Dear Friends of UCEAP,

June marks the mid-point of UCEAP’s 50th Anniversary year. The events and activities dedicated to celebrating UCEAP’s past and present achievements have allowed our alumni and partners to share experiences and reflect on one of the most exciting and life-changing periods of their university careers.

It is my honor to share with you several student spotlight stories that exemplify exactly what UCEAP allows our students to experience and achieve. A study abroad experience with trusted UC faculty and partners, combined with new friendships across UC campuses, remind us all why we work so diligently to make all of this a reality. We look forward to the coming 50 years and will continue to offer the highest quality programs to UC students in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and beyond.

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

UCEAP SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT INTERNS MEET UK PRIME MINISTER

In February 2012, Jillian Ventura and Zachary Ober, both on the UCEAP Scottish Parliament Internship Program, had a surprise visitor to their parliamentary offices. UK Prime Minister David Cameron was in Edinburgh to meet with Scottish First Minister, Alex Salmond, and to deliver a speech on why Scotland should remain in the Union. However, having arrived early to the Parliament, Cameron decided to visit the parliamentary offices of the Scottish Conservative party. Jillian and Zachary, who worked in the Press and Research Unit of the Scottish Conservatives during their
internship, exchanged a few words with the PM and he thanked them for the work they were doing for the party. Jillian said afterwards, "It was a huge honor and it was really exciting to have such a powerful leader thank us for our work at the Parliament."

Zachary Ober's comments on his UCEAP Scottish Parliament Internship experience:

"I think anyone would agree that an internship is a big step toward achieving a career goal. An internship in another country, however, is an experience that combines the values of working in an office and becoming immersed in another culture. I believe that the UCEAP internship program at the Scottish Parliament is unrivalled in its ability to provide both kinds of experience. The personal and practical skills that I gained from this internship are skills that I will use for the rest of my professional life. It is a demanding study abroad program, but it is an extremely rewarding one. This internship is also proof that the greatest things in life never come easy, but are always worth the effort."

UCEAP CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH PARTNERS AT NAFSA

UCEAP was out in force at the 2012 NAFSA Annual Conference & Expo, held in Houston May 27-June 1. NAFSA is the world's largest nonprofit professional association dedicated to international education and its Annual Conference--always a major event for study abroad--welcomed nearly 9,000 international participants this year.

On May 29th, UCEAP hosted a reception to celebrate its 50th Anniversary and to thank its many global partners also in attendance at the conference. Speaking to the gathering, UCEAP Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Jean-Xavier Guinard highlighted UCEAP's 50 years of success and the central role of the strong partnerships UCEAP has built with educational institutions and organizations worldwide. The NAFSA conference and UCEAP Anniversary Reception were great opportunities for UCEAP to strengthen existing relationships and to explore new partnerships that will further expand study abroad options for UC students in years to come.

More event photos on Flickr

FORMER RECIPROCITY STUDENT ACCEPTED TO UCSD PHD PROGRAM

Valentin Robert, a University of Bordeaux graduate and Reciprocity student to UC San Diego in 2010-11, has been accepted to his UCEAP host campus PhD program in
Computer Science and Engineering starting in the fall of 2012.

Valentin tells us, "UCEAP offered me an opportunity to go beyond what my school proposed--to discover American campus life, to meet wonderful teachers, and take great courses. I have learned a lot through the process and met valuable contacts that I happily worked with and who encouraged me to apply for a Ph.D and pursue the adventure further. It has also unveiled opportunities that reach far beyond the hopes I had at the time I applied to UCEAP, so the whole experience has really been a springboard for me. Spending one year in a competitive academic setting is definitely worth trying for anyone interested in research-related topics and ready to work hard!"

We welcome Valentin back to UC and wish him continued success in his studies!

UCEAP STUDENT RESEARCH FEATURED IN UCSB TODAY MAGAZINE

UCEAP is prominently featured in a full-page article in the Spring 2012 issue of UC Santa Barbara Today, a biannual magazine focusing on developments that make UCSB one of the country's leading public research universities. Written for the occasion of UCEAP's 50th anniversary, the article highlights UCEAP student participation in academic research programs and research-related courses.

The UC Santa Barbara Today article is a great reminder of how research conducted overseas gives students a head start on their future academic and professional careers while furthering an international version of the UC mission with tangible contributions to the UC community and beyond. Read more

UCEAP BARCELONA STUDENT PERFORMS IN INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR

Mollie Morrow, a UC Irvine student finishing her one-year UCEAP program at the University of Barcelona, performed on May 26th at SWAB 2012, a contemporary art fair held in Barcelona in which artists from around the world present their works in over 60 galleries. The fair was held at the Fira de Barcelona in Plaza España.

Mollie presented her piece entitled Hellicoid, a
meta-performance that aims to review and analyze the role of body communicability in defining and shaping one's position within the socio-existential network. This work represents a synthesis of Mollie's artistic and intellectual development in which her experience in Barcelona through UCEAP has played a crucial role. Read more

MADRID STUDY CENTER VIDEO CELEBRATES UCEAP 50TH ANNIVERSARY

UCEAP’s Madrid Study Center and UCEAP students have created a wonderful and comprehensive film about life and studies in Spain to celebrate UCEAP's 50th Anniversary. The project was created by study center intern Marta Vargas and supervised by study center director Benjamin Liu, Complutense program administrator Paula Ortega, and Carlos III program administrator Rocio Navas. To watch the video, please click here.

UCEAP STUDENT FEATURED ON THAI TV PROGRAM

UC Santa Barbara student Sarah Smith studied at Thammasat University for the 2011-12 academic year. During her time on UCEAP in Thailand, Sarah participated in an internship with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) TV. She has been working on a report about wastewater management in the Thai capital of Bangkok.

Sarah narrated the piece that recently aired on television and appears in the interview footage at 2:57. Click here to watch.

UCEAP STUDENT IN DUBLIN PERFORMS IN THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

UC Berkeley student Radhika Parashar, currently studying on UCEAP in Dublin for spring semester, participated in a performance of the Vagina Monologues at Trinity College in early March.

She remarked that is was, "definitely one of the highlights of my trip; it became a grand way to meet students at my host university and reconnect with other students in my UCEAP program"
who came to show their support. The *Monologues* consist of short pieces, some funny, some serious, highlighting different issues regarding women's rights around the world. All three of our shows were packed, full houses and it was such fun watching the audience respond to the performances. I'm so thankful to have gotten this opportunity through UCEAP and encourage other students unsure of how to participate at their universities to just go to your theatre, randomly audition, have fun, charm them with your 'foreign accent,' and see where it takes you!"

**UCEAP MADRID STUDENT INTERVIEW ON FREE LANGUAGE EXCHANGES**

UC Irvine student Anthony Armenta, a current UCEAP participant at the Complutense University of Madrid, was interviewed last month for the online media site lainformacion.com explaining his reasons for participating in free language exchanges between foreign students and locals who both want to improve their language skills.

"I want to learn the language that is spoken in the streets and meet Spaniards; besides, it is an opportunity to share with Europeans my Californian culture, something that is much different from the rest of the United States." The author notes that after ten months in Madrid, Anthony "nearly speaks like an authentic Madrileño" -- high praise, indeed!

To read the article in Spanish, click [here](#).

**UCEAP STUDENT BLOGS ABOUT LIFE-CHANGING YEAR IN LYON**

Alanna Peebles, a UC Santa Barbara Psychology major, spent the past year studying in Lyon. She wrote a blog to share her experiences with friends and family and to preserve a digital diary of her adventures. An admitted introvert, studying abroad allowed Alanna to get out of her comfort zone and gain confidence in unfamiliar and often overwhelming situations.

Here is an excerpt: "Studying abroad was a leap of faith: I knew little about France when I signed up and had only passed the elementary level of French at my university (though admittedly I took 3 years of it back in high school!); I knew little of the culture, its educational system, its history, its norms, or its people. But I took that jump to apply, and I'm glad I did! I read up on France before I came...but reading up on something is a whole different thing than actually experiencing it. So the leap was nerve-racking, but, in the end, very much appreciated! We do some things without getting lots of information...but traveling and studying abroad has made me much more open to being okay with not knowing what's going to happen than I ever have been in my entire
UCEAP STUDENT BLOGS ABOUT SCOTLAND FOR THE DAILY CAL

Alexandra Matthews, a UC Berkeley student studying for a year on UCEAP at the University of Edinburgh, has been blogging about her experiences for the Daily Californian newspaper.

The articles highlight her day-to-day experiences in the majestic Scottish city as well as her short trips to Athens, Dublin, and the Isle of Skye.

"Freshman year, back when I thought I was an English major, I took English 45C and had to read To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf. Incidentally, the novel was set on the Isle of Skye, an island just off the coast of the western highlands in Scotland...So last month I joined the International Student Centre on an organized bus trip up through the Highlands."

Read more