UCEAP and Spain Celebrate 50 Years of Exchange
Faculty, staff & alumni commemorate major milestone

This past year, UCEAP celebrated 50 years of study abroad partnership between UCEAP and Spain. Four days of events were planned in Madrid from November 5-8, in recognition of this wonderful milestone. In addition to a delegation from the UCEAP systemwide office and UC campus advisors, over 30 alumni from UCEAP Spain programs traveled to Spain to join in the festivities, including 7 from the inaugural 1964-65 cohort.

Alumni arrived in Madrid from all over the United States and Europe. Our first evening was an alumni reunion dinner set in a beautiful stone cave at Capitan Alatriste Tavern. Alumni shared wonderful memories from their time spent in Spain 50 years ago along with a menu of local Madrid favorites. Professor Stephen Small, current UCEAP study center director in Spain, joined in the festivities and warmly welcomed the alumni back to Madrid.

Click here to view photos from all of the events in Madrid.
Recepción de Bienvenida
Complutense University of Madrid Welcome

The second day started with a formal welcome and reception from Vice Rector Andrés Arias, and included an emotional speech from the US embassy representative Emilia Puma. Former Vice Rector Carlos Seoane, UCEAP Executive Director Jean-Xavier Guinard, and Professor Small also spoke in recognition of our 50 years of partnership. After the reception, alumni and staff were treated to a memorable tour of the campus, guided by UCM Professor Carolina Rodríguez López. The Ruta de Complutense and a visit to the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras was the highlight of the trip for many of our Spain alumni. That evening we enjoyed a lively flamenco show at Café de Chinitas.

Complutense & California in the 1960’s
Academic Forum at Complutense University of Madrid

The next day started with an academic forum held on the UCM campus. The panelists included UCLA Professor Maite Zubiaurre, Professor and Director of Programs for International Students at the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo Montana Camara, Complutense Professor Luis Enrique Otero Carvajal and UC Berkeley Professor Stephen Small. Topics covered US-Spain/Complutense-UC relations during the 1960s as compared to today and included conversations about literature, UC graduate research exchange, and Spanish history. Many students from our current Spain programs joined this event.

A Tour of Quesos y Arte Españoles
Enjoying delicious Spanish cuisine and art in Madrid
Following the academic forum, alumni and staff enjoyed a fabulous cheese tasting and lunch at Poncelet where we learned about the different types of Spanish cheeses throughout history and were treated to both classic and new cheeses from Galicia, Canary Islands, Balearic Islands and Leon. Filled with great cheese, wine and conversation, we traveled a short distance to the Museo Nacional del Prado where we enjoyed a private tour by Alejandro Vergara, senior curator of Flemish and Northern European paintings. Alejandro provided us with an insider’s view of the collection filled with history, knowledge and experience, a truly unique way to visit this magnificent museum.

50th Anniversary Celebration Gala
A chance to reconnect, celebrate, and recognize achievements

Our celebration culminated in a spectacular dinner celebration at Jai Alai restaurant. In honor of our 50 years of partnership with Spain, UCEAP was delighted to host an evening of celebration and remembrance. Over 150 alumni, friends, staff and campus officials attended. Traditional Spanish appetizers started the event, including an Iberico ham carving station. Current UCEAP student Juan José Aranda shared his inspirational story of transformation from a first generation Latino community college student to UCSB student in Madrid. A lively performance by the talented Spanish Operetta singer Lorenzo Moncloa and his group provided a wonderful backdrop to an enjoyable evening. While the event was filled with stories of the excitement of studying in Spain in the 1960’s, it was also an emotional tribute to a long time UCEAP staff member, Carmen Usobiaga.
A Tribute to Carmen Usobiaga
More than 40 years of dedicated service

For over forty five years, Carmen Usobiaga was the heart and soul of our study abroad program in Spain. She had been with UCEAP since 1964, the year the program opened. It is impossible to count the number of lives she touched over the years. Students, faculty and staff all benefited from her knowledge, expertise, patience and friendship. With exemplary dedication to our program, Carmen was generous with her time and made a significant impact on everyone who arrived in Madrid. She worked with efficiency, elegance and professionalism. Carmen passed away in 2011, but her legacy will be felt for years to come. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of UCEAP, founding director Bill Allaway wrote to Carmen, "UCEAP could never have been the success it has been without the loyal support of persons like you who helped us found the program there in Madrid, and have continued to share your understanding of Spain and the Spaniards with succeeding generations of California students."

Carmen was loving and patient with students, friendly and efficient with administrators, an unconditional partner with teachers, professional with all of us, and always ready to help. She is deeply missed by all. To read more about Carmen's legacy and to record your own memories of Carmen on our commemorative blog, click here.

In recognition of Carmen’s significant contribution to our program, UCEAP is excited to announce the Carmen Usobiaga Scholarship Fund, an endowed scholarship that will support UCEAP students of exceptional merit and character studying in Spain. We would like to thank all of you who have already committed to supporting this new scholarship fund. To help create a lasting legacy for Carmen, donate online at https://alumni.eap.ucop.edu/carmen or mail your check (payable to UC Regents) to:

Development Office
UCEAP Carmen Usobiaga Scholarship Fund
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117

Thank you! Your gift makes a difference in the lives of students. All gifts to the UC Regents are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For questions about giving to UCEAP, contact 805-893-4233.
50th Anniversary Celebration in Southern California
Event held at UC Irvine for alumni and friends

In addition to our events in Madrid, this past September, UCEAP celebrated the 50th Anniversary with an event at UC Irvine. Over 125 UCEAP alumni and friends were there to join in the festivities, featuring traditional Spanish cured sausages, chorizos and ham, and Spanish classical guitar music. Ten alumni from our original 1964-65 class were with us to commemorate this wonderful milestone.

Janet Yoshida Kessler and Theresa Elva Jordan Mathiesen met as students in Madrid and have stayed in touch these past 50 years.

Thank you to all of our Spain alumni who shared photos and memories from their year abroad. Your stories are filled with emotion and a growing self-confidence. The transformational value of study abroad is apparent in your continued understanding of global perspectives and foreign cultures.

To see more pictures from the Irvine event, click here.

UCEAP California Staff Visit Córdoba
UC staff connect with students and study center

Taking advantage of the festivities in Madrid, a team of UCEAP staff visited our partner institutions in Madrid, Córdoba and Granada to deepen our knowledge of and relations with our counterparts abroad, and to hear what our students have to say about the programs.

Prior to visiting the Complutense and Carlos III Universities in Madrid, we began our site visit in Córdoba. The site visit team (pictured right) discussed the Language and Culture Program hosted by the University of Córdoba with (clockwise from far left) Inma Carmona (Program Coordinator), Stephen Small (Study Center Director), Danilo Bonilla (UCLA), Karen
Mead (Systemwide), Monica Reynolds (Systemwide), Louise Hon (UCB), Willaine Cabal (UCSB), and Monica Rocha (Systemwide). Other opportunities for conversation were presented by the formal welcome from the University of Córdoba and a meeting with all of the current UCEAP students. The site visitors were treated to several typical Andalusian meals and a tour of the old city including the Mezquita.

Agreement Renewal with the University of Granada
Recognizing UCEAP and UGR's important partnership

The site visit team also spent two days in Granada, and met with program staff, partner administrators, and all the UCEAP students. A highlight of the visit featured the signing of the agreement with the University of Granada, by UCEAP Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Jean-Xavier Guinard and UGR Rector Francisco González Lodeiro. Senior Program Administrator Inmaculada Manrique and Academic Liaison Daniel Madrid coordinated discussions with the UCEAP students, Study Center Director Stephen Small and the site visit team, along with visits to the Study Center offices and sightseeing throughout the Alhambra and the Albaicín.

Thank you to the UCEAP Madrid Study Center Staff!

The successful series of events would not have been possible without the tireless dedication and hard work of our UCEAP Madrid Study Center team. Muchas gracias to Prof. Stephen Small, Rocio Navas and Paula Ortega.