From the
UC Santa Barbara
Faculty Director
Professor Juan E. Campo
This year proved once again that study abroad is valued as a core component in undergraduate education at UCSB. Increasingly, students are discovering that the complex challenges and dizzying social, economic, political, and ecological transformations that are shaping the world in the twenty-first century demand acquiring knowledge situated in global not just local contexts. Countries in Western Europe have been traditional favorites, but students are increasingly selecting destinations further afield in East Asia, Australia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Nearly 1,000 UCSB students now participate in EAP annually, making us the leader among UC campuses. Twenty years ago only 184 UCSB students (out of 1382 total UC participants) enrolled in EAP. Just ten years ago only 338 participated (out of 2410), so we have plainly experienced remarkable growth in recent years. Additionally, we now host more than 300 reciprocity students from partner universities in more than 25 countries. That many students—outgoing and incoming—has a multiplier effect on the globalization of education at UCSB and abroad—an asset that is both recognized and supported by the wider UCSB community.

A great deal of our success depends on providing EAP students with the financial support needed to make their dreams of study abroad a reality. The UCSB EAP Ambassadors support group continues to collaborate

Where You End Up
By Sophie Tahran (Egypt & Israel, ’10-11)
Choosing to study on EAP in Egypt, I expected to have a somewhat non-traditional experience. I anticipated the culture shock that would come with living in an Arab, Muslim country. I never considered, however, that I would emerge from my year abroad knowing what rubber bullets sound like, or how to negate the effects of tear gas. I never expected to end up spending my last four months abroad living in Jerusalem, either. But somehow, the most unexpected experiences end up being the ones we value most. Douglas Adams said it best: “I may not have gone where I expected to go, but I think I ended up where I needed to be.”

During my first six months abroad, I explored Egypt as any tourist should. I tilted my head as far back as possible to see the top of the Great Pyramid at Giza; I sailed lazily down the Nile on a felucca boat; and I stared open-mouthed at the golden mask of King Tutankhamen in the Cairo Museum. I ate more koshari, shawarma, and tahina than anyone ever should. Slowly, I learned to explore Egypt as travelers are not able to. I bartered with taxi drivers and got accustomed to playing “Frogger” when crossing the street.

On the ‘women’s cart’ of the Metro, I avoided staring in awe at the rainbow of headscarves decorated in rhinestones and flowery decals. I remember the first time I saw a Muslim pray. We landed in Cairo in the middle of Ramadan, the holy month of Islam, and climbed aboard a bus that wound through the endless hills of sand until finally reaching the American University of Cairo. The security guard at the entrance to the university stepped away from his post and laid down a small, rectangular mat. Others around him had slips of cardboard, or flattened boxes to protect their knees and foreheads from the bare ground as they performed prostrations.

My small group of freshly arrived American kids tried not to stare, wide-eyed at this blatant display of faith. It was almost unimaginable to me that most of the country was fasting from sunrise to sunset in the name of their religion.

Fast forward to January of 2011. Egyptians gathered in the middle of Tahrir Square, camping out in the name of freedom. Again, I

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saw Muslims pray - hundreds of thousands of them lined up neatly across the square, moving in unison. Over the course of those historic few weeks, Egyptians united and I found myself in the middle of a revolution. On my walk home one day, I saw a group of people push back ranks of riot police in full gear, passing through tear gas, water cannons, and armored tanks. The policemen soon left the streets, and civilians stepped in to direct traffic. My doorman formed one of thousands of neighborhood watch groups to protect our small street from looters, yet still offered me tea and a place to sit when I ventured out to say hello.

That night ended up being my last in Cairo. At 3 A.M., I received orders to evacuate the country. A day later, I was in Barcelona. Two days after that, as I was getting ready to fly back to California, EAP offered me the option to continue studying abroad in Israel, South Korea, or Germany. After fifteen minutes of dancing around my hotel room, questioning whether this was real life, I chose to spend my next four months in Israel. Talk about not expecting where you end up!

Suddenly, I was surrounded by men wearing tall, black hats. Fridays and Saturdays marked Shabbat, when all Jewish sections of the city shut down and morphed into ghost towns in observance of the holy day, and manners of dress varied dramatically depending on which street you were walking down. I took weekend trips to places straight out of the holy texts of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. And when I got a little bit homesick for Cairo, the Muslim Quarter of the Old City provided a small taste of the Arabic, falafel, and general chaos of my former home.

Most importantly, I learned to live in conflict. Jerusalem provided a front-seat look at the tension within both Israeli and Palestinian life. Security officers greet visitors to most restaurants and shops, and any bag left behind is automatically viewed as a threat. An abandoned suitcase was the cause of the Jerusalem Central Bus Station bombing during my second month there, causing another round of safety check-ins at the university and consoling emails to my parents. Entire nearby neighborhoods were off-limits to us, and everyone around us had a direct tie to the conflict. Even writing papers for class proved to be a challenge with the additional hurdle of screening sources for pro- or anti-Israel bias.

And then came Nakba day, the Israeli version of Independence Day. Palestine supporters marched on the borders, some calling for a third intifada, or uprising. The Palestinian neighborhood next to my campus and dorm was volatile as protesters marched through the streets and launched rocks back at the Israeli Defense Forces. On my walk to school, my eyes watered with the all-too-familiar smell of tear gas. The booms that filled the air were the result of rubber bullets being shot. This independence day, I wasn’t hearing fireworks, as I soon would on July 4th back in the U.S.

I can now contrast the manifestations of independence. In the States, Independence Day is a time of celebration, of family barbecues and sparklers. Halfway around the world, it’s a continued reminder that citizens are still fighting—for rights to land, free elections, and a new future.

My year abroad split between Egypt and Israel may not have been where I expected to go, but I wouldn’t have had it any other way.
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 Brazil, Spain and Italy.

Americans in general expect efficiency. My first day in Rio taught me that not everyone functions under the philosophy that “time is money.” During my first month, I was irritated by long lines and getting stuck behind strolling people on the boardwalk. My fellow American students and I complained to each other about it daily, until I had an attitude change.

About a month into my stay, I started to notice how relaxed Brazilians were in these same situations. While I would be gritting my teeth at the grocery store, the men and women around me would be chatting it up, using their time in line as an invaluable period of their day where they could converse with complete strangers. Inefficient bureaucracy provided people a unique way to bond with one another. These daily rituals are what encompass the Brazilian attitude in a nutshell. Once I grasped this concept, I began to develop my own jeitinho brasileiro (Brazilian way).

This jeitinho brasileiro is what I have tried to keep with me upon returning to the States. The concept of “working to live,” not “living to work” is one that makes me less stressed, keeps a smile on my face, and allows me to appreciate those around me. Apparently, efficiency isn’t always needed for success anyway, considering Brazil is now the 7th strongest economy in the world according to the IMF. So, thanks to my time abroad, I made a lifestyle change that has improved my disposition.

Boone Bishop studied in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on EAP. Since graduating in Global and International Studies with a minor in Portuguese, she has begun planning a biking trip from San Diego, CA to São Paulo, Brazil where she intends to volunteer and write a thesis on sustainable development and environmental practices in all of the countries she passes through.

Before leaving for Spain, I had no idea what I wanted to do after graduating. I was tired of my student routine in Santa Barbara and I wanted to do something out of the ordinary. While living in Spain I felt as if I was constantly looking for an answer to a question I did not know I was asking. As a Political Science major, I studied the European Union. However, it was my experiences outside the classroom that led me down my current path. I taught English at a summer camp 30 minutes outside of Barcelona. I traveled to many places making new friends along the way. I met people doing many different jobs, all enjoying their lives, especially when they worked and traveled internationally. I learned that there is no limit to what a person can choose as a career.

When I got back to LA everything seemed the way it was before. I hugged my mom and my dad, drove back home, saw my family, but something had changed. My experience abroad exposed me to career possibilities I had never thought or dreamt of before. Living in Spain and traveling in Europe made me realize that I don’t have to follow the career paths of my friends or family to be happy. Instead, I have decided to teach English in Spain for the next two years. My experiences on EAP showed me that I do not have to follow a path already made. I can go where there is no path and leave a trail.

Jose Casillas, pictured here at the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, spent a year studying in Barcelona. Jose graduated with a degree in Political Science with the emphasis in International Relations.

I was waiting in a long corridor filled with Italian students, all nervously chattering and frantically skimming pages upon pages of notes, when I heard the stern professor’s voice yell out to the group, “Martin, Carolina.” After hours of waiting, it was finally time for my oral final examination. When I exited the professor’s office nearly twenty minutes later, I was ecstatic. Earning top marks in my exam did not simply give me the satisfaction of just another good grade, but symbolized everything I had gained during my year-long experience living and learning in Italy.

My year abroad was both challenging and rewarding. Being out of my comfort zone was something I struggled with daily. The language barrier turned simple tasks like grocery shopping into challenging missions. Moving to a new city halfway through the year and apartment hunting on my own in snowy January had been a trying experience that at the time felt nearly impossible.

Despite the challenges, my experiences with traveling, school, work, volunteering, and daily life helped me gain a deeper understanding of the Italian language and culture. I perfected my language skills through my interactions with everyone from the high school students I taught to the elderly citizens I assisted. It was through all these experiences that I gained the self-confidence and language skills that enabled me to succeed during my final exams at the end of the year.

Caroline Martin spent a year on EAP, studying first in Siena and then in Bologna, Italy. Caroline graduated with a degree in Italian Studies and Linguistics and plans to go abroad again to teach English.
The UC Santa Barbara EAP Office wishes to thank the following for their generous donations during the 2010-2011 academic year:

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**Beverly Hills Gala**

Michelle Mitchell (EAP Japan, 1989-90 and Egypt, 1991-92) and Jonathan Mitchell hosted a reception for UCSB EAP alumni and friends at their home in Beverly Hills on April 14th. This event was a great success, attended by more than 60 guests from the greater Los Angeles area. Featured were remarks and reminiscences about study abroad by Michelle Mitchell, who has served as a Foreign Service officer for the State Department, Ron Tobin, recently retired Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs, and Juan E. Campo, Director of the UCSB Campus EAP office. More photos from this event can be found on our UCSB EAP Alumni web site. We would love to help you host similar events in other parts of the state!

Pictured from left: Juan E. Campo, Director of UCSB Campus EAP; Michelle and Jonathan Mitchell, event hosts; and Ronald W. Tobin, recently retired Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Programs and Professor of French.
Michael and Brenda McNamara Scholarship

My life was greatly enriched by my EAP year in France. I learned a great deal about myself tackling my History major in French, meeting new people, and traveling throughout Europe including Poland and the Soviet Union. I came to understand that other countries had different histories from our own. Thus, they organized their societies differently and might have a different view about their fellow man. Through studying French history and using the French language, I also had the pleasure of understanding deeply French culture and the French. I formed lasting friendships with both French and American friends that have lasted 49 years! My wife, Brenda, and I travel frequently to France and elsewhere to visit our friends and their children and vice-versa.

I decided to become an EAP Scholarship donor because I wanted other young people to have the same life-changing experience I have been fortunate enough to have.

Ernest and Leslie Zomalt Scholarship

As UCSB undergraduates, both Ernest (BA 1966; Ph.D. 1989) and Leslie (BA 1964; Ph.D. 1976) participated in international programs sponsored by the University. Ernie spent a summer in Pakistan meeting with college students and working with orphans. Leslie was a charter member of the UC Education Abroad Program, spending an academic year in Bordeaux, France.

“These international educational experiences played a significant role in our personal development and our understanding of the mutual interdependency of our world. Our belief in the value of international educational exchange was the primary stimulus for the development of our EAP scholarship fund to help current UCSB students study abroad.”

The need for EAP scholarship funding continues to grow as UC tuition continues to rise. Although EAP students remain eligible for financial aid while studying abroad, it is often not enough to cover their expenses. Students must also forego job income while on EAP. We know from experience that financial hardship will force a number of the students we are unable to assist to withdraw from the program. Please help us ensure that qualified UC Santa Barbara students continue having the option to study abroad by giving what you can to support the EAP Scholarship Fund. To learn more about giving opportunities, or to host an EAP alumni event, please contact Chris Pizzinat, Deputy Director of Development, 805-893-5126, or Chris.Pizzinat@ia.ucsb.edu. Thank you!
EAP Photo Contest – These were the winning entries in our most recent photo contest.

“The Showdown,” Accra, Ghana  
Ian Barling  
Ghana ’10-11

“Dievole Wine Tasting,” Tuscany, Italy  
Philippe Lazaro  
Italy ’10-11

“Pesky White Tip,” Great Barrier Reef, Australia  
Sean Lieppman  
Australia ’10-11

UCSB EAP Finalist in the GoAbroad Innovation Awards for Social Media.  
Our resident social media expert, Paul Rivas, launched our integrated strategy involving Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and our Blog. Paul’s efforts to allow EAP staff, alumni, returnees and prospective students to connect and follow us on these multiple media resulted in UCSB EAP being named an Innovation Award finalist by GoAbroad. Be sure that you stay connected with us! Go to our web site for more info, eap.ucsb.edu.