

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ALUMNI

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GET INVOLVED!

You can help encourage current UCI students to go abroad!

We are

inviting you to share your experiences, time, and financial contributions.

CLICK THE GLOBE to find out how.



Study Abroad Alumni Help Make International Education Week at UCI a Success!

UCI celebrated another motivating International Education Week in November 2008. Students participated in a variety of activities including lectures about international topics and career options, films, international music and dance, as well as an international soccer tournament!

The Center for International Education (CIE) was pleased to have participation from over 40 study abroad alumni who submitted stories about what their study abroad experiences have meant in their lives – 5 to 25 years after the fact. Current UCI students lingered over these stories at CIE's Open House during International Education Week. Thanks so much to all of you who submitted your memories.



Ancient Chinese Lion Dancers take center stage at the International Education Week closing ceremony



UCI students interact in groups at one of the International Education Week Workshops

We were especially pleased to be joined by UCI EAP alumnae Rosanne (Molina) Auran who studied in Bergen, Norway in 1976. After she was bitten by the EAP bug she lived and worked in Norway for 15 years. Rosanne shared pictures, artifacts, stories and a beautiful Norwegian national costume with students at the CIE Open House.

Our current International Peer Advisors were left asking the question, "How can we find out more about how past Anteaters have leveraged their study abroad experiences into a meaningful international life?" To help answer this question, check out the "Get Involved" section on the left or on page 6.

Learn more about UCI's International Education Week.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS REPORT



Finding my Research Niche Abroad

By Barbara Escobar



“My educational experience abroad provided me with the multi-cultural training for my sought-after mental health career”

As I approach graduation and face the "real world," I have reached a stage in my young academic career, in which my research experience both, on-campus and abroad, has shaped the scholar in me and has paved a career pathway that lies ahead with abundance. The scholarship I received was highly valuable in making this possible.

As a Cognitive Sciences and Chicano/a Latino Studies double major, I received an undergraduate research grant and joined my departmental honors program. I knew the EAP Mexico Field Research Program would be a good match, considering my honors thesis supervisor and I were working on a project that dealt with Mexican-descendant at-risk youth. My research site came to me as a match made in academic heaven. Reintegra is a rehabilitation center in the urban enclave of Mexico City that serves the adolescent criminal population. In Reintegra I shadowed psychologists, sociologists and even attorneys. My honors thesis was an ethnographic account of my field observations on how mental health services and a comprehensive prevention model correlates with recidivism rates and prison re-entry of the adolescents that receive out-patient treatment in Reintegra. Upon my return I found my career calling and am currently a Research Assistant in the psychology and law research lab in the School of Social Ecology in UC, Irvine.



Barbara Escobar studied in Mexico City in the fall of 2007. She is a recipient of the CIE Friends Scholarship.

My educational experience abroad gave me a different cultural perspective and provided me with the multi-cultural training for my sought-after mental health career. I also improved my Spanish literacy skills and was able to complete a thesis manuscript in both Spanish and English.

“The Scholarship I received was highly valuable in making this possible.”

Language Learning: A Real Taste of German

By Aurora Romero



One of the experiences I will treasure most from my time in Germany is when my language-exchange partner invited me to her nephew's birthday.

It was an outdoor party and a barbecue but we started with dessert! Each family member brought a distinctive dessert. There was an array of rolled pastries, chocolate cake, cheesecake and strawberry shortcake. No one was ashamed to have seconds or even thirds. We played a variety of Pictionary (in German of course) while the bratwurst were cooking. My speaking and understanding probably improved in that one day more than it ever could in a classroom. I always advise students to try to

make friends of the natives when you study abroad. You not only improve your language skills but sometimes you get to take home a piece of Grandma's famous chocolate chip cheesecake too. Mmmm...

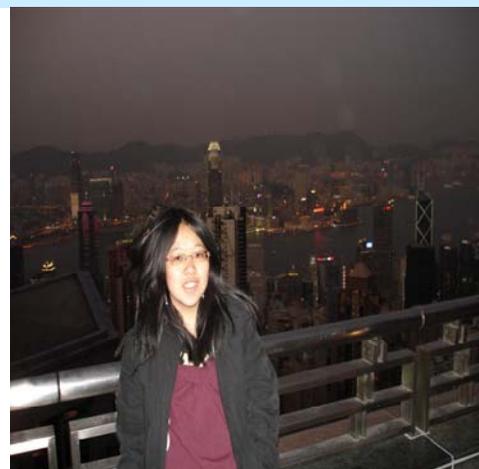
Aurora Romero is a German and Spanish double major who studied in Germany in spring 2008. She is a recipient of the CIE Friends Scholarship.

My Future Unfolds

By Rita Mai

My study abroad experience in Fall 2007 at the University of Hong Kong was the most influential turning point of my life. After studying abroad, I grew to love Hong Kong and have spread the word of studying abroad to my friends. I had great experiences learning the lifestyle of the Hong Kong people, eating, shopping and hanging out with friends. I even met people from around the world. Now I feel that I have been exposed to an environment that is wholly new and different from the U.S. In the future I hope to return to work in Hong Kong.

I thank the CIE Friends scholarship and the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for this opportunity. With their help, I was able to see what the outside world is like. I was able to have an unforgettable, awesome experience. Studying abroad is rewarding indeed. I hope that everyone gets to experience something like this that will inspire them to expand their possibilities in the future.



Rita Mai is a Business Economics and International Studies double major who studied at Hong Kong University in fall 2007 and is currently studying in Peking, China. She is a recipient of the CIE Friends Scholarship and federally-funded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS REPORT



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



What Do Students Say??

By Adrienne Wheeler & Allison Chervenak,
GLCP Participants

There's a new type of leader at UC Irvine! In its inaugural year, the Global Leadership Certificate Program (GLCP) aims to develop in its participants leadership skills as well as knowledge and understanding of global issues. A seminar convenes once a week designed to nurture future leaders who will lead responsibly and productively in their professional and personal lives. As participants, we hope to positively impact the many human, technological and environmental challenges that we will face in the future. To earn the certificate, GLCP participants study abroad, become involved in local intercultural organizations, attend leadership workshops, enroll in an increasingly popular seminar on Global Leadership, and reflect on what they have learned by composing a final Capstone Project.

Here is what participants of the first Global Leadership Seminar have to say about their experiences:

"After going through the GLCP, I have recognized that global leadership is essential to move our ever changing society to a higher degree of consciousness, specifically liberty, freedom, justice, and self-actualization. I believe the GLCP is an important addition to UCI because the program has taught me, as well as the other participants, the idea of being a 'transformative leader.' Moreover, it has helped me network with other future global leaders and interact and share common goals about various countries that seek to obtain global change in our society today."

-Roy Chan

"GLCP is a wonderful way to make concrete connections to what you are as a leader, and how actual leaders can be effective globally. The seminar class covered a range of topics, that all helped us to develop ideas for our final capstone project."

-Elise Tarkman

"Global Leadership is essential to move our ever changing society to a higher degree of consciousness...."

- Adrienne Wheeler & Allison Chervenak

What Do Students Say??

...continued from page 4

"GLCP has provided me with a greater sense of direction in terms of what I'd like to achieve while at UCI and abroad. It has encouraged me to explore so many opportunities at UCI that I would have never realized were there in the past. Lastly, I think GLCP will continue to achieve great things and go on to great success - it has a TON of potential at UCI."

-Dawn Chang



The first seminar is finished. As of spring 2009, GLCP is now represented by every academic school on campus, which is very impressive given the short amount of time that it has been in effect. As current students in the program we are very excited to be apart of its beginning steps. GLCP will undoubtedly continue to grow and be a huge success as the next generation of students enters into our globally interconnected and multicultural world.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



DON'T SETTLE

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to foster a culture at UCI in which study abroad is expected and achievable for all students.

CIE assists students in participating in programs abroad that allow them to progress toward their

UCI degree while developing the academic, personal, and professional skills necessary to be well informed, engaged members of the global society.

And you can help....

GET INVOLVED!

You can help encourage current UCI students to go abroad! We are inviting you to share your experiences, time and financial contributions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out how.