UCEAP student Leesan Kwok, who is studying in Bordeaux for the year, won the level 3 division of the hunter category at the Championnat Régionale of Gironde, a major horse show, on March 5, 2017. Competitors are judged on horse and rider presentation, showmanship, horsemanship, and position. Leesan, who has been riding for 15 years, found a barn near her home in Bordeaux that enabled her to continue riding much more affordably than in the U.S. Leesan said, “I’ve been learning most of my French lingo and vocab from hanging around the barn. Although I’m still not fluent, I have noticeably improved my understanding of the language through consistent exposure. Now I can take a full riding lesson of 1.5 hours in French!” Congratulations, Leesan!
UK Alumni Mentorship Program

(Victoria Li, UCLA and Celina Gorre, UCLA)

While studying abroad in London with UCEAP, UC students have the unique opportunity to be mentored by one of the accomplished members of the expansive UC Alumni UK network. Each mentorship pair is matched based on shared academic backgrounds and professional interests, and students have the opportunity to make international connections and ask questions about everything from living abroad to formatting resumés.

This fall, UCLA alumna Celina Gorre mentored fellow Bruin and UCEAP participant Victoria Li, and the two bonded over their mutual passion for public health. Victoria shared that her participation in the UK Alumni Mentorship Program was one of the highlights of her semester abroad at King’s College London, explaining that “through this experience, I have found inspiration to pursue my goals in the healthcare industry. Not only were we able to discuss some questions I had regarding her work, but also talk about my path and my next steps as someone interested in medicine.”

You can learn more about the UK Alumni Mentorship Program and read student reflections on the program on the UCEAP UK & Ireland blog.
Alumni Update: Kathleen Adams, France 1977-78

(Kathleen Adams, UCSC on left)

An alumna of the UCEAP program at the University of Poitiers, Dr. Kathleen Adams credits her year abroad with inspiring her to become a cultural anthropologist. Now a professor at Loyola University Chicago, Dr. Adams shares her continued passion for international education in her alumni story.

How did study abroad affect your life choices?

“My year in France had a deep impact on me. It greatly enhanced my self-confidence and gave me a thirst for the excitement and growth that happens when living in a foreign (or semi-foreign) culture. Having a French mother also meant that the year enabled me to get in touch with a part of my heritage that I did not fully appreciate prior to my time in France.

Tell us the highlights of your professional career. What are your proudest achievements?

“I have had the pleasure of teaching American students studying abroad in Rome, Italy, for the 2008-09 academic year, and have taught on the University of Virginia's Semester at Sea program numerous times. I have also been fortunate to have spent time as a visiting professor at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines and at Al-Farebi Kazakh National University in Kazakhstan. All of these experiences can be traced back to the seeds that were planted during the year I participated in the University of California Education Abroad Program in France.”

If you were to give advice to current UCEAP students, what would you say?

“Select a café or bakery and frequent it daily, becoming a part of the rhythm of community life. You never know what delightful surprises this approach will yield. For me, daily purchases at the corner bakery resulted in a friendship with the proprietors, an older couple, who invited me to their home and even offered me a bakery apprenticeship, giving me a different, non-student perspective on life in a smaller French city. Stretch yourself and take classes you would not normally take. The French friends I met in classes I would not normally take became lifelong friends. Our children
UCEAP hosted a fundraising event at the Goleta Pieology Pizzeria in February in support of UCEAP student Tiara Francisco, our 2016-17 Guardian Scholar. Many UCEAP staff attended with their families and friends, and together we surpassed our goal of $2,500 for Tiara’s scholarship! We have started our campaign for the 2017-18 UCEAP Guardian Scholar, who will be selected in April. Support former foster youth and donate today!

Share your story! The first 25 people who submit their alumni story will receive a UCEAP t-shirt! Your story of your time abroad with UCEAP may be featured on our blog and in a future newsletter! T-shirts are also available for purchase for $20, which includes a $10 donation to the UCEAP Guardian Scholars Fund.

Sierra Schwellenbachm, a junior from UC Santa Barbara studying Computer Science, grew up playing basketball, and dreamed to one day play professionally. Her dream has now come true in England! Sierra is spending the academic year at the University of Manchester. She joined the University’s basketball team shortly after arriving in the UK. She has since been recruited to play for the Manchester Mystics, a team in the Women’s British Basketball League. The Mystics’ games have been featured on BBC Sport, and the team won the WBBL Cup earlier this year! Sierra says, “I am so grateful for this experience. It has changed how I view the world and made me a more confident, aware person.” Congratulations to Sierra and her teammates on their victory!

Join our team! The UCEAP Systemwide office in Goleta, CA and the London UK office are recruiting for multiple positions. Visit career opportunities for a complete listing.

Save the Date - UCEAP Distinguished Alumni Awards Reception

Save the Date for an evening event at UCSB honoring our Linda Duttenhaver Distinguished Alumni Award and UCEAP Emerging Leader Award recipients. More information to come.

UCEAP has a powerful and expanding network of 100,000 alumni in every field and every corner of the world. Whether you want to take the next step in your career or simply catch up with old friends, you’ll find