

# *Sounds Cool! But...How Do You Know?*

**A Ship in the Harbor is safe, but that is not what Ships are built for.**



# ***Sounds Cool! But...How Do You Know?***

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# What do we want?



- Do we want programs in less traditional destinations?
- Do we want programs that offer field research, internships, and other hands-on academic experiences?
- Do we want programs that offer robust community engagement?
- Do we want programs that allow students to have a local, integrated experience abroad?
- Do we want our students to be as safe as possible while doing all of the above?

# How do we know?

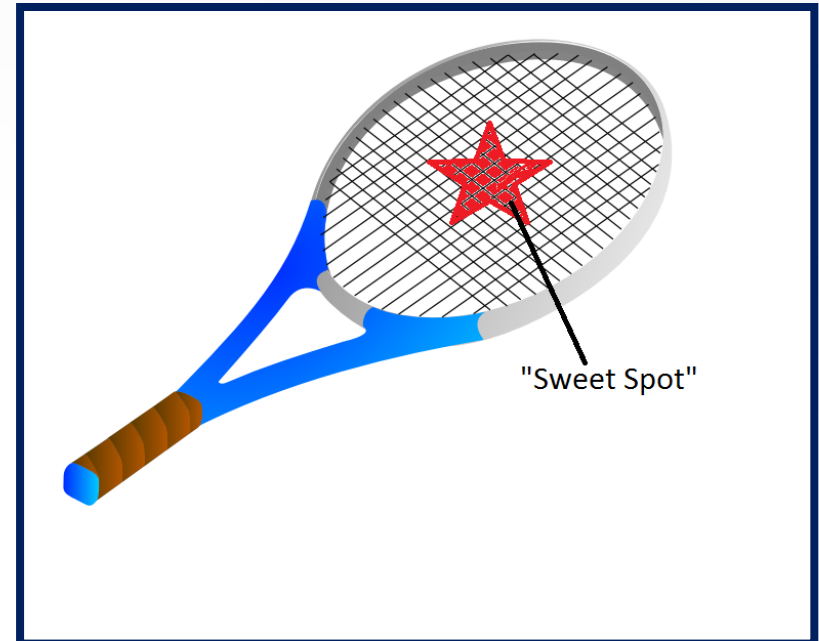


- Even if we can build or run a program, should we?
- How do intersecting/multi-faceted needs and risk tolerance levels impact program development and delivery?
- Which resources can we use to develop our institution's risk tolerance matrix?
- How can we develop consistent processes to help our institution make informed decisions?
- How do we balance a desire for exciting programs in exciting locations with the need to keep our students safe as possible?

# Finding the Sweet Spot



- Academic Program Quality
- Cultural Immersion
- Community Engagement
- Skill Development
- Health, Safety, and Security
- Cost
- Sustainability





# Where?



Parents

Language Immersion

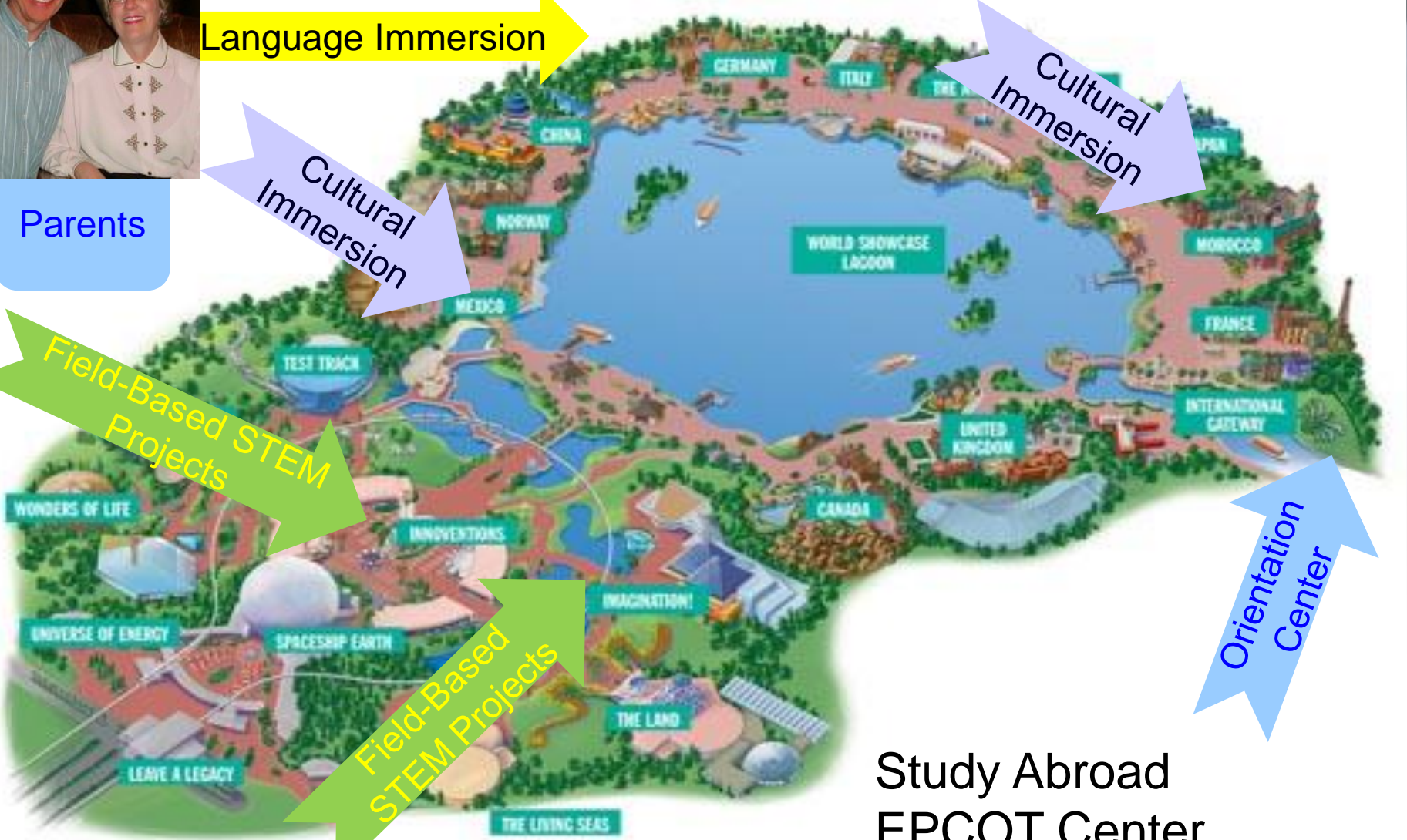
Cultural Immersion

Cultural Immersion

Field-Based STEM Projects

Field-Based STEM Projects

Orientation Center



Study Abroad  
EPCOT Center

# Program Development and Risk



## Location

- Local Network
- Setting and Balancing Expectations
  - Program Design, Students, and a Reality Check
- Careful Risk Assessment
  - Academic program components
  - Co-Curricular program components
  - Independent Student Time
  - Emergency Contingency Planning
- Program Goals and Cost Considerations

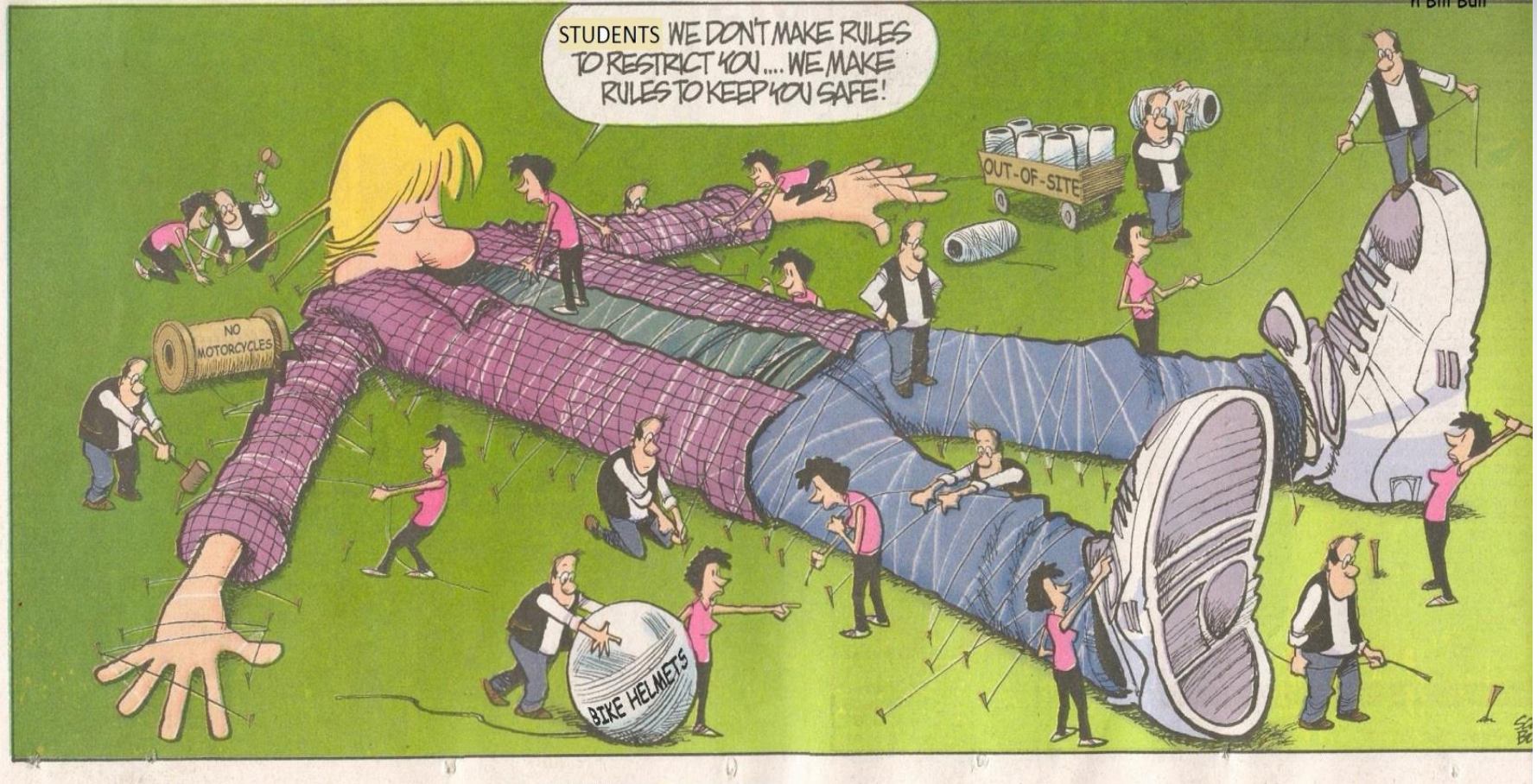


# Sounds Cool but... what about legal considerations?



ZITS/ by Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

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# Definitions

- **Risk management** is the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks followed by coordinated and economical application of resources to minimize, monitor, and control the probability and/or impact of unfortunate events.
- **Liability** can mean something that is a hindrance or puts an individual or group at a disadvantage, or something that someone is responsible for, or something that increases the chance of something occurring (i.e. it is a cause).

# Legal Principles



- **Duty of Care:** a legal obligation imposed on an individual requiring that they adhere to a standard of reasonable care while performing any acts that could foreseeably harm others.
- **Reasonableness:** a reasonable person is a hypothetical person in society who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct and who serves as a comparative standard for determining liability.
- **Foreseeability:** The facility to perceive, know in advance, or reasonably anticipate that damage or injury will probably ensue from acts or omissions.

# Legal Consideration Queries



- Tolerance for Risk
- Academic Value
- Risk Readiness

# Risk Tolerance Queries



- What is your institution's tolerance for risk?
  - Do you have a travel policy associated with high-threat locations and/or countries on the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning list (or other similar list produced by your country of residence)?
- Does your risk tolerance vary between traveling populations?
- Do your insurance products comport with your risk tolerance?
- Is your risk tolerance in line with your institutional peers?



# Academic Value Queries



- Does it reflect of the institution's particular strengths or expertise?
- Does it comport with our strategic goals?
- Does it allow progress towards degree requirements?
- Does it provide for a unique learning opportunity unavailable elsewhere?
- Can the same academic goals be achieved in a less risky environment?

# Risk Readiness Queries



- Can we competently and thoroughly assess risks (and propose mitigation strategies)?
- Do we have adequate insurance coverages for this location/activity?
- Do we have access to immediate financial resources in case our [insurance] provider delays action we perceive to be necessary?

# Welcome to ZOMBA



- Application exercise
- Read Country Profile (5 minutes)
- Fill out your portion of the Matrix at your table. (Each table does the same subset) (5 mns)
- Discuss at table- any differences? All concur?
- One person presents out (1 minute per table)

# Lessons Learned



- Practice does not make perfect...but it helps!
- Consistency is a global and borderless need
- Build a network of resources and experts
- Importance of ongoing assessment and flexibility
- Don't chase a bright shiny object across a multi-lane highway without looking around carefully first!
- Hire or work with full-time health, safety, and security professionals
- It sounds cool...but how do you know?



# Sounds Cool...

## Comments?

