Creating a New “Me” in Brazil

By Juliet Kellogg (Brazil, ’08-09)

I am home in Santa Barbara after eleven months of adventures in the Southern Hemisphere. I spent almost an entire year attending the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro. While there, I studied Portuguese and took some Communication and Art classes. Looking back, I can see that my study abroad experience was pivotal. It pointed me in an unexpected direction, and allowed me to discover new interests and career goals.

To be honest, my first semester is one big blur. This must be why everyone says to do the full year abroad. I felt thrown into a different society. I was nervous to speak the language. It was fun exploring the town but I was in a daze. My turning point came when I made a friend and she introduced me to her wonderful Brazilian family. They were humble people but I have never been shown so much hospitality. They cooked me dinners, called to check up on me, and the girls treated me like a sister. When it was finally time for me to come home, we all cried together and I was showered with hand-sewn gifts.

My classroom experience was equally memorable. A bamboo design course I took first semester sparked my interest in eco-design and the environment. I learned how to make basic home structures and researched opportunities to learn more about bioconstruction. I became a member of World Wide Opportunities.

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New Acting Director of UCSB’s EAP Office

Juan Campo, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and an affiliated faculty member of the Global and International Studies Program, is the new Acting Faculty Director of the campus EAP office. Juan has nearly twenty years of experience with the Education Abroad Program and international education on campus. He served as the EAP Study Center Director in Cairo, Egypt (1991-93) and in Delhi, India (1998-2001), and spent many years on various academic committees on international education. We are very excited to welcome such an experienced supporter of education abroad to direct the campus office.

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From the UC Santa Barbara EAP Faculty Director

Professor Michael O’Connell

Retiring from something you’ve loved doing for forty years cannot help but be something of a bittersweet event. Teaching renaissance English literature at UCSB and writing books and essays about it have been a dream career. But I have to say that the chance to serve the Education Abroad Program has given just as much satisfaction. During the last half of that career I figure I’ve filled just about every possible EAP faculty position, concluding now as EAP faculty director at UCSB, a role I’ve played for the last six years.

Since faculty mostly prefer to teach and do their research, we generally become involved in administrative and committee work with a certain grudging reluctance. We do such work because we know the university needs it.

But for me, working with and for EAP has been something entirely different. I’ve always had the sense that students, all of them in one way or another my students, are benefitting from the best educational experience of their lives. I felt that when I was study center director in London back in ’92-’94 and participated in their excitement and discovery. I feel it now when I talk to our returned students, like Juliet, Jinna, Cole, and Paola, who write of their experiences in this issue. I knew it when my daughter Ellen spent her junior year through EAP in Paris a few years back.

If I can help make that kind of educational experience happen, why wouldn’t I consider it the very best use of my time as a professor?
on Organic Farms – Brazil (WWOOF), and embarked on a three-week journey to the middle of nowhere ... or more precisely, right outside the beautiful town of Alto Paraíso, or “high paradise.” It really WAS paradise after spending such a long time in the congested city of Rio. While in Alto Paraíso, I watered plants and helped pick beans. I also learned about permaculture, an agricultural philosophy that promotes sustainability, locally grown foods, natural materials home construction, and rainfall collection. Thanks to my new passion, I now hope to begin volunteering at the urban agriculture center in Goleta.

While in Rio, I also had the opportunity to volunteer at two excellent non-profits. At Instituto Dois Irmãos, I taught English to adults, and at Tio Lino’s Mundo da Arte, I led children in art projects using recycled materials. Both were located in South America’s biggest shantytown, or favela, Rocinha. While Rocinha suffers from poor infrastructure and is rife with drugs and violence, volunteering there was my favorite thing to do in Rio de Janeiro. I especially loved working with the children, and teaching art gave me the opportunity to use my creativity to help kids that sometimes need to escape the reality of favela life. I still keep in touch with my students and this experience gave me a sense of purpose while living my privileged life in Brazil.

Finally, in my academic life, one course in particular was life changing. “Biochip” was a course in the Art and Design department and was all about using food as an art form. I learned how to germinate seeds, dehydrate food, and ferment vegetables. While most of my diet remains the same, I have implemented the use of raw “live” foods in my diet and I have started eating locally grown foods. I am now much more environmentally conscious and have decided that upon graduation, I would like to attend graduate school in international public policy, with a focus on the issues of hunger and agriculture. Living in Brazil gave me an opportunity not to “find myself” but to create a “new me,” an individual connected to other human beings and other hearts. I am truly grateful that the Duttenhaver Scholars Fund brought me to Brazil to grow. While abroad, I unlocked a burning desire to pursue public service and public policy. Thank you, EAP, for giving me this chance. I am happier with my experiences and myself than I have ever been in my life.

Juliet Kellogg was one of nine UCSB EAP students to receive a $5,000 Duttenhaver Scholars Award to study abroad in 2008-09. Linda Duttenhaver, a UCSB EAP alumna (Bordeaux 1975–1976), funds this and the Dan Wise Memorial Scholarships to encourage and assist year-long study abroad. Juliet spent her entire sophomore year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She returned to UCSB and plans to graduate in June, 2011 in Communications Studies. She made and posted a video about the Tio Lino project in the Rocinha favela in Rio that features some of the children shown here. You can watch it at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IZoTQWdMQU

**Director’s Letter**

For EAP is truly one of the jewels of the University of California. It is a brilliantly constructed program that enables several thousand UC students to have these kinds of experiences. I realized this when I was study center director, and the past 16 years have only confirmed my sense of EAP’s enormous value.

EAP is going through various transformations at the moment – new systemwide leadership and, it’s hoped, a new reporting line within the University – all of which leave me hopeful that the program can regain some stability and momentum. For most of its history, EAP was administered by UCSB for the entire UC system. I’m hopeful that a return to this structure will enable a recovery after several very challenging years under the Office of the President in Oakland.

Educational structures are frequently fragile, but I’ve been impressed by the resilience of EAP. This is due primarily to the support it has enjoyed from faculty and staff across UC. The reason for this support is the academic vision of the program. Lots of universities have study abroad programs now; most take their students abroad with their own faculty for relatively short periods of time. EAP’s distinction has been that it aims truly to immerse its students in an educational and cultural experience distinct from what they’ve experienced in UC. We don’t take our students abroad; we send them. We take care of them, but we also demand that they find their way in strange and unfamiliar academic pathways.

But you, alumni of EAP, know all this. I’m delighted to have worked with many of you. And you may not have heard the last of me as I try to rustle up more EAP scholarships for UCSB students.

Michael O’Connell is retiring from UCSB after a long and distinguished history with EAP. He served as the UK/Ireland Study Center Director from 1992-1994, following which he served as his department’s EAP liaison officer for eight years. Since 2003, he has held the Directorship of UCSB’s campus EAP office, encouraging thousands of students to study abroad. Michael has been a fearless leader and passionate advocate of EAP. We want to thank Michael for his dedicated service and wish him smooth sailing onto new waters upon his retirement.
Study Abroad: Still Transforming Hearts, Minds, and Lives

Three UCSB student peer advisors, all EAP returnees who assist us with recruitment, selection, and orientation activities, reflect on their experiences abroad in Italy, Chile, and China.

As I nervously waited for my Italian host mom, I imagined a chubby little woman running up and calling me her “bambina.” Instead, a tall slender woman wearing a tie-dyed, bellbottom pantsuit and white Doc Martins approached me with open arms. I knew immediately my experience was going to be completely different from what I expected, and I’m glad it was.

In my wildest daydreams about life on EAP, I never pictured myself hiking in the Italian Alps hunting wild mushrooms, but that was the first thing we did as a host family. We ate a dish made of our freshly picked mushrooms and drove home as my host mom and brother quizzed me on the Italian curse words I had picked up since my arrival. They shared the English ones they knew and we all laughed at our respective accents when using our risqué vocabulary.

Living with two Italian host brothers in their twenties was everything an only child like me could have imagined having siblings would be like; they were caring, yet played practical jokes on me, and they always had a smart answer for everything. Most importantly, they showed me how to live as a 20 year old in Padova, Italy. What made my study abroad experience epic were not the beautiful historic buildings, it was the taste of modern Italian family life.

At the end of her EAP studies in Padova, Italy, Paola Bassignana, a Global Studies & Italian double major, went to visit some Italian family members she had never met before. “I was very nervous during the entire five hour train ride but all the butterflies flew away after their warm welcome. My cousin pulled out maps, history books, and old photo albums and explained our entire family history to me that day.”

Packing for my EAP program in Shanghai while home for winter break, I was still uneasy about whether I had chosen the right program for myself. My first week there, however, I made friends with local students in my Marxism course. My four new friends were not only eager to show me around campus, but also genuinely interested in my American lifestyle. They taught me a range of useful things, from how to use the local buses to Chinese slang. Xiao Jing even invited me to her home for a traditional Shanghainese meal. Her family was very welcoming and generous.

During my EAP semester, I also got a taste of working life in Shanghai. I had an internship downtown with Shanghai Dragon Corporation, an international fabric distributing company. I shadowed the International Market Manager to learn how the company marketed its international brands. I assisted them in researching foreign companies that could potentially become brand licensors. This experience opened my eyes to a possible career in international marketing.

My time in Shanghai not only opened my eyes to a new culture, but also to new career options. I formed lifelong friendships and connections in Shanghai and hope to return there in the near future.

Jinna Wang, a Business Economics major, spent a semester in Shanghai, China. She particularly enjoyed taking the subway with friends and spontaneously getting off to explore the city and discover hidden antique markets and eateries.

As a student at UCSB, I took certain things for granted. I presumed that classes would start on time, in the correct room, and that the teacher would regularly attend. I was never worried about the campus shutting down due to social unrest, an important soccer game, or anniversaries of military coups. I never thought to bring a scarf to class everyday to use in the event of tear gas.

Attending a public university in Latin America changed all of this. I spent the first month at University of Chile completely lost, befuddled by the absence of a clear syllabus handed to me on the first day by an organized professor. I was convinced that there was a secret network of information Chileans had access to, passed telekinetically and off-limits to gringos.

As the semester progressed, I developed strategies to figure out the intricacies of the Latin American university. I was forced to make friends and came to depend on them. By my second semester, the disorganization and chaos had become the norm and I could skillfully navigate my new university. I had successfully tapped the elusive web of knowledge I previously found impenetrable. Adjusting to a new university forces you to approach learning in a completely different way. I returned to UCSB enriched by my new perspective, and will continue to apply it throughout my academic career.

Cole M. Harry had lived his whole life in a town of 25,000 and suddenly found himself in Santiago, Chile, a capital city of over six million. His first day was sensory overload, “an incessant cacophony of construction and car horns, the twenty-four hour aroma of street food, buses and metros that were filled nearly to the breaking point with people and this bizarre, slang-ridden language that was supposedly Spanish.”
Thank You, EAP!

By Kamal Zargar (Bologna, ’06-07)

On my first day of classes at UCSB, I walked into a freshmen seminar on studying abroad taught by English Professor and EAP Faculty Director Michael O’Connell. A small group of us met once a week for a few hours to discuss readings, interview reciprocal EAP students and returnees, and, of course, plan our own study abroad experiences. I decided I wanted to study in Bologna, Italy for a year, which was going to be a serious financial struggle for me. Fortunately, I received both a Duttenhaver Scholars Award and a Jeanie Anderson Memorial Research Grant. The grant allowed me to develop a project on Bolognese artist Annibale Carracci that ended up having a significant impact on both my academic and professional life.

Upon my return from Italy, I knew that I had an advantage over my peers who had not studied abroad, from my new language skills to my understanding of different cultures. After graduation, I secured an internship at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. and eventually made my way back to Italy to work as an Assistant Intern Coordinator with the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. My EAP experience was critical in helping me achieve what I have since graduating from UC Santa Barbara in 2008, and none of it would have been possible without the scholarships I received from EAP and their donors!
Study Abroad’s Ultimate Benefit: How to Interact with People from Around the World

By Karla Conny (Israel ’81-82)

My father always encouraged me to study abroad. He traveled and worked around the world and I loved his stories about his experiences in different countries. When I finally made my way to the UCSB EAP office, I decided to go to Israel. A few weeks before my departure, Israel declared war on Lebanon; sitting in language-school in Haifa in the summer of 1981, I listened to the constant bombs, helicopters and airplanes from the border war an hour away. I lived with three roommates who spoke no English, so I learned the language quickly.

In September, I moved to the amazing city of Jerusalem. The pebbles I kicked in the road could have been part of Herod’s castle. Zealots crawled on their knees along the Stations of the Cross. Wandering the tiny alleys of Arab East Jerusalem, I ended up at the Dome of the Rock. Thousands of years of history and I was part of it!

I spent Christmas and Easter in Bethlehem. I traveled to Egypt with a UC specialist in Egyptian Archeology. I went on a hike to Masada where I met then-President Jimmy Carter, whom I joined in a private tour. Over the next ten years, I lived, worked and played in North Africa, Europe and Asia. I saw the world, listened to its people, and learned to really love and appreciate the United States for all that we have, both materially and in terms of opportunities.

I discovered how to listen to different opinions—to understand and appreciate that they are based on places of origin and the histories therein. I learned how to interact with people of any stripe. I think this is the ultimate benefit of my studying abroad.

I have been an Engineering Program Manager at various start-ups and tech companies in Silicon Valley, which is probably the most cross-cultural location I have ever experienced. Currently my teammates hail from Ecuador, Israel, Spain, and Bulgaria. My UCSB EAP experience provided a critical foundation to my life. I wanted to make a statement of thanks for opening my eyes at a young age by helping others to broaden their perspectives about what makes the world tick. Therefore, I donate to EAP. The emails I receive from the EAP students I assist are worth every dime. I am a proud and lifelong supporter of Education Abroad.

EAP Ambassadors – Who ARE We?

As EAP Ambassadors, we are a group of UCSB EAP alumni and parents of alumni who work with the UCSB EAP staff to help ensure the program’s success. We enjoy giving back by assisting the program that has had such a major impact on our own lives. We meet quarterly with the UCSB EAP staff to assist with alumni communications and programming. Our involvement is more than philanthropic—it also provides a meaningful connection to UCSB, and specifically, EAP. Plus, it’s a great excuse to visit UCSB and wander around the campus on a regular basis!

We know the importance of studying and living abroad, and are honored to have the opportunity to stay connected with this important program.

The Proudly-Serving UCSB EAP Ambassadors:

Becky Doody (past EAP parent)
Beth Lind Foote (Ireland ’78)
Alicia Saver Goldsmith (Spain ’81)
Cori Macdonneil Hayman (Spain ’88)
Jan Koegler (France ’80)
Jody Rudd Linick (France ’84)
John Loftus (Australia ’99)
Michael O’Connell (Former EAP Faculty Director & past EAP parent)
Ellen Cohen Raede (Spain ’79)
Elena Butler Thompson (Spain ’82)
Leslie Meyers Zomalt (France ’63)

If you’d like more information, including how to become a UCSB EAP Ambassador yourself, please contact EAP Development Director Sudi Staub at 805.893.2190 or sudi.staub@ia.ucsb.edu.
EAP Photo Contest – These photos were among the finalists in our most recent EAP photo contest.

Smiling Buddhas, Kyoto, Japan
Victoria Tran
Kyoto ’08-09

Castells, Barcelona, Spain
Deysi Blanco
Barcelona ’08-09

Tomatina Festival, Buñol, Spain
Blake Criswell
Granada ’08-09

All Gaucho Reunion

About 30 EAP alumni gathered on April 24 as part of the All Gaucho Reunion. They shared stories and heard how Kathleen Inman (United Kingdom ’84) was able to combine her passion for travel with a career in the wine industry. The group was honored to have the original EAP Director, Bill Allaway, and his wife Olivia as special guests. Mark your calendars for next year’s All Gaucho Reunion, April 29-May 1, 2011.

This edition of the Global Gaucho is brought to you thanks to the generosity of some very special EAP donors.