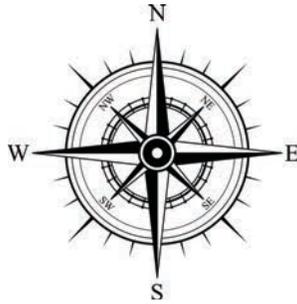

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THE GLOBAL REVIEW



A STUDY ABROAD JOURNAL



EDITOR'S NOTES

The Global Review is dedicated to chronicling and sharing the creative outcomes of student study abroad experiences through photography, creative nonfiction, poetry, and other artistic mediums. We believe that a creative lens encourages students to look more closely at the personal impacts of their studies abroad and helps them to discover new perspectives. *The Global Review* is meant to celebrate the ways that traveling fuels learning, empathy, cultural awareness, and creativity. We hope this publication encourages those who have studied abroad to further reflect on their experiences and inspires those who have not studied abroad to do so. Though the journal was founded by Southern Utah University's Office of Learning Abroad, the opportunity for publication is open to anyone who has taken part in a study abroad program outside of their home country.

The journal is published every March and September.

Interested in subscribing or submitting content? Visit our website at www.theglobalreview-study-abroad-journal.com

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Connemara Park
Katie Meyers
United States to Ireland



"My experience in Leeds allowed me to explore new cultures and new perspectives which helped me with my personal development."

- Unika Dhakhwa

*Lincoln Cathedral
Unika Dhakhwa
Nepal to the United Kingdom*

SHANGHAI

"THE DISTANT RING OF TRAFFIC AS FAR AWAY AS HEAVEN."

A thin man who smelled of mary jane
taught me a Chinese Waltz
in the streets of Shanghai.

The smooth weight of the sun
held at bay by trees whose fingers
dapple me in shade, but still, I sweat.

My red sneakers are too clumsy
and my feet can't roll through the steps.
I'm laughing even as I feel a blister forming on my heel.

The wind catches my wayward curls
As the spindly man twirls me to another
dressed all in black who smiles too wide.

He demonstrates each step with grace
spinning me through the song
my purse knocking against my hip.

There is no thought of what comes next
only the music and the distant ring of traffic
as far away as heaven.

I wish to bottle the smell of the trees
capture the glint of the moment,
the freedom of my silk scarf in the breeze.

I never thought to find myself
dancing with strangers
in the streets of Shanghai.

- Alexis Taylor
United States to China

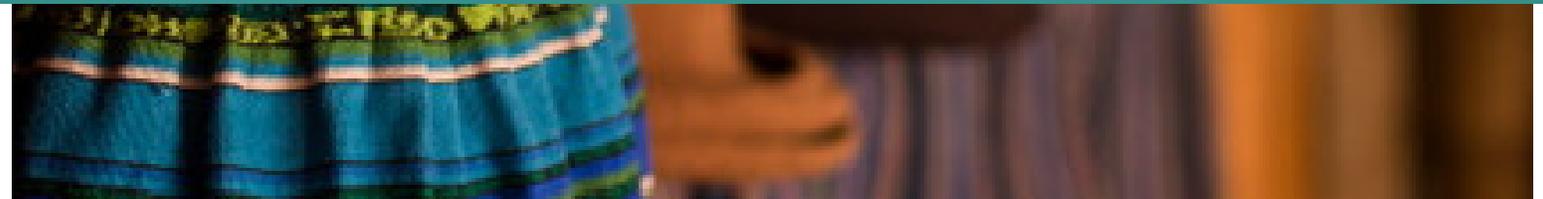
WALTZ



*A quaint village on the coast of the fjords
Brea Mullen
United States to Norway*



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?



Finally packing my bags and preparing for my study abroad trip to Guatemala made me feel so grateful for the opportunity and for all of the vacation days I accumulated at my corporate marketing job that allowed me to even go. My coworkers would say, “Only Tiff would take vacation time to study and help women entrepreneurs in a different country.” *Insert friendly eye roll.*

Since I was a child, I have been intrigued by different cultures and languages. One of my earliest memories of this was when I asked my Mom for Selena’s CD, which had more songs in Spanish than in English. My mother not only purchased that CD, but she let me sing Selena’s *Como la Flor* on repeat the whole ride home from school every day for months it seemed. She never hushed me, never “accidentally lost” the CD, and never explained to me that confidently speaking gibberish does not equate to successfully speaking a foreign language. *What a saint!*

I had always dreamt of studying abroad and was close to doing so on several occasions prior. In high school, I wanted to study abroad in France like my neighbor’s daughter who had lived in Paris, teaching English, and later returned with her French husband. I watched as her three beautiful children became trilingual, with her speaking to them in Spanish and him speaking to them in French. *Can life get any more picture-perfect than that?*

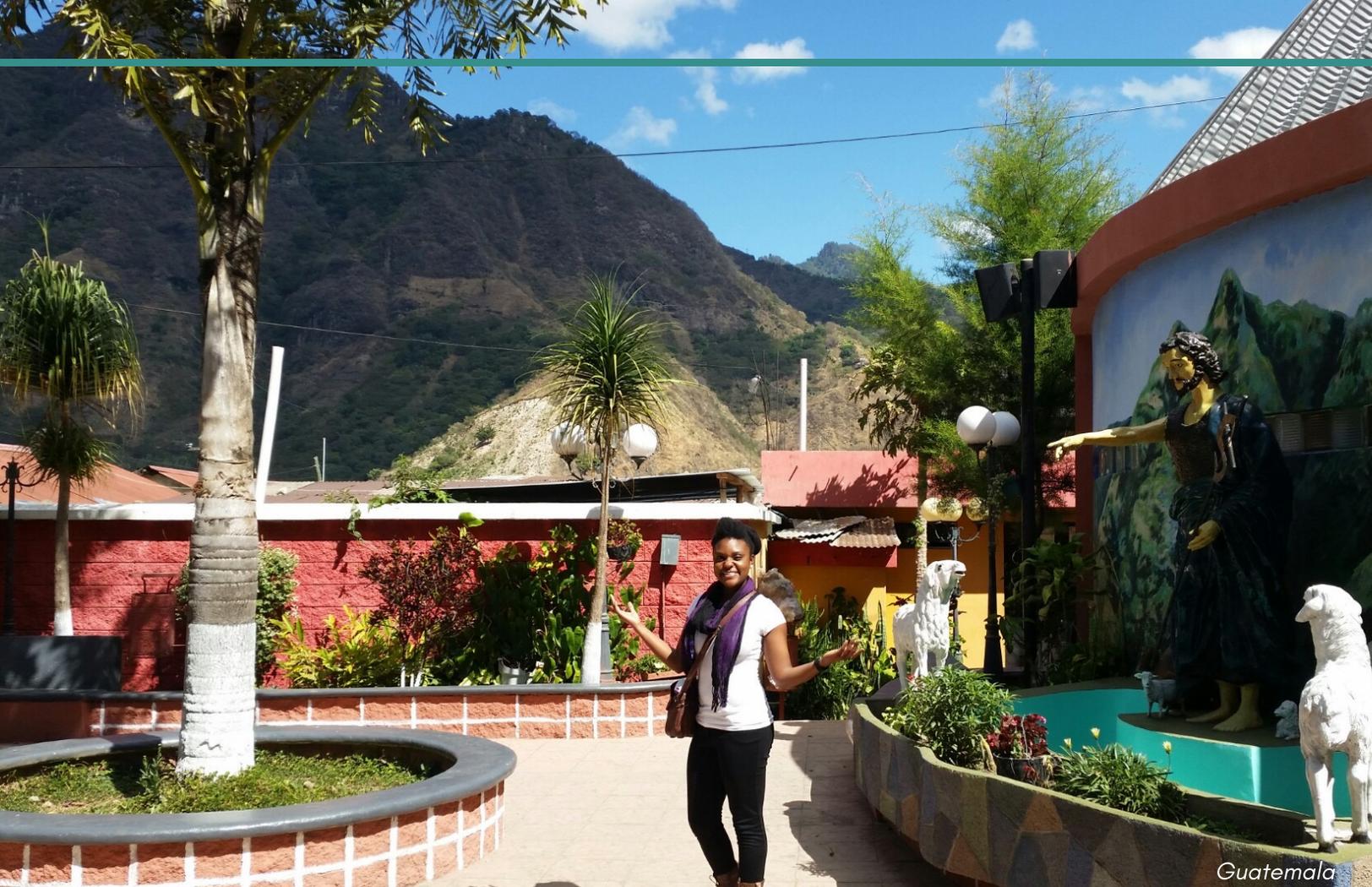
A few years later, in college, I submitted my down payment to study abroad in Paris since my French teacher encouraged me to go to France, believing I would become fluent as easily as she did. But, I had to cancel due to my family finding out

my mother was diagnosed with cancer. I was crushed, but ultimately glad I did not go, understanding timing is everything and the timing was less than ideal.

Next, I was selected for a study abroad in Germany analyzing small- and medium-sized enterprises. Some of us also planned to travel around Europe together before and after the course. However, I had to return as soon as I landed in London, our first stop, because I received the call that one of my best friends, my mom, had passed away. I hated myself because she encouraged me to go to Europe despite her illness and I eventually stopped objecting and went. Although I am grateful that she was the last person I talked to before I left, and that my last words to her were “I love you, I love you, I love you!” followed by my dramatic smooching sound, I still can’t believe that what should have been a year longer, only lasted a few more hours. As time passed, I understood why that had to happen. I understood why I could not have been there for her passing and how terribly she would have felt if I canceled the trip on her account. I understood that. If I were a mother believing I had more time, I would have insisted that my child go as well.

I came home for the funeral procession but was encouraged by some strong influences in my life at the time, including one of my mom’s best friends, to return to Europe to finish what I started just a day or two after the funeral. And I did. It wasn’t easy, but my mother would have wanted that.

In my last year of my master’s program, a group of MBA candidates and I were selected to consult in Guatemala as



a part of our marketing class. The class was taught by my favorite professor, a German professor who challenged us to think about marketing in a new way, not focusing on profit gain, but instead considering its impacts on the world, the environment, bottom of the pyramid markets, and micro-businesses. I fell in love with these concepts and felt inspired. The concept of marketing, which I explain in layman's terms as "understanding people, their needs and what makes them tick in order to best present the appropriate product that will meet their needs," came almost naturally. My professor's course made me think, "If only I could use this to do some good in the world". *Stay tuned for how that worked out for me!*

While, clearly, none of those other

"I enjoyed working with people of other cultures and navigating our differences."

studies abroad happened as planned, this trip to Guatemala was happening! I was packing and was actually going to be able to go. I did not want to jinx it and was fighting to suppress the fear that something bad might happen if I went. I would not let myself believe it was happening until I touched down and took my first step on La Aurora Airport's tile floor in Guatemala City. And I did. *I made it!*

My classmates and I worked together to teach Mayan women entrepreneurs some basic business skills, including merchandising, basic social media, pricing, and leveraging emotional appeal. The two weeks we spent there opened my eyes to marketing outside of the corporate world. I enjoyed working with people of other cultures and navigating our differences. I loved that I picked up some Spanish and I was determined to learn more. I appreciated the generosity of the *Guatemaltecos*. I was blown

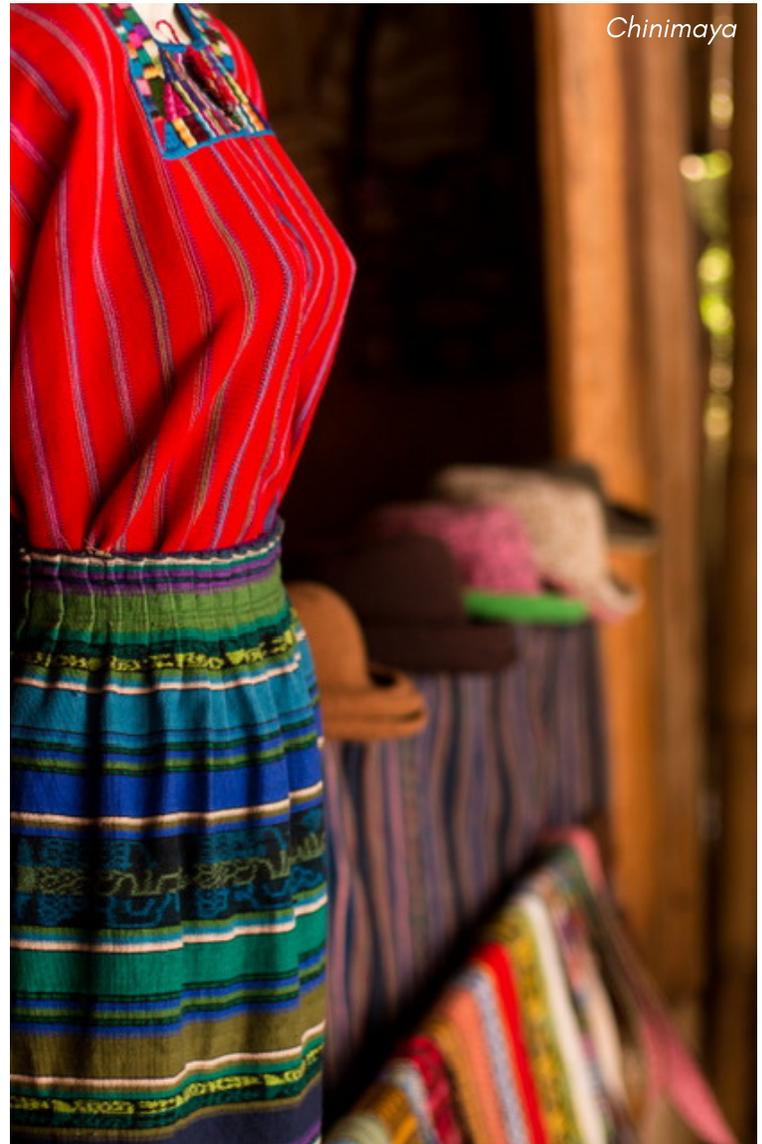
away by how people who had very little were so excited to share what they could with us foreigners, such as food, culture and dance, just to show their welcome and appreciation. I loved that even the smallest advice we offered made huge impacts on the people's standards of living. We received feedback that the women felt more confident as business owners, which was key. We wanted them to be empowered to leverage the tools and skills we passed on to them to continue in the direction of growth, which would help them better provide for their families after we would inevitably depart. Receiving Dr. Braunsberger's email that the woman who ran the local business center in the library said "you are making a real difference in the lives of these women" sealed the deal.



How could I even go back to what I was doing before when I felt passionate about something like this?

Well, we returned and, while the next year or so was filled with success at work, there was always something missing. A promotion did not help. A vacation did not help. I decided to fulfill my passions outside of work, setting goals to be fluent in French by 30 and conversational in Spanish by 35. I studied in the evenings, but it seemed impossible with so many distractions. After the loss of my mom, the constant reminder that life was short and you only live once urged me to figure out what Tiffany truly wanted to be doing for 40+ hours a week. Studying abroad showed me that my passions were more aligned with promoting education and skills development, being immersed in multicultural environments, travelling, language learning, mentoring, and so on. I realized that my study abroad experience really was wrecking my life, but for its betterment.

I decided to quit my job and figure things out. *Bold move, I know, but I'm a bold chick and I believe in making strategic YOLO's!* I returned to Guatemala for a few months to work with small-business owners and learn some Spanish. And then, I lived in France for two school years working with students while living my life immersed in the French language and culture. Now, I speak French fluently and am conversational in Spanish; both goals were well-met in advance. Not only have I studied abroad, but I have lived abroad in two different countries and I have travelled to several more. I have also found my work passion in promoting an educational experience that allows you to follow your curiosity, especially if it leads you abroad for a period. This



Chinimaya

concept brought me to the university I work at now. My life is a product of me following my curiosity; and this curiosity led me to my ultimate goal of living the life I love and loving the life I live. *Wow! I almost cannot believe how significantly my life has changed.*

Sometimes I speak out loud, as if my mother could hear me, and say, "Mom, I know you're proud, even if I would love to hear you say it again. Thanks for never shutting me up or dulling my sparkle when I sang Selena's *Como la Flor* on repeat. I may have been saying gibberish then, but every time I sing it now and actually know the lyrics, I find myself thanking you for never killing my dream that I would speak another language someday. *Mom, who would have thought I would have these amazing experiences? Who would have thought I would be the woman I am today? Did you?"*

- Tiffany Washington
United States to Guatemala

*The gate of a sheep field on a hike in England's Lake District
Brea Mullen
United States to the United Kingdom*



"These were truly the greatest months of my life and I made lifelong friends. Nothing beats a long weekend, a train ticket, and a hearty pair of waterproof boots."

- Katie Meyers



*Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon
Katie Meyers
United States to the United Kingdom*



*Stonehenge
Melissa Funk
United States to the United Kingdom*

*The river near our homestay
Ilma Qureshi
United States to Tajikistan*



River in Tajikistan

Haiku in Finland

White birds on the pier
My favorite box of fries
Seagulls claw my face

- Dayna Larm
United States to Finland

*Bird on the pier
Dayna Larm
United States to Finland*





A DOOR TO MORE DOORS

We are accustomed to the narrow understanding that education helps us become brighter students. While true, it is equally important that education should transform the individual into a better human being, while certifying us with academic credentials.

I also aspire to be more than just an intellectual scholar; as such, I live a very proactive life that allows me to engage with people from different countries, religions, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. I do this because I hope to subsequently better understand the many challenges that face the world with the hope of being able to collectively develop innovative responses to the plethora of those challenges.

I see myself becoming an innovative engineer, and also a professional who stands up for justice and fairness and who advances democratic principles of equity and inclusion. I have had many opportunities to exercise that aspiration in the US ranging from tutoring Math and English to other youth all the way to interpreting for immigrant refugee families.

"...being that person, an ambassador of an entire country, is a great honor."

Embarking with the Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study program, I initially thought that being an exchange student and representing a whole country and culture would be hard. For most people at my former high school (Southern HS in Durham, NC), I'm the first Tunisian they meet. I really enjoyed representing Tunisia to all of them. I'm pretty sure that all my classmates and teachers think of Tunisia when they think of me, and they see the country through me. So being that person, an ambassador of an entire country, is a great honor.

- Fehmi Neffati
Tunisia to the United States

CITY NIGHT IN WUHAN

"THE RIVER WHISPERS SECRETS I WISH I UNDERSTOOD."

The city lights shimmer, indistinct
in fog rolling off the briny Yangtze.
The beating pulse of the city echoes
in the ntz ntz ntz of the nightclub I just left
but below this superficial beat
a lower, deeper, rhythm courses
in the pattern of the pavestones winding
through my mind like gritty sand through fingers.
The cracks in the pavement collecting shells
washed onto shore in the swishing waves
then ground to glittering dust beneath the weight
of so many treading feet, too forgetful to notice.
But I noticed everything, the conversation
between my body, the interloper, and the night air.
The tang of crayfish still lingers on my tongue
a pleasant heat battling with the acrid haze
of each inhale. I don't remember how many steps
it took to find my way here to the bank.
I only remember the path, slipping through
alleys past glowing shops tucked inside incongruent
buildings the result of a history of invaders
treating it as home. The summer night is cold
and the river whispers secrets I wish I understood.

- Alexis Taylor
United States to China



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