

### FINAL TO-DO LIST WHILE ABROAD

- ✓ Take last minute photos.
- ✓ Give your email, phone number, or address to the ones you met.
- ✓ Maintain communication with the people you met, even if it's through Facebook. Unlike some people back home, they will be able to understand exactly what you went through, and are the ones you will most likely be able to relate with in the future.
- ✓ Say goodbye the way the culture does.
- ✓ Be aware of the importance and challenges of re-entry.
- ✓ Make a list of all of the qualities or characteristics of your host culture that you hope to take home with you.
- ✓ Record as much of your everyday life as you can; especially those ordinary places, people, and things you want to remember. This can include everything from collecting photographs (film, digital, VCR), to buying popular music CD's, local handicrafts, postcards of your favorite places, or even learning to cook a dish you like.
- ✓ Make peace with the situation. Make sure you do everything in your power that last week to accomplish anything you didn't have a chance to do at that point. If you leave with no regrets, then no matter how sad you are, you will be able to leave knowing the experience you had, the things you learned, and the friends you made, will have changed your life forever.
- ✓ Buy souvenirs and gifts before you get to the airport.
- ✓ Use your coins as they will not be converted to US Dollars at the exchange counters.
- ✓ Don't leave with regrets. Visit the city or church you wanted to see, buy the shirt you looked at every day, talk with a random person... Anything! Just don't come back home and think *I wish I would have...*

### PACKING VS. SHIPPING

- ✓ Pack as much as you possibly can that the airline allows. If needed, pack a second suitcase and pay the fee. Shipping is expensive.
- ✓ Shipping: educate yourself of what is allowed to be shipped in and outside of your host country prior to shipping. Otherwise your belongings can be kept from you.

### UNDERSTANDING REENTRY

- ❖ Reentry is unique
- ❖ It's okay to be happy to go home
- ❖ You may miss your host culture at random times
- ❖ Transitioning back to the U.S. may be simpler than you imagined
- ❖ Be patient with your friends and family (time did not stop for them while you were abroad)
- ❖ Adjustment to the U.S. is different from adjustment back to Marietta College