

# *“Connecting Classrooms: A Foreign Language Teaching Project at UCF”*

Presented by:

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# Pragmatic Goals:

- Help Students Communicate Successfully
- Help Socialize with Native Speakers
- Prepare Students for Future Classes and Study Abroad Programs
- Motivate and Arouse Interest in the Foreign Language

# Educational Goals:

- Cultural Understanding
- Positive Attitude
- Overcome Stereotypes
- Reduce Prejudice
- Eliminate Ego Centricity

# Byram's Five Factor Model of Intercultural Competence (1997)

**The attitude factor which refers to the ability to relativize one's self and value others**

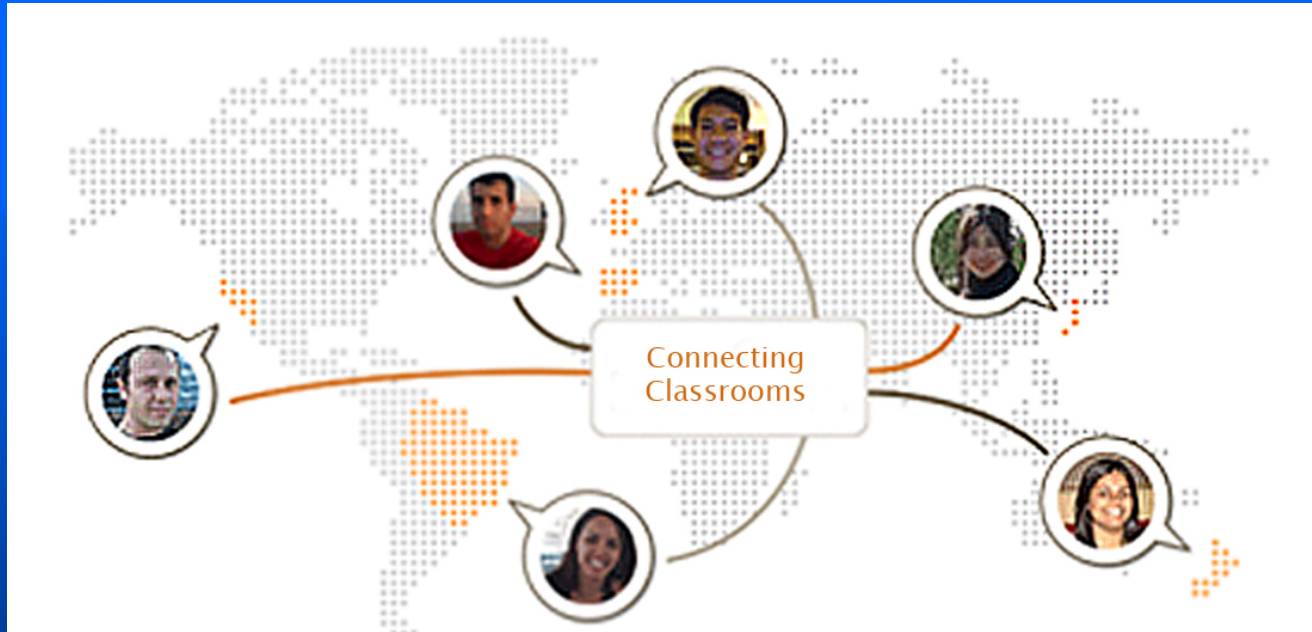
**knowledge of the rules for individual and social interaction both in the home and target cultures**

**critical cultural awareness which describes the ability to use perspectives, practices, and products in one's own culture and in other cultures to make evaluations.**

**the skills of interpreting and relating**

**the skills of discovery and interaction**

# Project “Connecting Classrooms”



- Multidimensional
- Combines Instruction with Experience
- Fosters Social, Cultural, and Personal Learning

# Project Goals

- To improve students' proficiency and communication skills in Russian
- To increase student motivation and interest
- To encourage mutual respect and openness to different ideas

# First Year: “Breaking Down Barriers”

**Objective:** Get to know each other at personal, institutional, and cultural levels

**Activities:** Students exchange letters, e-mails, videos, and CDs that include information about themselves

**Evaluation:** Skype Conferences at the end of each month

# Second Year: Group Projects

## Cross-Cultural Projects on Different Topics:

### Example:

Students collected, translated, and wrote folk tales from different Russian and American regions. With these stories, students created a book of folk tales. The final examination required students to present folk tale in target language.





# Results

- Improved pronunciation and rate of speech
- Increased in utilization of new vocabulary
- Connects language learners with native speakers
- Chat opportunities to practice language skills in real-time
- Six students applied for Fullbright Scholarship to teach English in Russia
- The project provided the students with greater enthusiasm and motivation concerning their study of Russian language.

# Results cont'd

- Students received an enriching experience that provided them with an opportunity to expand their cultural understanding
- Students had a chance to establish long-term friendships with Russian students.
- Students participated in activities that brought them closer to their own culture and rich heritage
- The project benefitted local Russian Communities and developed deeper knowledge and understanding of cultures and societies in other countries, allowing both parties to gain a better understanding of different cultural backgrounds within their own communities.

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**BELIEFS**



**KNOWLEDGE**



**VALUES**



**CULTURE**



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