On May 12th, UCI study abroad alumni, faculty, staff and current students came together to celebrate study abroad, not only the impact it has made on the professional and personal lives of those who have returned, but also the opportunities it continues to create for students who have yet to depart.

Alumni came from Marina del Rey to the north, San Diego to the south, and many places in between. Guests included alumni who studied abroad as far back as the 1970s and as recent as 2011. Many similar reminiscences of study abroad were shared including a common theme of catching the infamous “travel-bug” and continuing to explore the world, whether for business or pleasure. As Christine Tannous (France ’74-75) explained, “Study abroad gave me a lot more confidence. Before I went I had never been on a plane. Now I’ve traveled to 77 countries.” Others, like Chris Baugh (France ’91), shared how their study abroad experience never became just a box of pictures on a shelf or a hazy memory: “My friends from study abroad are still some of my best friends today. My roommate in Paris just invited me to be his daughter’s Godfather.”

...story continues on page 2
Celebrating Study Abroad...
(continued from page 1)

UCI Friends of Study Abroad Scholarship recipient, Ashley Foote, made everyone misty-eyed with her description of the myriad of benefits that studying abroad has provided her and the significant role the scholarship played in making it possible. She shared not only the cool things she did abroad that she couldn’t have done here at UCI like “hug a koala and learn how to scuba dive in the Great Barrier Reef,” but also expressed how exposing herself to a different academic culture truly improved her study habits. She stated, “Because of the learning environment in Australia, when I returned to UCI I received my first 4.0 GPA. I consistently have been a better student and have excelled more academically than before I went abroad.”

Top 5 Reasons I Loved the Celebration:

1. Met friendly people whose lives were also transformed by studying abroad
2. Was inspired by current students’ achievements
3. Reconnected with my own study abroad experience
4. The Global Viewpoint Lounge looks so cool
5. Enjoyed yummy food & wine

The Global Viewpoint Lounge was a great setting for the event, with its hand-painted flags of the world on the ceiling and inspiring quotes on global peace and cultural understanding stenciled around the room. See more photos from the event at:
http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu/celebrate/50eventrecap.html

Don’t miss the next opportunity to connect!

Final celebration of UCEAP’s 50th Anniversary
Thursday, November 15, 2012 (evening event)

Enjoy an international film, refreshments, and visit with alumni, faculty, staff and students.

More details to come in the fall.
At the annual study abroad Bon Voyage Celebration for students preparing to depart on study abroad, a special treat was added to honor and thank “behind the scenes” supporters of Study Abroad at UCI. Dozens of our “Study Abroad Superstars” from Registrar, Financial Aid, the Student Health Center, and various academic units received a special UCEAP 50th anniversary gift in honor of their unwavering support. The on-going work of these individuals makes it possible for grades from abroad to be posted, financial aid to be disbursed, health clearances performed, degree requirements fulfilled, and so much more. See photos of the event as well as our candid shots of those busy staff members who couldn’t make it to the celebration as we surprised them in their offices & during their meetings: http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu/celebrate/bonvoyage.html
Sophia Yoo, Sociology and Educational Studies major at UCI, was always interested in studying abroad. When she graduated from high school in 2008 and arrived to UCI as a freshman from La Mirada, California, she visited the study abroad office and created her interest profile right away. It wasn’t until her junior year, however, that she decided to take the plunge.

Yoo attended Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea for the full 2010-11 academic year. While abroad she chose to live in the dorms on campus, which she stated was a great way to build an international community within the university.

“Studying abroad not only put me in contact with the natives of that country, but also with the international students from all over the world,” she stated. “Being in the same lecture hall with students of different nationalities was definitely an experience.”

In Korea, Yoo volunteered at Severance Children’s Hospital and taught English once a week to long-term patients. According to Yoo, teaching English was a humbling experience. Many of those patients were children who had little exposure to the English language and were unable to attend school regularly because of their illnesses. Her experiences abroad helped mold her plans for the future. “Studying abroad definitely gave me direction in life,” Yoo said, “it wasn’t until I was able to teach at Severance Hospital that I realized I wanted to teach as a career.”

Story continues on page 5...
After her trip, Yoo became a mentor for UCI’s International Peer Group under the Division of Undergraduate Education where she assisted incoming international freshman to adjust to their new social and cultural surroundings on campus.

UCEAP not only helped her prepare for her trip, they also provided her with assistance throughout her entire experience abroad.

“I had the most wonderful experience with UCEAP Korea and I would recommend going through a UCEAP program to everyone,” she said.

As a 2012 UCI graduate, she is currently applying for teaching jobs in Korea and eventually plans to come back to California and teach English as a second language, or ESL. Through social media, Yoo still keeps in contact with her friends and program advisors abroad.

“I think Nelson Mandela put it best when he said, ‘There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered,’ ” Yoo stated, “Don’t be afraid to broaden your horizons. If you’re waiting for a sign, this is it!”
UCI students continue to study abroad even while the state and nation face unprecedented unemployment rates, the state and the University endure continuing financial difficulties, and students pay record high tuition to attend UC. During 2011-12 Anteaters enrolled in study abroad in equal numbers to the prior year. We are pleased to see that students and their parents continue to understand the value of a sustained experience living and learning abroad.

Scholarships are extremely important in making this possible. We are very grateful for the generous support of alumni and friends who donated during 2011-12.

**Individual Donors (alphabetically listed)**

Roseanne Auran  
Chris Baugh  
Kierstin Brehm  
Matt Clapp  
Fred Conboy  
Michelle Farisato  
Lara Foreman  
Kathleen Giles  
Gail Hart  
Kimberly Honig  
Michael Huynh  
Alan Morton  
Lorraine Navarro  
Keith Nelson  
Megan Ostovarpour  
Yoland Perez  
Leda Quiros-Weed  
Melissa Sakamoto  
Sharon Salinger  
Serk Bea Suh  
Christina Tannous  
Justine Ung  

**Organizational Donors (alphabetically listed)**

Academic Programs International  
American Institute for Foreign Study  
Edison International Foundation  
International Studies Abroad

The following recipients of the UCI Friends of Study Abroad Scholarship were awarded for the academic year 2011-12. All recipients are required to share their experiences abroad with UCI students. Many share their blogs. Here is one you might enjoy: [http://singaporestudent.tumblr.com/](http://singaporestudent.tumblr.com/)

Ellie Ghafiri  
Maritza Mantilla  
Leila Nassif  
Oi Nip  
Nathan Osorio  
Karen Situ  
Christine Tran  
Rebecca Viehmann  
Christina Weber

**Make your gift today at:**  
[http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu/contacts/support.shtml](http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu/contacts/support.shtml)