The Synchronicity of Diverse Narratives
Global Stories and Lasting Connections

3rd Annual Third Culture Kids & Global Nomads Conference
Saturday, February 21, 2015
Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

Parking Information

There is ample, free parking around Clark University. TCK conference attendees may park in the Admissions lot (entrance on Maywood Street), in the lot next to St. Peter’s church (entrance on Main St), and on the upper level of the commuter section of the parking garage (entrance on Downing Street). Street parking is also available along Main, Woodland, Florence, and Maywood Streets, but please check street signs carefully for parking restrictions as some areas limit street parking to two hours. Winter parking bans may be in place on some streets.

10:00 – 10:30am Conference Registration
Tilton Hall, Higgins University Center, 2nd floor

10:30 – 11:30am Concurrent Sessions

Voices of Transition: Finding “Home at University”
Jefferson 218
Presenter: Ravina Wadhani ’15, Clark University

Institutions should have programs and policies in place to aid in the adjustment process of TCK’s into foreign institutions, to create an environment where the TCK feels a sense of “home”. This session will highlight contributors to a TCK’s sense of “home” and belonging to an institution of higher education. Furthermore it will address factors that can foster a sense of adjustment for university TCK’s who may face challenges that domestic students do not. Findings will be presented as well as voice recordings of the TCK students themselves against a slideshow of images of places our TCK’s have lived in. The presentation will examine the connections that TCKs can make in a university to understand and better aid this transition.
How Racism Helped me Adapt and Love
Jefferson 133
Presenter: Simon Escapa ’17, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Facing racism and dealing with it is one of the biggest achievements a person can make. In a world where globalization is a constant, many people face this tragic event. Racism changes people, and many learn from it. In this presentation I’m going to talk about my experience. Racism has been a major factor in my life, and dealing with it made me realize how humans, wherever we come from, are one people.

Brother/sister... But Maybe with Different Stories: TCK’s Take on Growing Up With or Without Siblings
Jonas Clark 001
Presenter: Michino Hisabayashi ’15, Clark University

The importance of family unit as the “constant” in TCKs’ constantly changing lives has been discussed before, but how about the role of siblings? How much of our personalities, interests, cultural expectations, life goals, morals, etc. come from family values, and how much of them are affected by our schooling and surrounding environments? I hope to explore these questions in this interactive session through sharing stories and making connections. Anyone is welcome to attend this session, as different perspectives always make for great dialogue.

11:45am – 12:45pm Concurrent Sessions

Where am I from? Building Connections through the Study of History
Jefferson 218
Presenter: Melina Toscani ’17, Clark University

The richly varied cultural experiences of TCKs and Global Nomads often come along with an estrangement with their passport country. This session will highlight the importance of knowing and understanding where they come from, and proposes the study of history as a mechanism to develop significant ties with their passport country and culture. Furthermore, this session also explores how the study of history can be used as the building block of identity by finding meaning in their place within the continuum of their nation and family.

Existing in the Grey Zone and Dealing with Ambiguity
Jonas Clark 001
Presenters: Sakshi Khurana ’16, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Farah Weannara ’16, Clark University

Our session will primarily focus around an inclusive discussion in which attendees can share experiences of ambiguity within their own lives and offer different perspectives. Topics will include cultural identity, ethnic identity, the need to belong, others’ assumptions, reverse culture shock, and finding ways to leverage the TCK/Global Nomad experience. Please come with an open mind and an interest to explore the multifaceted nature of life as a Third Culture Kid.
How to Connect Deeply to Others When I Cannot Stop Running Away?
Jefferson 133
Presenter: Trang Nguyen ’17, Clark University

In a group, TCKs usually are able to make friends quickly and stand out from the crowd with their interesting stories from the most exotic places on earth. However, transition from one country to another always involves loss of lasting and meaningful connections with people. We all know too well the fact that with every hello comes a goodbye. However, is there any way TCKs could work around our different and/or difficult circumstances to build intimate relationships? This session will explore some takeaways that I have learned about contributing our talents for a greater good, and how that translates to lasting friendships that benefit everyone.

12:45 – 1:45pm Lunch & Plenary Presentation
Finding Home
Tilton Hall, Higgins University Center. 2nd floor
Presenter: Steph Yiu, Founder of DenizenMag.com

My whole life I have been seeking home; a place to feel safe, a place to grow, a place to be me. But how does a TCK find 'home' when we spend our entire lives in transit and can barely answer the question 'Where are you from?' As the editor of DenizenMag.com, I have worked with dozens upon dozens of TCKs as we use stories and narratives to figure it out; What is a home? Why is it important to us? And how does this journey shape our lives, careers, and relationships?

2:00 – 3:00pm Concurrent Sessions

Alumni Panel
Jefferson 218
Panelists: Maisha McCormick ’13, Bhumika Regmi ’14, Aksheya Sridhar ’14, Clark University

This is a chance for any and all participants to ask away questions to some Clark alumni who share the TCK experience! Topics of this informal discussion may include but are not limited to: how they reflect on their undergraduate experience now, what it was like to get an internship or a job after graduation as a TCK, their life views and future goals, words of wisdom, etc.

Making the Transition into University: A Third Culture Kid’s Journey
Jonas Clark 001
Presenters: Alexandra Nesbeda, Kaitlyn Gentling, SIT Graduate Institute

Transitioning to university is never easy, particularly for Third Culture Kids who may experience added challenges. This experiential workshop is designed for students, administrators and parents. You will hear personal stories from the workshop facilitators comparing non-TCK and TCK transitions into university and also have the opportunity to share your own stories. Through hands-on activities and brainstorming sessions, we will explore the unique challenges faced by TCKs in transitioning to university as well as offer concrete tools to ease this transition.

3:15 – 4:30pm Closing Session and Social Hour
Tilton Hall, Higgins University Center


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