UCEAP is UCSB’s gateway to the world. It also serves as the gateway to our students’ futures and the innumerable contributions they will make for the common good in a complex and dynamic global environment. More than 1,000 Gauchos now study in as many as 400 programs in more than 40 countries. Indeed, despite the social, political, and economic unrest that besets much of the world, our students this year are applying in greater numbers than ever before. Cultural immersion and language study are cornerstones of their study abroad experience, and UCSB stands out as one of the top five universities in the country for participation in year-long programs.

In the last ten years UCEAP has undergone a sea change in its programming to include opportunities for innovative field research, artistic creativity, cutting-edge laboratory experimentation, and career-building internships. All of these experiences receive academic credit that qualifies participants to continue to make progress on their degrees and graduate on time while they are abroad. The benefit UCEAP brings to UCSB, moreover, is multiplied when our students return to campus and enrich the internationalization of the campus both in the classroom and out. They are joined in this by as many as 300 exchange students from our partner universities abroad who come to study at UCSB. In my seven years as the faculty director, I continue to be amazed by how profoundly transformed our students are by their study abroad experiences, and how they in turn are transforming UCSB.

EAP alumni like you can see these transformations reflected in the student profiles depicted in this issue of *Global Gaucho*, and by following us on Facebook (facebook.com/ucsbeap). You can also help ensure that all of our students are able to study abroad by donating to our scholarship fund. I invite you to continue to support our EAP family.

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**Budgeting Abroad? Grow Your Own, Kiwi Style!**

*By Joshua Baron (University of Waikato, New Zealand, ’15)*

I arrived in New Zealand intent on spending the year learning what it is like to be a Kiwi. One challenge I faced, however, was finding a way to budget for food for an entire year. I wanted to eat well and eat plentifully while stretching my tight budget. I had to tackle this challenge strategically. The solution came to me: what better way to learn the Kiwi lifestyle, save money, and eat healthily than growing my own common Kiwi produce? A couple of minor problems: I’d never grown a plant in my life and I had no space to garden. A friend of mine from Malaysia who lived in my residence hall had empty water bottles filled with soil tied to the outside of his cottage. I figured he probably knew a little bit about growing food. He advised me “*All it takes is YouTube, soil, and water.*” That seemed easy enough, but we still didn’t have a space. So, I reached out to our Resident Director and asked him if Bryan and I could create a community garden for our residence hall. I figured this would be a win-win; I could have my Kiwi garden, and the residence hall would have something sustainable that would exist past my stay there. He loved the idea. He had a space dug out for us, took us out to buy gardening supplies, and even sent out an announcement to the other residents to see if anyone was willing to help. With the help of a few other residents, we filled the communal space with soil, added fertilizer, and planted all our baby...
plants. We maintained the garden throughout the year by watering it every day, pulling weeds, building tiny fortresses around the plants to keep the birds away, and harvesting and replanting the veggies when ready. We even spent a day at our Kiwi friend's farm shoveling sheep poo to use as fertilizer for our garden. It worked.

We successfully grew tomatoes, silverbeet, cauliflower, broccoli, spinach, potatoes, strawberries, celery, spring onions, and much more. I ate multiple meals that primarily consisted of the delicious veggies from our garden. With the help of my international friends, Resident Director, and Kiwi friends, I was able to accomplish my goals of learning about the Kiwi lifestyle, strategically budgeting, and eating a healthy diet.

We then took this initiative one step further. While each cottage in our residence hall had recycling containers, our food scraps were just going to waste. With our new community garden, we had a need for compost. Again, we approached the Resident Director with our concerns. He put us in contact with the University’s Chair of the Sustainability department, who taught us about composting and teaching people to compost.

So, our Resident Director got us bins to put in each cottage, and we created signs to instruct people on what to compost as well as hosted a workshop on composting. Throughout the rest of the year, we maintained the compost system, answered residents’ questions about composting, and added the finished compost to the community garden.

I grew with the veggies in this garden. This experience taught me that if I want something, all I have to do is learn how to get it and ask for help. My experience with the community garden and composting system epitomizes my experience studying abroad in that it allowed me to make connections with people from around the world, learn about the world, and learn about myself.

Josh Baron was the proud recipient of the UCSB EAP Zomalt Scholarship. He will be graduating in March 2018 as a double-major in Psychology and Anthropology, and a minor in Applied Psychology.

We are a Diverse Bunch!

UCSB EAP participants are increasingly varied, both ethnically and academically. To best serve our diverse student body, we are offering a wider range of program types. For example, UCEAP now has a Community Public Health program in the Dominican Republic which includes learning medical terminology in Spanish and a semi-rural clinical rotation. Students interested in the visual arts have opportunities to study painting, sculpture, textile and theater design at University of the Arts London. Other programs feature internships or research in engineering and science, as well as the usual opportunities to focus on foreign language & culture. UCEAP now offers over 400 programs in over 40 countries!


**Study Abroad: Transforming Hearts, Minds and Lives**

Three UCSB EAP student peer advisors reflect below on their experiences abroad in Italy, Japan and Ghana.

Before arriving in Italy, I assumed that I would easily be immersed in Italian culture once I started living in Rome. What I didn’t expect but quickly realized was that most Italians viewed us American students as simply tourists and defaulted to speaking in English when interacting with us. Though I understood that they were just trying to make it easier for us, it became frustrating as I started feeling more at home in the city, but would constantly be reminded that I was an outsider. So I began seeking out new opportunities to practice my Italian and found them in the most unexpected place: a local art studio just outside the city center. Here, a few classmates and I took painting lessons with an elderly Roman artist who only spoke to us in Italian. While it was difficult to communicate at first, I found my Italian improving the more time I spent with Giorgio. He didn’t just teach me how to paint; he introduced me to Italian culture. He brought me to meet other local artists, took me to nearby cafes, and fed me traditional Italian food. By the end of our program, I found a common language in both Italian and art. I realized that the best way to get to know a city is by getting to know its people.

Laura Kadi majored in art history and went on the Rome Through the Ages program in Italy. Laura was the recipient of an EAP scholarship. After graduating, Laura plans to work in either a museum or an auction house before pursuing a graduate degree in art history or art business.

I prepared for the experience of being a black American in Japan. I read blogs and watched YouTube videos of black individuals who had difficulty integrating into Japanese society. Despite my preparation, I was afraid that I would feel overwhelmed by the experience. In the beginning it was rough. It was hard to talk to Japanese people and my Japanese speaking ability made it even more difficult. But as time passed and I grew more confident in speaking Japanese, I was able to make friends. Through those friends, I was able to experience many new things in Japan – traditional rural festivals and I even competed in my very first power-lifting competition in Tokyo. As I began to learn more about Japanese culture from my Japanese friends, I was able to teach them about both black and American culture. This bonding created what I believe will be lifelong friendships. My experiences abroad influenced my decision to pursue work in the hospitality and tourism field. I want to serve people from all over the world. I always spoke about my EAP experience in my job interviews, and I believe it was what got me my career opportunity in Boston.

Percy Gharoo, a Global Studies major, spent a year at Waseda University in Japan. He is moving to Boston after graduation to work with Aramark. After shadowing the Northeastern regional manager for a few months to learn how to manage a facility, he will be managing most of the North American Lego stores. Percy received the Griffiths Scholarship, established to support UCSB students participating in EAP programs in East Asia and India.

In Ghana, I was unstoppable. Steeped in Accra’s rich air of optimism, I absorbed my new cultural setting with ease. Throughout the span of my program, I actively engaged with my academics; I undertook an internship where I led an art project for local children; and I even learned how to make “fufu” and a groundnut soup from scratch – all this despite the language barrier, eight straight days of “dumsor” (power outages), one week of serious allergies, and 90% humidity paired with the intense equatorial sun. On one occasion, I even walked for an hour and a half from my internship site to campus, enjoying the fact that I could comfortably navigate through the once overwhelming city of Accra, my new home. Adapting to life in Ghana seemed painless, as I was surrounded by fantastic support systems at the UC Center and my internship site. After living in Accra for ten and a half months, my perspectives on community, privilege, the disproportionate social and economic impacts of multinational corporations on developing nations, and appreciation of dance culture had been expanded infinitely. I went abroad to test my resilience and challenge perceptions by American media about “Africa” and came back a much more optimistic, driven, and empathetic global citizen.

Rachel Gray learned how to make the traditional Ghanaian dish “fufu” during her year abroad year in Accra, Ghana. Rachel received an EAP scholarship. She intends to pursue practical work experience and an MBA degree in order to successfully open and manage a socially and environmentally sustainable café themed around human rights.
The UC Santa Barbara EAP office wishes to thank you, our generous donors, for your support during the 2016-17 academic year. We would also like to recognize the leadership and dedication of our EAP Ambassadors. A very special thank you to Dennis Allen, Roxanne Frias, Alicia Goldsmith, Cori Hayman, Jan Koegler, Peggy Lamb, Jody Linick, John Loftus, Michael O’Connell, Ellen Raede, Sudi Staub, Marie Williams and Leslie Zomalt.

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*These donors are helping to secure the future of EAP by generously including the program in their estate plans.

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Why Give?

“Please help students like me have the opportunity to study abroad. I immigrated to the U.S. from Uruguay with my family when I was seven years old. As a result of my immigration, I became interested in different cultures and languages and decided to spend my junior year in France. Many people helped make my dream a reality – my family, my math department advisors, and alumni like you who help fund the EAP scholarship I received. Thanks to your generosity, students like me are able to have the experience of a lifetime!”

— Alejandro Stawsky

*Alejandro, a UCSB math major, was the recipient of an EAP scholarship that helped him spend this year in France.*
Sponsoring a UCSB EAP Student — It’s more than money; it’s about a relationship
By Steven Rose (Germany '68)

Ever since my year with UCEAP studying in Göttingen, Germany in 1968, I have wanted to live abroad. That proved nearly impossible during my career, but since my retirement, my wife and I go live 2-3 months every year in Berlin, one of the most dynamic and exciting cities in the world. When I went there in 1968, the Berlin Wall was up. East Berlin appeared very depressed and poor, a stark contrast to West Berlin which was thriving. Now it’s the eastern part of the city that is thriving. Each year we arrive, many changes are apparent. It’s an exciting place to live, and a great jumping off point for traveling to the former Iron Curtain countries of Eastern Europe, places that were difficult or impossible to visit before the Wall fell.

About the time we started living in Berlin part-time, I learned that UCSB EAP had a program for donors to sponsor students for their year abroad. This was a perfect opportunity for us. We could help a student financially, and also meet with them while they are in their host city. We decided to meet our scholarship recipients not long after they arrive in August, and again a month later when things have settled down. I’m reminded of the excitement but also the apprehension of landing in a foreign environment with a commitment to be there a year.

So far we have sponsored two students, and plan to sponsor quite a few more. Everyone should have the opportunity and encouragement to study in another country, and helping just one student get there has been extremely rewarding. One of the main goals of a college education is to be exposed to new ideas, and to learn how to think critically. Studying abroad does this ten-fold. During my own year abroad in 1968, I spoke and thought in a different language; I took courses with Germans at a German university; and I encountered European viewpoints on current events such as the Vietnam War, the Cold War (with the Russian tanks appearing in Prague), and the first landing on the moon, all of which occurred that year. I had no idea how much my year on UCEAP would open my mind to other perspectives, with effects lasting for the rest of my life. Now I can help students today have the same amazing opportunity I had.

Please join Steven’s efforts to enable more UCSB students to have the incredibly important opportunity to study abroad by returning the enclosed envelope or going to https://eap.ucsb.edu/donate-now. For more information about giving, contact Jodi Kirkland at 805-893-3729, jodi.kirkland@ucsb.edu.

Celebrating UCSB EAP — Our Chancellor’s Reception

UCSB Chancellor Yang and his wife Dilling (far left) once again generously opened their home to the UCSB EAP community for their annual reception. Shown here are UCSB students returned from abroad, heading abroad, as well as “reciprocity” students from our host universities abroad who are attending UCSB. Many, including the Chancellor and his wife, are sporting this year’s UCEAP t-shirt, designed by Le Tang, a third year Film and Media Studies major from UCSB. A self-taught designer and photographer, Le was the design winner of the system-wide contest and will be traveling to Denmark this fall to study at the University of Copenhagen! TRAVEL. LEARN. LIVE.
EAP Photo Contest - These are some of our finalists in this year’s student photo contest.

“Don’t Forget to Look Up”
Blue Mountains, Australia
Lilly Erickson, UCEAP Australia

“Sunset Glide”
Cape Town, South Africa
Sean Knight, UCEAP South Africa

“Carnival Mask Painter”
Florence, Italy
Rachel Enders, UCEAP Germany