

Midwest Study Abroad Re-entry Conference Program

Saturday, February 24, 2018

1:00-1:20 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Heininger Auditorium

Kimberly Larsson, Director of Study Abroad, North Central College

Jack Shindler, Director, Center for Global Education and Professor of English, North Central College

Opening Remarks: **Mr. Christopher Meals**, Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer, TCF Inventory Finance

1:25-2:10 PM

Concurrent Sessions #1

Session 1A: Careers in International Education

Room 5

[Some content repeated in 4B]

Kimberly Larsson, Director of Study Abroad, North Central College

Jesús Velasco, International Student Advisor, North Central College

Kayla Chepyator, CCI Program Coordinator, College of DuPage

Are you interested in pursuing a career at a university, college, or other organization as a Study Abroad Advisor, International Admissions Recruiter/Counselor, or International Student Advisor? Do you know where to start? This session will focus on what steps you need to take to obtain a position in International Education, what employers in this field are looking for, and what a career in international education *really* means.

Session 1B: Utilizing Your International Skill Set in the Business World

Heininger Auditorium

[Repeated in Session 3D]

Mr. Christopher Meals, Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer, TCF Inventory Finance

This session will discuss how to target global companies and market yourself. Chris will share his experience from 15 years of global responsibility, with multiple offices on four continents. He will include how he leveraged his international experience to successfully co-found a \$3.0B Chicago-based company with Quebec-based Bombardier Recreational Products as its largest \$1.0B + client.

Session 1C: Fulbright Grants to Teach or Research Abroad

Room 16

Heidi Nelson, North Central College alumna and former Fulbright Teaching Assistant (Argentina)

Jack Shindler, Director, Center for Global Education & Professor of English, North Central College

Have you considered applying for a fellowship to study or work abroad after graduation? If so, this session is designed to give you some ideas about how to find and apply for a prestigious Fulbright

fellowship. Heidi Nelson will share her experiences applying for and receiving a Fulbright grant to teach abroad.

Session 1D: Peace Corps: Make the Most of Your World
[Repeated in Session 2C]

Room 1

Leah Eggers, Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippines
Jennifer Kooy, Peace Corps Volunteer, Zimbabwe

We take a different approach to making a difference. If you are inspired by impact that is hands-on, grassroots-driven, and lasting, get to know the Peace Corps. Serving in the Peace Corps is a great way to immerse yourself in a new culture, learn a new language, and have the experience of a lifetime. Join us to learn more about volunteer experiences and ask questions about service.

2:15-3:00 PM Concurrent Sessions #2

Session 2A: Marketing Your Study Abroad Experience
[Some content repeated in 4B]

Room 5

Kimberly Larsson, Director of Study Abroad, North Central College

Do you know how to highlight your study abroad experience on your resumé, or to effectively bring it up during an interview? Are you familiar with the skills and experience many employers are looking for and how your time abroad matches those credentials? Learn how to market your study abroad experience successfully in both academic and professional settings.

Session 2B: Translating Study Abroad Experiences to State Department
On-the-Job Experience, *[Repeated in Session 4A]*

Heininger Auditorium

Melissa Martinez, Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest, U.S. Department of State

Through your study abroad experience, you have already demonstrated curiosity learning languages and immersing yourself in new cultures. Translate those interests and newly acquired language skills into supporting the mission of the U.S. Department of State, the leading federal government agency responsible for formulating and implementing foreign policy on behalf of the U.S. government. Come learn about the Consular Fellows Program, which offers a student loan repayment program and housing paid for while working abroad. Want non-competitive eligibility to become a permanent employee with the federal government? Come out and learn about our Pathways Program. If you have ever had an interest in working in civil service or serving your country as a U.S. Diplomat, then this is the info session you don't want to miss. The U.S. Department of State also offers a variety of student opportunities including scholarships, fellowships, and internships. Your Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest is ready to answer all your questions and help you align your skills with the best program or career choice for you!

Session 2C: Peace Corps: Make the Most of Your World **Room 1**
[Same as Session 1D]

Andrea Aguirre, Peace Corps Volunteer, Ukraine
Leah Eggers, Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippines
Jennifer Kooy, Peace Corps Volunteer, Zimbabwe

Session 2D: English Language Teaching Abroad **Room 16**

Priya Shah, English Language Institute Instructor, North Central College

This session will give an overview of teaching English as a foreign language abroad. Attendees will learn about the benefits of teaching English abroad and opportunities at North Central and locally that make them competitive for employment. Presenters will also discuss application cycles in different markets and how to evaluate potential employers. A robust list of resources will be shared, enabling attendees to further explore options relevant to their goals.

3:05-3:50 PM Concurrent Sessions #3

Session 3A: Resumés, Interviews, and Study Abroad in the Workplace **Room 15**

Stephen Kossack, Stage Manager & Theatre Technician at Silk Road Rising
Jaclyn Kwiatt, School Social Worker at Plainfield High School
Mike Palazzolo, High School Chemistry Teacher at Schaumburg High School
Stephanie Quiroz, Customer Service Analyst, ALDI US

Facilitated by: **Jaclyn Kwiatt**, Social Worker, Plainfield High School

See how our panelists used their study abroad to get a job in **your** prospective field, whether it be theatre, business, education, or social work. Attend this session to see how those in your intended profession include study abroad on their resumés and how they have addressed questions regarding their experiences abroad in their job interviews. This panel consists of four study abroad returnees from a variety of majors and backgrounds.

Session 3B: JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program: An Overview **Room 17**

Karen Ortiz-Rendon, JET alumna

The JET Program aims to promote grassroots internationalization by inviting overseas graduates to assist in international exchange and foreign language education in local governments, boards of education and elementary, junior, and senior high schools throughout Japan. It seeks to foster ties between Japanese citizens (mainly youth) and JET participants at the person-to-person level. This session provides basic information about JET: what it is, how to apply, and what to expect living and working in Japan.

Session 3C: Graduate School in the United Kingdom
[Repeated in Session 4D]

Room 16

Dana Guymon, Student Advisor and Marketing Assistant, Across the Pond

Thinking about graduate school? Why not pursue your masters abroad? This session will discuss the benefits and advantages of pursuing your graduate degree at a university in the United Kingdom by outlining the application process, reviewing the costs, and explaining how your undergraduate study abroad experience (anywhere in the world) makes you an ideal candidate.

Session 3D: Utilizing Your International Skill Set in the Business World
[Same as Session 1B]

Heininiger Auditorium

Mr. Christopher Meals, Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer, TCF Inventory Finance

3:55-4:40 PM	Concurrent Sessions #4
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Session 4A: Translating Study Abroad Experiences to State Department
On-the-Job Experience, *[Same as Session 2B]*

Heininiger Auditorium

Melissa Martinez, Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest, U.S. Department of State

Session 4B: Marketing Your Study Abroad Experience/Careers in International Education
[Combination of Sessions 1A and 2A]

Room 5

Kimberly Larsson, Director of Study Abroad, North Central College

Session 4C: Reverse Culture Shock: Adjusting to Life Back at Home

Room 1

Rachel Birkley, Current NCC Senior, Elementary Education and Spanish double major
Kevin Christensen, Current NCC Junior, Sport Management and Marketing double major
Daniella De Falco, Current NCC Senior, Entrepreneurship and Marketing double major
Ashley Keegan, Current NCC Senior, Organizational Communication major and Marketing minor

Facilitated by: **Ashley Keegan**, Organizational Communication major and Marketing minor

Are you struggling to adjust back to life at NCC after studying abroad? Have you experienced reverse culture shock? Do you know what reverse culture shock is? Hear from a panel of former study abroad returnees, now Study Abroad Ambassadors, about their stories and experiences after life abroad. Get advice on how to get involved after being abroad and how to continue making the most of your experiences. The panel will consist of returnees from a variety of majors and programs, and there will be time for questions and answers.

Dana Guymon, Student Advisor and Marketing Assistant, Across the Pond

4:45-5:00 PM	Closing Q&A and Evaluations	Heininger Auditorium
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Join us for a final question/answer session, followed by time to fill out a brief survey and conference evaluations.

Conference Booths	Heininger Lobby
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U.S. Department of State
JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching) Program
Peace Corps
Across the Pond
Center for Global Education, North Central College
General Resources and Opportunities

Conference Presenters

Andrea Aguirre is a Human Resources Professional at BathWraps, a manufacturing company that produces showers and jetted tubs. Previously, Andrea worked at the Social Security Administration and various corporate companies as a HR Professional. She graduated from Loyola University-Chicago with a MS in Organizational Development. She served in Ukraine from 2013-2014 where she was a Peace Corps Community Development Volunteer. She wrote three grants, facilitated English classes and business training, and prepared local artisans to advertise and sell their products on Etsy.

Rachel Birkley is a senior at North Central College majoring in Elementary Education and Spanish with a minor in Marketing. She studied abroad in Seville, Spain in the fall of 2016 and loved every second of it. She is involved on campus as a Study Abroad Ambassador, President of the A2D, the Education Honors Society, and a member of the Cardinal Dance Company. She highly encourages others to study abroad and see the amazing things that the world has to offer.

Kayla Chepyator is the Program Coordinator for the Community College Initiative Program at the College of DuPage. In this position, she manages a program for international exchange students who are on a one-year scholarship from the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Previously, she has taught foreign languages and held various international positions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from UW-Madison in African Languages and Literature with a concentration in African Studies.

Kevin Christensen is a junior at North Central College majoring in Sport Management and Marketing. Kevin studied abroad in China and Japan in the fall of 2016. He is a Resident Assistant in Patterson Residence Hall and a Study Abroad Ambassador.

Daniella De Falco is a senior majoring in Entrepreneurship and Marketing. Last fall, Daniella studied abroad in Milan, Italy at the Universita Cattolica. Daniella says studying abroad introduced her to a love of traveling and has inspired her to see as much of the world as she possibly can.

Leah Eggers served in the Philippines as a Youth Development Peace Corps volunteer from 2010 to 2013. After service, Leah went to graduate school in Social Service Administration and now manages youth workforce development programs at Youth Guidance. She conducts career coaching with youth in her current role and coaches graduate students through her alma mater as well.

Dana Guymon is a Student Advisor and Marketing Assistant for Across the Pond, an International Education Agency that focuses on helping students pursue full degree programs in the UK. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2015 with a BS in Strategic Communications, where she studied abroad in England during her junior year. Dana then completed her master's degree at the University of Hertfordshire in the UK with a degree in International Tourism and Hospitality Management in 2016. She is based in Denver, Colorado.

Ashley Keegan, a senior Organizational Communication major and a Marketing minor, studied abroad in Limerick, Ireland in the fall of 2016. While attending the University of Limerick, Ashley joined student-run clubs like Surf Club, Outdoor Pursuits Club and International Society. In addition to Ireland, Ashley was able to visit nine countries and made long-lasting friendships with people from around the world. A year from her return to the States, Ashley has been working as a Study Abroad Ambassador for North Central College, interning with the International Student Services Department at the College of Dupage, and working in the Center for Global Education. She hopes to leverage her time abroad and professional experience in education abroad offices to land a career in international education, so she may help other students take advantage of the many opportunities that await overseas.

Jennifer Kooy is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served as a science teacher and librarian in Zimbabwe from 1996-98. After her Peace Corps service, she moved to Chicago with her Zimbabwean cat and worked in the newswire industry for 10+ years. She subsequently earned her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree, and has worked for the Abbott Research Center (Abbott's corporate library) as the Global Content Operations Lead since 2012.

Stephen Kossak is a Chicago-based stage manager and theatre technician. A 2017 graduate from NCC, Stephen studied abroad in Vaxjo, Sweden in the fall of his junior year. Upon returning from studying abroad, his theatre career flourished, and he has since worked with a multitude of theatre companies in Chicago, and is currently working at Silk Road Rising.

Jaclyn Kwiatt is a School Social Worker at Plainfield High School in Plainfield, IL. She previously worked at The Mansion High School, an alternative school through Little Friends in Naperville, IL. Jaclyn received an undergraduate degree in History/Social Science Education from Illinois State University (ISU). As an undergraduate student, she studied abroad at the University of Leicester in Leicester, England during her sophomore year. While at ISU, Jaclyn became interested in urban education and how emotional development influences a student's academic progress. She decided to pursue a career in school social work and received a graduate degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

Kimberly Larsson completed a master's degree (MBA) in International Business and then moved to Sweden, where she worked for the American Embassy in Stockholm. From Sweden, she moved to Japan to work as a teacher with the JET program. After spending three years in Japan, she backpacked around the world for a year and a half, visiting 29 countries during that trip. She has been at North Central College for 15 years and now serves as the Director of Study Abroad. In her free time, she enjoys traveling (of course!) and doing pretty much any outdoor activity with her three young children and husband, whom she met as an exchange student in Sweden!

Melissa Martinez is the U.S. State Department Diplomat in Residence for the Midwest. Melissa is a media and communications professional with over fifteen years of international and domestic experience in the U.S. diplomatic

service. As a Public Diplomacy Officer, Melissa has spent five of her eight tours serving in a Public Affairs role. Melissa most recently served as the Diplomat in Residence for Southern California. She has also worked as Deputy Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy Mexico City, one of the largest U.S. diplomatic missions in the world, and led her team in crafting messages for one of the United States' most important bilateral partnerships.

Previous assignments include working as the Director of the Media Hub of the Americas for Latin American and Caribbean media based in South Florida. She fostered new partnerships with the academic community, civil society, and private sector in Miami and throughout the Americas to advance policy outreach for senior U.S. officials. Melissa has also worked as Press Attaché at U.S. Embassy San Jose; Policy Officer for Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America with the Bureau of International Information Programs in Washington D.C.; Consular Officer at U.S. Embassy Mexico City and Deputy Public Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Montevideo.

In 2002, Melissa received a Master's degree from Columbia University's School of International Public Affairs with a concentration in Media and Communications. Melissa is the recipient of the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship and National Security Exchange Program International Boren Graduate Fellowship. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from New Mexico State University in 1999. Melissa has received the Department's Superior, Meritorious, and Franklin Honor Awards during her tenure in the Foreign Service. Born and raised in New Mexico, Melissa is fluent in Spanish and has studied Portuguese and Italian.

Christopher Meals completed a B.S. degree in Accounting/Economics SUNY Plattsburgh. Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer and co-founder of \$3.0B subsidiary of TCF National Bank (2008), he has forty-one years of commercial lending experience including global responsibility with Transamerica and GE Capital. Chris has traveled extensively with current and past offices in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Dusseldorf, Toronto, Montreal, Monterrey and Mexico City. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, sailing, hiking and skiing with his wife and family which includes two married children and 3.5 granddaughters. An avid ocean sailor, has sailed the Mediterranean (Southern Turkey, the Greek Islands, and Ibiza), the Caribbean (BVI's) and Pacific Ocean (California, Maui and Bora Bora).

Heidi Nelson is a NCC alum, class of 2015, and recently served as a Fulbright Scholar in Formosa, Argentina, teaching pre-service teachers and in-service teachers English teaching methods. She is currently a 1st and 2nd grade Spanish dual language teacher in Schaumburg District 54. Heidi earned a degree in Elementary Education and Spanish, with a minor in English Language Learning. She studied abroad in Costa Rica (fall 2012) and Peru (fall 2013).

Karen Ortiz-Rendón is a graduate of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts and a major in Religious Studies with a concentration in Languages and Cultures. She was born in Mexico and moved to the USA in elementary school. She studied abroad as a high school student in French-speaking Belgium where she picked up her third language. Upon graduating from university, she earned a certification in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) in Egypt and then joined the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program where she enjoyed 3 amazing years as a high school teacher in the country side of Yokota in Shimane-ken. After returning to the USA in 2009, she joined a non-profit organization called National Able Network and worked as a Career Coach for 7 years assisting low-income and dislocated workers with resources and tuition assistance to confidently return to the workforce. Thanks to the JET program, she has followed her passion, leaving her successful social service position to return to teaching. As of September 2017, she is a Bilingual English Teacher at Belvidere High School.

Mike Palazzolo is in his seventh year as a high school chemistry teacher at Schaumburg High School. He studied abroad in Leicester, England in Spring 2008 and graduated from Illinois State University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Education. Mike is the Director of the Spring Musical at Schaumburg High School, is a regular attendee of ChemWest and various Chicagoland workshops on Science Education, and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Chemistry from Northeastern University. Recently, Mike was a presenter at NiSe (Northern Illinois Science Educators) conference and will be presenting at the NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) conference next month.

Stephanie Quiroz is a graduate of North Central College where she earned a BA in International Business with a minor in Spanish. She was a member of the International Club and attended various leadership conferences. She studied abroad during her senior year in Viña del Mar, Chile in the Fall 2014. She began working at an international company, ALDI US as a Bilingual Customer Service Representative. She is now a Customer Service Analyst and part of the Customer Service Quality Management team. She is hoping to work in the Corporate Responsibility Department in the future, where she can work with more international aspects of the company. She hopes to travel as much as she can this year, and in her free time she enjoys watching movies and playing soccer.

Priya Shah has been an instructor in the English Language Institute (ELI) at North Central College since July 2015. She graduated with a B.A in English Literature from DePaul University in 2002 and after spent a year teaching abroad in Alexandria, Egypt. After returning from Egypt, Priya taught ESL to 1st graders at private school in Queens, NY for 2 years. Priya went on to earn a Master's in Education in Secondary Education at DePaul University and taught English to high school sophomores and juniors for 2 years. She has over 12 years of experience teaching ESL/ELL and is excited to be teaching in the ELI. She is also teaching English courses at Roosevelt University's Chicago campus. In her free time she enjoys baking, cooking and reading.

Since 1981, **Dr. Jack Shindler** has been teaching English at North Central College, where he was hired to establish an English as a Second Language program. He has been a Fulbright Scholar/Teacher in France, taught English in Japan, led several international seminars to more than 16 countries, and established the Center for Global Education at North Central College in 1994.

Jesús Velasco is a graduate of Millikin University in Decatur, IL with a BA in Communication and Spanish. During his undergraduate years he spent a semester in Barcelona, Spain and also had the opportunity to travel to France, England, Ireland, Portugal and Chile. As a first-generation Mexican-American, he has lived in Guadalajara, Mexico and had the opportunity to backpack through Mexico in 2010. After receiving his undergraduate degree, Jesús was hired on by his alma mater, as Coordinator of International Student Services, and worked in Millikin's Center for International Education for three years. He currently serves as North Central College's International Student Advisor and recently earned his master's degree in Leadership Studies at North Central College.