

WORLD VIEW

Reimagining Study Abroad in the Age of COVID-19

International Collaboration to Study Seahorses in the Bahamas

Identity Politics in Burkina Faso

Sustainable Development in Singapore and Taiwan

UT Students Attend the Florida International Leadership Conference

Comprehensive Internationalization • Awards and Recognition

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS:

Signature Semester Abroad in Spain and Ireland

Semester Abroad in Italy • UT Signature Program in Cuba

What I Want You to Know About My Country—Antigua

Spartans Academy Abroad in Costa Rica

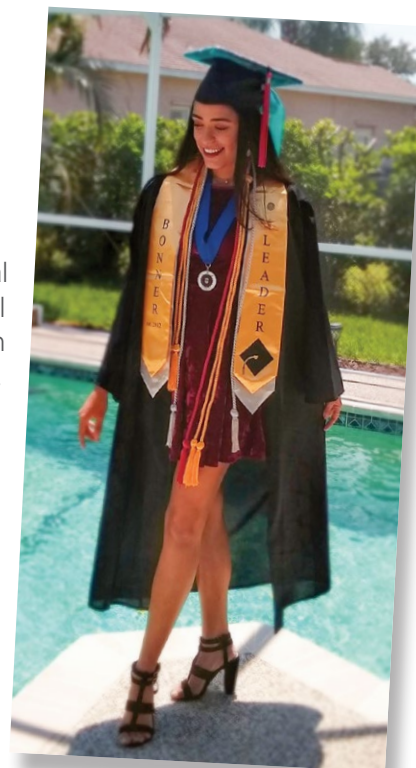


THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

Certificate of International Studies Program

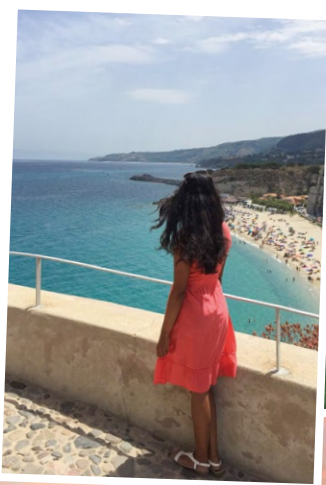
Students are able to internationalize any major through the Certificate of International Studies program (CIS). Developed with the advent of the "Building International Competency" Quality Enhancement Plan in 2006, faculty designed the program requirements to increase students' international knowledge, skills and attitudes, beyond the university's general requirements.

Today, the Certificate of International Studies has excelled as an innovative and comprehensive approach to international education recognizing graduates at commencement with unique cords and stole of distinction. The program is designed to enhance career opportunities for students with exceptional intercultural skills combined with their inter-disciplinary academic background. More than ever, Certificate of International Studies students pursue opportunities both domestically and abroad within multinational firms, innovative companies, world-class charitable organizations, and government agencies that depend on strong global citizens.



Reasons UT students choose to earn a Certificate of International Studies:

- Internationalize their major.
- Build an extraordinary résumé.
- Broaden their global perspective.
- Explore a new country.
- Interact with people from other cultures and enhance communication skills.
- Learn a new language.
- Experience exciting cultural events.
- Gain confidence to live or work abroad.
- Open the door to international career opportunities.
- Wear the CIS sash and cords of distinction at graduation.



"Throughout my participation in the CIS program at the University of Tampa, I acquired global knowledge in my courses, events, and abroad experiences. As a result, this has strengthened my international awareness, thereby discovering the relevance this skill has in my personal and professional life. Being aware of my customs and nation's impact on others as well as theirs subsequently affects my actions and aids in my understanding of other's actions in cross-cultural relations and foreign settings. These realizations elicit in me a respect for others that is applied universally."

— Janel Wirley '20



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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For over a decade, World View Magazine has celebrated the many ways UT promotes international education around the world and throughout our community. As we collectively adapt to the many challenges to our lives due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we remain dedicated to cultivating global learning and sharing our global experiences with each other.

Prior to the pandemic, faculty recipients of UT's International Collaboration Awards embarked on an ichthyological discovery in the Bahamas, engaged in research on identity politics in Burkina Faso, and studied sustainability practices in Taiwan and Singapore.

In January, UT expanded its Signature Abroad Programs to include Havana, Cuba. Partnering with Cuba's renowned Center for Psychological and Sociological Research (CIPS), the program not only highlights the developments, past and present that define Cuba-US relations but also embodies diversity and creativity as featured in the Student Spotlight. UT Signature Abroad Programs are highly selective and combine academic and experiential learning, drawing on the expertise and mentorship of UT faculty. Eligible students are awarded UT scholarships to study at partner institutions in Monteverde, Costa Rica; Dublin, Ireland; Seville, Spain, or Havana, Cuba.

The benefits of study abroad go well beyond the experience itself. In the Spotlights, students personalize the lasting impact of their experiences abroad and share their personal growth in learning. Through study abroad, students learn to step out of their comfort zone, step away from technology, appreciate the world around them and gain a greater sense of global awareness.

In "What I Want You to Know about My Country," international students share interesting facts and perspectives from their home countries. Did you know Antigua is said to have 365 beaches, one for every day of the year?

Though students studying abroad and many of our international students had to return home early during this past spring semester and future opportunities to travel internationally are on hold until it is once again safe to travel, the Spartan commitment to international education continues to flourish through our diverse and globally focused curriculum and student organizations. The UT academic community remains resolved in providing international education and are redesigning ways to teach and deliver internationally themed courses and experiences.

We enjoy taking you around the world every year to share our diverse perspectives and we especially hope this issue inspires you and brings some brightness to your day. At UT, we are and will remain dedicated to building a globally engaged campus and in the Spartan tradition, we will continue to journey on!

Marca Marie Bear, Ph.D.

Associate Dean, International Programs



WORLD VIEW MAGAZINE

Editor-In-Chief: **Marca Marie Bear, Ph.D.** | Associate Editor-In-Chief: **Kari Tews**

IPO Staff Contributors: **Rhonda Smalls, Autumn Brucato, Lisa Ryan, Maribel Ramirez Pereyra, Nina Johnson**

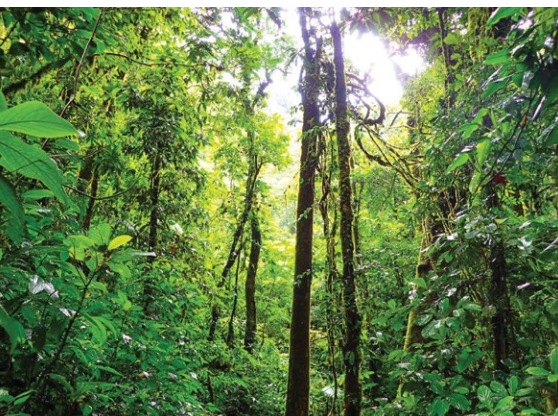
Cover Image: **Ayana Latimore '21, Hop On, Adventure Waits, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

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Reimagining Study Abroad in the Age of COVID-19

by **Mason Meers, Ph.D.** | Professor, Biology and
Lori Benson McRae, Ph.D. | Associate Professor, Biology; Biology Internship-Marine Science/Environmental Science/Ecology

The appearance and spread of the COVID-19 virus in the U.S. in early 2020 had students questioning if our summer study abroad travel might be cancelled or rescheduled. In early March, we had the answer to that question. The U.S. Department of State had issued a global health advisory advising U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. For the safety of students and faculty, UT halted all travel abroad through 2020.




The students were understandably devastated. Our course, Tropical Biology & Conservation, only enrolls students in biology, marine science, and environmental science, and some of them had applied for the class multiple times before being accepted, and now the experience they'd waited for was gone before it started. Although we had Zoom and we spent hours discussing evolutionary and conservation issues, the experience wouldn't happen.

As we moved through the semester, marking time, and waiting for it to end, I felt worse every week about what students would be missing out on. After all, I've traveled to Costa Rica nearly every year since 2004, lately twice a year, and it's really an incredible place for a biology student. The neotropics are one of the primary places that helped Charles Darwin find his way to the discovery of natural selection, founding the modern Theory of Evolution which underlies all of biology. Aside from the historical mystique, it's simply stunning, a nature lover's dream come true!

One of the most impactful assignments my students wouldn't be able to complete was to keep a travel journal. Former students often write me years later about how happy they are that they kept these journals, so I know they're profoundly meaningful. So it occurred to me, why not share my own travel journal with the students? I couldn't go to Costa Rica, but I have more than a decade's worth of pictures and experiences. And besides, I've always been too busy with the course to find the time to keep one myself.

I enlisted the help of my program assistant for the course, Dr. Lori McRae, and starting on what would have been our first day in Costa Rica, we started writing a virtual travel journal. Each morning, one of us would sit down and write for an hour or so about what we were supposed to do that day, what we might have seen, and why these things are particularly interesting. It could never replace a trip to Costa Rica, but what could? For each day of the duration of our scheduled study abroad course, the students received an e-mail from one of us in an effort to connect them to the experience that might have been. And while the virtual travel journal may have made them a little wistful for an experience that didn't happen, we were hoping it might motivate and inspire them to stay connected with us and more likely to enroll in an international travel experience in the future.

What follows is an excerpt from our journal. We hope it offers a sketch of just some of the value of a short term study abroad course, like the one we run each year. I hope to see you all in the rainforest, cloud forest, or some other tropical ecosystem very soon. I miss it!



Costa Rica 2020 – Dr. Meers' Virtual Travel Journal

Monday, May 11, 2020 – Today would have been our first full day in Costa Rica and we were supposed to stay at an ecolodge in a cloud forest region southeast of San Jose called San Gerardo Da Dota. I've never been there before except to drive through the area, but it is stunningly pretty. There are some good trails through the cloud forest there, and we'd have discussed epiphytes at some length, but the main attraction would certainly have been the hummingbirds.

Costa Rica is home to about 50 species of hummingbirds (this number changes periodically...), of the total 338 species known. That's about 15% of all species, for the record. For comparison, the US has about two dozen on occasion, but only one is typically found in Florida (the Ruby-Throated hummingbird). I usually take hundreds of pictures of hummingbirds on these trips, and of them, I'm usually pleased with five or six... little guys are so fast! Anyway, I won't inflict my blurry shots on you, but you can see beautiful shots [here if you like from CBS News](#).



Hummingbird evolutionary diversity is a fascinating story of coevolution with plants! In recent years I've had my students read [a paper by Robert Bleiweiss](#) on hummingbird evolution. He's been able to show that hummingbirds have been diversifying for about 40 million years, but that most of the diversification has occurred more recently, in the last 12-17 million years and major lineage divergence seems to be correlated with geological events more so than plant evolution (rise of the Andes Mountains, the Tilaran Mountains in Costa Rica, and others). It's a great paper that comes from years of work by Bleiweiss. If understanding the evolution of biodiversity interests you, this is a great paper to dig into.



Aside from hummingbirds, if we were lucky today, we might have seen a Resplendent Quetzal. We've talked about Quetzal's in class, so I won't go into this, but we've typically found them first by [sound](#). That's what our Course Coordinator, Mark Wainwright is brilliant at. He can pick-off bird sounds like no one else I've ever known. Anyway, they're difficult to see, but even if they were at a distance, we might see one through a spotting scope, in which case you could engage in "digiscoping," which is a made-up word for putting your phone up against the scope to shoot a picture... pretty sure Mark took this one for me as I'm terrible at it... too much caffeine or not enough patience.

After a day out hiking and studying hummingbirds, Quetzals, and maybe some antbirds (!), we'd have had dinner and listened to a presentation on the History of Costa Rica. Mark usually does this one for me since he actually lives there, so I would have gone off to the hot tubs or spa or something to relax while you listened to his two-hour-long lecture. Lol!

That should about do it for today! I hope to see you tomorrow!

International Collaboration to Study Seahorses in the Bahamas

by **Lori Benson McRae, Ph.D.** | Associate Professor, Biology;
Biology Internship-Marine Science/Environmental Science/Ecology and
Heather Masonjones, Ph.D. | Professor, Biology



IN MARCH 2019, I HAD THE ICHTHYOLOGICAL SPRING BREAK OF A LIFETIME with a trip to Eleuthera, Bahamas. Ichthyology is a strange-sounding word of Greek origin that simply means the study of fish, and it is one of the courses I teach at the University of Tampa. For people that study, have an interest in, or just like watching fish, seahorses stand out as one of the most fascinating groups. This is due, in part, to their beautiful and unique anatomy, but they are also fascinating in that the males play a large role in the reproductive care of the young. Numerous fish species have male parental care as part of their life history strategies; seahorses are just noteworthy and unique in that the male gets seemingly pregnant as they carry the developing juveniles in a pouch on their abdomen. I am fortunate that a colleague of mine in the Biology Department, Dr. Heather Masonjones, is one of the world experts on seahorses. Working with numerous local Bahamians, government and conservation agencies, and Caribbean researchers, Masonjones has been part of a major ichthyological discovery on the island of Eleuthera. She works there in Sweetings Pond, essentially a marine lake that is only connected to the open ocean via subsurface channels and pores through the fossilized coral and limestone coastline (or during extremely high wave action and storm events). At UT, her research team has included numerous faculty colleagues, including UT alum and former Visiting Professor Dr. Emily Rose, and a large number of talented student researchers. One of their most exciting scientific discoveries has been that Sweetings Pond in Eleuthera hosts the highest density of seahorses in the world. Because seahorses are so camouflaged and often at low densities, it is very difficult to find large enough populations to observe their behaviors and



Above, from left: Lined Seahorse in Sweetings Pond; this site has the highest densities of Seahorses in the world; Banner Goby partially emerged from burrow, Sweetings Pond, Eleuthera, Bahamas

study their ecology in the wild. So, their discovery in the Bahamas identified a natural laboratory where much important work can be conducted and, just as importantly, identified an area of conservation need given that many seahorses are thought to be declining due to habitat degradation and over-collecting (either intentional harvest or as accidental bycatch).

My flight out from Tampa was early in the morning, and I picked up two of Masonjones' student researchers on the way to the airport. Nicole Tosto was traveling outside of the U.S. for the first time, and the other student, Megan Pinder, is a Bahamian native resident. Needless to say, they were both very excited to be doing field work in Eleuthera over spring break. Eleuthera has a fascinating human history; it is believed that the original

Top photo: Nicole Tosto, Heather Masonjones, and Megan Pinder at Lighthouse Point, Eleuthera, Bahamas

inhabitants were the Lucayan tribe who settled there nearly 1500 years ago, by some accounts fleeing more violent cultures across South America and the Caribbean. It is also the site of the first European settlement in the Bahamas. These first colonists named it Eleuthera, meaning “free” in Greek, as they settled there to escape intellectual and religious persecution.

As for our work in Sweetings Pond, I saw more seahorses in my first two minutes of diving there than I had seen in my entire life of snorkeling and SCUBA diving combined. Based on reports from Masonjones and Rose, this was what I was expecting, but it was still overwhelming and amazing to experience it. I was blown away by how adeptly each fish matched the unique features of the Sweetings Pond environment, their camouflage skills being yet another reason why seahorses are really among the coolest of all known fish families. The students and I were excited to help with a mark recapture project that involved safely injecting the seahorses with a colored dye which allowed them to be uniquely photographed and identified, both at the time of marking and then later if they are recaptured. This type of work helps with both population estimates and with understanding how much the animals move around in this unique pond habitat (both daily and seasonally). Finally, we spent some time observing Banner Gobies, another species that seems to be at a much higher density in the pond than in nearby open ocean marine waters. Gobies comprise the largest family of fishes, by total species count, and are an interesting group both behaviorally

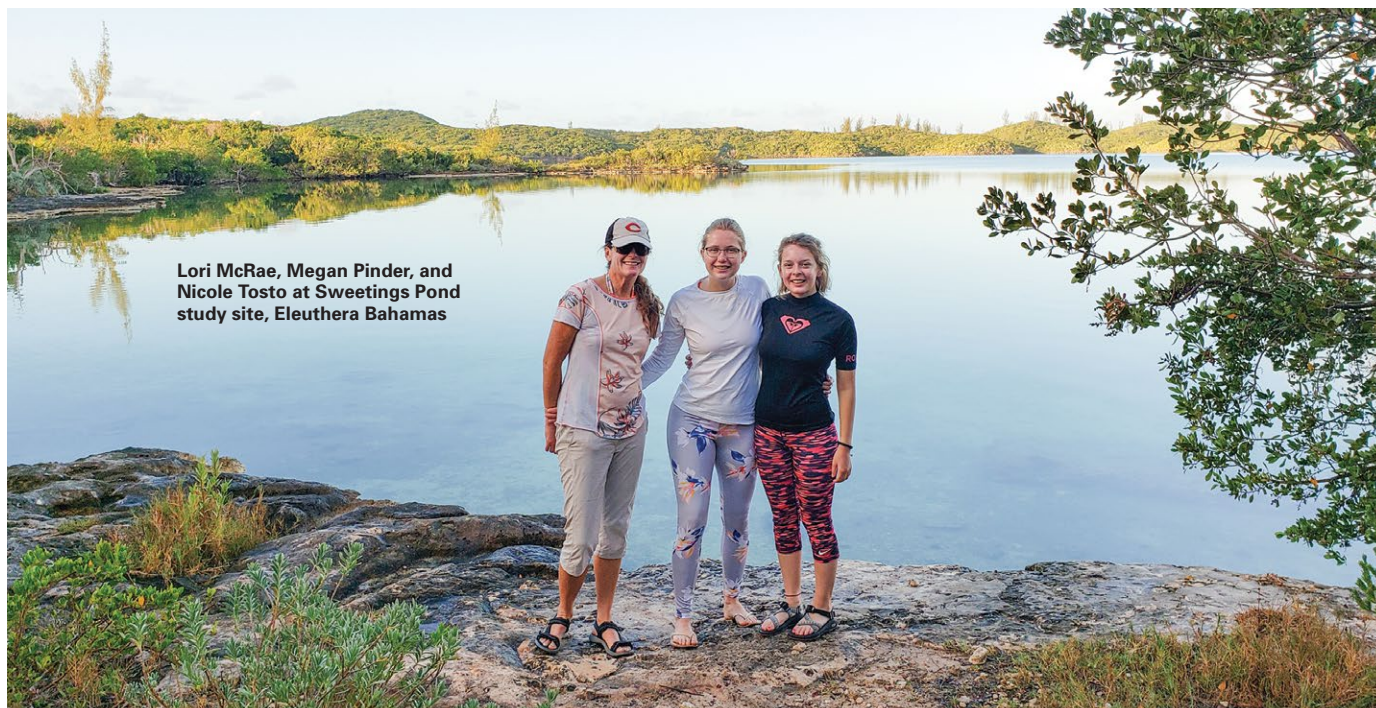
and anatomically. They have fused pelvic fins, which give them essentially a suction cup on their chest that can interact with their environment as needed in different ways. For years I studied freshwater stream gobies in the Hawaiian islands that migrated in from the ocean as part of their life cycle; some of these tiny fishes climbed waterfalls that were hundreds of feet high (and in rare cases close to a thousand feet high). Their suction cup enabled them to traverse these obstacles. The banner gobies in Sweetings Pond lived a very different lifestyle—sometimes swimming in loose groups across the bottom, but oftentimes occupying burrows that they have excavated in the sediment. We hope to investigate in the



Male and Female Banner Gobies, Sweetings Pond, Eleuthera, Bahamas

future what reproductive behaviors occur in these burrows, and we would also like to observe banner gobies that don’t live in the pond. This species is very understudied in general, so whatever we learn about their reproductive ecology is important and useful. Are their densities or behaviors

altered due to the lack of predators in this unique marine lake ecosystem? In closing, this was a fascinating and wonderful trip from a fish research standpoint, but also because I got to spend time with a wonderful faculty colleague and students who appreciated this truly unique Sweetings Pond environment with me. I hope that plans to make it a National Park to protect the seahorses and other unique inhabitants prove fruitful and successful, and that I can visit again someday to continue research efforts. Professor Masonjones and I would both like to acknowledge our generous funding from UT’s International Collaboration Award program, which made this trip possible.



Lori McRae, Megan Pinder, and Nicole Tosto at Sweetings Pond study site, Eleuthera Bahamas

SIGNATURE SEMESTER ABROAD | SEVILLE, SPAIN

Jackie Cortez



The day we were serenaded in Lisbon, Portugal

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan on attending graduate school.

What advice would you give to students who may be considering studying abroad?

Go, and do it! It's such a great learning experience. Many students fear that studying abroad will only set them back from graduation, (specifically science majors like myself). Before leaving for Spain I feared that my courses would not transfer back to Tampa. After coming back, the only thing I regret is not staying longer. This program allowed me to stay on track with my science degree and still graduate a semester early.

Where are you from?

I am from Memphis, TN. (But my heart is from Mexico.)

What is your major and when do you plan to graduate?

My major is biochemistry and I am also minoring in business administration and earning a certificate of international studies. I plan to graduate Fall 2021.

Why did you choose to participate in the Signature Semester Abroad program?

I had always dreamed of traveling to Europe, specifically Spain. This program opened the door to live in Spain and immerse myself into their culture, while earning credits for my major. I also used the opportunity to volunteer in a Seville hospital.

What did you gain from this experience?

My Spanish proficiency increased greatly by being abroad. Although my parents taught my siblings and I Spanish as we were growing up, I was able to learn European-Spanish which is vastly different than Latin-American Spanish.

What impact has your participation in this program had on your UT experience?

This program made my UT experience ten times better. I made friends that

were in the same program from UT. Additionally, this program assisted me to complete a certificate of international studies.

What was your favorite memory of your abroad experience?

There are so many memories to choose from! On one excursion, my friends and I got serenaded in the middle of the streets of Portugal! However, by far the best excursion trip was riding camels through the Sahara desert in Morocco. On weekends that our program didn't have planned excursions, my friends and I would run to catch a flight and travel somewhere new after class!

Riding under the sun in the Sahara Desert



The Plaza de España, located in Seville, Spain



Noah McNair

Where are you from?

I've lived throughout the Southern U.S. and in the U.K. but completed high school at Harrison School for the Arts in Lakeland, FL.

What is your major and when do you plan to graduate?

I am an Honors scholar majoring in film & media arts with a minor in leadership studies. I plan to graduate in 2021.

Why did you choose to participate in the UT Signature Cuba program?

I have invested in the study of Spanish language, culture, guitar, and flamenco dance and served in Spain, Guatemala, and the Canary Islands, continuously learning about the spread of Spanish influence. I became curious about the choice that Cubans such as a famous guitar composer, Leo Brouwer, made to remain in Cuba and serve in leadership with a communist government when so many people my dad grew up with had sacrificed everything and risked their lives to reach Miami on the Mariel Boatlift.

What did you gain from this experience?

This immersive opportunity to live in an isolated country and expand my understanding of the unique culture, somewhat frozen in time, revealed insight regarding choices Cuban people made to submit to a lifestyle antithetical

to our democratic freedom in the United States. Their agrarian roots, underground market, promotion of the arts, and history of leaders such as José Martí, form a paella of a culture rich in heritage Cubans authentically embrace.

What impact has your participation in this program had on your UT experience?

I was warmly welcomed by the nationals, who shared their homes, food, and stories, demonstrated farming and spoke of their history enthusiastically, but greatly valued the treasures I brought including toilet paper and shampoo. My appreciation both for their perspectives on communism and for the United States' free market economy increased exponentially.

What was your favorite memory of your abroad experience?

It's a tie between playing guitar with an accordionist on the porch of the house I stayed in at Viñales and attending a ceremony honoring one of my favorite composers, Leo Brouwer, for his achievements in Classical Guitar.

What are your plans after graduation?

I am investigating graduate programs in entrepreneurship as well as instructional design & technology, both offered at UT. I am interning with UT's Information Technology & Security, providing



Experiential learning by crushing sugar cane to make guarapo, a Cuban delicacy



Over several months, older tobacco leaves are moved to the rafters as sap drips from new leaves below



Diverse representation of Cubans passing the afternoon playing dominoes



The José Martí museum celebrates the man who fought for independence from colonialism

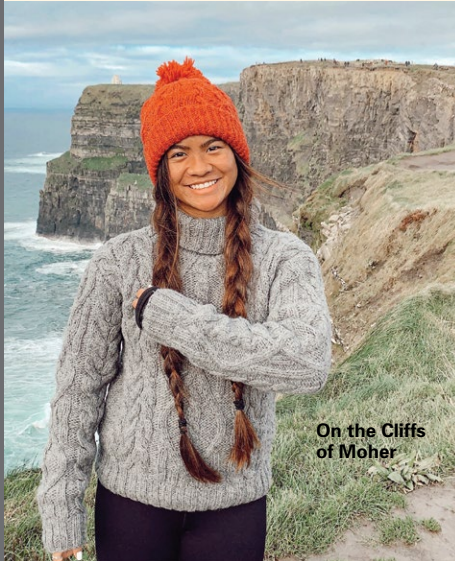
pathways to design excellence for remote instruction in responses to the pandemic's constraints. As a student with learning and attention differences, my experience uniquely equips me to offer accessibility insight while my filmmaking skills present opportunities to engage faculty creatively through knowledge base articles. I'm excited to invest in graduate research, building on the qualitative studies I have explored through Study Abroad and the Honors Program.

What advice would you give to students who may be considering studying abroad?

Pick a place you connect with, researching it in advance so your adventure builds on a body of knowledge. Your experience will be richer, your understanding deeper, and your appreciation greater when you have investigated your study location in advance.

SIGNATURE SEMESTER ABROAD | DUBLIN, IRELAND

Natalie L. Jumaoas



On the Cliffs of Moher

Where are you from?

I was born in Honolulu, HI but moved all over the U.S. with my military family and attended high school in Maryland.

What is your major and when do you plan to graduate?

I am majoring in biology, pre-health professions concentration with a minor in leadership studies. I plan to graduate Fall 2021.

Why did you choose to participate in the Signature Semester Abroad program?

The reason I chose to participate in the Sophomore Semester Abroad Program in Dublin, Ireland at the University College Dublin (UCD), is because of the rich history and culture the country offers. After extensive research with my parents I was confident that studying in Ireland, while having the opportunity to travel throughout Europe, would not only expand my academic experience but would also enhance my life experience. My advisors were very helpful in preparing me for what was ahead. Excursions, housing arrangements, and scholarships were all planned out for the UT students. I was ready for my classes, made wonderful new friends, and appreciated how UCD and our International Studies Abroad directors welcomed students from the U.S. and other countries around the world.

What did you gain from this experience?

I instantly gained the courage, confidence, and independence to set off on my own once my plane left the U.S. heading for a country I only knew about by researching books and the internet. I also gained an appreciation for the Irish culture and other European cultures astonished at how beautiful the history is and realizing that pictures do not do any monuments or landscapes justice, you just have to see it in person. More importantly, I gained friends who I shared these great experiences with, and I know we will always have stories to remember and share for years to come.

What impact has your participation in this program had on your UT experience?

I truly feel that UT is a school that believes in expanding students' world view. I enjoy UT and all it has to offer but I also know that UT encourages us to expand our experiences beyond the campus walls. My semester abroad has prepared me to understand our world and to take on challenges that await us after we graduate.

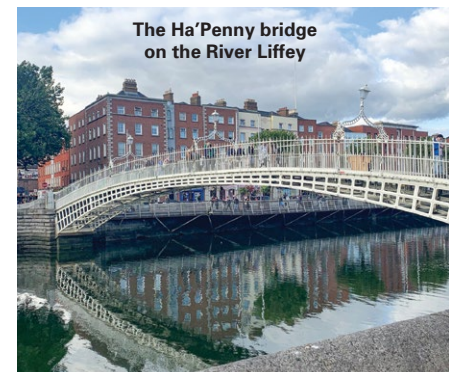
What was your favorite memory of your abroad experience?

I have wonderful memories of traveling throughout Europe with my classmates



With my classmates in the Garden of Remembrance

to London, Paris, Amsterdam, Budapest, Spain, Italy, and Brussels. But my one true favorite memory is when I played on the UCD Women's Soccer team and many of my fellow study abroad classmates from the U.S. came to watch me play in the first game of the season. I scored the first goal of the game and all my friends cheered as if I was in the World Cup. Not only did I appreciate the support from my friends from the U.S. but also my teammates who are local to Ireland and made me feel welcome to the team; I still keep in touch with them.



The Ha'Penny bridge on the River Liffey

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan on attending dental school. I want to graduate early and with the inspiration of my abroad semester, I want to take that gap semester and go back to Europe and travel to a few other countries that I did not get a chance to visit.

What advice would you give to students who may be considering studying abroad?

Research the school, get the most out of what the school has to offer, and when you are there embrace the cultures and make friends. There is no better time than when you are in college to travel abroad, so just go and take lots of pictures! Make sure the classes you will be taking will fulfill UT academic requirements and if you cannot take a whole semester, then maybe look into summer abroad programs. You won't regret it, and you'll have the best time; I know I sure did.

Elise Gething

Where are you from?

I am from Eaton, OH. I had lived in Ohio my entire life until I enrolled in the University of Tampa to open a world of new opportunities.

What is your major and when do you plan to graduate?

My major is biochemistry with a minor in Spanish, and a certificate of international studies. I plan to graduate in Spring 2023.

An organic pineapple plantation where we learned about the pineapple industry in Costa Rica



Why did you choose to participate in the Spartans Academy Abroad program?

After reading about how I had the opportunity to take two classes by studying abroad in Costa Rica before even beginning my college career, it was clear to me that this was something that I wanted to do.

What did you gain from this experience?

There is not a doubt in my mind that the Spartans Academy Abroad program has been the most influential experience in my life. I gained friendships that will last a lifetime and I learned that traveling is a large piece of what I want to do in my life. While in Costa Rica, I was able to use Spanish which is the reason that I



am a Spanish minor today and want to continue studying it. I learned that I am capable of going miles beyond my comfort zone and coming out on top. I have learned and grown more than I can imagine because of this experience and The University of Tampa.

What impact has your participation in this program had on your UT experience?

As a freshman in college, this helped me create automatic friendships that have laid the foundation for my time here at Tampa. After going to Costa Rica, I came back ready for more. I am now earning a certificate of international studies and I am also planning my next study abroad trip. I have been looking to participate in international and culture events around the University as well as be more confident in joining other clubs. PEACE, a club on campus, has opportunities to take weekend trips and learn about issues including poverty and homelessness. Since my time in Costa Rica, with limited internet, different food, and many new bugs, I know I can face these new experiences.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to attend medical school. While I do not have all of the specifics determined as of yet, my end goal is to become part of Doctors Without Borders and travel to different countries working to make a difference in many people's lives.

What advice would you give to students who may be considering studying abroad?

Don't be afraid. Some of the best stories and experiences happen when

Rylen Meyer (right) and I standing next to a windmill where we learned about renewable resources



you are totally terrified. Taking a leap of faith is how you become a better stronger person and truly open your eyes to places you believed unimaginable. While abroad, flexibility and having fun in every moment is a skill that will make every obstacle that you come across so much more worthwhile and not to mention you will have a great time doing so. Seize the opportunity that has been given to you. Lastly, just be in awe of how amazing it is when you actually do go!

Arenal Volcano in Arenal National Park



Spartans Build Credentials through Innovative Education Abroad Programs

The University of Tampa's education abroad programs prepare students to be global citizens so they may recognize international career opportunities in various disciplines and industries. Prospective employers seek graduates who are able to communicate in at least one foreign language, have multicultural knowledge, possess skills and training in negotiating with people of different cultures, and have the ability to work abroad.

UT's Portfolio of Options

UT TRAVEL COURSE

One of the best ways to internationalize your degree is by enrolling in an on-campus course with a travel component. UT's faculty-led travel courses allow you to continue to earn UT academic credit as you travel for one to four weeks after the on-campus portion or during a break.

UT SEMESTER/YEAR ABROAD

Through our network of providers, UT offers numerous opportunities to study abroad for an entire semester or academic year. If your curriculum does not allow for a longer time abroad, a six to eight week summer abroad is a great option.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

Gain valuable career experience and become culturally aware by completing an international internship when you are placed with a company that best matches your major, interests, experience, and skill set.

UT COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Combine volunteer service and travel abroad in order to benefit communities outside the United States. Not only will you receive a notation on your co-curricular transcript and/or academic credit because of one of these experiences, you will also learn so much more!

UT SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

UT offers three unique opportunities to study abroad. Eligible students are awarded a UT Signature Abroad Scholarship applied towards tuition. Spartans Academy Abroad is offered for incoming UT freshmen in collaboration with the Monteverde Institute in Costa Rica. Sophomore Semester Abroad during the fall term allows students to study in Seville, Spain or Dublin, Ireland. UT has also partnered with Cuba's renowned Center for Psychological and Sociological Research (CIPS) to offer students an opportunity to study during Winter Intercession in Havana, Cuba.

UT STUDENT RESEARCH/INQUIRY ABROAD

UT students have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty members to produce globally-focused scholarly activities or research. These experiences allow students to prepare research, attend conferences and present academic work in front of a globally diverse audience.





Education Abroad Frequently Asked Questions

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO STUDY ABROAD?

All UT students—first year through graduate students—who are in good academic standing with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA and who do not have any active conduct sanctions with UT's Office of Student Conduct.

WHERE CAN STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD?

Options are almost limitless! Our network of providers offers over 1,000 locations to study abroad. Only countries that are under travel warnings or alerts from the U.S. State Department are off-limits.

CAN STUDENTS USE FINANCIAL AID FOR EDUCATION ABROAD?

Students should meet with a Financial Aid Counselor to determine how financial aid can be applied to education abroad. It is often no more expensive to study abroad than it is to attend classes on UT's campus.

WILL EDUCATION ABROAD CREDITS TRANSFER BACK TO UT?

UT faculty determine credit equivalencies by reviewing all courses taken abroad. In most cases, students are able to

earn credit for courses taken abroad, including course requirements for majors and minors. It is important to plan for Education Abroad with an academic advisor to ensure it will fit into an academic plan.



DOES A STUDENT NEED TO SPEAK A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

No, as there are programs open to students with little or no foreign language background. A number of programs are designed to improve foreign language skills. Many of our partner institutions offer courses in English as well as beginner-level language courses.

HOW DOES A STUDENT BEGIN THE PROCESS?

The first step is to access the Terra Dotta System for Study Abroad (TDS) portal located on MyUTampa. On the main page of the portal click on the *Getting Started* tab to access video tutorials that will assist you in navigating TDS, researching program offerings and understanding the application processes. Prior to submitting an application, it is very important to contact your Education Abroad Advisor in order to discuss your options for study abroad and guide you through the next steps.



Funding Your Education Abroad

Students often assume it is more expensive to study abroad than to remain on UT's campus, however many education abroad destinations offer low tuition and cost of living. Students should meet with a Financial Aid Counselor to determine how financial aid is applied toward an education abroad program. It is often no more expensive to study abroad than it is to attend classes on UT's campus. For a comprehensive list of scholarship options, visit MyUTampa to access the TDS for Study Abroad portal.

DON'T MISS THESE OPPORTUNITIES

There are many scholarships awarded through The University of Tampa!

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS EDUCATION ABROAD AWARD

Students with a 3.0 GPA and at least 28 credit hours on their UT transcript are eligible for a \$1,000 education abroad award each semester and a \$500 award each summer. Deadlines: Spring Programs—Nov 1; Summer and Fall Programs—March 1.

UT SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

UT offers three unique opportunities to study abroad. Spartans Academy Abroad is offered for incoming UT freshmen in Costa Rica. Sophomore Semester Abroad during the fall term allows students to study in Seville, Spain or Dublin, Ireland. UT students also have an opportunity to study during Winter Intercession in Havana, Cuba. Eligible students are awarded a UT Signature Abroad Scholarship applied towards tuition.

UT HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

The Honors Program has scholarships available for honors students enrolled in a UT honors travel course. Visit the Honors Office in Plant Hall for more information.

PHILIP QUINN EDUCATION ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

The Philip Quinn Education Abroad Scholarship was established to financially assist at least one student each year who is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice program and is participating in a UT education abroad course.



EXPLORE THESE OPTIONS

More competitive, these opportunities are a great way for UT students to help fund their program!

PROGRAM PROVIDER SCHOLARSHIPS

Most programs offer both merit and need-based aid. Consult the provider's website for available scholarships, deadlines and other details. Also, contact your Education Abroad Advisor as some program providers make their aid available through the UT Office of International Programs.

PHI KAPPA PHI | phikappaphi.org

Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants are designed to help support undergraduates as they seek knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad. Seventy-five \$1,000 grants are awarded each year.

BRIDGING SCHOLARSHIPS | bridgingfoundation.org

The Bridging Project offers scholarships to American undergraduate students participating in study abroad programs in Japan. Applications are accepted twice a year for Bridging Scholarships.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Though more selective, you may be a good fit for one of these opportunities:

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

iie.org/programs/gilman-scholarship-program

The Gilman Scholarship Program is open to U.S. citizen undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college or university to participate in study and intern abroad programs worldwide.

*GILMAN-MCCAIN SCHOLARSHIP

gilman scholarship.org/program/gilman-mccain-scholarships

The U.S. Department of State's Gilman-McCain Scholarship provides awards of \$5,000 for undergraduate child dependents of active duty service members to study or intern abroad on credit-bearing programs. Developed under the framework of the State Department's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, the John McCain International Scholarship for the Children of Military Families (Gilman-McCain Scholarship) is open to eligible students enrolled at accredited U.S. colleges and universities who receive any type of Title IV federal financial aid.

*CRITICAL NEED LANGUAGE AWARD

gilman scholarship.org/program/critical-need-languages

Applicants who are studying a critical need language while abroad can apply for a supplemental award of up to \$3,000, for a combined total of \$8,000. The Critical Need Language Award is competitive and offered to a limited number of Gilman scholars each year.

BOREN AWARDS | borenawards.org

The Boren Awards invest in linguistic and cultural knowledge for aspiring federal government employees.

FULBRIGHT US STUDENT PROGRAM

cies.org

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers research, study and teaching opportunities in over 140 countries to recent graduates and graduate students.

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM | clscholarship.org

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a summer study abroad opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world.

FUND FOR EDUCATION ABROAD

fundforeducationabroad.org

The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) offers scholarships to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who plan to participate in an accredited study abroad program for undergraduate credit. The program must be at least 4 weeks in length. Students with financial need and who plan to study abroad in a non-traditional location are encouraged to apply.

FREEMAN ASIA SCHOLARSHIP

iie.org/en/Programs/Freeman-ASIA

Freeman Asia Scholarships are for undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, with demonstrated financial need and plan to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia for at least 8 weeks (summer) or 12 weeks (fall/spring). Award amounts range from \$3000-7000 depending on length of study.

THE TAMPA BAY ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE (TBOWIT)

tbowit.org/Scholarship

The Tampa Bay Organization of Women in International Trade (TBOWIT) scholarships are designed to help support a deserving student (male or female) in an international study opportunity. The scholarships are designed for those students who are interested in international relations, development, trade, economics, or business. Two scholarships with a maximum of \$1,500 are awarded each year to the selected winners.

Please note that some of the scholarship deadlines could be at least a year in advance of your intended semester abroad, so it is important to investigate your options early.

Identity Politics in Burkina Faso

by **Kevin Fridy, Ph.D.** | Professor, Political Science

Burkina Faso is not a popular destination for visitors in mid-March. From November through February a northeasterly trade wind called the Harmattan blows a haze of Sahara dust into the atmosphere to cool the region down. By March the cooling haze is mostly gone but the dust covering everything is not. It is hot, averaging in the low 100s-Fahrenheit and everything is Sahara orange and neither condition will change until the rains come in June.

Even when June comes and the temperatures drop a bit, rain washes away the dust, and streams and rivers come to life where before there were only valleys, Burkina Faso will remain mostly snubbed. The US State Department labels the country “Reconsider Travel—Contains Areas with Higher Security Risk.” On the color-coded map that is a bright orange crossed with grey diagonal lines. In 2018, The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project recorded nearly 200

suspected militant attacks in the country so the warnings are not without merit.

I was not in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso’s capital, for tourism; the heat was plenty bearable for this Florida native and terrorism was part of the draw. I was rather there to speak with colleagues at the University of Ouaga II about governance and how it may shape the political landscape in such a way as to discourage, or conversely encourage, the operations of violent extremist organizations. In June 2019 I returned to



Man in traditional Tuareg outfit standing on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert near Gorom-Gorom



Burkinabe students from different regions of the country help with survey design and translation

conduct a large national survey on the topic. Over the University of Tampa’s spring break, these meetings with faculty, researchers, and students helped me better understand the situation on the ground in Burkina Faso as well as to test survey questions and get translations of particularly nuanced words and phrases into local languages.

Perhaps the most striking part of my visit was the sheer banality of it all. We could have been holding court in Plant Hall to discuss these topics. When we went out for a meal after a meeting, my colleagues and I roamed freely to whichever part of town had a place with nice ambiance, cold So.B.Bra, or particularly tasty haricots verts. I had watched the attacks on the Cappuccino restaurant and Splendid Hotel in 2016 and the Hotel Bravia and Aziz Istanbul Restaurant in 2017

over Internet feeds. The Ouagadougou I visited in 2019 was not that place at all. A sense of normalness had returned as people keep living their lives.

This was not my first visit to Ouagadougou or Burkina Faso. During my Fulbright year in Ghana in 2004/5, I went to Burkina as a tourist for a few weeks. It is a wonderful country with beautiful scenery, delicious food, and extremely nice people. Along with my wife and a German couple we met along the way we made it all the way to Gorom-Gorom in the far north of the country. After fording a river one of the wheels of our 4X4 fell off just on the outskirts of town but we made it to a Tuareg encampment and were treated, despite our rather ragged appearance after the stressful journey, as honored guests. To this day that adventure is one of my favorite memories.

Despite the resiliency, Burkinabe have shown a remarkable ability to adapt to the new normal, I know my students could not make their way up to Gorom-Gorom today without a great deal more peril than I experienced a decade and a half ago. In December 2018 a Canadian and Italian went missing while touring Burkina Faso. According to a recent Human Rights Watch report are believed held by militants in Mali. And that is a shame. But it is not just, or even primarily, tourists who suffer.

Even in good times, Burkina Faso is an incredibly poor country. It is landlocked, in a marginalized region, with gold mines scattered about that are worth enough money to bring in foreign multinationals but nowhere near lucrative enough to lift the country out of its condition. At times Burkina Faso has been blessed with remarkably progressive leadership that made up for some of these shortcomings. Thomas Sankara brought a few years of populist elbow grease to the country in the mid-1980s and Balai Citoyen managed to overthrow an autocrat in 2014 with their music, but in between these bright spots of hope is a lot of struggling.



Kevin Fridy standing in front of yet to be unveiled statue of Thomas Sankara

My International Collaboration Award sponsored trip to Ouagadougou in March of 2019 is hopefully a small piece of a small project that leads to a little less suffering in the long run. It supported a project where a colleague and I looked at the ways that access to governance (law and order, social services, infrastructure) makes it easier for communities to ward off the scourge of violent

extremists by showing residents they are supported by the larger society and outsiders that Burkina Faso is worth fighting for. It is a small thing but hopefully can influence this little known corner of the international war on terrorism away from bullets and bombs and toward more community wells, accountable policing, and jobs for recent graduates.



Women and children dressed in traditional Bella outfits in Dori

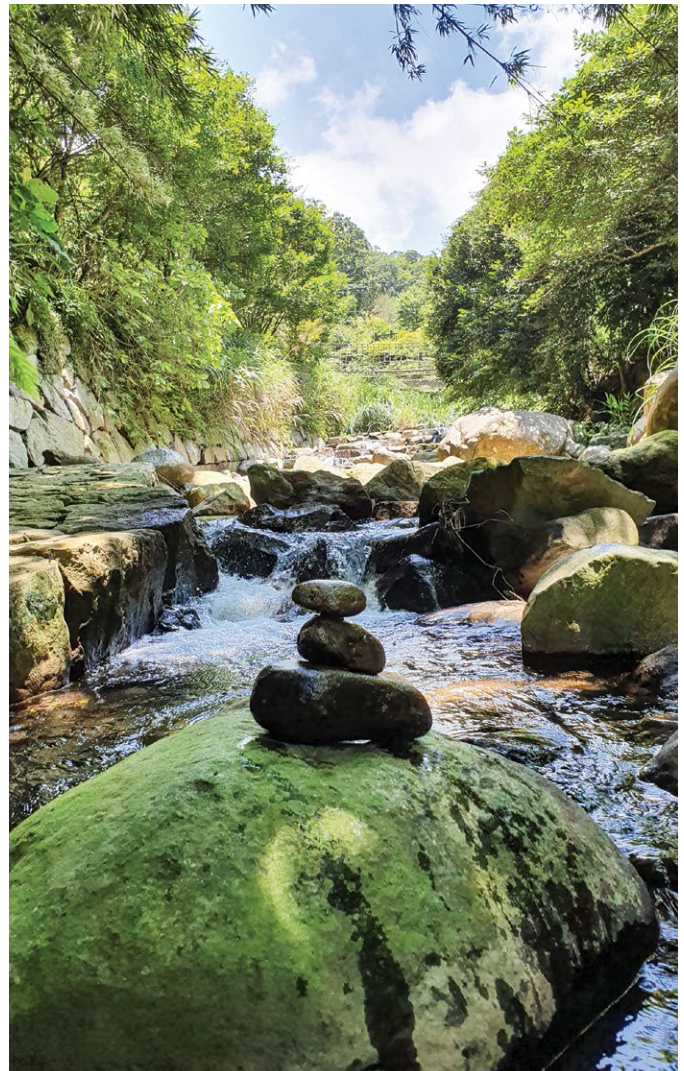
Sustainable Development in Singapore and Taiwan

by **Ru-Shiun Liou, Ph.D.**
Assistant Professor, Management



THE “ASIAN FOUR LITTLE DRAGONS” HAVE BEEN COINED TO DESCRIBE THE RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND HIGH GDP GROWTH RATES IN HONG KONG, TAIWAN, SINGAPORE, AND SOUTH KOREA BETWEEN THE 1960s AND 1990s. All four economies exhibit a similar trajectory of economic growth which is heavily influenced by the government policies in export-led economic growth, low taxes, and state funding. Due to the relatively stable economic and political environment, these four markets are great destinations for foreign direct investment. In 2018, the total foreign direct investment in Taiwan stood at close to \$7 billion U.S. dollars whereas Singapore enjoyed \$77 billion U.S. dollars inflow of foreign direct investment.

While these economies experienced substantial economic growth, these emerging economies generally have less developed institutions demanding compliance with sustainability reports. There is limited research in investigating whether corporations can utilize sustainability reporting as a corporate strategy to gain legitimacy in an emerging economy and enhance financial performance. My recent trip to Singapore and Taiwan, funded by The University of Tampa International Collaboration Award, supported my study of sustainable development practices in recently emerged advanced economies, such as Singapore and Taiwan. During the trip, I was able to connect with the researchers in these countries and collaborate on the research project which will advance our understanding of finding the balance among economic, social and environmental development.



Above: The Singapore skyline at night; **right:** A creek view in Taiwan

Growing up in Taiwan, I have innate knowledge about the transition and struggles in this island nation in East Asia, lying only some 112 miles across the Taiwan Strait from the southeastern coast of mainland China. Since the 1980s, Taiwan has enjoyed great success in conducting the exported growth economic policy to promote manufacturing in the information technology sector. However, as some researchers suspected, “the excessive capital from trading surpluses and property appreciation in an immature and poorly regulated local market has encouraged opportunistic behavior by both investors and corporate managers” (Filatotchev, Lien, & Piesse, 2005, p.258). The influence of foreign ownership represents an intriguing corporate governance mechanism in such a dynamic economy that has many family-controlled conglomerates in which other shareholders’ interests are not well-protected. In 2015, the government of Taiwan requires that several categories of listed firms publish an annual sustainability report by referring to the newest Sustainability Reporting Guidelines published and Sector Guidance by the Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI). The government’s effort in this newly adopted regulation grants external legitimacy for listed firms to comply and report sustainability practices, which may result in improved financial performance for the listed firms.

During my recent trip to Taiwan, I have some first-hand observations of how specific economic zones were created to encourage developing sustainability-related industries. Taoyuan, located in northwest Taiwan along the coast and adjacent to the international airport (TPE), created several industrial parks that include some traditional industries, such as plastic, fabric, and refineries, as well as a high-tech industry that produce solar panels. A large group of windmills is also set up recently along the coastline to take advantage of the geographic locations and generate green energy. According to cab drivers, some major construction of expressways was in limbo due to the transition of political parties in the past few years. Also, the lack of recreational activities becomes a great obstacle to retain talents to work in these industrial parks. Compared to the Mexican workers in the U.S., most of the low-skilled labor force consists of Southeast Asian migrant workers in Taiwan. Historically, Singapore and Taiwan both had a large immigrant population from China and shared the Confucianism cultures. Like Taiwan, Singapore has put in substantial effort to foster a diversity driven public policy to ensure the harmony among various ethnic groups. Singaporeans usually can speak at least three languages, including English, Mandarin Chinese, and Malay.

In the summer of 2019, my research was accepted to present at the Academy of International Business Annual Conference. I presented my preliminary research findings on Taiwanese firms’ sustainability practices at Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. My coauthors and I find the support that emerging market firms likewise enhance their financial performance by incorporating sustainability-driven initiatives. However, foreign



ownership, which was shown to improve corporate governance in previous studies, leads to a negative moderating effect on corporate financial performance, especially for foreign trust fund ownership. In the coming semesters, I am looking forward to further study the impacts of various types of foreign investors on the companies’ sustainability performance in Taiwan and Singapore.

Reference: Filatotchev, I., Lien, Y. C., & Piesse, J. (2005). Corporate governance and performance in publicly listed, family-controlled firms: Evidence from Taiwan. *Asia Pacific Journal of Management*, 22(3), 257-283.



Home | **HALEY KUELTZO** | Florence, Italy

Share Your Photos!

The University of Tampa's annual photo contest has become a mainstay in the fall line-up of exciting international programming on campus. The International Photography Contest has garnered a reputation for showcasing UT student, faculty and staff international experiences. Winners of the competition are selected for inclusion in the ***Spartans Abroad Calendar*** published by the Office of International Programs at the beginning of each year. The current publication showcases these talented photographers:



Snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef
REBECCA CORSINO
Cairns, Australia



Icelandic Turf Houses
KASSANDRA WEEKS
Glaumbaer, Iceland



Miss Moo Moo
NICHOLAS MACHUCA
Bogotá, Colombia



Cesky Krumlov from the Cloak Bridge
JUSTIN PECKA
Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic



The Swing at the End of the World
LIZZIE SANNUM
Baños, Ecuador



Gyeongju Temple
AMBER MEYER
Gyeongju, South Korea



The Golden Pavilion
DOMINIQUE GODEN
Kyoto, Japan



Coffee Fields in Chinchina
GIANNA MANSUETO
Chinchina, Colombia



Sunset Love
EMMA STANGE
Pilanesberg, South Africa



Parade de Parapluies
MARIE-JOELE INGALLS
Quebec City, Canada



Rooftop View of the Duomo di Firenze
SIDNEY INGRAHAM
Florence, Italy



Train Ride through the Alps
JUSTIN PECKA
Kleine Scheidegg, Switzerland



Oudezijds Achterburgwal
SIDNEY INGRAHAM
Amsterdam, Netherlands



Búðir Black Church
KASSANDRA WEEKS
Búðir, Iceland



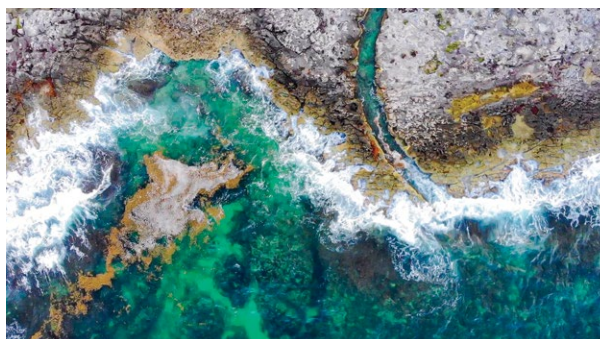
Snow Everywhere
NOEMI LOPEZ
Grindewald, Switzerland



Anything is Pastable
AVERY NELSON
Pisa, Italy



Where Land and Sea Meet
ERIKA PEITERSEN
Copenhagen, Denmark



Mexicoast
ALEX CLENDENON
Riviera Maya, Mexico



We All Need Some Love
ALEXIS COLLINS
Rangárþing eystra, Iceland



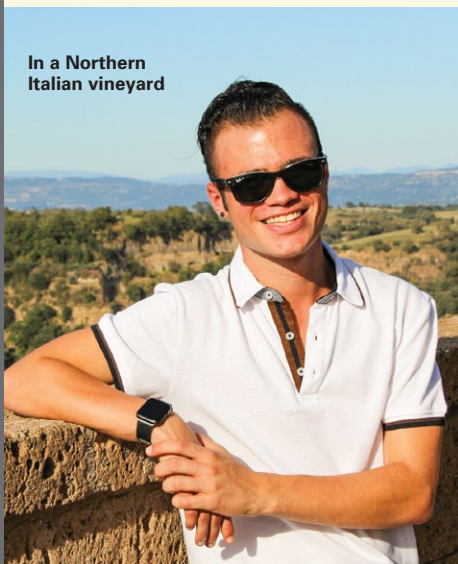
Down the Streets
NOEMI LOPEZ
Libourne, France

Sunset in Granada, Spain
DREW McDOUGALL
Granada, Spain

SEMESTER ABROAD | ITALY

Anthony Cecere

In a Northern Italian vineyard

**Where are you from?**

I am from Morris County, NJ.

What is your major and when do you plan to graduate?

My major is international business and marketing as well as a certificate in international studies. I will be graduating in May 2021.

Why did you choose to participate in a semester abroad program?

I chose to participate in the AIFS Fall 2019 semester for many reasons. One of the biggest impacts on my choice to participate in the AIFS program over others was everything that it offered. From the mandatory two-week intensive language course, or to the monthly overnight and day trips, it all added to my choice to choose AIFS as my program. AIFS gives you the skills that you need to enjoy your experience and succeed from pre-departure, during your time abroad and even post departure AIFS will aid you in having the time of your life.

What did you gain from this experience?

The answer to this question can honestly be a novel in itself. However, I would say the biggest skills I gained from my experience were adaptability, stepping out of my comfort zone, a

sense of global awareness, and overall, an appreciation for the world around me and to step away from technology. Before I went abroad, I was always on my phone or my laptop, but now I have an appreciation for the world around me and appreciate spending time outdoors and just looking at what the world has to offer, even if it's somewhere I've been before or a new place to explore. I was also lucky enough to travel to over 14 countries and 20 different cities over my time abroad.

What impact has your participation in this program had on your UT experience?

Studying abroad impacted my UT experience even more than I thought it would. One of the biggest impacts it had was that I changed my major because of the experiences that I had abroad. When I got back from being abroad, I changed my major from marketing to international business and marketing. I added a certificate in international studies to my degree plan. I am also taking additional Italian courses so I can reach my goal of becoming fluent. As if that wasn't enough change, I also now serve as the vice president of marketing for the Spartans Abroad Ambassadors which allows me to spread my love for travel to so many more people!

What was your favorite memory of your abroad experience?

Choosing my favorite memory of my time abroad is no easy task, however, I would have to say if I had to choose one it would be the day that my program spent the day at the Amalfi Coast in Southern Italy. It was a perfect Saturday morning, and my cohort and I rented a boat for the day and spent it touring around the Island of Capri. It was a perfect way to see all of Capri and embrace the Amalfi culture and to be with everyone. Overall, we all had a blast, and it felt like a scene out of a movie.

What are your plans after graduation?

Going into my senior year, my plans for graduation are pretty open. I have a few options on the table as of right now, but I know wherever I land, I want to spend my time working for the tourism or travel industry.

What advice would you give to students who may be considering studying abroad?

Do it and step out of your comfort zone! Going abroad taught me so many things, but one thing it helped me with was stepping out of my comfort zone, because you never know what you're going to find outside your bubble, but I promise you, it will be worth it!

Capri, Italy



WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT MY COUNTRY | ANTIGUA

Rachel Wall

Where are you from?

I am from Antigua and Barbuda, an island-nation bordering the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

What do you want others to know about your country?

Antigua is the island of 365 beaches, with some of the most incredible food and vibrant culture in the world. We have the only working Georgian dockyard in the world—Nelson's Dockyard, a World Heritage site. On clear days, you can see neighboring islands from her shores and watch sea-life forty feet down in the clear ocean. Antigua features an incredible mix of many international cultures and a small island feel. I may be biased, but I think it's the most beautiful place in the world.

Why did you choose to attend UT?

UT offered a combination of interesting courses and great scholarships. I thought this was an opportunity to branch out and grow in a new place.

What are you involved with at UT?

I'm on the Student Conduct Board, VP of marketing for Spartan Ambassadors, and student coordinator of the Vaughn Center desk. I do research on quality-of-life communication in Stage III and IV ovarian and uterine cancer patients during chemotherapy through OURI.



View of Falmouth Harbour from my home during the dry season

Have you had any struggles as an international student and if so, how did you (or are you) dealing with them?

Adjusting to different grading and learning systems took a little bit of work. Navigating the different scholarships and administrative setups took a bit of patience at first, but asking questions at every opportunity helped me figure out what was going on. As I gained experience, it became easier to understand.

What are your hobbies outside of UT?

Gardening, swimming, and part-time volunteering at a children's care center. I'm also very interested in archaeology.

What are your professional goals after graduation?

I would love to go to graduate school and further my education. Ultimately, I would like to establish myself in a helping profession. I'm very fortunate because my experiences overseas have shown me how many different opportunities are out there in so many different places. I believe that my international jump has taught me the bravery necessary to take chances and work for the best in a variety of situations.

What campus resources have been most helpful to you as a student?

Career Services and ELITE are both excellent resources. The Speech Center

has been vital in teaching me how to present myself professionally.

What are your favorite things about Tampa? Any favorite places?

I love that Tampa has parks everywhere. People are welcoming here and willing to help. This is especially good for students who are newly arriving because there are usually resources and people willing to help.

**What advice would you give to a new international student at UT?**

Get involved with your areas of interest. Apply to every scholarship you can and ask all the questions. You never know what information or opportunities are lurking behind, "I didn't bother to ask." Also, visit Antigua. It's beautiful, diverse, and filled with delicious food.

UT Students Attend the FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The annual Florida International Leadership Conference (FILC) took place at Camp Cloverleaf, Lake Placid, FL from Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2020. The conference attracts over 180 international students and U.S. study or service abroad students from across the state of Florida. With the support of the Florida Association of International Educators, the conference is dedicated to providing a unique leadership training experience and networking opportunity for this group of student leaders. Six students were chosen to represent UT, along with International Student and Scholar Advisor Nina Johnson, and Education Abroad Advisor Lisa Ryan. The following are their stories from FILC:



From left: Blake Ryan, Carlos Rangel, Elise Gething, Hana van Loock, Zahra Wilson, Rachel Wall



Attending FILC was one of the best experiences I had this semester. It was amazing to see students from different cultures come together and connect.

The most interesting part was hearing students discuss the impact their personal experiences had on their college studies, extracurricular activities, and their future goals for impacting the world. I know the students who attended will be influential leaders of their countries or influential in their fields. The activities all had an impactful lesson to them, including succeeding at cross-cultural communication and marketing your international experiences. I can already tell that this weekend was very beneficial to my future.

— Blake Ryan, '23
Study Abroad Student, Costa Rica

My experience at FILC was highly rewarding. Not only did the conference provide an opportunity for me to meet and mingle with a very nice group of students who also want



to make a difference in the world and their community, but it also promoted better practices in leadership and sustainability in general. I was able to learn many facts about our environment and our planet that probably would not have crossed my mind otherwise. I am delighted and grateful to have been able to attend.

— Carlos Rangel, '23
International Student, Panama



I applied to go to FILC on a whim. I remembered seeing an email about applying and decided to go for it, not thinking anything would come of it.

Looking back, I can say that my split-second decision to apply is

one that I am very thankful that I made. FILC was an opportunity to not only grow my leadership skills and network with others, but it was a time where I grew in many different ways and in ways that I had never previously considered. Every second of the time that we were in Lake Placid was a time for learning and growth—whether we realized it or not. During the sessions, we were empowered and taught to be global leaders; however, outside the sessions, we made long-lasting connections with people from cultures and backgrounds that we otherwise would never have met. Each person that I was able to talk to taught me something in one way or another. Everyone was very open and welcoming to talk to about their lives and experiences which was very refreshing and eye-opening. I highly recommend attending FILC, and I am very thankful for the time that I had there.

Elise Gething, '23
Study Abroad Student, Costa Rica

I feel very fortunate that I had the opportunity to attend FILC.

This weekend allowed me to meet and connect with many students from all over the world, but I also had the chance to find out more about myself by getting out of my comfort zone. Before we got to the camp I was unsure what to expect, but the fun outdoor activities that welcomed us upon arrival immediately brought us together. I really enjoyed the workshops centered around global sustainable development and it was refreshing to be in a room full of eager, ambitious, and excited future global leaders. This weekend was much more than I could have expected, and it is amazing how FILC brings together so many students with each of our unique backgrounds and interests, who are so different and yet have so much in common. I am grateful for the new memories and friends I gained through this weekend and I am excited to see how we can change the world, one leader at a time!

— Hana van Look, '21
International Student, Germany/Japan

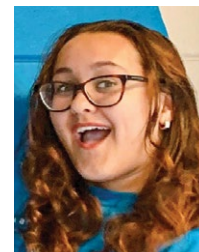


"Be the change you want to see in this world".

I think that this quote is the best way to summarize the main lessons which I learned

during this leadership conference. I am truly grateful for the University of Tampa, for granting me the opportunity to serve as an ambassador for our school. Being surrounded by a like-minded, yet diverse group of individuals during the 3 days made for a unique professional and leadership development. The crossover of different culture and innovative ideas, that constantly filled the room of the 100+ international and study abroad students forced me to think more critically about my purpose and capabilities. In addition, each session provided a great platform for me to enhance my communication and public thinking skills. Along with my new memories and friends made from this conference, my key takeaway is that change starts with me.

Zahra Wilson, '23
International Student, Bermuda



This was an extremely beneficial conference, which I think would be especially helpful for freshmen and sophomores, with juniors and seniors taking on pre-

sensation and collaboration roles. FILC was an interactive conference, with games and interactive information sessions. Students worked with presenters and functioned as presenters themselves, covering topics touching on sustainability, recycling, and leadership and scholarship opportunities. Nearly 20 universities were in attendance, with over 150 students and staff. The presenters made a point of publicly thanking the chefs and kitchen staff; this was an excellent way to demonstrate the values they spoke about, practicing what they instilled in the students.

Rachel Wall, '20
International Student, Antigua
Abroad Student, Cuba

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

Internationalization Awards and Recognition

- UT was awarded the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization in 2016 by NAFSA-Association of International Educators. UT is proud to be one of the top universities recognized for overall excellence in internationalization efforts as evidenced in mission, strategies, programs and results.
- UT was selected by The Institute of International Education (IIE) as one of 10 universities in 2018 to participate in the biannual Congreso Universidad Cuban International Education Conference in Havana, Cuba. This represented a unique opportunity to foster educational exchanges and partnerships between the two countries.
- UT was selected as one of 12 universities by IIE to participate in the 2015-2016 International Partnership Program Cuba cohort, which enhanced UT's knowledge of higher education in Cuba and comprehensive campus internationalization.
- IIE has recognized UT as an outstanding contributor toward increasing international exchange and building a globally-minded workforce here in Tampa Bay.
- UT was selected as a recipient of the Ireland-IIE Generation Study Abroad Scholarships Program, which is generously funded by the government of Ireland. It is intended for U.S. students from a broad range of backgrounds to participate in an academic, internship, or service-learning experience in Ireland. The scholarship program is intended to diversify study abroad and to encourage students to go abroad who would otherwise not participate in an international experience.
- UT is recognized by IIE as a Study Abroad Commitment Partner. By establishing this partnership and increasing scholarship support, the University is able to offer creative programming to make study abroad a possibility for even more students.



Currently only 1 in 10 college students study abroad —
UT is working to change that!

