS IS OUR EIGHT DAYS IN BORDEAUX WITH MENTIONS OF OUR TRAVELS TO PARIS. FRANCE IN A NUTSHELL SHOWCASES OUR EXPERIENCES, LESSONS, AND ENJOYMENTS. IT ALSO EXPOUNDS ON OUR COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE.

### On My Own Two Feet: The Culture Shock of a Walkable Community

Colin Jeffers, University of South Florida

HON 3002

WE WILL DISCUSS TOPICS PRIMARILY REGARDING THE EFFECTS WALKABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAVE ON COMMUNITY AND CULTURE. I WILL BE CONTRASTING IT WITH THE INCREDIBLY CAR CENTRIC AREA SURROUNDING USF. I WILL ALSO BE CONNECTING TO THE WALKABLE NATURE OF THE USF CAMPUS AND HOW THAT HELPS LEAD TO A MORE COHESIVE CULTURE LIKE I SAW IN GERMANY. WE WILL END WITH A SMALL SESSION ON HOW OUR COMMUNITIES COULD BECOME MORE WALKABLE LIKE WE SEE INTERNATIONALLY.

# Presentation Information

1:30 – 1:45 PM Sessions

## From Brazil to the U.S. to France: Navigating Identity and Learning Across Borders

Eduarda Souza, Stetson University

HON 3040

EMBARK ON A JOURNEY WITH ME AS I SHARE MY EXPERIENCES AS A BRAZILIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NAVIGATING LIFE AND LEARNING IN THE USA AND FRANCE. THIS PRESENTATION REVEALS HOW DIVERSE ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS CAN CHALLENGE AND INSPIRE PERSONAL GROWTH, OFFERING PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND LESSONS FOR THRIVING ABROAD. JOIN ME AS I UNPACK THESE EXPERIENCES AND THE UNEXPECTED TURNS THEY TOOK ALONG THE WAY.

## Maple Leaf Medicine

Jeanette Janvier, University of South Florida

HON 3042

IN THIS PRESENTATION, I WILL EXPLORE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS, SPECIFICALLY HIGHLIGHTING THEIR APPROACHES TO THE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS. THE PRESENTATION WILL BE A MENU FEATURING THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN VERSION OF THE SAME DISH. THROUGH A CULINARY METAPHOR, I WILL COMPARE THE “INGREDIENTS” EACH COUNTRY BRINGS TO ITS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES. JUST LIKE A RECIPE, OPTIMAL HEALTH CARE REQUIRES A CAREFUL BALANCE OF COMPONENTS THAT MAY BE SCARCE IN SUPPLY. MOREOVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHARE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES OF INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES TO REFINE PATIENT CARE.

## Why Are We All Here?

Jasurbek Gaziyeu, Stetson University

HON 3002

I’LL BE TALKING ABOUT WHAT ARE MY REASONS FOR STUDYING IN AMERICA AS A STUDENT FROM UZBEKISTAN AND WHAT ARE OTHER PURPLE PURPOSES BECAUSE EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN GOALS.



# Presentation Information

1:50 - 2:05 PM Sessions

Connecting Through Culture

Mikayla Alman, University of South Florida

HON 3040

DURING MY TRIP TO JAPAN IN SUMMER 2024, I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MIDDLE, HIGH-SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT SCHOOLS IN TOKYO AND OSAKA. ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING ASPECTS OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WAS THE BONDS WE WERE ABLE TO FORM OVER SHARED MEDIA INTERESTS, DESPITE COMING FROM VERY DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS. MY PRESENTATION WILL EXPLORE THE IMPACT OF CROSS-CULTURAL MEDIA EXCHANGE ON OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE, WHICH CAN HELP US TO BRIDGE GAPS AND GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER.

## Globally Biased: How Ideology Shapes Worldview

Isabelle Sanco Keis, Stetson University

HON 3042

HOW DOES IDEOLOGY SHAPE AMERICAN VIEWS OF FOREIGN NATIONS? THIS PRESENTATION EXAMINES HOW POLITICAL BELIEFS INFLUENCE OPINIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS ONGOING QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH IS SPARKED BY CURIOSITY ABOUT HOW DOMESTIC POLITICS SHAPE THE WAY PEOPLE SEE THE REST OF THE WORLD, TESTING THE IDEA THAT CONSERVATIVES TEND TO HOLD MORE NEGATIVE VIEWS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES THAN LIBERALS.

## The Architecture of Identity in Puebla, Mexico

Nikki Membiela, Stetson University

BASED ON MY RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN PUEBLA, MEXICO, I LOOK AT RACIAL IDENTITY AND MIXTURE IN PUEBLA AND THE SURROUNDING TOWNS. EXPERIENCING PUEBLA BY STAYING WITH A LOCAL FAMILY AND TALKING TO PEOPLE FROM THE AREA ALLOWED FOR UNDERSTANDING FIRST-HAND WHAT IDENTITY MEANS IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. THE CITY OF PUEBLA SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES A UNIQUE, SPANISH-CENTERED VIEW OF IDENTITY THAT IS NOT COMMONLY REPRESENTED IN RESEARCH AND LITERATURE. THIS PRESENTATION DISCUSSES HOW STUDYING ABROAD CHANGED THE COURSE OF MY RESEARCH AND IS ALLOWING ME TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDER-REPRESENTED FIELD IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

# Presentation Information

## 2:10 - 2:25 PM Sessions

### México Mágico: Learning to Live, Living to Learn

Taylor Weatherly, University of North Florida

HON 3040

I WILL SHARE HOW STUDYING ABROAD IN MÉXICO PROFOUNDLY SHAPED MY LIFE. MÉXICO WITNESSED MY JOURNEY OF OVERCOMING PERFECTIONISM AND EMBRACING LEARNING THROUGH LIVED EXPERIENCES. NAVIGATING A CULTURE I HAD ONCE STUDIED IN TEXTBOOKS, I LEARNED TO ACCEPT, EMBRACE, AND LAUGH AT MY MISTAKES. MÉXICO REDEFINED MY SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND TAUGHT ME TO APPRECIATE LIFE THROUGH SHARED DANCES, FOOD, MUSIC, AND MEMORIES WITH THOSE AROUND ME. RETURNING HOME I FACED REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK- I HAD OUTGROWN THE WORLD I LEFT BEHIND. EMPOWERED BY MY TIME AND COMMUNITY IN MÉXICO, I NOW STRIVE TO FOSTER A LIFE THAT REFLECTS THE LESSONS AND LIFESTYLE I DISCOVERED ABROAD.

### Kikochō: Capturing Japan, One Page at a Time

Abriami Srenivasan, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

HON 3042

MY PROFESSOR MADE A HANDMADE KIKOCHŌ, BELIEVING THAT COLLECTING SMALL MEMENTOS WAS THE BEST WAY TO CAPTURE OUR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN. THIS SCRAPBOOK INCLUDES CLASS PROMPTS THAT HELPED ME REFLECT ON WHAT I SAW AND LEARNED. ITS ORIENTATION CHANGES THE PERSPECTIVE—LEFT TO RIGHT FEELS LIKE A TOURIST'S VIEW, WHILE RIGHT TO LEFT OFFERS A DEEPER, EDUCATIONAL APPROACH. THROUGH THIS KIKOCHŌ, I RECORDED NOT JUST WHERE I WENT, BUT HOW I EXPERIENCED JAPAN.

### How International Studies Has Helped My Personal Growth

Ines Puntin, Stetson University

HON 3002

MY EXPERIENCE IN THE US AS A STUDENT FROM FRANCE, HOW I DISCOVERED SOME PART IN MY PERSONALITY, HOW I ADAPTED MYSELF TO THE NEW CULTURE.

# **2025 FLORIDA LESSONS FROM ABROAD CONFERENCE**



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