

## Gazette Minute Interview



# Stacie NEVADOMSKI BERDAN

Author and speaker

***Get Ahead By Going Abroad***

*Stacie Berdan is the author of **Get Ahead By Going Abroad**. She's presently burning up the campus grad school lecture circuit with helpful tips for women careerists about serving abroad.*

### **For whom is working overseas important and why?**

The global marketplace is here, and it will only get more global. Anyone interested in moving ahead in a corporate—or even not-for-profit career—should consider working globally.

### **Why did your employer transfer you to Hong Kong?**

First, I had expressed interest. The company needed mid-level U.S. professionals to transfer skills to the employees in Asia. Then when I and other Americans moved on, they could grow the business there. And my international skills would further benefit the company.

### **What from your college career helped you in the early days of your employment career?**

I got the best of Florida Atlantic University. Right after high school I had an easy commute to classrooms filled with a wide variety of students, including adult working professionals. The professors were skilled enough to teach the theory while enabling incorporation of actual experience from the students—and from

their own professional background. So I was ready to work immediately after graduation.

### **How might your college studies have helped you more during your early career?**

Professors could have invited more guest lecturers to give us their viewpoint on the sharp turns and even the slow

curves in the business world. In fact I'm now a guest lecturer there myself.

### **How was Florida Atlantic University helpful to you in mid-career, particularly once you arrived in Hong Kong?**

The diversity of people by age, sex and nationality at FAU has been helpful throughout my career. In fact, among the lasting friends I made there, most reside outside the U.S.

### **How might you have been better prepared for your mid-career during college?**

Though I'm not sure whether leaders are made or born, at least some leadership training would have been beneficial in college. Again, this might have been accomplished by exposing students to leaders as guest lecturers.

### **What are the advantages of the 'fast-track' to a well-educated savvy person?**

There are several. Working overseas broadens professional capabilities with responsibility and recognition. That leads to higher pay and better titles. That success in a foreign market presents unique challenges that develop leadership qualities and personal growth.

### **Is your advice the same for males and females?**

Yes and no. Both men and women can fast-track their careers with overseas work. Although it's a differentiator on your resume, foreign work seems to be a more powerful one for a woman. Women who work successfully overseas seem to apply an innate style that succeeds cross-culturally.

### **Give one or two points of intersection where an innate feminine style and acquirable skills pay off.**

The style in which a woman builds and nurtures a team can be greatly enhanced by fluency in the local language. ■

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