UCEAP Students Meet First Lady in Beijing

On March 22nd, First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama visited the Stanford Center at Peking University in Beijing, China. Among the distinguished audience members were the U.S. Ambassador to China, the President of Peking University, and several UCEAP students. Thanks to his extensive local network, Beijing Study Center Director John Thomson was able to secure a number of tickets for UCEAP students to attend the First Lady's speech.

Among them was Christopher Chan, a UCEAP student at Peking University and Freeman Scholar from UC Santa Barbara. Not only did Christopher hear the First Lady speak, but he was able to sit next to Ambassador Baucus and shake the First Lady's hand. He said the following of his experience: "Sitting just three seats away from the FLOTUS and shaking hands with her was an exciting once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was humbling to personally hear her discuss the importance of US-China student exchange and its implications towards deepening relations on a global scale."

50th Anniversary Celebration of UCEAP in Spain

In honor of Spain alumni and in recognition of 50 years of partnership with Complutense University of Madrid, UCEAP is planning a series of commemorative events in California and Spain.

Look for information in our July newsletter on an upcoming southern California event.
tentatively scheduled for early fall 2014. An alumni reunion trip to Madrid is scheduled for November 5-8, 2014. Alumni from UCEAP’s original 1964-65 Madrid cohort are working with staff to create an exciting itinerary. For more information about this trip and all UCEAP upcoming events, go to www.eap.ucop.edu/alumni.

UCSC Gilman Scholar Corresponds from India

Sameer Saleh, a philosophy major at UC Santa Cruz, contacted UCEAP with his idea to contribute blog content as part of his Gilman Scholarship follow on project. UCEAP has been working closely with him to tell his authentic story and highlight experiences unique to studying in India. His goal is to incorporate his academic background in philosophy with interviews, visits to relevant sites, traditional research and his direct experiences to explore firsthand the Eastern traditions, timeless philosophies and complex cultural, political, and religious forces that have shaped modern India. Read more about his program safari on an elephant, interactions with temple traditions, and taking rickshaw rides to class!

UC Berkeley Student Blogs About Experiences in Turkey

Eliot Claasen, a french major at UC Berkeley and writer for the Daily Cal, is blogging about his experiences in Turkey while studying at Bogazici University in spring 2014.

His first entry, entitled "My first week in Istanbul," chronicles how he deals with culture shock as well as exciting new discoveries. To follow Eliot on his journey, click here.
UCLA Alumna Awarded Guggenheim Internship in Venice

Natalia Cuba, a UCLA Italian and Special Fields in Art History alumna who spent academic year 2012-13 at the University of Bologna, has just been granted a Peggy Guggenheim Internship at the unique museum in Venice for fall 2014.

The Peggy Guggenheim internship program is designed for students interested in gaining first-hand experience in museum operations including managing the Peggy Guggenheim Collection's galleries, assisting visitors, guided tours and workshops.

While a UCEAP student at the University of Bologna, Natalia completed an internship at Galleria Forni. At UCLA, Natalia completed her senior capstone research thesis entitled "Peggy Guggenheim: A True Modernist and Founder of the New Experience of Viewing Art," directed by Professor Lucia Re. *Congratulazioni* Natalia!

UCSB Student Scores Top-level Law Firm Internship in Tokyo

Derek Yamashita is a Global Studies major at UC Santa Barbara and is currently studying abroad at International Christian University in Tokyo for the 2013-14 academic year. In addition to academic studies, and cultural immersion, Derek has also sought out professional work experience through an internship with a global law firm in Tokyo.

"I am currently a legal intern at the Tokyo branch of Bingham McCutchen LLP. Prior to arriving in Japan, I knew that I wanted to find some leads to help me after I graduated from UCSB. I knew that it would be extremely difficult to approach a firm on my own and decided to seek assistance from the US-Japan Bridging Foundation and the Japan America Society of Southern California."
My internship involves working under the attorneys at Bingham to advise clients on the structuring, organization, and formation of a variety of investment funds. The attorneys at Bingham also act as my mentors, providing me with information that I can leverage should I chose to follow the path of law in the future. Bingham has helped me visualize how my education at UCSB is actively preparing me for professional work, and has demystified my fears of post-university life. Through my internship with Bingham McCutchen, I feel that I am preparing for my future career through the experience and connections I have gained. This internship has greatly expanded my horizons and is one of the best parts about my amazing year abroad in Tokyo, Japan."

UCEAP/Reciprocity Student Selected as UC Scholar

Technical University Berlin student, Prem Borle, is currently studying at UCSD through UCEAP's reciprocity program. Excelling at his studies in San Diego, he has been selected to participate in the UC Scholars program, an 8-week, full-time research experience for undergraduates. Prem says, "With UC Scholars you get two for the price of one - for just one summer you get both a summer job and a research opportunity. It's a chance to surrender yourself to research, for a project that you can shape, and a path into graduate school and beyond." Congratulations to Prem!

UCEAP Students Discover Indigenous Chilean Culture

One of the excursions included in the UCEAP Santiago, Chile program is a visit to "Ruca Mapuche", a traditional indigenous dwelling. During a recent visit, students were greeted by a "Ionko", a mapuche wise man and elder, who taught them about the mapuche culture, history and political challenges.

This was a unique opportunity rarely granted to tourists and a chance to learn about the struggles facing indigenous populations as they try to preserve their culture and way of life in an ever-changing world.

UCEAP Students Explore Spanish Basque Country
The UCEAP Madrid Study Center recently organized a trip to the Basque Country in Northern Spain, a combined excursion for both Compultense University and Carlos III University students.

The students enjoyed visiting the classic Basque towns of Bilbao, San Sebastian and Burgos, including a trip to the world renowned Guggenheim Museum and Playa de la Concha.

An Evening of Scottish Cuisine

UC Merced Anthropology major, Alana Eldrige, is currently studying at the University of Glasgow and shares her experience using cooking as way to destress during the exam period:

"Spring break is over and exam period/final report due dates are finally upon us, which means students holed up in libraries and class notes strewn over coffee shop and tearoom tables. In the mix of all this final revision, UCEAP took students on a cultural culinary journey through the Scottish food scene via a cooking session at the Edinburgh New Town Cookery School.

We chopped, mixed, and stirred our way to creating three distinct savoury Scottish delicacies: Cheese Scones, Smoked Salmon Pate, and Forfar Bridies. Dressed in our striped aprons, with the warmth of the ovens and smells that filled the kitchen we were soon immersed in Scottish culture as our chefs, with their distinctly Scottish accents, guided us though the process of creating delicious Scottish dishes. Food, being such a fundamental part of human existence, is often an overlooked catalyst for the evolution of civilizations as well as being a distinct marker regarding cultural identity. This cooking session not only allowed us to take a break from studying as we relaxed and cooked some great food, it also allowed us to discover and enjoy the richness of Scottish culture. All thanks to UCEAP, I will be enjoying the rewards of this delicious and relaxing experience for days to come due to the particularly large portions of Scottish food we took home afterwards!"