

## The Chapin Family EAP Scholarship

Supporting future generations of EAP participants



Brad Chapin '00 and his family reside in Ladera Ranch, CA

When I was a freshman in high school in 1992, my English teacher told us one day that if we do nothing else in life, be sure to study abroad during college. I was 14 at the time. I can't explain why, but her words stuck with me. From that day until I left for Scotland on September 21, 1998, I was dead-set on making sure I followed her advice.

Through UCSB's Education Abroad Program (EAP), I spent the 1998-1999 school year abroad studying politics at Glasgow University. What a completely

ridiculous year that was. I didn't know a single person when I showed up. I left with life-long connections and forever changed. I can safely say I made the best of my time abroad. I traveled like I'd never get the chance to do it again. I was cast in multiple theatre shows on and off campus (yes, the directors took full advantage of their token American actor). I danced into the night with complete strangers and best friends alike. I became a local at a few pubs. I religiously followed the Glasgow Rangers. I joined the mountaineering club despite having no clue how to set up a tent at the time. And, I was usually the sole American in my politics classes trying to explain the nuances of the American political system much to the bemusement of my fellow students.

As much as I loved every little thing about my time in Glasgow, it would not have mattered where EAP placed me for my year abroad. That year was destined to change my life and to shape who I would become. I cannot begin to reduce to words the countless material ways that year transformed me and forever impacted my life. I owe that to the opportunity I was given to take part in the EAP program. I remain grateful to this day. As I think back, I realize there was never a moment when I questioned whether I would have the financial resources to be an EAP candidate (even though I was on loans at the time). Therefore, when I reached a point in my life where I was able to give back, it was an easy decision to support the future generations of EAP participants. I think of the Chapin Family EAP Scholarship as my grown up way of paying for the car behind me in the Starbucks drive-thru. It's the least I can do to say thank you and to make sure no Gaucho is denied their life-changing experience abroad. And from a selfish standpoint, it keeps my connection to UCSB active and interactive. Turns out, that's pretty meaningful too.



Life can be pretty crazy. In late Summer 1999, I had just returned from Glasgow and was wandering aimlessly around a sports department store in my hometown when I came face to face with someone I hadn't seen in four years -- my freshman high school English teacher. I stopped her and asked her if she remembered telling us to go abroad seven years earlier (she didn't!). I gave her a hug and thanked her for changing my life.



Stay passionate about life.

Be happy.

Go Gauchos!

