

WORLD

CLASS: 2015-16

Promoting Integrative
Learning Through Global
Community Engagement



Stetson University WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning

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Cover Photo: Sweets of Corpus Christi, an indigenous traditional celebration in Cuenca, Ecuador, after Easter for giving thanks to the harvest. Photo Credit: Robert Sitler



Dr. David Rinker (left), longstanding University Trustee and benefactor of WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning, gives advice to assistant professors Rachel Core, Fred Hall and Asal Johnson, during WORLD's Faculty Open House in October 2015. Photo Credit: Rosalie Richards

Editors' Note

WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning is dedicated to supporting students, alumni, faculty and staff through the following strategic goals:

- Expand and deepen student engagement in intercultural learning
- Grow faculty leadership in intercultural competence
- Strengthen strategic planning for campus internationalization and increase advocacy

The intersection of these goals offers critical pathways for students to engage seamlessly in global experiential learning while positioning Stetson University as an international leader in post-graduate success and significance.

In this issue of WORLD Class, we showcase and celebrate a small subset of Stetson's extensive work in advancing these three goals during the 2015-2016 academic year. We salute your efforts in bringing the world to Stetson and taking Stetson to the world. Happy reading!

Paula Hentz and Rosalie Richards

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WORLDCLASS

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Lessons from RIO 2016

by Resche Hines

For two glorious weeks in August, the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, allowed the Stetson community to apply the central tenets of the university's mission to the event.

Beginning with the Opening Ceremonies, we were exposed to our Brazilian host embracing the value of its society, grounded in inclusive excellence. As a country with the largest number of African descents in the Western Hemisphere, the Ceremonies showcased the historical journey the nation continues to travel as she weaves her indigenous ancestry with her African roots. This was reflected in the physical and cultural DNA of its people, music and cuisine, as well as the country's natural and built landscape. Clearly, the tapestry of Brazilian pride and the soul of the nation we witnessed are anchored in the inclusion of all of its people, shaping the history, legacy and future of Brazil.

As lifelong learners and global citizens, we examined competing narratives played out on the world stage. In Brazil, for example, the Father of Aviation goes by the name of Santos-Dumont and not the Wright Brothers. And, the Games were not without moments of international controversy, from health concern in response to Zika Virus, to the Olympic ticket scandal, to the widely-reported claim of armed robbery by Olympic swimmers including Ryan Lochte.

Above all, the Olympic spirit reminded us of what excellence looks like as we observed the unquestionable distinction of the international competition and the more than 11,000 athletes representing 207 National Olympic Committees. Our lasting memories of the 2016 Games will be Brazil, a preeminent host impressively succeeding on her biggest stage, and with Usain Bolt, Namar, Michael Phelps, Simone Biles, Gabby Douglas and the Final Five as just a few of her players.

Resche Hines, Ph.D., is assistant vice president for institutional research and effectiveness at Stetson University.



Zika & You



Zika Virus is spread to humans primarily through bites from infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. Symptoms of Zika infection include fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis, with mild onset and lasting several days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Recent studies demonstrate the presence of viral material in the semen of infected men and spread of the infection through sex. Zika virus can be passed from a pregnant female to the fetus. The most common outcome of infection during pregnancy is microcephaly, a serious fetal brain defect where the baby's head is smaller in comparison to babies of the same sex and age, and oftentimes smaller brain, which is underdeveloped. Detecting local spread of Zika is difficult because the incubation period for infection is up to two weeks, and a high proportion (80%) of infected people have no symptoms.

The U.S. federal government has been working aggressively since late 2015 to combat Zika virus. Florida health officials have been working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to investigate cases of locally transmitted Zika virus.

"We're in the midst of mosquito season and expect more Zika infections in the days and months to come," said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.

Stetson University continues to monitor the Centers for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health to issue up-to-date information on Zika. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage in campus dialogue on Zika virus during Values Day, the Zika Virus Flash Panel this fall and at other public health forums.

For prevention and other information, see cdc.gov/zika.

Study Abroad
Photo Contest



Swiss Beauty, Interlaken, Switzerland by Cailyn Prewitt



Austrian Sunshine, Innsbruck, Austria by Ellie Macchione



Looking out over the Danube River, Beograd, Serbia, by Mia Gorkowski

Study
Abroad
By the
Numbers



DeLand, Celebration, and College of Law Study Abroad Students



Stetson Basketball Studies Canada

The men’s basketball team at Stetson University completed a four-game tour not far from home in Montreal, Canada. In addition to a successful 3-1 finish, the men were immersed in the culture, commerce, and day-to-day life of two of North America’s most historic cities, Montreal and Ottawa.

“We want our guys to understand a little bit more about how vital Montreal is to Canada,” head coach Corey Williams said prior to the trip. “Even though Canada is a country that’s familiar to all of us, I think it’s important for our kids to get a complete look at another culture. This is a significant educational opportunity for the team. It’s not just a basketball trip.”

The team explored Old Montreal, visiting historic landmarks such as the Olympic Stadium, home to the 1976 summer Olympics. In Ottawa, they learned about canals and East Block on Parliament Hill.

L-R: Clay Verk, Luke Doyle, B.J. Glasford and Brian Pegg pose in front of the Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal. Adapted from an article written by Michael Candelaria for Stetson Today, August 12, 2016

Scholarships Increase Access to Study Abroad

WORLD: David and Leigha Rinker Center for International Learning awarded 32 competitive scholarships for study abroad. Scholarships were made possible by generous donors, **Drs. David and Leigha Rinker, Mr. and Mrs. Jose B. Lopez, Mr. Sung Giu Chung, and Mr. and Mrs. Colby May.** Scholarship winners **Daniella Godenzi Moreno** and **Lynn Walsh** reflect on their study abroad experiences below.

Lynn Walsh



I participated in the study abroad program with the University of East Anglia (UEA), a high-ranking public research university in Norwich, England. While at UEA, I was enrolled as an American Studies student and took literature courses focusing on America. I also documented my travels at ideallywriting.com.

I think the most unexpected adventure at UEA happened when I won tickets to see AFC Wimbledon (a soccer team) play a match at the Wimbledon Stadium in London. What was most exciting is that I won these tickets from John Green, the #1 best selling author of “The Fault in Our Stars.” We all got a celebratory dinner afterwards and ran into John Green on the way to our restaurant, and I was able to personally thank him for a fantastic day.

One of the most challenging aspects of this program for me was being the lone American in my American Studies classes. The students in my classes were extremely critical of America

and her citizens and while sometimes these criticisms were fair, oftentimes I felt confused. This experience was humbling for me, as Americans do not often hear this extent of criticism at Stetson, and helped me with sharing my feelings as an American student at a British university. British English is a bit different to American English. I had to adjust to changing my spellings of certain words in my essays, such as “favor” to “favour,” so that I would not be marked down. By the third month of my stay at UEA, I felt fairly comfortable with these sayings and felt more integrated into life in England.

The most important thing I gained from this study abroad experience is confidence. As I traveled alone, navigating through giant cities with only a map and my wits, I gained a new sense of confidence in my own abilities. With an English degree, my career options after college are much more open-ended. After my experience in England, I can now say that I am able to navigate whatever life will offer me!

Thank you for believing in the value of international learning. The scholarship you have provided makes this exciting new chapter a realistic option for me financially.

Lynn Walsh, posing at Stonehenge, U.K., is a senior majoring in English with minors in Spanish and Religious Studies.

Daniella Godenzi Moreno



I studied abroad in Hong Kong, China, during the spring semester of 2016 at the Hong Kong Baptist University. I took four courses while being abroad – one management course, two culture courses and a language course. Seeing all the diversity around was so amazing.

For me, the most memorable part of this program was interacting with the local students and playing my favorite sport at the same time. I joined my hall’s volleyball team and practiced and competed with it. The most challenging part for me was trying to communicate with others since our first languages were not the same. Something else I found challenging was having to learn how to get around and to learn all the norms Hong Kong people had. As time passed, communicating with others became easier, as I learned a bit of the language and learned to understand how other students spoke.

People in Hong Kong were very fast-paced no matter what they were doing. I am from Bardstown, KY, and people are not like that at all. People in Hong Kong seem like they are always running and trying to be the first in everything. The city was highly populated and loud. In Bardstown, it is very calm and not as populated. Something else that was different was their religion. There were mostly temples instead of churches and I am used to seeing the opposite. Seeing all the differences made it all even better.

Since studying abroad, I am not afraid of change or to try new things. Now, I want to travel more and talk to as many people from different cultures as possible. This experience has also made me realize how difficult it could be for exchange students at Stetson sometimes, and I would like to be there for them. I

want to learn and see as much as possible of our world during my lifetime.

I am so thankful to have received this aid. Your generous support is a tremendous help for my family and I, and you have definitely helped me come closer to achieving my dreams. Thank you so much.

Daniella Godenzi Moreno sits atop Hong Kong. She is a senior majoring in International Business and Management.

2015-16 Study Abroad Scholarship Recipients

Samantha ArbourAustria
Tatyana BazardChina
Joseph BeeryEngland
Jordan BennettAustria
Nathan BodgerScotland
Emma BoswellEngland
Casey CallahanAustria
Elizabeth CirriSpain
Christine ChaseMexico
Francisco Ortiz ColonFrance
Elena FinverThailand

Danielle FranquizAustria
Taylor GraysonFrance
Alexa GrohowskiEngland
Caylyn GunbyScotland
Alexis GuytonMexico
Lindsay McGrathRussia
Daniella Godenzi MorenoHong Kong
Kathryn NashSouth Korea
Peter Nyong'oEngland
Breanna OdumeEngland
Margarita ParrisSpain

Stella ParrisSpain
Ashlee Renich-MalekIndonesia
Rachel SaundersEngland and France
Dominique SchmidtDenmark
Amanda SpeckEngland and France
Conner SullivanScotland
Sarah Booth VazquezMexico
Lynn WalshEngland
Allyson WardRussia
George WinstonGuatemala

Annually, *WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning* hires exceptional Stetson students who have studied abroad as *WORLD Ambassadors*. Ambassadors serve as intercultural peer mentor-leaders to support diverse campus internationalization efforts, including new international student orientation, Study Abroad promotional activities and events to facilitate cross-cultural dialogue.

Introducing the 2016-2017 *WORLD* Ambassadors

Adriana Bolanos



My name is Adriana Bolanos but all my friends call me Adri. I studied abroad at Mahidol University International College in Thailand in fall 2015 and Hong Kong Baptist University in Hong Kong in spring 2016. Studying abroad has challenged me to get out of my comfort zone more often. It has also taught me to see the world in different perspectives and really appreciate the simple things in life.

Isis Whyte



I studied abroad in South Korea at Hanyang University. Spending my time in Korea taught me that the world is only as big as the places you left unexplored. The more that you travel, the smaller the world becomes for you, and the more that you will grow as an individual.

May Pivarnik



I studied abroad at Hanyang University in South Korea. The experience helped me come out of my shell and grow into the person I always knew I could. It also taught me about the importance of diversity and how everyone could benefit from seeing culture from a new perspective.

Fredrick Lee



I had the opportunity to study abroad in Valparaíso, Chile, for two semesters. Apart from traveling and meeting new, interesting people from all over the world, during the experience I developed my linguistic skills and learned how to adjust to a different rhythm of life.

Ashley López



My name is Ashley López and I have just returned from studying abroad in Thailand for seven months. During my time in Thailand, I learned to appreciate cultures all around even more than I already did. I cannot think of a better way to take in the world than by living away from your comfort zone at such a young age, sharing unforgettable life experiences with peers who are just as curious about learning as I am.

Kellyn Scrimger



I studied abroad at the University of Hertfordshire in England. It was an incredible experience because it took me out of my comfort zone while also connecting me with people from all over the world, and exposing me to a new perspective on cultures and different ways of life.

Cyd Coutu



My study abroad experience at Mahidol University in Thailand taught me so much about myself and about life in general. Very simply, it has taught me the importance of opening my heart and lending my ears to others when they have something to say, regardless of what language they are speaking.

Elena Finver



I studied abroad for seven months in Thailand at Mahidol University International College. I had the best time filled with incredible people and rewarding experiences.

Study Abroad Welcome Back Dinner

Join *WORLD Ambassadors* at dinner for students who have studied abroad.

Share your experiences, discuss reorientation to the U.S., make new friends, strategize after studying overseas, and learn how to market your study abroad to potential employers and graduate schools. For more information, contact world@stetson.edu.

WORLD Council members serve as an additional link between *WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning* and international students at Stetson's DeLand campus. As international students themselves, counselors are taking the lead in significantly shaping the structure, presentation and promotion of acculturation, education, and academic support at Stetson University.

Introducing the 2016-2017 *WORLD* Council



Nezha El Abbassy

Year: Junior

Major: Marketing and International Business

Other offices held: Resident Assistant, French and Arabic tutor, Teaching Assistant for French 101

I am from Morocco, and I enjoy Stetson University because it provides an environment where we as international students can be part of a global community.

I am honored to have the opportunity to help international students make the most of their experience here and to continue to learn about the world through them. I am also excited about promoting study abroad opportunities available for Stetson students that will help them become global citizens.



Antoni Akkerman

Year: Junior

Major: Finance

Other offices held: Resident Assistant, Interfraternity Council (Academic Chair), ODK (President)

I'm an international student from the Netherlands. The reason I decided to study in the United States was to gain a wider understanding of the world, and to see how well I would fare in a completely different environment. Studying abroad has taught me a great deal about responsibility, freedom, and independence. Some of my hobbies include traveling, playing sports, going fishing, going to the beach, and hanging out with friends.



Anand Prashant Dwivedi

Year: Junior

Major: Computer Science

Other offices held: TEDx President (Fall 2015), Resident Assistant (2015-16)

I come from the historic and beautiful city of Roorkee, located on the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India. Coming to the United States for my undergraduate degree was a big decision, and I am really fortunate that I got my family's support in it. After coming to Stetson, I took up rowing, first joining the club team and then the university team, and it has now become an integral part of my schedule. I have also traveled to other universities like Duke and Princeton to participate in their hackathons. I like to learn about new cultures and appreciate how different cultures are so diverse yet have so many commonalities. Science always excites me and I hope to take up research as a career.



Minh Thu Ma (Alice)

Year: Junior

Major: Biochemistry; Minor: Integrative Health Science

Other offices held: Resident Assistant, President of American Chemical Society - Stetson Chapter, Stetson Peer Instructor for Chemistry

I am from Vietnam, and I love Stetson due to its close-knit and supportive community. There is always a familiar smiling face whenever I go on campus.



Tove Strand

Year: Junior

Major: Marketing

Other offices held: New International Student Orientation Leader

A year and a half ago, I moved from Sweden to study in the U.S. I am doing my degree in three years instead of four and I will be a senior in the spring. In my spare time, I play volleyball for the Volleyball Club and work at University Marketing. When I finish my degree, I want to continue studying in the U.S. and hopefully get a job here.



Usama Waheed

Year: Junior

Major: Accounting

Other offices held: Resident Assistant, Accounting Clerk in accounting department, Library Clerk

I am from Pakistan and I came to USA last year. I love Stetson a lot. It wasn't hard for me to adapt to the new place and the culture. I am really passionate about accounting and I love mathematics. I love to play soccer and play Club Soccer for Stetson. I have been working with the *WORLD* office for a semester now, and I'm excited to work with them next semester to make the Stetson experience better for international students.

Spotlight on *WORLD Council*

WORLD council members are returning international students who work with *WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning* to help new international students adapt to the academic culture of Stetson and in the United States. They organize academic support programs and activities and work to help international students become full members of the university community. See Council members in action on Facebook and Instagram.



My Time Abroad

by Frederick Lee

A Scottish Experience: Learning through Partnerships

Stetson University partnered with Jacksonville University, Utah Valley University, University of Highlands and Islands-Inverness College to develop a joint-study abroad program in Inverness, Scotland. Inverness, known as the capital of the Scottish Highlands, hosted 24 students and three faculty during May 2016. The seven Stetson students participating in the program were exposed to intensive coursework and educational excursions to stunning natural landscapes and fascinating historical sites, including Loch Ness (top), Eilean Donan Castle, and the Isle of Skye (middle).

Three courses were offered by Utah Valley University, Jacksonville University and Stetson University: Organizational Behavior, International Business and Intercultural Communication, respectively. One faculty member from each university delivered each course, allowing students to select one or two courses during the three-week program.

Jelena Petrovic, assistant professor of Communication and Media Studies at Stetson University, facilitated the Intercultural Communication class. Guest speakers included business owners, local cultural groups and a Scottish Member of Parliament, who led students in discussion about the June 2016 EU referendum vote, popularly known as Brexit.

“We had the privilege to learn about the complexity of cultures from the bottom up by interacting with people from this part of the world while simultaneously reflecting on our own cultural identities,” said Dr. Petrovic. “The students and myself gained precious insights into the daily life of people in the Highlands and learned how to collaborate with communities that were not our own in an ethical and culturally sensitive manner. And we did all of that in the midst of Brexit campaign and weeks before the vote. I could not thank more our host who welcomed us and helped us understand the impact these (trans)national events have on local way of living and belonging.”

Stetson students interacted with students from the three universities and with local organizations as part of the problem-based learning component of each course. Designed in the form of case studies, each student was assigned to a local Scottish business. Student teams were presented with a problem facing the company, and over the course of their tenure in Inverness, teams designed and presented a solutions-based business plan to the companies.

The case study presentations were well received by the companies, and students identified the case study projects as one of the highlights of the program. Another collaborative study abroad program in Inverness is being planned for summer 2017.

(bottom) Dr. Jelena Petrovic poses with students after presenting findings from their case study projects to Inverness business clients

Photo Credit: Paula Hentz

Last year, I had the opportunity to accomplish a goal I set for myself when I entered university: to study abroad for a whole year. I was also fortunate that Stetson had entered a bilateral agreement with the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso in Chile. This new prospect really appealed to me, partially because it was unexplored territory (at least by Stetson students) and because I felt that, in general, Spanish would be spoken more frequently throughout South America than Europe. Now, I can't say much about how that experience might've been had I gone to Madrid instead, but what I can say is that I am truly grateful for the unique experience provided by a study abroad. While there are many specifics I'd be happy to write about, for brevity's sake I'll do my best to highlight some of the more important aspects.

First is the more obvious but oftentimes overlooked part of studying abroad: the studying. Being a Spanish major, I felt that an important part of learning a second language was to immerse myself in a culture that primarily speaks said language. I will admit I was overwhelmed at first, but I found that the constant usage of Spanish in everyday conversations was immensely helpful in being able to process a foreign language. Personally, it was almost as if the classes themselves were supplementary to simply living life. The lessons I learned about grammar, culture, and of course, “chilenismos” (Chilean slang) could be easily applied from basic interactions with shopkeepers to some of the more complicated conversations, such as trying to explain the presidential election process of the USA to the locals. By the end of my year in Chile, I had received a holistic education that developed my capacity in both verbal and written Spanish communication skills, and that also exposed me to a distinct literature while broadening my understanding of Latin America's history and current events.

Second is living abroad, which thinking back on it now, was probably the hardest part for me to overcome. Honestly that was rather unexpected; after all, I had managed to go to university from out of state without any problems, so what difference would studying abroad make? Well, in terms of managing the day-to-day events of public transportation, eating and recreation, everything was quite distinct from anything I had ever experienced before. One example might be the difficulty of preparing to ride in a “micro” (bus) packed to the brim with people when your hands are full with groceries, but it's situations like that which make the experience so unique. Through living in Chile I've become more resilient in unfamiliar situations, not only in everyday life, but also in academics and emotionally. As cliché as it might sound, I found that it was the difficulties that forced me learn more about myself and how I process the world around me. And as strange as it may seem, I'm happy that I had as many problems as I did during my time there.

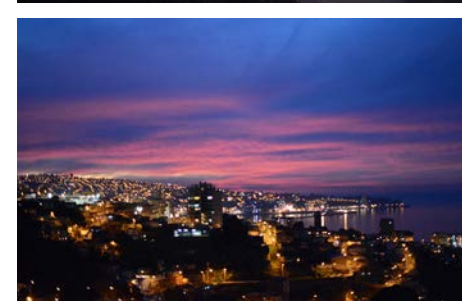
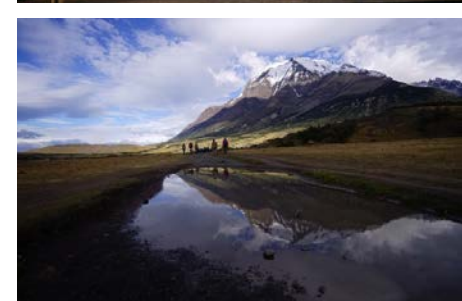
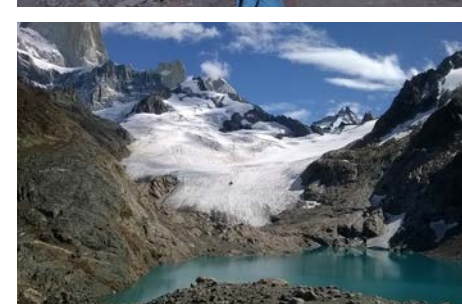
Finally and most important are the many people I met, and friends I made. Speaking frankly, it's hard to articulate exactly the impact some of them had on me during my time abroad. Nevertheless it's worth the effort because they were the friends and family with whom I ate, studied, laughed and lived. Whether it was a night spent watching *Crazy Stupid Love*, or going to a “discoteca” in Casablanca, or simply watching the sunset, these moments completed the experience for me. I couldn't imagine how it might've been without a single one of them, and I am looking forward seeing them all again, even though I'm not really sure when or how that might happen.

All things considered, I believe that being able to study abroad has really changed me for the better. I had the opportunity to go and live life in a new country at a different pace, and I can't stress enough how this experience has been beneficial for me. In no way means was it easy; at times I was afflicted by a pervasive dread that threatened to drown me completely, crippling my ability not only to function as a student, but as a normal human being. Perhaps that's what they call culture shock, but regardless I believe the confidence I gained through my time abroad has been vastly beneficial and thoroughly enjoyable. Post study I even had some spare time for travel, and I will say that South America contains of the most breathtaking natural beauty that I have ever seen. I'm looking forward to the day that I will be able to return there, but for now I'll be doing my best to incorporate what I've learned back at Stetson!

Fred Lee is a junior majoring in Spanish.

(top, right) Fred Lee hikes through the Atacama Desert, Chile. (right) Scenic images of Valparaíso, Chile.

Photo credit: Juan Carlos Chavarría, Jackie Hardaker, Jenna Pinto and Sabrina Kayser





Salma Belakbir (center) poses with two friends during Seoul Fashion Week.

A Year in Chapters

by Salma Belakbir

Prologue

I opened the door slowly, hoping the wooden rectangle wouldn’t creak too loudly or drag across the entrance of my new dorm room. Whatever lay ahead would be the living space I would be sharing with two other girls for the next few months—a place which might turn out to be the home away from home I needed. I was exhausted from my flight across the world. Then the subway and train which brought me the rest of the way to Korea University took what little physical energy I possessed. I wasn’t ready to either socialize or be amiable enough to be around. Alex, the woman in charge of the small number of international students on our campus, said both of my roommates were anxiously waiting the entire week for me. Still, I did not in the slightest expect the warmth with which they welcomed me that midsummer night.

My roommates didn’t give the awkwardness the chance to fill the atmosphere, and quickly ushered me inside with dozens of comments and questions. Standing up simultaneously, they revealed they had a surprise for me. They opened the small fridge and brought out a handmade pyramid of these Choco pies. They had taken them and placed them on top of each other in a pyramid shape to imitate the appearance an actual cake. They explained that my late arrival, a week late and after midnight as well, didn’t allow them a chance to properly welcome me.

As I blew a pretend candle, it seemed as though all of my worries and fear flew out of my tense muscles in the process. I smiled up at them in genuine relief and delight for the first time since I first moved out from home in Orlando to leave for Stetson University. I’ve just arrived at a stranger’s land, and yet, it was as though I had flown back home after being exiled for years. Conversation seemed to flow easily as we ate Choco pies, banana-flavored chips and drank tiny Yakult bottles, a drink with a sweet pine lime flavor which still rushes back to me every now and then. I answered many questions and asked ones as well. It was Friday night, and thus, we found it hard to end our conversation, until the rise of the sun reminded us that another day will soon begin.

Chapter 1

The man, whose age I placed around mid-20s, had been blatantly staring at me since the train left our beloved town of Jochiwon. This is by no means a rare occurrence; we were in a stranger’s land, and their customs seemed to allowed them the freedom to diagnose the existence of every foreign (or appearing to be so) person they come across. Still, it was unusual for a man his age to do so; it was the older people that tended to take a liking to staring contests. Koreans from the younger generation seemed to be exposed enough to the international world of internet and the diverse population of big cities to dismiss us foreigners after one glance. Yet, I kept failing to realize, because of how warmly and with such kindness and acceptance I was received everywhere I went, that not only was I in a stranger’s land, but I also had fascinating arrays of headscarves which I wore daily that set me even more apart and drew the spotlight on me daily.

“Still, I did not in the slightest expect the warmth with which they welcomed me that midsummer night.”

The man approached seeming to finally build up the courage to speak to me. I had many answers piled up, waiting for the questions I was used to hearing. Yet, I was surprised again with the knowledge and awareness that most of the Koreans I encountered had. He did not want to know what the thing around my head was called, nor was he interested in the country I was born in. Instead, he simply wanted to know if I spoke Arabic, and if I could perhaps have a conversation with him with the little amount of Arabic he knew. I froze in shock that someone not born in a country where Arabic was largely spoken, nor lived in a place where Arabic was a common language, knew and wanted to practice it with me. I smiled brightly, and thus we spent the rest of his train ride awkwardly exchanging Arabic words and phrases until he arrived to his destination. I realized later we didn’t talk for as long as I thought, as he seemed to only be able to build his courage up because his stop was coming up soon.

Chapter 2

Each of the artists took turns swallowing up the stage with their immense talent, and I was able to finally experience what it was like to see a live performance in South Korea. Every single person in the audience surrounding me knew the artists very well, and in unison, we shouted their names as they took turns performing, and sang along with them to our favorite parts of their songs. Soon, it was Simon D’s turn, a rapper who is the more known of that night’s lineup. If the crowd was shouting in excitement before, then I could hardly describe the buzzing of my ears and the drumming state of our being when it was his turn to go up.

Suddenly, Simon D decided mid-performance, he was going to mess around with us fans. The artists before had stood close to the edge of the stage, and serenaded to the cameras in our phones, but Simon D was going the extra mile by stretching out his hand to shake ours. He began from my right, but we soon realized he was teasing us by hand shaking the security guards in front of us instead. I wasn’t going to let that pass. So, in a moment of pure genius and luck, I stretched out my hand right as he turned to the guard in front of me, and somehow managed to blindside him to take my hand in his. He looked up to see that I had tricked him just as he has done to the other fans causing him to give me a side look of I see what you did there. He let go of my hand laughing, and was about to return to the middle of the stage to perform his next song when he suddenly turned back around. I forgot that a girl like me is hard to come by in hip hop concerts and festivals.

He asked me in English while smiling brightly, “How you doing, babe?”

I didn’t bother cringing at his attempt to sound (for a lack of better word) smooth. At this point, he could have announced our immediate marriage and I wouldn’t be the wiser. I was simply drowning in his acknowledgment of my existence when I responded fairly loud not noticing everyone had gone silent to witness this encounter.

“I am doing just fine! I have never been better!” I barely managed to put the sentences together not believing that he’s having a conversation with me.

He answered with one last question: “Where are you from?”

“American person!” I shouted in broken Korean, bouncing up and down on my tiptoes (even though my wedged boots already made me tower over everyone.)

Nodding with a smile, he complimented my Korean language skills, then turned back to the center of the stage. While he spoke to the rest of the audience before starting another song, I swirled to look behind me at the girls who brought me here, and pointed at the stage and at me repeatedly saying, “Did you see that?” My cheeks at that point were straining from the non-stop laughter and grinning.

They laughed heartedly and promised they have seen the entire exchange, as did everyone around us who was currently just as happy and surprised as I was. Then, we focused back up to the stage where the rest of the festival continued until a little after 11:30 PM, a time which gently reminded all of us in the audience that we were subjected to Cinderella curfew enforced by the university.

Epilogue

My heart is heavy. It was heavy with gratitude, friendship, traveling, reminiscence and a bit of caffeine. It was heavy when the heavy rain fell against the window of the bus which drew me farther and farther away from my life for the past few months. It was heavy when I left for the first time to fly back to Florida for the holidays, and when I left for second time for good; the weight of my heart seemed to intensify at the possibility of never coming back. The feeling grew as I said my goodbye to my roommates, and it grew still when I said my final goodbye to the best friends I made in South Korea.

When I dressed my very best for the Seoul Fashion Week and felt like a celebrity for a day as photographers took pictures of me with their professional cameras; when I gave in to long-awaited tears because after hours of searching in negative degree weather and fallen snow, I was not able to find the guesthouse I was staying in; each and every instance during my study abroad which I can recall, no matter how disheartening and heartbreaking, stands significant and precious on its own. My heart is still heavy and wishes every day to return to those months in Korea University.

Salma Belakbir is a junior at Stetson University majoring in English. She studied at Korea University Sejong Campus during spring 2015. “A Year in Chapters” was Winner of the annual Stetson University Study Abroad Essay Contest.



Isis Whyte (left center, wearing hat) enjoys Korean barbecue with new friends from Hanyang University in South Korea.

A New Passion for World Travel by Isis Whyte

A common thing that people often say when embarking on a journey across the world is that once you start traveling, the world becomes a smaller place. After flying out to South Korea on August 25, 2015, and I felt that such a phrase had a bit of truth and a bit of lie all wrapped up into one philosophical quote.

Arriving at Hanyang University, the university where I was going to be spending the next six months of my life abroad, proved far less complex than I had thought. The first surprise I had when arriving on campus was the sheer volume of people that spoke either perfect English or were in the advanced levels of learning the English language. Before coming to Korea, I had the presumption that the only people who'd talk to me in English were professors, other exchange students and our assigned buddies who were Korean students. By the end of my second week at Hanyang University, I had already experienced and simmered along the melting pot that consisted of a mixture of Korean students and the hundreds of exchange students who came from all parts of the globe.

As my days at Hanyang went further along and I started to pick up more of the Korean language and explored the rest of Seoul, my nearing conclusive image of the "traveler's small world" were starting to shatter. The more I interacted with my fellow exchange students, the more I was exposed to French, Spanish, Chinese, German and the many other hundreds of languages that echoed through campus. My idea of a smaller world was quickly expanding as my mind reeled at all the new and old languages I was hearing and interacting with, along with explanations of the variety of cultures celebrated in Germany, Nepal and France.

This experience didn't make me crave my home and life in America. It didn't make me want to only socialize with English-speaking students. No. This experience made me want to branch out and explore more of the world. It made me want to make the world small again by having me experience all of it. Korea, as a country, helped me with this new, sizzling passion. As I continued to explore, I found many areas dedicated to various cultures right on Korea's soil. It made me realize how not just Korea but many countries are developing the melting pot mentality that America has been striving for and perfecting, little by little each day.

So, as a former study abroad student, I truly and deeply recommend the Stetson student body to try traveling out of their comfort zone, in order to make the world smaller in their eyes. Even if you can only afford to experience the world for just one semester, it will be a semester well worth your energy and commitment.

Isis Whyte is a senior majoring in digital arts.

Bonners Abroad

As part of Stetson's prestigious Bonner Program, each Bonner student completes two summers of service. During Summer 2016, several Bonner students completed their summer of service abroad:

Aaron Cook
Osaka University Photonics Education Center
Osaka, Japan

Aiyanna Maciel
Instituto de Reintegração do Refugiado-ADUS
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Belle Briatico
TarpuySonqo & ESOL
Lima, Peru/DeLeon Springs, FL

Codi Mulberry
Salvation Army
Leipzig, Germany

Olivia Noboa
St. Francis of Assissi Catholic School
Christchurch, New Zealand

Staafee Jacques
Salvation Army
Leipzig, Germany

Ashlee Renich-Malek
Sea Communities
Bali, Indonesia

Stetson's new Writers' Program travels Paradise

In June 2016, Master of Fine Arts students participated in the program's first international residency in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, following the inaugural United States residency component held January at the esteemed Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

The new MFA of the Americas program draws on Florida's multicultural heritage and position as a gateway to Latin America. Aspiring and established writers in the program have an opportunity to hone their craft by working with local and international writers as well as travel the globe by rotating through summer residencies throughout the Americas. During the two-year program, students meet twice a year for 10 days of intense workshops, reading and craft talks. The low-residency program culminates in a book-length project in creative writing. Students can earn a master's degree in either fiction or poetry.

"Our target audience is anyone who wants to become a better writer," said **Mark Powell**, former associate professor of English and director of the Low-Residency MFA Program at Stetson University. "The program should draw a lot of mid-career professionals, people who want to write as more than just a hobby. So far we have students as young as 24 and some in their 70s."

Summer international residencies are planned for different locations in Latin America. For more on Stetson University's Low-Residency MFA Program, visit stetson.edu/MFA.



Inaugural class of Stetson University's new MFA of the Americas explored Mexico.



Students walk the cobble streets of San Miguel de Allende

Thailand: A Discovered Gem

by Jon-Michael Carrick and Wendy Lowe

Learning about the global economy in the classroom is useful, but in order to really understand the global economy, students must experience it first hand. First-hand, global experiences provide deep insights on competing in the globalized economy. For this reason, we take our EMBA students on an international study tour each year. This past June we took EMBA Cohort 13 to Bangkok, Thailand. On this trip we experienced Thai culture, visited with local business leaders, and presented the results of a consulting project to billionaire Fred Mouawad for one of his companies.

It was an eye-opening experience for all of the students. Most of the students were not familiar with Bangkok and its importance as the capital of not only Thailand, but also the Greater Mekong Subregion. This subregion has a population of approximately 330,000,000, has experienced staunch economic growth over the past 10 years and has become an important part of the global economy. At first, most of the students were a little hesitant to visit a developing country on the other side of the world, but once they arrived they quickly embraced the friendliness of the Thais and the excitement of a country that is on the move. One student, **Dave Mueller**, was contemplated not going because he had no interest in visiting a developing country so far away. However, he fell in love with the culture and the excitement of the country, and is determined to go back to Thailand to spend an extended amount of time.

This is the third year in a row that we have visited Thailand with the EMBA students. Over the past three years we have developed a number of relationships with business and civic leaders in the country. Several of the students from years past have been in regular contact with our friends in Thailand. A few of our Thai friends are planning to visit us this year in Florida. We look forward to our future visits to Thailand and further developing our relationships there.

Jon-Michael Carrick is assistant professor of management and Wendy Lowe is assistant director of the Executive MBA Program at Stetson University.



Executive MBA Cohort 13 and faculty in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo credit: Wendy Lowe

Faculty Highlights

Summer Sleuthing Abroad

Through WORLD Class Travel Awards, WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning sponsored several faculty exploration trips to investigate academic program possibilities for the Stetson community.

J. Anthony Abbott, professor of environmental science, worked with faculty and administrators at the Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg in Freiburg, Germany, to develop a robust model for Faculty Exchange Programs at Stetson. Building on a relationship established more than 40 years ago, Abbott’s work creates the foundation for other faculty exchange opportunities. He is currently developing a faculty exchange handbook for Stetson University.

Assistant professor of health sciences, **Dejan Magoc**, traveled to Novi Sad, Serbia, to develop a program in the cross-cultural aspects of health. The program will expand Stetson’s course offerings in the health sciences to an international arena. Magoc, a graduate of the University of Novi Sad, anticipates the program having interest to students from multiple disciplines. Stetson students will be given a unique opportunity to engage in the local culture while interacting with students and faculty from the University of Novi Sad, one of the largest comprehensive universities in the region. Students will participate in a variety of collaborative tasks that will be used to enhance social relations through team-building within a diverse setting.

Robert Sitler, professor of World Languages and Cultures (Spanish), spent June 2016 in Cuenca, Ecuador developing relationships with representatives from the University of Cuenca to offer a Spanish Language and Latin American Studies summer program. Sitler, who is also director of Stetson’s Latin American Studies Program, established a homestay program in which students will live with local families and fully immerse themselves in Ecuadorian culture and Spanish language. Students also will visit two different indigenous communities, one in the Kichwa villages around Saraguro and the other with the Cañari people of Tambo. Sitler’s project builds on relationships initiated in Spring 2014 when a Stetson exploratory team from the College of Arts & Sciences (**Karen Ryan, Robert Sitler, J. Anthony Abbott, Nancy Vosburg**) and the School of Business Administration (**Jennifer Foo**) traveled to Ecuador and Chile. Since then, Stetson has established a student semester exchange program in Chile. The Ecuador program has potential for expansion to diverse disciplines, including environmental science.



Raimunda, Ecuadorian guide, poses with Robert Sitler in front of a medicine garden with the horchata flower used to make herbal tea.

Faculty-Led Study Abroad in 2015-2016

College of Arts and Sciences

- UK and Ireland** – *History*, Kimberly Reiter
- England and France** – *Religious Studies*, Mitchell Reddish
- Mexico** – *Latin American Studies*, Nicole Mottier
- Scotland** – *Intercultural Communication*, Jelena Petrovic
- England** – *Creative Writing*, Lori Snook
- China** – *Sociology*, Rachel Core
- England** – *Forensic Psychology*, Chris Ferguson

School of Business Administration

- Thailand** – *Business*, Jon Michael Carrick, Yiorgos Bakamitsos
- Austria** – *Business*, Jim Mallet, John Tichenor

College of Law

- Cuba** – *Law, Business*, Kirsten Adams
- London** – *Law*, Kirsten Davis
- Granada, Spain** – *Law*, Royal Gardner, Theresa Radwan
- The Hague, The Netherlands** – *Law*, Roberta Flowers
- Oxford, England** – *Law*, Charles Rose, Lee Coppock, and Roberta Flowers

Global Learning Highlighted at Annual Colloquium



Held in early April 2016, the second annual Colloquium on Teaching & Learning Innovation opened with an interactive keynote workshop led by Hilary Landorf and Stephanie Doscher from the Office of Global Learning Initiatives at Florida International University. During the workshop, attendees broke into small groups and were challenged to investigate a serious problem through not only their perspective but through the lens of local, national, and international stakeholders. Attendees were further challenged to see the interconnectivity of each stakeholder, noting how inclusive education and dialogue is paramount to address today’s most pressing problems.

“Global learning is the key to inclusive excellence,” said Landorf.

Photo Credit: Lisa Yetter

Faculty Spotlight

Ma Invests in International Learning



Ma

Professor of Finance in the School of Business Administration, **Christopher (K.C.) Ma**, is a distinguished international faculty member at Stetson University. In his roles as the Roland George Chair of Applied Investments and director of the George Investments Institute, Ma has significantly contributed to internationalization at Stetson by bringing a unique global background and perspective to the university.

Ma, who is also a chartered financial analyst, uses his broad experience in finance to guide Stetson students in managing the award-winning Roland George Investments Program (RGIP) portfolios. The RGIP is a student-directed investment program that manages \$3.5 million in stocks and bonds from across the globe. To manage these investments, George students must grapple with issues of globalization.

“Our George Lab is 24/7 because money is 24/7,” said Ma. “Commodities and exchanges from across the globe are open around the clock. Plus, it is hard nowadays to find any investments that are not globally related. Most of our U.S.-based stocks, multi-national or not, are invariably affected by anything that happens in the world in a major way.”

Many of Stetson’s international students have participated in the RGIP.

“The success of Roland George Investments Program has attracted young minds from all over the world,” said Ma. “Historically, one of every four George graduates is an international student as shown on the 36 class pictures hung on the wall of the George Lab at the third floor of the Lynn Business Center. We have a large, life-long following of international George alumni in the Roland George Investments Program Facebook group.”

Ma is a graduate of National Chia Tung University in Taiwan, with M.B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois.

Abbott Named Inaugural Provost Faculty Fellow for International Learning



Abbott

J. Anthony (Tony) Abbott, professor of environmental science and studies, has been named the inaugural Provost Faculty Fellow for International Learning.. Dr. Abbott is working with the university and broader communities to create a comprehensive inventory of international and intercultural learning to support the development of a universitywide strategic plan for international learning. In his role, Abbott works closely with the International Learning Committee, WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning, the Center for Excellence in International Law at Stetson’s College of Law, the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness and Campus Life and Student Success.

Abbott is a recent fellow of the 2016 Academic Council of Educator’s (ACE) Institute for Leading Internationalization, a premier national leadership program to assist individuals in developing effective strategic approaches to campus internationalization. He holds advanced degrees in geography with research spanning the natural sciences, the social sciences, and humanities. His teacher-scholar interests focus on diverse global issues including alternative energy and energy conservation, agriculture, sustainability and its assessment, surfing, and historical representation of place. Dr. Abbott has lived on three continents and traveled in fifteen countries.

Spotlight on Georgia and Russia



Michael Denner, professor and director of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and director of the University Honors Program, is no stranger to Georgia. But next summer for three weeks during May and June 2017, he will lead a new study abroad in Georgia entitled “Studying the World from the Balcony of Europe: Coexistence and Religion”. Students will engage in lectures on the role of religious traditions in the history and current life of Georgia, followed by thematic lectures on religious and secular traditions in Georgia. Topics will include: Church music, spiritual art, church and temple architecture, the unique history of Georgian Jews, Islam in Georgia, the persistence of paganistic practices, and the era of Soviet Official Atheism. The Georgian national narrative celebrates the country’s traditional confessional diversity and tolerance, and its post-Soviet constitution provides for a secular state and freedom of religion.

During his sabbatical leave, **Eugene Huskey**, William R. Kenan, Jr. chair and professor of political science, spent two weeks in April in Moscow as a Gaidar Fellow at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). As part of that fellowship, he gave a lecture entitled “Using Biographical Data to Analyze Russian State Administration: Methods, Concepts, Conclusions” and consulted with faculty and graduate students of public administration at RANEPA. While in Moscow, he also participated in the annual spring conference of the Higher School of Economics, which is the leading Russian international conference on the social sciences.

Be on the lookout for more on Russia and Georgia in the next issue of WORLD Class.

Faculty Seminars Abroad Bring Fresh Ideas to Courses and Programs

With financial support from WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning in partnership with the nonprofit Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), Stetson faculty compete each semester for WORLD Class Travel Awards to participate in international seminars. They examine complex international issues, investigate innovative approaches to increasing global understanding, bring new ideas to the Stetson community, and form new networks with colleagues across the globe. During 2016, three Stetson faculty traveled to different locations overseas.

Phillip Lucas, professor of religious studies, participated in the *Modern Debates Along an Ancient Way* seminar to explore the rich history and tradition of the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

“This seminar will have a significant influence on the internationalization of my courses at Stetson University,” said Dr. Lucas. “What I learned on the trip will augment my discussions of pilgrimage in courses like ‘Sacred Traditions of the World’, ‘Spirituality East and West’, and ‘Religions of India’. Relating my first-hand experience of being a pilgrim on the Camino will give my students a tangible example of a Western Christian spiritual practice that has continued to grow in popularity with contemporary people of many faiths or no faith at all. I will be able to give students valuable observations concerning contemporary Spain, its culture, history, religion and cuisine.”

Lucas is creating a 20-minute documentary that he plans to share with the Stetson community. In addition, he plans to develop a faculty-led study abroad program for students to experience Camino de Santiago. He envisions the program attracting students from multiple disciplines.

“The course will be of interest to students of religious studies, history, art history, architecture, marketing, the Spanish language, the social sciences, and economics—in fact the Camino is a powerful economic engine for contemporary Spain,” said Lucas. “It would make a very accessible and safe first foray for our students who are interested in visiting Europe during their time at Stetson. Students also will benefit from their contact with the many thousands of pilgrims from countries and cultures around the globe who are walking the Camino.”



William Nylen, professor of political science and director of the International Studies Program, participated in the *Contemporary Cuba: Present and Future Challenges* faculty seminar to get a better understanding of how students could engage with recent geopolitical changes in the northern hemisphere.

“As a specialist in Latin American politics and international political economy, I am often forced by the flow of history to incorporate into my teaching events issues, and countries about which I have very little background information or training,” said Nylen. “The recent thaw in U.S.-Cuban relations was one example of this . . . Some students are fascinated by it, in many cases because they have real-life experience with the Cuban diaspora here in Florida. Because of the intensity of feeling that Cuba and U.S.-Cuban relations often elicit, however, I have always felt that I needed more knowledge and understanding of contemporary Cuba beyond what I learned in my college years 25 to 35 years ago.”

continued next page



A Rumba Morena musician affiliated with the Museum of African Art and Culture beats drums in Havana, Cuba.



A billboard at Havana's airport exit prominently displays “The Blockade: the longest running genocide in history.”



Two street musicians in Havana's old town center.



The “lancha” or ferry transports passengers from the old city of Havana to the other side of the harbor.

Participating in the international program helped to bridge this knowledge gap for Nylen through its daily seminars and discussions, raising promising questions for further study and research. Daily excursions to cultural sites, a wide variety of restaurants throughout Havana and to neighboring provinces during the weekend gave him a strong sense of the place: geography, urban design, tourism development and local history.

“Daily conversations in Spanish with my amazing home-stay ‘family’ gave me a personal dimension to the island’s history,” said Nylen. “And daily after-hours conversations with several of my colleagues in the program, a core group of political scientists, historians, and sociologists . . . really solidified the experience and its connectedness to issues that many of my classes deal with: the challenges of contemporary capitalism; market-driven, socio-economic inequality versus state-led social programs; the prospects for democratic change or authoritarian stability; the role of the United States in helping or hindering economic and political change/stability; stubborn issues of racial and gender-based inequalities; etc.”

Nylen has plans to invite Cuban lecturers and academics from the program to Stetson for a symposium on U.S.-Cuban relations and hopes to develop a Mentored Field Experience program for Stetson students in Cuba.

Elisabeth Poeter, associate professor of world languages and cultures (German), explored the role of historical memory in the formation of individual and national identities in Poland and Germany during the *Ruin & Revival: History, Modern Memory & Identity* summer seminar. Poeter, director of Stetson’s Gender Studies Program and co-director of the university’s summer program in Freiburg, Germany, examined Germany and Poland through the lenses of historical context, institutional responses, and artistic expression.

“The balance between lectures, site visits and meetings with directors of political and cultural institutions was very effective,” said Poeter. “It provided me with a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges, successes and drawbacks in creating a climate of political, social and cultural understanding, cooperation and tolerance between two countries, East Germany and Poland, whose people share experiences and memories of WWII, the holocaust and life under socialist regimes until 1989.”

“It was, indeed, a rich and transformative experience for me,” said Poeter. “I am currently revising the pedagogy of GERM 304B, Modern German Culture, with specific focus on the post-war period to provide a forum for class discussions that fosters cross-cultural and intercultural reflections and comparisons about ideology and politics of memorialization in the U.S. and Europe, its function as an instrument for national identity formation and the questions that arise for new generations about the process of forming a personally and collectively diverse sense of identity.”

Contact world@stetson.edu for more information on WORLD Class Travel Awards.

Photo credit: William Nylen

Fresh A.I.R.

Over 22 years ago, **Anne Hallum**, professor emeritus of Stetson’s Department of Political Science along with a former student co-founded AIR, the Alliance for International Reforestation. The student co-founder soon moved on to another career but Hallum continued to grow AIR and integrate the work into her teaching and research on environmental politics. In fact, AIR’s U.S. headquarters was located on the third floor of Stetson’s Elizabeth Hall for 16 of those 22 years before it moved to Atlanta.

AIR has a full-time professional staff in Guatemala who use an exciting model to connect four activities in rural Guatemala: Reforestation Tree Nurseries, sustainable farming, efficient stoves and school programs. Since its conception, AIR has planted more than five million trees in Guatemala.

The model has been so successful that AIR-Guatemala has received awards from CNN Heroes, the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. In 2013, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change honored AIR-Guatemala with its prestigious Momentum for Change: Women with Results award. As part of that award, the Rockefeller Foundation invited Hallum and two female Guatemalan leaders to Warsaw, Poland, to present on AIR.

“For this political science professor, it was an unforgettable experience to speak at this international conference about AIR’s work,” said Hallum.

AIR’s headquarters may have moved from Stetson’s campus, but Stetson students still have an exclusive opportunity to work in Guatemala each summer with Hallum, AIR’s staff and Mayan families. While abroad, students plant trees with farmers, build brick stoves, play soccer with school children, and explore volcanoes and Mayan ruins. Thanks to a generous endowment from longstanding university trustees **David and Leighan Rinker**, one or two Stetson students who successfully complete the competitive application process receive an all-expenses paid internship in Guatemala for four to six weeks. Since the establishment of the Rinker endowment, 34 Stetson students have benefited from this life-changing experience!



Stephanopoulos Alichos, intern, boasts his “farmer tan” in 2015 after another hard day of tree-planting near Sololá, Guatemala. Photo credit: Anne Hallum



George Winsten, intern, embraces the Mayan ruins in Ximche, Guatemala. During June 2016, Winsten assisted Guatemalan farmers and Anne Hallum in diverse ways in the beautiful mountains of Guatemala. Photo credit: Anne Hallum

2016 Research Abroad Roundup: Faculty Summer Grant Awards

Faculty Member	Department	Project Title	Country
Rachel Core	Sociology and Anthropology	The Tuberculosis Clinic at Three Critical Junctures: A Study of Institutional Change in Shanghai	East China Normal University in Shanghai, China
Ana Eire	World Languages and Cultures	An Anthology of Contemporary Galician Poetry	Galicia, Spain
Mayhill Fowler	History	The Military Entertainment Complex in the USSR: Theater on the Frontlines of Socialism	Kyiv, Ukraine
Eric Kurlander	History	Modern Germany: A Global History, 1500-present	Germany
Nicole Mottier	History	The Persistence of Moneylending in Mexico	Mexico
Jelena Petrovic	Communication and Media Studies	Safe Border Crossers, Proper Citizens, and Eastern Others: Serbian News Coverage of refugee Crisis in Europe	Belgrade, Serbia
Daniil Zavlunov	Music	Opera in Russia during the Reign of Nicholas I (1825-1855): A Cultural History (Phase II)	St. Petersburg, Russia

Stetson Welcomes New Language Instructors by Yves-Antoine Clemmen

This fall, the Department of World Languages and Cultures will take advantage of the presence of two Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) and one ALLEX Foundation Fellow to enhance and enlarge our language offerings of less frequently taught languages.

FLTA **Hebahusm Khalif**, from Egypt, will teach Arabic and **Ana Paula Spalenza Pereira**, from Brazil, will teach Portuguese. Each also will offer our students personal tutoring and cultural exposure. Hebahussum will work in conjunction with Professor **Emad Hamdeh** from Embry-Riddle University who teaches the Arabic class remotely in a bimodal classroom. Hebahusm’s presence in the classroom with our students is essential for the success of the class and we are glad to be able to offer our students this invaluable personal contact in the classroom and out. Ana Paula Spalenza Periera will be working with Professor **Pamela Cappas-Toro** in our first-time offering of Portuguese 101 open to all students.

ALLEX Fellow, **Stephanie Chung**, will allow us to start offering Mandarin Chinese at Stetson as a regular offering initially at the 100 level and eventually, depending on demand, up to the intermediate level.

The presence on campus of the Fulbrights FLTAs and the Alex Foundation Fellow will enrich our commitment to global citizenship, a core value of our university and certainly the foundation of our work in the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

Yves-Antoine Clemmen is professor (French) and chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Stetson University.



Chung



Khalif



Spalenza Pereira

#StetsonInnovation

The Konkeros Effect

Did you know there is a student club at Stetson University that helps international students prepare for and secure jobs in the U.S.?

Last year, Professor **Lou Paris** of the School of Business Administration, started an informal club for this purpose. “The club is so informal, it doesn’t even have a name,” said Paris. The club brings guest speakers from the business community every week to discuss important topics with students. Often, guest speakers have available jobs and are willing to sponsor international graduates. International students are encouraged to join the club, regardless of class standing.

The results? Last year alone, student participants completed:

19

Job Applications

13

Job Interviews

3

Internships

2

Full Time Employments

Want to learn more? Contact Lou Paris at lparis@stetson.edu. The earlier you start, the higher your chances of success!

Stetson College of Law Hosts International Legal Education Abroad Conference

Innovative International Partnerships

The 2016 International Legal Education Abroad Conference (ILEAC), hosted at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla., attracted educators from more than 30 U.S. law schools, 9 non-U.S. law schools, and 4 private sector entities (including international organizations) to discuss common challenges and solutions in the field of international J.D. education.

Charles H. Rose III, endowed professor of excellence in trial advocacy at Stetson University, delivered the keynote address, Entrepreneurial Leadership: How to Build Sustainable World Class Study Abroad Programs. Rose, who is director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy at Stetson University, leads a nationally recognized program consistently ranked first in the nation 17 times by *U.S. News & World Report* for excellence in advocacy education.

The inaugural ILEAC was held in 2011 as the first gathering of International J.D. Dual Degree administrators and has grown to an annual forum for educators involved in all aspects of international legal education abroad. ILEAC is usually held in Washington, at American University. In 2016, Stetson University College of Law hosted the event while American University made transitions in their location and staffing.

For more on ILEAC 2016, visit stetson.edu/law/international

Stetson Brings The World To Elementary Students

The second annual WORLD Fair at Stetson University immersed more than 150 elementary students, teachers and parents in the culture of people across the world. Visitors interacted with international and domestic students spanning the globe and representing different academic disciplines including communication and media studies, and education. Students from the School of Music demonstrated how to play the tabla (pictured center below), a type of drum commonly played in India.

Children sampled foods, learned languages, listened to music and played games among a host of other activities organized by booths. At the end, students gave a “thumbs up” to the event and identified what “stuck” with them. Teachers were pleased that students experienced diverse cultures and learned about studying or working abroad.

“I think they realized that when they go to college they can all have similar opportunities to study in foreign countries,” commented Joanne Miller, fourth grade teacher at Pride Elementary. Jeannie Huffman, fourth grade teacher from Debary Elementary School, agreed.

“I think they gained a better understanding of the world around them and exposure to different languages and foods,” she said.

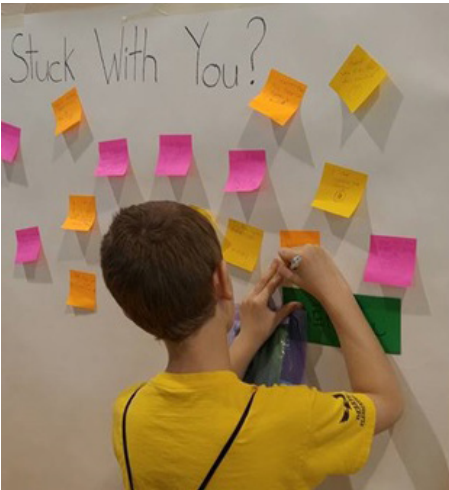
Participation has increased by 50% and students, parents and teachers plan to return to WORLD Fair 2017 on February 10, 2017. For information or to collaborate, contact WORLD@stetson.edu.

“I learned my name in Korean. I also liked Brazil’s soda.”

“I learned that Guatemala has over 40 volcanoes.”

“I learned about different countries. I liked the mini pancakes in the Netherlands.”

“I learned that Chinese write according to pronunciations.”



News From Our Alumni Across The World

At Stetson University, we look forward to hearing from our alumni and exchange students. We welcome your emails letting us know what you are doing, and we encourage you to connect with us and one another through our Stetson International Alumni Facebook Page. We look forward to meeting with you when we are in your part of the world and appreciate your assistance recruiting wonderful students from all corners of the globe to study at Stetson University.



Maria Abreu, '15
International Alum (Venezuela)

I am currently working at Fleishel Financial, a local Wealth Management Firm, as a Registered Client Service Associate. I recently received my Series 7 license – a license required for all aspiring Financial Advisors, stock traders, Investment Advisors, etc. I’ve been working for the firm for a little over a year and have learned everything from opening accounts to entering market trades for our clients. After hours, I enjoy writing and learning Portuguese, which I eventually would like to make my third language.

Read Maria’s post on how her perception of Muslims changed at Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/stetsonU>



Matthew Ady, '14
Study Abroad Alumnus (Spain, Peru, Cuba)

I graduated from Stetson in May 2014. I participated in three international learning trips while at Stetson—one semester in Madrid, and two short-term trips to Peru and Cuba. I am currently in my final year of law school at Emory University. I spent the first half of this last summer interning abroad at an international law firm in Madrid. During the second half of summer, I studied at the Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands through a fellowship. These opportunities were both academically and personally rewarding in their own ways, and I am confident that my experiences abroad at Stetson helped me land both positions.

My experiences abroad as a Stetson student were transformative for me as a student and a person. Going abroad let me perceive my culture from (literally) a different angle. It opened my eyes to new ways of living and new ways of thinking about issues that challenge our world. It demystified my fears about international travel but it also brought a level of mystique to places I have not yet seen. I now have this constant desire to see new places, experience new cultures, and try new things along the way. I’ve made friends around the world and I consider myself a global citizen. Studying abroad helped me to become more independent and culturally aware, and I found a new level of confidence to ask people about their experiences and learn through the simple act of making a friend. Some things fade with time, but I am sure the experiences I’ve had abroad will last a lifetime.

International Influence

In August 2016, Stetson welcomed nearly 90 new international students from 33 different countries. Students participated in a three-day orientation, hosted by WORLD: The David and Leigha Rinker Center for International Learning. New students were introduced to American social and academic culture. They participated in mock classes and received tools and resources to help them succeed during their time at Stetson.



Meet the Staff of WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning

Paula Hentz



In November 2015, **Paula Hentz** was named director of international learning at WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning. As director, Hentz serves as senior international officer (SIO) for the DeLand campus, and principal advisor on international education. She provides oversight for international learning initiatives, manages international partnerships, and oversees student and faculty development in international learning. During 2015-16, she represented Stetson University at that National Communication Association Conference in Las Vegas, NV alongside Jelena Petrovic, assistant professor of communication and media studies. They presented a session entitled "Why are all the International Students Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? Teaching about Cultural Adaptation through Community Engagement." Hentz also partnered with representatives from Brandeis University, Babson College and the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) at the 2015 CIEE Annual Conference in Berlin. Together they presented a session entitled "Invisible Identities: Promoting and Protecting Diverse Identities in Study Abroad." Paula has served at Stetson University for more than four years, previously in the role as WORLD's assistant director of study abroad. She has lived abroad in England and South Korea, and holds a BA in African American studies and history from the University of Wisconsin, and an M.Ed in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland.

Roxanne Lewis



Roxanne Lewis, international student and scholar services coordinator, celebrated her two-year anniversary at WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning in April 2015. Since arriving to WORLD, she has contributed significantly to the success of Stetson's growing international community and the increasing internationalization of the campus. As part of her role, Roxanne is responsible for maintaining immigration compliance of international students seeking a four-year degree from Stetson, and for the acculturation and acclimation of international scholars who come to Stetson as lecturers, teachers and speakers. She serves as one of Stetson's designated school officials through the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service for international students on F-1 student visas and as a responsible officer through the U.S. Department of State for Stetson's international exchange (J-1) visitors. Notably, Lewis was recently elected in June 2016 to the Executive Board of the Florida Consortium for International Educators (FCIE), a statewide organization of leaders from Florida's colleges and universities. FCIE promotes international and intercultural education. Roxanne Lewis earned a BA in English literature and an MPW (Masters in Professional Writing) from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

Brent Spencer



WORLD: The David and Leighan Rinker Center for International Learning is pleased to welcome **Brent Spencer** as the new international learning program coordinator. Having studied, volunteered, traveled, and otherwise lived abroad for nearly five years, Brent comes to Stetson with a wealth of practical international experience. Whether as a student in Mexico, Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia, Fulbright IEA grantee in Japan, or independent backpacker through Europe, he has connected with the global community on several academic, professional and personal levels. As the new program coordinator at WORLD, Brent is building on a decade-plus career as an international educator at several different universities across the country, including Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of Northern Colorado where he was director of study abroad and exchanges before coming to Stetson.

"I'm very excited to be back in Florida with all its cultural, historical and ecological diversity," said Spencer. "I'm inspired by Stetson's values of Intellectual development, personal growth and global citizenship, and look forward to helping international and domestic students get the most out of their time here through engagement with the local and global community."

Brent Spencer earned a BA in geography and an MPA (Master of Public Administration) from the University of Utah, as well as an MA in history from Florida Gulf Coast University.

Meet the Staff at the Center for Excellence in International Law at Stetson's College of Law

J.R. Swanegan



J.R. Swanegan serves as assistant dean of international programs, leading all foreign study programs at the College of Law, and manages student recruitment for the International Master of Laws (LL.M.) program. Swanegan previously served as director of Study Abroad, International and Diversity Outreach at the University of Missouri, where he founded the study abroad program within the College of Engineering, developing the curriculum and recruiting faculty for 10 short-term study abroad offerings annually. J.R. recently presented on "Innovative International Partnerships" at the International Legal Education Abroad Conference in Gulfport, Fla., and served as a panelist discussing the work of a senior international officer at the Association of International Education Administrators Conference in Montreal, Quebec. J.R. Swanegan earned a B.A. and J.D. from the University of Missouri.

Kristen Cohen



Kristen Cohen is assistant director of international programs at the Stetson University College of Law. She earned a B.A. in English in 1998, and M.Ed. in English in 2001 from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. Kristen also holds an A.P.S. in paralegal studies from Midlands Technical College in Columbia, S.C., graduating in 1995 after having served in Desert Storm with the U.S. Army. In addition to her military service, she possesses a wide range of international experience, having worked at U.S. Embassies in Cairo, Egypt, and Canberra, Australia, as well as living in Berlin, Germany, for two years. During 2015-2016, Kristen became a Certified Professional in Education Abroad by The Forum for Education Abroad. She recently led a panel discussion on "Partnering for Quality and Ease: Using Third-Party Providers," at the 2016 International Legal Education Abroad Conference and served as resident director for the 2016 Oxford Comparative Trial Advocacy summer study-abroad program in Oxford, England.

Velaine Paryzek



Velaine Paryzek is manager for international programs at Stetson University College of Law. She assists and supports the director, administers the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, and supervises the international student and faculty exchange programs and the LL.M. program in International Law. Since 1998, Velaine has served as a designated school official through the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service for Stetson's international students on F-1 student visas and as an alternate responsible officer through the U.S. Department of State for Stetson's international exchange (J-1) visitors. Velaine is a member of Region VII of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA). Before joining Stetson in 1990, she worked with Florida Institute of Technology in St. Petersburg, Fla., and Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala.

Megan Crowley



Megan Crowley joined Stetson University College of Law in December 2015 as the International Law LL.M. program coordinator. Prior, she interned with the Fulbright Program, AFS Intercultural Programs and the Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. Crowley also worked at the ELS Language Centers at Stetson's Celebration campus and at the University of Florida International Center where she facilitated international student visas. Megan is currently treasurer of the Florida Association of International Educators and will assist with hosting their annual conference at the College of Law's campus in February 2017. She has been an active member of the Florida International Leadership Conference Board for the past five years, assisting students with developing leadership within an international context. In her first six months at Stetson University, Megan has promoted the College of Law to the local and international community, co-developed a career workshop series for international students and initiated the new class of students pursuing the International Law LL.M. She holds a dual bachelor's degree in international business and modern languages from Eckerd College, and an M.A. in international policy studies with a focus in international education from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.



Catedral Nueva de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Cuenca, Ecuador, is one of the largest churches in the world. Photo credit: Robert Sitler

2016-2017 EVENTS

2016

August

- 16-19 New International Student Orientation
- 17 International Student Game Night

September

- 6 Study Abroad 101
- 9 International Students go to Disney World
- 15 Faculty-Led Study Abroad Proposals due
- 20 Values Day
- 20 Global Citizenship Fair
- 29 Annual Fall Conference for International Educators: Orlando
- 30 Scholarship Applications for International Learning: Deadline

October

- 1 Winter WORLD Class Travel Award Applications: Deadline
- 6 Study Abroad 101
- 6-8 AAC&U Global Learning and the College Curriculum Conference: Denver
- 11 Study Abroad Return Student Dinner
- 17 Study Abroad 101
- 20 Faculty Open House @ WORLD
- 28 WORLD Halloween Party

November

- 3 Study Abroad 101
- 7 Share Thanksgiving: Deadline
- 14-18 International Education Week

December

- 9 Exchange Student Farewell Picnic at Blue Springs State Park

2017

January

- 11-12 New International Student Orientation
- 31 Global Citizenship Fair

February

- 10 WORLD Fair
- 15 Faculty Resources for International Learning: WORLD Class Lunch & Learn
- 18 International Students go to Kennedy Space Center
- 20-22 Association for International Education Administrators Annual Conference: Washington, D.C.

March

- 14 How to Lead a Study Abroad Program: WORLD Class Lunch & Learn

April

- 7-8 Project Based Learning Institute: DeLand
- 11 What is Global Citizenship?: WORLD Class Lunch & Learn

May

- 4 Exchange Student Farewell Picnic at DeLeon Springs State Park

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