Making a difference. This is the raison d'être of EAP—making a difference at UCSB, making a difference in the lives of our students, making a difference in our communities and in the world. Examples of how we make a difference can be found throughout this year’s issue of the Global Gaucho—in our profiles of outstanding students and in our recognition of the generosity of our alumni and friends. Every day they remind us of the promise and impact of EAP as an agent of change in the lives of individuals and in the world. Indeed, as we strive to fulfill the EAP vision of academic excellence, study abroad for all, and best practices, we understand that we not only better equip our students to achieve their personal dreams and aspirations, but that we also foster greater engagement with the world for the common good.

I want to make special mention of Sue Berg Arnold, our retiring Associate Director. Sue has been the mainstay of our office for nearly 25 years and has served UCSB for even longer. Thanks to her gentle and wise guidance, we have moved from a tiny office with two staff members to a more spacious one that now has eight staff members, eight student peer advisors, and nearly seventy Global Interns. In the last two decades our participation numbers have grown from less than

The Wonder of Study Abroad

By Phillip Taylan

(EAP, Tohoku University, Japan, ’13)

Before going to Japan I had studied Japanese language and culture. I thought I was reasonably prepared to live and study engineering there. But upon arriving in Japan, I immediately realized this was not the case. I am a California boy, born and raised in Chico, who had spent two years at UCSB before arriving in Tokyo. I call my parents’ friends by their first names. I express my opinions freely. Landing in Japan, I was suddenly confronted by very strict and formal norms for social interactions. This is something you read about but you can really have no understanding of until you experience it. My first interaction was with my taxi driver who was very deferential to me. Me! A nervous American kid much younger than him! Was this the standard treatment by taxi drivers? Was this the way everyone gets treated? I began to pick up on all the cultural clues regarding appropriate Japanese behavior and eventually found my conversations properly formal and scripted, based on whom I was addressing and what role they were in. When I sat down in my professor’s office, I held myself completely upright, with both feet on the floor, hands on my knees, as I addressed him in a reserved tone.

Initially I found these new customs to be exciting. This was the challenging adventure I had hoped for when I imagined studying abroad. But as with everything, the longer I did it, the more I became accustomed to it. And eventually, acting “Japanese” became second nature to me. After a couple of months, I felt as if I was no longer being stared at. Somehow my demeanor communicated more than my foreign facial features and indicated that I belonged there.

Then one memorable evening I rode the Ropeway up Mount Hakodate to enjoy the dramatic night view of the city. The place was packed, with many foreigners as well as touring Japanese. I took in the spectacular view, wandered around a bit and then got in line for the gondola to descend. Behind me I heard what sounded like some English words, interspersed with giggles and high-pitched
two hundred annually to over 1000, and next year promises to be a record-breaking one. Sue has indeed made a difference at UCSB and will continue to inspire us for years to come; we look forward to her continued engagement in EAP alumni activities.

Speaking of changes, I will be on special leave in the fall quarter as a residential scholar at the UC Humanities Research Institute in UC Irvine, where I plan to finish my next book on global pilgrimage and engage with other UC humanities scholars in discussions around the theme of mortality. Professor Francisco Lomeli (Spanish and Portuguese, Chicana and Chicano Studies) will be the acting EAP faculty director. He has long been one of our strongest supporters and has served as EAP study center director in Costa Rica and Chile. I know our office will be in good hands in my absence.

In closing, I hope that you will consider making a difference to the lives of UCSB undergrads through a donation to our scholarship funds that will enable more of our students to study abroad. Thank you for your generous support of EAP.
Three months into my program in Thailand I was feeling homesick. I have always been close to my family and the distance and time spent away from them was getting to me. It was at this time that I went on a field trip to the Western border of Thailand. On our second day we arrived at a temple where I felt the warm gaze of an elderly Thai woman. After smiling at her she immediately came over, took my hand, and started conversing with me. While I had been in Thailand for 3 months, my Thai was nowhere nearly as fluent as this Thai woman perceived; however, in basic Thai I managed to tell her a bit about myself. She took my hand and brought me to a small garden where she pulled out an iPad from her purse. She proceeded to show me photos of her friends, her family, and the places she called home. I did not understand much of what she was saying yet I could feel the kindness that this Thai woman was showing me. We were then joined by her friends and she immediately introduced me with an unfamiliar word. I motioned to one of my Thai classmates to translate and she immediately smiled when she heard the woman speak. She was referring to me as her grandson and wanted me to call her grandmother. In a place so far from home, during a time when I really felt the absence of my family, this kind woman made me feel the warmth of family. It has been over a year since I left Thailand but through Facebook my Thai grandma still reminds me she is waiting for my return.

A double-major in Global Studies and Cultural Anthropology, Timothy Yeh spent one semester abroad in Thailand and another in Brazil. He will move to Sao Paulo, Brazil after graduation and pursue a career in Public Health there.

I would have never expected some of the greatest memories of my study abroad experience would be in the windowless basement of a small building on a side street just off the Thames river. Just around the corner of London’s most frequented destinations, Trafalgar Square, was a tiny office in which I spent most of my spring semester during my year abroad at King’s College London. I was an intern at the Raindance Film Festival, the largest independent film festival in the United Kingdom. Despite having to wear my heavy coat indoors due to the impressive lack of insulation of this basement office, I enjoyed every moment I spent immersed in the magic that happens behind the scenes to pull off an amazing film festival. The festival’s front desk was entirely managed by three American interns and this caused quite a bit of confusion as callers would request to speak with “the American girl I talked to yesterday”. At Raindance, I screened hundreds of short films submitted to the festival from around the world, met local London filmmakers, and learned how important it is in a British office to know how everyone takes their tea. The experience I had as an intern on EAP completely inspired my career goals. Upon my return from London, I sought opportunities to intern with the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Olivia Priedite (EAP UK) graduated as a double major in Film Studies and Communication. Armed with solid internship experience with international film festivals, she intends to work full-time in this area.

Ten million people. One city. Ten million bodies going through the day-to-day rituals of work, school, religion, eating, drinking, going, going, going. Ten million voices ordering a taco, a torta de milanesa con Coca from the local street vendor. Ten million people laughing and swearing as their bus leaves them behind and they must race to catch the metro before it leaves the station. Ten million hearts beating together. That... is Mexico City, el DF.

Why choose to study abroad in a place so crowded, so stricken with violence, drugs, and governmental corruption? Why choose to study abroad in Mexico if here in California we are already so exposed to Mexican culture? “Why not just ‘study abroad’ in Texas?” one of my father’s colleagues asked me. Living in a modern metropolis and studying at UNAM, the “Harvard of Latin America”, offered me the opportunity to become enveloped in a culture and language completely foreign to me, to experience the profound diversity embedded in Mexican society, and to observe a society changing from old to new. This drastic yank out of my comfort zone, though initially shocking, taught me that so many people in this world live their lives completely differently, yet equally contentedly, than we do. It also taught me that being out of one’s comfort zone is the best way to experience new things, taste new and exciting foods, forge deep and lasting relationships, and emerge stronger and better equipped than ever before. All of this happened to me because of Mexico. All of this happened to me because of ten million people in one city. ¡Que viva México!

Brennan Bowen (EAP Mexico), a Linguistics major, graduated and intends to teach English and Spanish in Shanghai, China and eventually work for The Walt Disney Company.
The UC Santa Barbara EAP office wishes to thank the following for their generous donations during the 2014-2015 academic year:

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Sue’s Retiring!

UCSB EAP’s long-time Associate Director, **Susan Berg Arnold**, has retired after 35 years of service with the University. Sue began her adventures in study abroad as an undergrad studying French in Paris. After graduating from UCSB, she began her EAP career in the mid-1980s as the assistant to UCEAP founding director, Bill Allaway. In addition to over-seeing our strong growth in number of students studying abroad and office staff, Sue also helped establish the alumni Ambassadors group and greatly expanded the UCEAP Gaucho alumni network.

Reflecting on her many years working with EAP, Sue stated “I’ve been honored to work with so many great people, and proud to work for an organization that is making a real difference in the world. I am especially grateful to all of the wonderful students, staff and faculty I have been blessed to work with over the years.” It is hard for us to imagine life at UCSB EAP without Sue. She has been a strong director and always extremely supportive of her staff. Fortunately, she leaves behind enthusiastic office staff, committed to continuing the mission of sending more and more Gauchos on the best adventure they can imagine.

Although hard for us to say farewell to Sue, we are extremely pleased to announce that Emily Tom-Atzberger is assuming the Associate Director position. Emily has been an advisor in the UCSB EAP office for over eight years and we look forward to a smooth transition at our helm.
What a Difference a Year Makes
By Dennis Allen (France, ’62)

My year studying abroad in France on the inaugural program of UCEAP became the most profound of my life—creating a love of diversity, an affinity for other cultures, and an insatiable desire to learn and understand the world politically, economically, environmentally and humanly. This EAP experience later led to work chapters in Europe and Africa, finding a European wife, monitoring the 1973 Indochina Peace negotiations in Paris, creating an info-video of Brazil’s cutting edge solutions to social and environmental problems, and learning other languages—to name just a few of the rewards emanating from my college year abroad.

I put myself through university and I realize that with today’s tuition and living costs, someone like me would not be able to have this important life-changing adventure without scholarship help. I want all Gauchos to have the opportunity to study abroad. I feel an EAP experience is imperative to create more worldly, productive citizens. Giving to the UCSB EAP scholarship fund is my way of helping out. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to do so.

If you would like to enable more UCSB students to have the incredibly important opportunity to study abroad, please give what you can to the EAP Scholarship Fund, https://eap.ucsb.edu/donate-now, or by returning the enclosed envelope. For more information about giving, contact Jodi Kirkland at 805-893-3729, jodi.kirkland@ucsb.edu.

C’est “Cheers!”

Offer up delicious wine and cheese... and the EAP crowds will come!

Hosted by alumna Cori Hayman (Spain ’87) and Russell Hayman, the UCSB EAP reunion featured imported cheeses and wines from around the world. Guests sauntered through the doors of the French-inspired café “C’est Cheese” while UCSB student musicians infused the space with jazz accompaniment. EAP alumni delighted in the international flavor of the evening, sampling sparkling champagne from South Africa and the pungent cheeses for which France is known.

Stories of traveling, of getting lost in foreign cities, of struggling to communicate in a different language—these memories and experiences bubbled to the surface as EAP alumni took pleasure in sharing stories of their time abroad. Peg- ggy Lamb (France ’70) amused guests with a reading from her memoir, Then I Won’t Seem So Far Away. EAP Ambassador Ellen Raede (Spain ’78) led a toast inspired by her time in Spain, “¡Arriba, abajo, al centro, pa’ dentro!” (up, down, center and inside!), as guests raised their glasses and toasted one another in supreme camaraderie.

EAP has frequently drawn like-minded individuals into a community, bringing people together who share a passion for travel, education and the unique opportunities that arise in one’s lifetime. Alumni go on to explore the world and continually cultivate their natural curiosity. These “Global Gauchos” learn to bridge the gap between cultures and languages, and often develop long-lasting friendships from these exchanges.

This UCSB EAP Alumni event was part of the All Gaucho Reunion in April. Be sure to join us next year, April 28-May 1, 2016.

EAP Alumna Publishes Memoir from Time Abroad

Like so many of us, when UCSB grad Peggy O’Toole departed on EAP, she had little idea just how broadening her experience would be. Going to France in the 70s, she embarked on a free-wheeling journey involving liaisons, drugs and many adventures she failed to report in her weekly aérogrammes to her mother. Her captivating memoir gathers the author’s letters, while offering annotations on what really transpired across the Atlantic. Then I Won’t Seem So Far Away takes you across Europe and North Africa, and may take you back to your own study abroad experiences as well. You can find this book on Amazon.

Peggy O’Toole has generously donated her memoir proceeds to the Education Abroad Program.
EAP Photo Contest
These were the winning entries in our most recent student photo contest.

“Taking It In”
Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa
Leigh Evans, EAP South Africa

“The Artist”
Riomaggiore, Cinque Terre, Italy
Kayla Miller, EAP Italy

“Old Town Jerez inside Bodega Tío Pepe”
Jerez de la Frontera, Spain
Keenan Dalton, EAP Spain