Since 1962, the University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) has served as the UC systemwide international exchange program. Serving all ten campuses, UCEAP continues its support of UC's mission through academic instruction and exchange relationships in 36 countries through more than 250 programs.

Throughout 2012, UCEAP is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Please visit our dedicated website for information on planned events.

I invite you to read on to find out about the wonderful experiences of UCEAP students abroad, awards they've won, lessons they've learned, as well as special events going on in the UCEAP community.

Jean-Xavier Guinard
Associate Vice-Provost & Executive Director
UC Education Abroad Program

STUDENTS & STAFF HELP WITH TSUNAMI RELIEF
UCEAP students and Study Center staff were recently featured in the March/April issue of the NAFSA International Educator.

The cover article, entitled "Overcoming Chaos", discusses the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and highlights the involvement of UCEAP students and Study Center staff in the relief effort. UCEAP is very proud of how the events were handled on the ground and is delighted to see the efforts of students and staff recognized.

UCSD STUDENT OFFERED PHD POSITION AT CAMBRIDGE

Megan Lambert, a student at UCSD and a 2010 PKP Summer Scholar, has been offered a PhD position at Cambridge University's Department of Experimental Psychology to study the cognitive abilities of wild jackdaws, supervised by her PKP lecturer Dr Alex Thornton. Currently, Megan is seeking funding for her studies, and has met considerable obstacles to continuing her education with impressive determination and resolve. She offers the following advice to future applicants:

"My main advice for students applying for the PKP scholarship is to focus their statement on why they've chosen Cambridge for study abroad, and what impact this scholarship will have on their future. For me, the scholarship was literally the deciding factor for studying abroad, and it introduced me to my proposed supervisor and gave me an idea of what Cambridge is like, both culturally and academically. So when it came time to write my application essays, I had an idea in mind of what they expected from me as a student, and what life would be like if I went to graduate school there. Most of all, it completely confirmed my desire (and determination) to return for graduate school."

UCB STUDENT PUBLISHES CHILDREN'S BOOK IN GHANA

Leslie Morales, a UC Berkeley Political Science student, studied at the University of Ghana-Legon through UCEAP in fall 2011. While in Ghana, she researched Kente, a colorfully patterned cotton or silk fabric worn at weddings, masses, and festivals. Ghanaian legend tells that many years ago, two hunters discovered a spider spinning a web. They found the beauty and intricacy of its web so admirable that they watched the spider for days until they learned to spin their own. The weavers presented their first Kente cloth to the king, who named it "New Creation." Kente is now found in a myriad of colors with varying designs, symbols, and meanings.

In her research, Leslie wanted to both discover how weavers name their cloths and to create a written work for Ghanaian children. Thanks to stories she gathered from weavers
around Ghana, Leslie was able to write and publish a children's book called, *Kente! Kente! Read All About It!* The book tells the story behind the Kente, "Knowledge is Power," which teaches that going to school and working hard helps the main character achieve his goals. Leslie published the book in Ghana and donated copies to local schools and libraries in Accra.

**UCSD STUDENT RECEIVES AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN MEXICO**

UC San Diego student Richard Hong, a participant in the UCEAP fall 2010 Mexico Field Research Program, was one of the two national winners of the Forum on Education Abroad's Undergraduate Research Award. On March 23, 2012, Richard presented his work on Central American migrants at the plenary lunch during the Forum's Eighth Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. [Read More]

UCEAP holds its own annual competition for Undergraduate Research Awards to select nominees to the Forum's national competition. Applications for 2012 are due on May 4. More information is available on UCEAP's [Undergraduate Research Awards](#) page.

**UCEAP & STA PARTNER TO REDUCE TRAVEL COSTS**

On April 2, 2012, UCEAP and STA Travel began an official partnership to promote scholarships and financial aid designed to reduce travel costs for UC students studying abroad. STA has donated an initial sum of $10,000 that will be used to support the five [50th Anniversary Faculty-Led Programs](#), giving $200 in travel credit to the first 50 students signed up for these programs. STA will also donate $15 to the scholarship fund for each UCEAP student that books travel. Financial Aid students will also be able to reserve any airline ticket with just a $300 deposit and have up to 7 days before departure to pay the balance, allowing them to book early and save money.

**UCB STUDENT BLOGS ABOUT ROME'S FOOD SCENE**

Jillian Wertheim is a UC Berkeley student currently studying abroad in Rome on UCEAP. A senior staff writer for the *Daily Californian*, she's begun blogging as an intern for Parla Food. For the next few months Jillian will be scouring the Eternal City, searching out
authentic culinary experiences. Her first in a series of guest posts recounts a recent outing to Mercato Trionfale:

"Waking up to an empty refrigerator is no way to start the weekend. And so, armed with 20 euro and a canvas bag, I left my Trastevere apartment and strolled upriver for a morning of shopping at the Mercato Trionfale. Blue signs pointed the way - an unexpected surprise, as I've grown accustomed to tacking on a solid 15 minutes of "getting lost time" to most of my Roman adventures - and it wasn't long until I had passed Saint Peter's and found myself at the market's entrance. Read More

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: THAILAND**

Why learn about a nation from a distance when you can make it your own real-world laboratory?

"The best way to learn is by engaging firsthand in the country of interest," says Angela Arunarsirakul, a third-year UCLA student who is majoring in history and political science and minoring in public affairs and Southeast Asian studies. Angela spent summer 2011 in Bangkok at Thammasat University, Thailand's second oldest university, as part of UCEAP. "I was really interested in the political developments in Thailand, and I saw no better way to learn more about them than by immersing myself in the setting and interacting with the people who knew best."

Bangkok became a classroom, of sorts, for Angela, who improved her understanding and use of the Thai language and experienced Thailand during a critical time in its history, in light of the parliamentary elections that were taking place. Read more

**UCSB'S OLIVIA WONG LOOKS BACK AT JAPAN DISASTER**

Olivia Wong is a UCSB student currently studying on UCEAP in Japan. A recipient of the Boren Scholarship and Jeanie Anderson Memorial Grant for her research on the nuclear contamination at Fukushima, she recently published an article in the *Santa Barbara Independent*. Her article, "Not Losing to the Rain," commemorates the 2011 disaster in Japan on the occasion of its one-year anniversary and details some of her work and that of various relief organizations in the aftermath of the catastrophe. Olivia has been offered a column and will continue to write about her experiences in Japan. Read more

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH AFRICA**
UC Irvine's Karina Larios always had her heart set on studying abroad, but never knew where she wanted to go. Her goal was to go somewhere out of her comfort zone and immerse herself into an unfamiliar culture. "I knew," she said, "that if I was going to study abroad I would go full throttle!" At first her parents didn't understand the concept of studying abroad, but supported her in making the decision to explore a new country on her own. She applied to UCEAP's program in South Africa and spent six months abroad studying law and psychology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

The intimate sense of community is what Karina misses most about South Africa. "Often times in the states, people are on their phones, everyone is on their laptops, and nobody says hi," she remarked. "When you walk into a room in South Africa, it's loud. People are talking, walking, and singing together. It was so beautiful just walking to class."

"I never expected that I would be this happy," said Karina. "We discover more about who we really are as a person when we're taken away from our daily routine and the people we know." Read more

UCSD STUDENT SINGS A CAPPELLA IN GHANA

UCSD student Carlin Truong is currently studying on UCEAP at the University of Ghana-Legon. Carlin has been very active and successful in making unique contributions to the University of Ghana and the local community, especially in the arts. An accomplished singer, Carlin has joined the SHEPHERDS, a professional Ghanaian a cappella group that sings in Twi and Fante, two of the local Ghanaian languages. The group has performed at numerous venues including the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology's Entrepreneurship Clinic Workshop. They also sang at the National Theatre of Ghana for a movie premier that appeared on a national television station, and were openers for the Music Music Show, a popular music program on Ghanaian television. The group's distinctive sound and growing reputation made them the subject of a recent BBC radio interview.

Carlin's achievements and hard work combined with his easy-going and accommodating attitude earned him the nickname "Shanton" - after a popular actor in China. He has become a popular figure at his residence hall, in his academic department, and on the entire campus at the University of Ghana.

UCD PROFESSOR & ARTIST DONATES TO MUSEUM IN BOLOGNA

UCEAP participants gathered in Italy recently to celebrate the work and generosity of noted
American artist Wayne Thiebaud, a Professor Emeritus at UC Davis. His work has been on display at the Museo Morandi in Bologna in an exhibit co-curated by artist Carla Crawford, who studied under Thiebaud at UC Davis and attended the UCEAP program in Bologna. At the conclusion of the show, which was supported by UCEAP Bologna, Thiebaud donated seven etchings and an oil painting (Tulip Sundae, left), together worth about $1 million.

Thiebaud is a renowned artist who worked in the pop art movement during the 1960s. His work is featured in some of the most important museums in the U.S., including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Thiebaud, who taught Art at UC Davis for many years and is now Professor Emeritus, dramatically influenced the work of many students and has left a lasting impression on the UCD art studio program.

UCEAP STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT FOREIGN SERVICE CAREERS

On March 27, 2012, the American consul based in Bordeaux, Mr. Joel Maybury, held a special conference on Foreign Service careers for the UCEAP students studying at the University of Bordeaux. A graduate of UC Davis, Mr. Maybury worked for some years as a journalist before entering upon his dream career in the Foreign Service.

The conference, conducted in French, provided students with an excellent overview of Foreign Service career options along with the practical and personal considerations involved in choosing a Foreign Service career. Many of the qualifications most often sought in Foreign Service candidates - cultural sensitivity, language skills, and an ability to function effectively in new or unusual surroundings - are just the qualities most often found in study abroad students, making Mr. Maybury's conference particularly relevant for a UCEAP audience.

Click [here](#) to register!
RSVP Today!
Join us at the UCEAP Alumni & Friends
50th Anniversary Celebration:

Saturday, April 28, 5:30 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara, Corwin Pavilion