UCEAP Celebrates its 50th Anniversary in the UK

Please enjoy our video showcasing UCEAP students sharing Season's Greetings from around the world.

UCEAP & UK Celebrate 50 Years of Exchange

This past October, UCEAP celebrated 50 years of study abroad partnership
between UC and the United Kingdom. Over a week of celebrations were scheduled in commemoration of this major milestone.

Click here to view photos from all of the events.

On Saturday, October 10th, over 150 alumni, faculty, staff, university partner liaisons, and current UCEAP students gathered at the Hub, a beautiful venue on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, Scotland. The evening started with a drinks reception, and guests were then served a delicious three-course meal of haggis, chicken, and strawberry cheesecake. Professor Michael Cowan, Former UCEAP Acting Executive Director and UK Study Center Director, hosted the evening festivities. After dinner, guests heard speeches given by UCEAP alumnus Thomas Seale and Susan Wilson, US Consul General in Edinburgh. Finally students, alumni and partner liaisons all took part in a ceilidh, a fun and somewhat chaotic traditional Gaelic dance before the evening finished at midnight.

Alumni Profile: Thomas Seale, University of St. Andrews, 1977-78

We were thrilled to have UCEAP alumnus Thomas Seale and his lovely wife Sophie, a French exchange
During his speech, Thomas shared three life lessons for the roomful of student who had recently arrived in Scotland & Ireland: listen and learn; don’t predict the future but learn to adapt; and follow your passion. Thomas received his BA in Economics from UC Santa Cruz and holds an MA in Economics and an MBA from UCLA. In 2010, with his wife and three children, Thomas founded a family olive oil business on their farm in Provence. Les Templiers de Provence, which produces extra virgin olive oil, won the Gold Medal in the Marseille olive oil competition in 2015. To read Thomas’s speech, click here.

Alumni and Staff Tour Institutional and Campus Partners in Scotland
Next we toured another one of our original UK partners, the **University of Edinburgh**, an urban campus in the heart of the city. Guests were treated to a special behind the scenes tour of the Library University Center for Research Collections. The librarians pulled together a wonderful collection of rare books and maps for our California guests.

The 50th Anniversary continued the following Monday, first with a tour of the **Scottish Parliament**. Constructed by the Spanish architect Enric Miralles, the building opened in 2004. Guests learned about the unique architecture of the building, as well as about the history, work and procedures of the Scottish Parliament itself. Students participating in our UCEAP Scottish Parliament Internship program joined guests for lunch, and talked about their experiences working in the government.

The 50th Anniversary continued at the **University of St. Andrews**, one of the first ever UCEAP UK partners. Guests toured the university campus and stopped at the Quad, where the annual University foam fight takes place. The day ended with a reception at MUSA (Museum of the University of St. Andrews). The good weather allowed guests and students to spend some time on the roof terrace, and enjoy the view of St. Andrews bay at sunset. Celebrations later continued inside the museum with a welcome from Dr. Anne Mullen, Vice Principal International of St. Andrews, and comments from UC Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs Susan Carlson. Entertainment included a performance by The Other Guys, an all-male a cappella ensemble from the University of St. Andrews.
The Celebration Continues in London

The 50th Anniversary came to London on Thursday, October 15, first with a private tour of Sotheby's Auction House. Guests viewed valuable works of art up for auction that evening, including pieces by Warhol, Picasso, Raphael and many other renowned artists. Afterwards, art dealer and collector Angus Haldane gave a fascinating talk about the art market, its history and his predictions for its future.

Next we celebrated our long-standing partnership with ACCENT, a provider of study abroad services, with a lecture by Dr. Alastair Owens from Queen Mary University of London. Wine and canapés were served at a reception following the talk, titled “In search of a better life? Dr. Thomas Barnardo, Child migration schemes and the problem of Outcast London.” Alastair Owens is Professor of Historical Geography at Queen Mary University of London. He has also been on the faculty of the UCEAP London Fall Semester Program since it commenced in 2002, teaching a course about London from 1800 to the present day. Recent research projects have examined families, wealth and inheritance in Britain, 1850-1930 and the material culture of everyday domestic life among poor neighborhoods in Victorian London.

Later that day, UCEAP alumni and staff met with current UCEAP English University students for afternoon tea at the British Museum. Attendees enjoyed sandwiches, scones, sweets and as much tea as they could drink while engaging in interesting conversation about their study abroad experiences.
50th Anniversary Celebration Gala
A chance to reconnect, celebrate, and recognize achievements

The 50th Anniversary events concluded with a large gala dinner at Gibson Hall in London. UCEAP alumni, staff, current students, host university partner liaisons and other guests mingled at a drinks reception before entering the great hall for a buffet dinner of gnocchi, beef bourguignon and chocolate mousse. After dinner, thought-provoking speeches were given by UC Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs Susan Carlson, Tina Takegi, an officer in the economic section at the U.S. Embassy in London and an alumna of UC Berkeley, Trisha Rassatt, the president of the UC Alumni UK Board and a UC San Diego alumna, and Sophia Crisafulli, a current UCEAP Promise Award scholarship recipient studying at King’s College London from UC Santa Barbara. Afterwards, guests took part in a fun and challenging pub quiz, testing their knowledge about England and California.

These events were a fantastic way for all of those either currently or previously involved with UCEAP to celebrate the UC system’s long standing relationship with the UK and its partner institutions. UCEAP alumni enjoyed reminiscing about their time abroad and current UCEAP UK University students saw what the future might hold for study abroad students.

Here’s to UCEAP's next 50 years, you can make a difference!
Please consider supporting UC students directly with a gift to our scholarship fund. Even a small gift of $10 will make an impact. Our success is directly correlated to the generosity of our friends, the expertise of our faculty and the many achievements of our students and alumni. Whether a gift is given to the UCEAP Scholarship Fund or it is designated for a particular program or country, private support helps students from all UC campuses realize their tremendous potential as future global leaders. To learn more about our giving programs, visit our website.

Save the Date - October 22, 2016 at UCLA. Join us as we celebrate our 50th anniversary of student exchange with Sweden!

Thank you to our UK staff

The successful series of events would not have been possible without the tireless dedication and hard work of our UCEAP London and Edinburgh Study Center teams. Many thanks to our UK staff - Hilary Noyce, Monika Kraska, Ashley Cole, Holly Butwright, Fraser Bryden and intern Hannah Bloom.