

Shmanners 453: Study Abroad

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[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*!

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: ... for ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: How are you?

Teresa: I'm well. I mean... I've been thinking.

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: I'm coming up on my 40th birthday.

Travis: Oh, boy.

Teresa: [hisses through teeth]

Travis: And I'm led to believe that's a big deal. I wouldn't know; I'm 29.

Teresa: [amused] Exactly.

Travis: But... that's my presage, if anyone asks.

Teresa: One of the things that I—

Travis: That's not true. I'd much rather people think I'm, like, 50.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: Honestly. You know, I wanna seem like a fixture in the universe.

Teresa: I see. One of the things that I actually truly, Travis McElroy, find that I regret not doing is studying abroad. My friend Maggie, she actually went to, like, Cambridge, and studied.

Travis: I need you to understand the amount of self-restraint that just went into *not* making a joke...

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: And if this was *My Brother*, *My Brother and Me*, or *Adventure Zone*...

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: ... studying abroad would have opened up so many jokes...

Teresa: [laughs heartily]

Travis: ... for me to make. And I didn't! I didn't do it, because this isn't that kind of show. This is *Shmanners*.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And, uh, we are adults.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And *mature*.

Teresa: Mm-hmm. I had an opportunity, actually. For a year, I went to Miami of Ohio.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Teresa: And they have a campus in Liechtenstein!

Travis: Look at you.

Teresa: I know.

Travis: But you didn't do it.

Teresa: But I didn't do it.

Travis: No.

Teresa: No... What about you? In Oklahoma, did they have any study abroad?

Travis: If there was, I don't know what it— I don't *think* so... I think it was exciting to go to Texas, you know?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That was, [feigning excitement] "Oh, Texas!" Um, no. I don't remember the opportunity ever being presented to me. If it had been, I'm pretty sure my parents would have, rightfully, kept it from me.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Um, 'cause impulse control, I don't know if you know this, isn't my strong suit.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And I remember being 18 and going to college. And at that point, you know, that was 1,200 miles away from Huntington. And even then, I was like, "I don't know what I'm doing. This doesn't feel... right. Like, I shouldn't be here on my own. There's no parents here."

Teresa: "They shouldn't let me out!" [laughs]

Travis: "There's no parents here, or anything. Nobody's telling me what to do, or how to pay for things, or what to— What's going on? This feels... wrong. Somebody's made a huge mistake."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: So the idea of a...

Teresa: "I'm but a child."

Travis: Yeah, "I'm a child." Even now, at 41, I look back at like, 18- to 22-year-old me, and I think, "Man, I'm lucky to have made it through that."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It was through sheer luck, I think, that I made it. And so the idea of being like, "And now, we'll send Travis to France," or whatever...

Teresa: Right.

Travis: There's no way! There's no way.

Teresa: Well, it's been happening for a very long time. And if you didn't know, that's what our episode is about today.

Travis: Oh, my God, what a twist. Here I was, thinking we were just having a pleasant conversation.

Teresa: [giggles] Never!

Travis: Little did I know, it was content!

Teresa: *Never!*

Travis: Is this all our relationship has become, Teresa, just content?

Teresa: ... No? That's what I should say, right?

Travis: 'Cause we *never* speak to each other, unless we're recording.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, we've talked about torus, taking a Grand Tour, before.

Travis: Yes, indeed.

Teresa: Um, and I would have to say that the idea of study abroad *is* similar to that.

Travis: Yeah, I would—

Teresa: Except... I mean, there were definitely people who went on their *Grand Tour* to learn things, right? And to go to Greece, and to see, like, antiquities, and all things like that. Um, but it was *more* of an opportunity, I think, for the men of that time...

Travis: To study a "broad," or two?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Now, it fit in there, so I...

Teresa: *Carousing*.

Travis: ... I could do it there.

Teresa: Yes. But study abroad has been around for a very long time...

Travis: Did you say "perusing"?

Teresa: Carousing.

Travis: I think it's "carowsing," but I don't *know*...

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: Now... Ooh, I was so confident!

Teresa: Did I maybe conflate two different words?

Travis: "Perusing" and "carousing"?

Teresa: Maybe.

Travis: Okay. I don't know for sure.

But I *had* assumed, when we talked about doing study abroad, that it was, like, the *evolution* of the Grand Tour to be like, "Mm, the whole reason we're supposedly sending these people to do this is to expand their horizons, and come back as more worldly, or whatever." But they're not doing that.

Teresa: Not necessarily, no.

Travis: And so now, we need to add, like, a curriculum to it.

Teresa: Right. Um... The practice - the *educational* practice, right - dates all the way back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who were known to travel to other countries to learn about different cultures.

Also, *that* kind of cultural exchange sometimes resulted in conquering...

Travis: Yeah. I remember in— Did you have, in your high school, any foreign exchange students?

Teresa: Yes, we did.

Travis: Yeah, we had, um, at least two that I remember. And one of them was named Moritz, and I remember that. And I remember one of our friends asking him if he knew - 'cause he was from Germany, and there was another foreign exchange student there from Germany at the same time.

And somebody was like, "So, you must know Mike."

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: And he was like, “No, actually. Do all Americans know each other?”

And we were like, “No. But to be fair, Moritz, you are now in the same building, in the same school, from the same country.” And, like, if I was in Germany, in a school in Germany, and there was another American studying there, I think I’d... look for them.

Teresa: You’d introduce yourself, probably.

Travis: Yeah, I’d meet them.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: But even then, that idea of like, “Yeah, we have a foreign exchange student,” but the idea of *me* becoming a foreign exchange student...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... *never* crossed my mind.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Anywho...

Teresa: Anyway.

Um, so William Hoffa, who is the author of *A History of Study Abroad*, says that all travel has educational *potential*, whatever its inspiration or purpose. What and how much is learned, however, depends greatly on how open the traveler is to what the road offers.

And I think that, I mean, that definitely covers the idea of, like, the Grand Tour, right? All the way to the idea of conquering a foreign land, right?

Travis: Yeah...

Teresa: It goes from one side to the other, I think.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah...

Teresa: Yeah.

People will often cite that Aristotle was one of the first people to ever study abroad, since he traveled all the way from Macedonia to Greece to take advantage of their schools specifically, right?

Travis: Yeah, but that dude was the first to do a *lot* of things, you know what I mean?

Teresa: That's true.

Travis: Like, but that was easy, 'cause there were only eight people at that point...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: ... and nobody had done *anything*.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: So it's like, "Yeah, man. If I had been alive then, I probably could've been the first to do some stuff, too, [resentfully] *Aristotle*."

Teresa: [amused] Right?

Travis: "Think you're so great."

And then he married Jackie Onassis...

Teresa: No—

Travis: It was wild— What?

Teresa: No, he didn't. No.

Travis: Was that a different Aristotle?

Teresa: That was a different guy.

Travis: There were more than *one* Aristotle?

Teresa: [amused] Oh, my gosh.

And once Italy and England established the first universities during the Middle Ages, traveling for education was, I mean, a status *symbol*, right? So because you were rich, you could probably afford to *do* it.

And it is believed that the first-ever student to properly study abroad was a Franciscan scholar named Emo.

Travis: Oh! Okay.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: I bet he was pretty bummed out the whole time.

Teresa: [giggles] Do you think so?

Travis: [with low energy] "Yeah, I'm studying abroad. Studying *suffering*."

Teresa: He was a scholar and an abbot who traveled from Northern Holland to study at Oxford University in 1190.

Travis: Man, Oxford existed in 1190?

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: This show... I've learned so much when we do this show, and the number one thing I've learned is that I have *no* context...

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: ... for dates. I'm excited now when I can place, roughly, something in the 1920s versus the 1940s. I get so excited about that. And if you had asked me, like, "When was Oxford established?" I would have been like, "Mm, 1750—" And I would've been so far off!

Teresa: Yeah. Well...

Travis: Ugh. I don't know anything.

Teresa: Um...

Travis: But that's not my fault! 'Cause outside of America, they had stuff way before us. We didn't get stuff until, like, the 1600s. At least as far as European settlers in America goes.

Teresa: Sure.

Travis: I also don't know... [laughs] what was in America, like, 1,000 years ago, either. I don't know anything.

Teresa: [laughing] Oh, no.

Travis: I guess— Maybe I *should* have studied abroad.

Teresa: You should've studied abroad!

The monk was said to be extremely empathetic and curious about others, which made him extremely progressive at the time. He was a very big believer in cultural exchange, and began to pave the way for studying abroad in Europe, for the next 800 years.

Travis: Nice!

Teresa: So this is— Like I said, during the Middle Ages... which was *also* a time of great wealth disparity, right?

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Uh, with food scarcity and rocketing poverty, and tough living conditions, and poor education, that meant that travels...

Travis: Yeah, but baby, we're talking about the Middle Ages.

Teresa: [amused] Ah!

That meant that travel, especially for something as considered frivolous as, quote, "educational travel," was reserved for the elite, like I said.

Travis: Like when you're like, "Yeah, I'm gonna go study abroad," and your mom's like, "We have books at home."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Right? *That* kind of feeling, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah. Emo was a monk, but he was actually quite high born, right? So he had money to study in England, and also France. Um...

Travis: Sorry. One last joke, and then I promise, then I'll focus. I know I've interrupted a lot.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: But you know what you call a monk with money?

Teresa: What?

Travis: Monkey.

Teresa: [amused] Ahh!

Travis: Was that even a joke? I don't even know. I don't even know if that *counts* as a joke. Anyway, go on.

Teresa: I mean, "monk" with money... Money, monk. Monkey.

Travis: I mean, yeah, you understand where it *came* from.

Teresa: Intellectually, it has the makings of a joke.

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, it's like if a robot wrote a joke.

Teresa: [laughs]

So next comes the European Renaissance.

Travis: Okay. This was a big deal.

Teresa: Yes. During the 1400s and 1500s, travel started to be much easier, and you didn't actually have to be, like, nobility to do it, which is great. This is when it became the *thing*, as a great thinker and a scholar, to travel to different countries to share your ideas with other great thinkers and scholars.

Travis: Which makes complete sense. When you think about collaboration...

Teresa: Yeah! Totally.

Travis: And, like, especially during a time where there was no, like, fast communication between anywhere...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... the idea of being able to say, like, "Hey, I'm working on this thing," and it not being like, "I'm gonna steal that idea," but more so of like, "That makes me think about this thing." Or "Let's work on it together," or...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: "Can I help you?" and answer any questions you have, then... you know, [boost?] that.

Teresa: And because of the printing press, you could take your scholarly pursuits *with* you, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So that was pretty cool.

And when we think of these great thinkers during the Renaissance, that's certainly one side of this coin, right? Because travel was made a lot easier, but because travel was made a lot easier, also... war could happen easier.

Travis: Oh. See, I assumed you were gonna say disease spreading.

Teresa: I mean, sure.

Travis: That'll do it.

Teresa: That also happens with war.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, and so—

Travis: [ironically] Man, I'm starting to think, this "war" thing...

Teresa: [giggling]

Travis: ... isn't all it's cracked up to be. [sarcastically] Huh!

Teresa: Yeah. And so Napoleon, especially...

Travis: I've heard of him.

Teresa: You have?

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: You have. You have, yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Uh, Napoleon really took advantage of this, right? He was a big culprit in trying to attempt to unite all of Europe into one giant France.

Travis: Yeah. I've heard about this, uh-huh.

Teresa: And not only that, but xenophobia also put a damper on cultural exchange, because "Let us show you how the world works," right? "These puny people need us to rescue them," type ideas, right, also made it so that traveling for education became kind of frowned upon.

Travis: Yeah. Because, especially if you were having to get any kind of documentation or whatever to allow you to do it, the idea of going to, like, the government leaders, and being like... "To learn more, I need to go somewhere else."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And them being like, "Mm, nuh-uh!"

Teresa: Or, how—

Travis: "We know it well!"

Teresa: Right. Or "How dare these people come here, and tell *me* what they think *I* should know."

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Totally.

Travis: In history, *and* in life, the idea of somebody thinking they know everything they need to know and judging others for trying to share knowledge with them... Those aren't good people, in my experience.

Teresa: Mmm! Okay. Great. Let's hear a word from a sponsor...

Travis: [gasps]

Teresa: ... before we talk about post-Napoleonic wars.

Travis: Let's do it.

[theme song plays]

[ads begin]

Travis: Teresa? *Shmanners* this week is brought to us by a sponsor named Storyworth.

Teresa: Yes! And if you want to make Mother's Day extra special this year...

Travis: And you *should*.

Teresa: ... you should give her a unique, heartfelt gift that would truly make her feel loved, *such as*...

Travis: A giant diamond.

Teresa: ... No.

Travis: The world's biggest— We're going to plot a heist to steal the Hope Diamond for *your* mom, listener.

Teresa: [giggles]

Travis: *You're* an accessory, now.

Teresa: How about...

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: ... a family story?

Travis: Okay, I think that will be actually easier to get than the Hope Diamond.

Teresa: Certainly. Storyworth will make it easier, because each week, Storyworth emails your loved one a memory-provoking question that will help you get to questions like, "Did you ever get in trouble in school?" or "How did you decide how many children to have?"

I remember doing a dance research project in school. And I was able to talk to my grandmother, who actually went to, like, swing dances in the '40s.

Travis: Oh, my God, yes!

Teresa: And I learned that *she* got to dance to Count Basie, and his orchestra.

Travis: That's incredible.

Teresa: So cool!

Travis: And let me tell you: not to get too serious and maudlin for a moment, but my mom passed away when I was 21. And one of my *biggest* regrets is I knew her as a mom, right, and a wife to my dad. But I regret— I never had the chance to, like, *know* what she was like...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... as a person, you know? And all of the stories I have of, like, my mom in her teen years and stuff is from my dad, or from her relatives. And the idea of, like, having stories directly told by my mom...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Memories like that are precious, and the chance to get them are precious.

Teresa: And with Storyworth, all your loved one needs to do is respond to that email with their story. It could be long, or short - whatever it is, they can record it, even over the phone, for Storyworth to transcribe.

And after a year, Storyworth compiles your loved one's stories and photos that they provide them into a beautiful, keepsake, hardcover book that you'll be able to share, and revisit for generations to come!

Travis: *And* making your parent, or whoever you're getting this for, feel like a published author. Which is...

Teresa: That would be cool.

Travis: ... everyone's dream!

Teresa: [giggles] So give all the moms in your life a unique, heartfelt gift you'll all cherish for years with *Storyworth*! Right now, save \$10 dollars on your first purchase when you go to storyworth.com/shmanners. That's storyworth.com/shmanners to save \$10 dollars on your first purchase.

Travis: What's *your* story worth?

Teresa: Ooh!

Travis: That's not— That's not their tagline, but...

Teresa: But it could be!

Travis: Yeah.

[groovy music plays in background]

Host: If you like too many podcasts, you'll love *Sound Heap with John-Luke Roberts*. It's got clips from all your favorite podcasts, such as *Diary of a Tiny CEO*...

Speaker 2: [high-pitched] "Sprague, tell me how you make your money!"

Speaker 3: I go to the beach, and I steal people's towels.

Speaker 4: Remember armor.

Speaker 5: Remember the trend of everyone whacking themselves on the head with hammers and mallets, when they wanted to lose weight?

Host: ... and Elton John's lobby songs.

Elton: I'm here today with Kiki Dee! Hello, Kiki Dee!

Kiki: Hello, Elton...

Host: There's dozens of episodes to catch up on, and brand new episodes going out *right now*. So, if you want far, far, *far* too many podcasts, then look for *Sound Heap* on Maximum Fun. Boop, boop!

[music ends, ad changes]

Caroline: Alright. We're over 70 episodes into our show; let's learn *everything*. So let's do a quick progress check. [clicking sound]

Have we learned about quantum physics?

Tom: Yes, episode 59.

Caroline: [writing sounds] We haven't learned about the history of gossip yet, have we?

Ella: Yes, we have! *Same* episode, actually.

Caroline: [writing sounds] Have we talked to Tom Scott about his love of rollercoasters?

Tom and Ella: [simultaneously] Episode 64.

Caroline: [writing sounds] So how close are we to learning everything?

Ella: [groans] Ergh, bad news. We still haven't learned *everything*, yet.

Caroline: Aw!

Tom: [shouting] We're *ruined*! [laughs]

Ella: No, no, no! It's good news, as well! There is still a *lot* to learn!

All: [simultaneously] Woo-hoo!

Ella: I'm Dr. Ella Hubber.

Tom: I'm regular Tom Lum.

Caroline: I'm Caroline Roper. And on *Let's Learn Everything*, we learn about science *and* a bit of everything else, too.

Ella: And although we haven't learned everything...

Caroline: Yet!

Ella: ... I've got a pretty good feeling about this next episode.

Tom: Join us every other Thursday, on Maximum Fun.

[ads end]

Travis: Okay. So Napoleon? [making fart noise] Pbbt, he's out.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Now, we are... post Napoleon, so things were *good*?

Teresa: Yeah! They were.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: They were a lot better. For example, Swiss Ambassador Emmerich de Vattel urged in 1754 that, quote, "The exchange of professors among various nations was an essential move toward lasting peace."

Travis: *Yeah.*

Teresa: Yeah! "The peace and security of each nation is dependent upon the peace and security of all," he argued. Which I think is true.

Travis: Yeah, man! Kind of hard to argue with that one.

Teresa: Um, there's also a French educator named Marc-Antoine Jullien who would agree with him. Um...

Travis: What a good French name too, right?

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: Powerful.

Teresa: In 1792, the teacher wrote to King Louis the... let's see, XVI. That is 10...

Travis: 16.

Teresa: 16. XVI, demanding the creation of a worldwide commission of education. Julien wanted to see a council made up of educational associations from various European states, where everyone could share ideas and grow relationships with educators all across the continent.

Travis: Listen, folks. It's the closest we get to, like, a high council of wizards.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: To get a bunch of professors together. *Everyone* should be in favor of this.

Now, should they be required to dress like wizards? And yeah, absolutely.

Teresa: And grow beards, like wizards?

Travis: Well, yeah, if they're able to! And for anyone who's not willing to wear a fake beard, that's fine.

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: I'm just saying that the idea of if, like... You know, permanent records aren't a real thing. But if you got in trouble at the highest level in college, and you had to face the high council of professors in a castle...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... on top of a craggy hill, overlooking the ocean...

Teresa: Mm!

Travis: I think that everybody would maybe behave a little bit better in college! I'm just saying.

Teresa: Not to mention, it'd be very picturesque.

Travis: It would be so cool! Come *on*!

Teresa: Not to be left behind, United States also started to cultivate their own relationship with studying abroad.

Travis: I love, by the way: just in the phrasing of that...

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: ... you've basically summed up the only time when America does care about education.

Teresa: Mm. Not to be left behind.

Travis: "Well, we don't wanna look bad..."

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: "We don't wanna be the *worst* one."

Teresa: In the 1830s, the University of Georgia hosted the country's first-ever international student, a Greek man from Ipsara named John Diomatari.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: He graduated in 1835, and used his experiences in both countries to serve as US Consul in Athens, Greece!

Travis: Well, there you go! Studying abroad eventually leads to a position in government; that's what we're learning. One for one.

Teresa: One for one, [giggles] always. [laughing]

Travis: Probably, I don't know.

Teresa: Okay. So 40 years down the road, we're up to 1879.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And the first *consistent* Global Exchange Programs come from a very unlikely place! Indiana University.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I mean...

Travis: Huh.

Teresa: *You* may not think of a Midwestern, like, university being a breeding ground for international education, but you would be wrong!

Travis: No, listen, I actually do. Because in a twist, like, it's one of those things where I think about it, I'm like, "Okay. What kind of university wants to set themselves apart by being like, 'We're in the elites now'?"

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: As a Midwestern one, being like, "What can we do? Let's get wild with this thing."

Teresa: It was university sanctioned, but it took place over summer break. They called them [giggles] summer tramps... [bubbles into laughter]

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: [laughing]

Travis: That's also a good way to make sure that you only get people who are *really* committed...

Teresa: That's right.

Travis: ... to, like, studying abroad. And be like, "It's over summer."

And like 90% of the people are like, "Oh, okay. Yeah, never mind. I could just *go there* during the summer, if I wanted to."

Teresa: Um, this included opportunities to travel to Switzerland, France, England, Germany, *and* Italy over the summer holiday. And there were lots of different classes tailored to each country.

It was so wildly popular that the professor, named David Starr Jordan, would eventually become president of the university.

Travis: Okay!

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: So starting a studying abroad program at your university...

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. More direct lines to the top.

Travis: ... means that you get to be president of the university. Okay!

Teresa: Graduates of Princeton University...

Travis: I've heard of that one.

Teresa: ... mm-hmm - were also creating their university's first fellowship program. But instead of sticking strictly to *Europe*, they also included parts of Asia as well, including China. The trip was supported by the local YMCA chapter, and allowed its students to experience China at the turn of the 20th Century.

Travis: Cool.

Teresa: Very neat.

Travis: I would do that.

Teresa: You would?

Travis: I mean, at this point... I would travel anywhere. I like the idea of it.

It's the question of two things: one, can I bring my family with me?

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: Which... I don't know how studying abroad works, but I don't think that's part of it. And two, would my children even remember that we went there? 'Cause they're five, and eight.

Teresa: Oh, yeah.

Travis: And they might vaguely remember this point, but for anyone who's flown on a long flight with kids that age...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: ... there's a cost-benefit analysis...

Teresa: Definitely, yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yes. Um, one of the next big touchstones of life in the *world* would be The Great War, or World War I.

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: And it took quite a toll on the planet. And obviously, it was felt that greater understanding between nations would be essential to move forward, for the rest of the 20th Century. So in 1919, the Institute of International Education was established by Nobel Prize winners Nicholas Murray Butler and Stephen Duggan.

Travis: See, this dovetails a lot too, because we've talked - even though it predated The Great War, but we talked about, like, the world expos, right?

Teresa: Right, yeah.

Travis: But that idea of trying to combat international strife and war and stuff, and sharing culture, sharing education... And being like, "If we can *all* kind of see this as an interconnected organism, instead of separate entities fighting against each other..."

Teresa: Yeah. They launched, in 1923, America's first officially academically-accredited study abroad program at the University of Delaware!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: One of the people who championed it was a professor of modern languages at the University of Delaware named Raymond W. Kirkbride.

And he had special interests, because he was also a veteran of the first World War. He had seen the horrors of war firsthand, serving in France, but also while he was serving, he truly enjoyed getting to know the French citizens that he met along the way. So in 1921...

Travis: Probably would've rather done it under different circumstances...

Teresa: Probably.

Travis: ... hence the studying abroad cultural exchange idea.

Teresa: Exactly. Exactly.

Travis: Yeah. Oh, man! I bet, too, if you think about, like... Once again, I'm not an anthropologist. But I bet, like, that idea of "Why should the only time most of these young men get to be abroad..."

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: "... is when they're, like, at risk of dying at war?" They should have the opportunity to experience this in a way that, like, isn't traumatizing.

Teresa: Exactly! Exactly.

So in 1921, he pitched to the university that he'd like to take some juniors to France to study, and by 1923 his program came to life when eight students embarked in a six-week journey to France. And it became a full-fledged program much after that. So several other schools would take this as kind of a blueprint, right, to develop their own international programming.

The 1920s really boasted a big influx of students hungry for travel, even though at the time, a lot of the programs were summer only. And they mostly just went to Europe. Um...

Travis: And, I have to assume, mostly men?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Probably mostly men. People were really...

Travis: Mostly white men?

Teresa: Mm...

Both: Yeah.

Teresa: People were—

Travis: Uh, affluent white men, [laughs] I have to assume?

Teresa: [giggles] Yes. People were really jazzed about it!

Travis: 'Cause it was the '20s!

Teresa: 'Cause it was the '20s.

Travis: And they were jazzed about everything.

Teresa: [laughs]

So, they wanted to make it easier for people to do it, so they convinced the United States government to offer a new form of nonimmigrant visa for international students, in order to make it easier for non-American scholars to come and study with *us*, too, right? So [crosstalk] like...

Travis: Yeah, student visas. I've heard about this.

Teresa: ... *exchange* business, right?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Teresa: So it's not just— In the 1920s, it's not just us going everywhere. It's people coming here, too.

And the Immigration Act of 1921 made that easier for people to come and educate themselves in the US!

Travis: And it was awesome. Everyone agreed.

Teresa: E— Everyone agreed. And understandably...

Travis: I bet there were people who didn't agree, but those people were bad.

Teresa: [chuckles softly]

Travis: And I don't care about them.

Teresa: [sheepishly] Understandably, World War II put another kind of damper on it...

Travis: Aw, man! I didn't even see that one coming!

Teresa: Aw, sorry...

Travis: I bet a lot of people were surprised by World War II.

Teresa: You think so?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um—

Travis: It's the sequel no one asked for!

Teresa: [laughs]

So although things quieted down during the war, *after* there was a really good bounceback. Especially with Franklin Roosevelt expanding travel opportunities for teachers and students, right?

Travis: I think once again, you have to imagine, though. There was this, like... Suddenly, international things are on *everyone's* mind.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Right? Everybody is thinking about these countries that, for the average American, were like, "Yeah, I know they exist, or whatever; I've read about them in books. But they might as well have been Narnia," right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: As like, "Yeah, it's cool."

And then, the day-to-day events that are happening over there are having an effect on us, and vice versa. And it starts to feel very connected: you have people coming home from the war, telling stories about, you know, their time spent...

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: ... overseas. And you're like, "Well, that sounds kinda cool... Except for the war part."

Teresa: Right. During FDR's administration, they even repurposed troop transport vehicles as a way to send American exchange students to Europe...

Travis: Awesome.

Teresa: ... ferrying people to leisure, instead of war!

Travis: *Awesome*. More of that.

Teresa: Our next big touchstone...

Travis: Take kids to school in a tank, instead of buses.

Teresa: No...

Travis: Okay, but if *one* kid got to do it. If you set up...

Teresa: If *one* kid got to do it, you'd have to do it for everyone!

Travis: If you set up a sweepstakes at a school, and you were like, "Whoever sells the most candy bars this year or whatever, on the last day of school, gets to be dropped off at school in a tank," your school would sell so *many* candy bars.

Teresa: It's true.

Travis: The kid doesn't get to drive it.

Teresa: Oh.

Travis: That's important.

Teresa: Oh, gosh.

Travis: That would be irresponsible.

Teresa: [feigning relief] Oof! Yes.

Travis: Irresponsible.

Teresa: I was worried.

The next big touchstone for study abroad happened in 1946 with the Fulbright Program. Today, more than 200,000 students have participated in this country across 150 countries.

Travis: I've heard about, like, being a Fulbright scholar.

Teresa: Yeah! I have, too, absolutely.

Travis: Mostly in TV shows I watch, where there's a super smart character, and someone's like, "I hear they were a Fulbright scholar." And as far as I knew, it was made up for TV shows...

Teresa: Oh!

Travis: ... so it's exciting to learn that it was real.

Teresa: Um, today, according to the Nebraska Department of Education, a whopping 96% of students said that their studying abroad increased their self-confidence, and had a lasting impact on their worldview.

A mindblowing 98% of students who studied abroad *also* reported that their experience outside of their own country helped them better understand their own cultural biases, and how they may play out in their everyday lives.

Travis: So it's almost like expanding people's horizons...

Teresa: Yeah! Mm.

Travis: ... make them more empathetic, more intelligent, more emotionally intelligent, more aware of the bubble that they might've lived in before that. And so, like, studying abroad, would *you* say, is a good thing?

Teresa: I would!

Travis: Okay, great. Got it.

Teresa: So, Fanners, before you pack your bags, here are some tips!

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Before you go, really research your program and how they interact with the communities that they'll be visiting. Because not all study abroad programs are not created equal.

Let's talk about some red flags. Does your program use the words "mission trip..."

Travis: Mm.

Teresa: ... or “there to help the *poor*...”

Travis: *Mm.*

Teresa: ... in their literature? Those are red flags, like I said. Um...

Travis: “Listen, there’s nothing wrong with helping people!” But *usually*, then you’re going in, and you’re like, there to... you know, feel good about the thing you’re doing, and treat it like, [condescendingly] “You need *us* here to help *you*.”

It’s not really a cultural exchange at that point...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: ... so much as you’re rolling up, being like, “Let us fix your life!”

Teresa: Green flags are if your program focuses mostly on visiting cultural monuments, and interacting with local community initiatives! Like I said, green flags.

In addition, you should try and learn at least a few phrases in the local language! I mean, you don’t *have* to be fluent in French to study abroad in France, but it will make things a lot easier for you, and it will probably go a long way towards ingratiating you *to* the people you are trying to interact with.

Travis: Plus, if you...

Teresa: If you know a few things to say, like “hello,” and “thank you,” and “please,” right?

Travis: And if you’re ever gonna get a chance to do it, immersion is often the best way to learn a new language. So don’t waste the opportunity. And I think, in general - take it from me, a 41-year-old person who looks back on

college, thinking, "I should've focused more. There are things I could've learned that would really help me now."

Teresa: Mm.

Travis: And so if you're gonna go to study abroad, take as much advantage of it as a cultural enrichment program, and not as, like, a chance to party in a different country.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Listen, have fun. Do that stuff. But you're *there* to, like, soak in as much as you can, expand your horizons, and see a part of the world you might never get to experience, and people living differently than how you normally see it.

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: Take advantage of that.

Teresa: Another idea is that if you are a member of a minority group of any kind, AKA not a straight, cis, white male...

Travis: *And* affluent!

Teresa: ... and affluent, make sure that you do your research on anything you might have to adjust, before visiting a new place. We wanna make sure that you are safe wherever you go, and so there may be expectations for you to dress differently than you normally do, or things that you should or should not do in public in order to keep you safe.

Travis: I would say, along those lines - I'm trying to think of the best way to phrase this, but if there were cultural norms in the place you're going to, right? Like, there are many countries that have restrictions of, like, how women should dress.

Teresa: Certainly.

Travis: Right? And if *you* look at that, and you're like, "Well, I'm not gonna do *that* when I go there," maybe choose a different program.

Teresa: Mm-hmm!

Travis: Or don't do that, don't do that program. If there is a cultural expectation there that you don't plan on committing to, then maybe it's not for you.

Teresa: Exactly.

Um, here's a good idea: Do a little Googling of "What I wish I knew before visiting `blank.'"

Travis: I do that before anything. I did it before we went on the JoCo Cruise.

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: I was like, "What I wish I knew before I went on a cruise..." All kinds of stuff.

Teresa: It is a fount of information. It will help you with things like tipping customs, and personal space etiquette, and how people like to dress in the city. There's different blogs that you can look at, and... I mean, if I could throw a stone without hitting some sort of, like, travel Insta influencer or whatever, it would be too soon.

Travis: Why are you throwing stones around, at influencers?

Teresa: [wheezing laugh] Just to say that is very close.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: They're everywhere.

Travis: So you're not even trying to.

Teresa: [holding back laughter] I'm not even trying to hit one.

Travis: You're just picking up a stone, and kind of chucking it over your shoulder, and then you hear, "Ow!"

Teresa: "There they are." [laughs]

Travis: "Oh, not again!"

Teresa: "There they are."

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: "Taunting me, with their trips everywhere."

Travis: So you *are* throwing stones at them.

Teresa: [laughing] Very small, light stones.

Travis: Okay. Alright.

Teresa: Okay.

Also, here's a tip: if you're going for longer than two weeks, maybe pack a few of your favorite shelf-stable snacks from your home country. It sounds silly, but a taste of home can go a *long* way toward combating homesickness, or travel ennui, or you know, just... feelings. You might need—

Travis: Yeah. You need to find feelings, or food. It works.

Teresa: [laughs] You might need a familiar food to help you with your feelings.

Um, another one - thank you, Alex - keep a pack of tissues on you at all times, if you are not familiar with bidets.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Teresa: Because a lot of people around the world use water to clean themselves after using the toilet, and the United States is actually kind of an outlier for using...

Travis: Way *behind*.

Teresa: [rushed] Ha, ha, ha.

Travis: Thank you.

Teresa: ... toilet paper.

Make sure, while you're there, to respect the local culture. We talked about that. And, you know, make sure that you remember that you're a visitor, right? There's a kind of reverence that you should have about you: not complaining about things you don't understand. Not getting frustrated, people, if you have a difficult time communicating. Not, like, talking about how the food where you're from is better, or whatever. Right?

To that effect, search within yourself, and figure out the difference for you between something that makes you uncomfortable in a *good* way and something that makes you uncomfortable in a *bad* way.

Travis: Yeah. Something that feels like pushing yourself, and expanding...

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: ... versus, like, "Oh, I hate this."

Teresa: Exactly. That's gonna serve you very well, abroad.

And, be mindful about the way that you talk about your home country, right? People will want an *exchange* of information, and so be mindful, right?

Travis: And be mindful that other countries might have some opinions about your home country right now...

Teresa: Yeah...

Travis: ... that you might have to come face-to-face with.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Brace yourself for that.

Teresa: Brace yourself for *that*. I would always say, eat everything.

Travis: Oh, well, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: In general.

Teresa: Eat everything. The people who live there eat that, and so it's fine to eat. You know what I mean?

Travis: My going rule is if there's a food, and a large number of people eat it somewhere on a regular basis without dying, I will eat it.

Teresa: [giggles] Uh, try and keep a journal, if you can. You're there to, you know, study, and make memories.

Travis: Or a photo journal, if you don't feel like writing stuff down all the time.

Teresa: Oh, that would be cool, right? That'd be really cool. And it is recommended that you use the buddy system, so make a friend in your program, and hang out with them.

Travis: And speaking of buddies, we wanna say thank you to our buddies: Rachel, who is our editor, without whom we cannot make the show. Thank you to Alex, our researcher, without whom we could not make the show.

And thank you to *you* for listening, buddies! We *could* do the show without you, but we'd be [sadly] so lonely...

Teresa: Aww!

Travis: Aww. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: We always thank Brent “brentalfloss” Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found.

Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run *Facebook* group, Shmanners Fanners. If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans of the show, go ahead and join that group today.

Travis: Make sure to check out McElroyMerch.com. We’ve got some new stuff, including a flaming, raging, but not poisoning, *tea* that’s on there that we’re doing.

Teresa: Ooh!

Travis: A non-caffeinated tea. And a Plato’s Rave Puzzle that’s gonna be on there starting May 1st, which I think— Yeah, it’s May 2nd, now, when you’re hearing this.

And, if you *are* listening to this May 2nd: tomorrow on Saturday, we’re going to be in Huntington, West Virginia at the Harmony House Ren Faire, so come see us there, and say hi.

And I think that’s gonna do it for us! Yeah? Yeah. Join us again next week.

Teresa: Oh, I forgot...

Travis: Oh!

Teresa: ... that if you have topic suggestions, or questions, or idioms, send them to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alex, who reads every one.

Travis: Okay. Now, that’s *really* gonna do it for us. Join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*.

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it.

[theme song plays]

[acoustic sting]

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