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UCEAP STUDENTS AND ALUMNI DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN LONDON

In March, the UCEAP London Study Center hosted a Careers Day for UC students currently studying in the UK. The afternoon consisted of information sessions about postgraduate study in the UK, prospects for internships, and careers in the Foreign Service (presented by the U.S. Embassy in London).



Students participated in a workshop about how to market their study abroad experience for future employers, and were taught how to network effectively. UC alumni (from five of the UC campuses) representing a variety of fields (including law, consulting, academia, film, PR, and business) presented a panel discussion talking about how their different career paths lead them to live and work in London. The UC undergraduates were then able to put their new networking skills to the test in a reception hosted by the UC Trust UK. The alumni appreciated the opportunity to mingle and share their experiences with the undergraduates, and the students enjoyed the unique opportunity.

"Having the opportunity to meet UC alumni, who are currently living and working in the UK, was the highlight of the event. These individuals are successful and have accomplished what we're accomplishing now, as study abroad students. I am grateful for such individuals who are here to help us succeed, and I am grateful UCEAP set up an event where we could have the chance to interact with alumni and be inspired by new ideas generated within our conversations." -- Stacy Neale, UC Berkeley, King's College London (2013-14)

UCSB STUDENT CHANGES CHILDREN'S LIVES IN GHANA

Alena Nelson spent her fall 2012 semester in Ghana helping children by volunteering at the Noyaa School. The Noyaa School is situated in the impoverished fishing community of Jamestown, Accra, and aims to provide abandoned or orphaned children with support, knowledge and guidance to test into public schools. There are currently about 30 children in the school ranging from ages 3 to 15.



In addition to teaching Math and English, Alena was instrumental in raising a substantial amount of funds and resources for the school. Alena was able to recruit several donors in the United States to raise funds and ship supplies, and she found support from Dr. Rose Walls, Resident Director, UCEAP Ghana Study Center, and students on the University of Ghana campus. She also worked with volunteers from Projects Abroad to construct a two classroom structure for the school. As a result of these efforts, the school now has a budget to sustain them for several months.

The school is a two hour journey from the University of Ghana campus, but Alena was determined to help the children and support the school. Despite the cultural differences, language barriers, the poverty and marginalization of the Jamestown community, and other challenges, Alena says that volunteering at the Noyaa School was very rewarding in both her personal and professional life. She is overjoyed to say that she saw progress in each student as they became both more confident and competent in their studies. The children, and their enthusiasm to learn, point to a hopeful future for us all.

MADRID STUDENTS EXPLORE GRANADA AND CORDOBA

UCEAP students at Carlos III University in Madrid traveled to Andalucía, in the south of Spain, with Study Center Director, Benjamin Liu and Program Coordinator, Rocio Navas.

The group's first stop was Córdoba, known for its centuries-old Mosque. Students enjoyed a delicious tapas dinner with typical Spanish dishes from the region, and attended a flamenco show at Tablao Cardenal, where they were delighted by the music and dancers.

The next day, the group continued towards Granada, and stopped along the way at the Estación de Luque, a very special place for olive oil lovers. The students visited Granada's famed Alhambra and enjoyed the opportunity to see some of Spain's most beautiful cities.



BORDEAUX STUDENTS ENJOY FRENCH COOKING CLASSES

On March 1st, twenty UCEAP students enrolled at the University of Bordeaux took a lesson in French cooking at the Atelier des Chefs cooking school. The cooking school, which is very popular with Bordeaux residents, offers a number of course options, where participants can learn to prepare a number of Bordeaux specialties, including their delicious almond-based, frosted macaroons.



The menu of the day consisted of pan-fried cod wrapped in smoked bacon accompanied by fingerling potatoes seasoned with black olive tapenade, thyme, bay laurel, and chives. Students worked in teams of 4-6 to prepare their dishes, with the master chef directing them in the special culinary techniques that make French cuisine so special. After preparing their meal, the students then moved to the dining room where they ate lunch and engaged in the very French pastime of scintillating conversation. The Atelier de Chefs supplied the wonderful fresh berries and crème anglaise dessert.

One of our Bordeaux students sums up the cooking experience: *"It's no secret that French cuisine is revered by all and includes some of the most delicious dishes on the planet! The opportunity to experience this cuisine first hand was part of the reason I chose to study in France. Taking a cooking class in Bordeaux was a dream come true! I learned how to make a new meal with my friends and experienced French cooking at its finest. Bon appetit!"*

So successful was the cooking class that the Atelier des Chefs and the UCEAP Study Center in Bordeaux will be partnering in the future to make the cooking course a regular part of the activity options available to UCEAP students.

UCB STUDENT FINDS SOLACE IN CATALONIAN FARMING

From UCEAP student Chelsea Sarg:

"Studying Food Systems, Society and Culture at UC Berkeley, I knew coming to Barcelona that I wanted to get involved in their fairly prominent urban agriculture movement. I quickly found an urban garden near where I live in Barcelona, called Hort de Xino, translated to Chinatown Garden. The garden is on occupied land, but serves as both a community center for the mostly working-class and immigrant neighborhood, and also as a statement towards a localized food system. I spend most of my Sundays getting my hands dirty and helping clean up, plant, harvest and eat the food in the garden.



When Spring Break rolled around, I was unsure what I wanted to do. I knew that living in

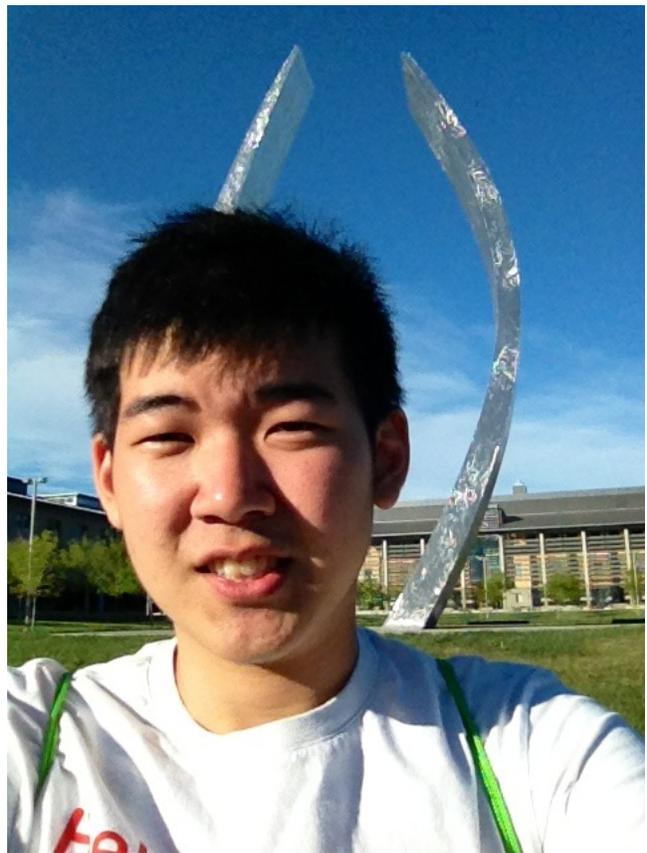
Barcelona, I still didn't have a good idea of what Catalonia represents, as the big city doesn't necessarily encompass the regional personality as well as a smaller town might. I also knew that I wanted to do something to further my knowledge of agriculture in the region. I decided to use the website workaway.info to find a farm in Catalonia where I could work. Workaway connects participants with hosts where they can work a few hours a day in exchange for room and board, as well as a very unique experience.

I went to the small town of Flix and worked on a small family-run farm that is currently being renovated to become a holistic retreat. For the time being, however, much work was needed in the olive groves pruning and weeding and in the vegetable garden working with the soil composition, compost pile, harvesting winter crops and planting summer crops. I had an amazing time working out in the Catalonian sunshine. It was also great to be out of the big city, working in the fields with an incredibly friendly family, and earning a huge relaxing meal at the end of the workday."

MALAYSIAN STUDENT FROM HONG KONG ENJOYS MERCED

Ivan Gondoprastowo is attending UC Merced for spring semester 2013 as a reciprocity student from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) School of Engineering.

"Apart from being the newest UC campus, UC Merced has its own attractiveness that makes it unique from other universities in the U.S. UC Merced was on the top of my exchange destination list, leaving other 'more well-known' universities in the US and in the world behind it. For me, a new campus means a lot of opportunities to shape the community, culture and values. As someone who is always passionate about making impacts and changes, UCM is a promising place to make a difference. Furthermore, a new campus means a newly built community where the faculty and students are always warm and welcoming and their diversity exposes me to new cultural experiences.



The faculty is not only helpful but also open to new ideas, which opens up opportunities to join research projects, or even create a new one of your own. I am working with Prof. Paul Maglio and another undergraduate student on a cognitive science related research project. We are trying to understand how physical interaction with objects (e.g. moving objects around, rotating them) helps humans improve their spatial visualization ability. Last but not least, while its proximity to Yosemite is a good selling point, UCM is located in the Central Valley which 'separates' northern California and the southern California, making it very easy to find a ride to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The Central Valley also has its own unique atmosphere and feel. One's California experience is not complete without it. After all, it's California, too."