The wait is almost over! The year-long Brazil 2014 @UCI campaign reaches its culmination tomorrow, Thursday, June 12, 2014 as Brazil competes against Croatia in the World Cup 2014 opening match! UCI’s Study Abroad Center will host a viewing party in Humanities Gateway, Room 1010 from 12:30-3:00pm and welcomes all alumni & friends to attend!

The campaign has proven to be a collaborative success as we have worked with several units across campus to bring our “Discover soccer! Explore the world! Study Abroad!” motto to life. Our first collaborative event was an Across the Bridge: World Cup Soccer & Social Mixer co-hosted by our office, the Cross-Cultural Center, and The International Center. The Across the Bridge series aims to “bring international and domestic students together to engage in open conversations about diversity in America, as well as discuss personal identities that include cultural backgrounds and experiences.” This particular Across the Bridge event was a blast as students were able to listen and learn from die-hard soccer fans about The World Cup and the various countries competing. Students reported that the event exposed them to the people, culture, and passion behind the sport and inspired several students to learn more.

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As the world cup draws near...
(continued from page 1)

Most recently, the department of European Languages & Studies spearheaded an event to celebrate *Carnivals Around the World*. While Brazil is known for having one of the largest celebrations, they certainly are not the only ones! With the specific help of Professors in the French department, UCI students were able to discover francophone carnival celebrations by making their own crepes, designing face masks (*pictured to the left & center below*), learning traditional dances (*third photo on the right*), and testing their language skills by answering World Cup trivia knowledge in French! Several Brazilian students from UCI extension also attended the event and even brought homemade Brazilian treats to enjoy (*see recipe below*).

Fortunately, the fun doesn’t stop there. Stay connected through [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) for information on future matches and join us for the World Cup opening match on June 12th! Details at: [http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu/brazil.html](http://www.studyabroad.uci.edu/brazil.html)

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**Brigadeiro**

*About this recipe:* A traditional candy from Brazil that is typically served at parties. Tastes like chocolate-caramel & is easy to make!

**Ingredients:** 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk, 1 tablespoon butter, 3 tablespoons cocoa, Chocolate sprinkles

**Directions:**
1. Over medium-low heat, stir vigorously the three ingredients.
2. Cook the mixture until it thickens enough to show the pan bottom during stirring (it will be firm enough to stay together and not spread).
3. Pour into a greased dish and let cool to room temperature (or chill a few minutes in the fridge). Grease your hands with butter and take small amounts of candy and form into 1 ½ inch balls.
4. Roll the balls in chocolate jimmies to decorate.
5. If the balls don’t hold their shape, cook an additional 5 minutes until it thickens up more.
I arrived to Santiago, Chile in June 2012 as a wide-eyed gringa eager to begin my study abroad experience in this skinny country in the Southern Hemisphere. I never imagined I would leave a year later as an honorary Chilean, with internship and research experience that has set me on a path to fulfill my greatest dreams, including being selected to be a Fulbright Student.

One of the greatest benefits of my program was the extensive list of options for internships my Study Center abroad offered. I basically pointed to one that interested me from the long list, simply eager to secure an internship. Before I knew it, the kind Chilean woman who worked at the office was calling Global Citizen, a Jesuit Service to Migrants and Refugees, to arrange an interview. Then, in less than a week I was offered a position in the Communications department where I was working closely from people from all over the globe on projects.

My internship experience during the first semester inspired me to look at immigration more closely and outside of an office setting. While abroad I received funds from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to conduct research on Peruvian immigration in Chile and how migrant organizations founded by the Catholic Church offer them support. I combined my research project with my second internship at the Integrated Center for Attention to Migrants (CIAMI), a hiring hall for female migrants. Through informal discussions with Peruvian migrants in both Santiago and the border-city of Arica I gained a deeper understanding of how Chile’s underlying classism could contradict the mission of migrant centers to protect migrants’ rights and incorporate them into Chilean society. This research will be completed as my Campuswide Honors Program (CHP) and International Studies Honors thesis. Most recently, had the wonderful opportunity to share my project at the UROP Symposium.

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Aside from my internship and research experience I enjoyed reaching out to Chileans, especially during the second semester when I had finally gained a better grasp of the language. I joined a Habitat for Humanity-esque club at my host university, where I participated in two construction projects. The best token of this experience was during the second project when my team members signed the community flag and presented it to me. During my summer break I also took part in an informal help exchange with a Chilean family that owned a set of cottages by the beach. This family took me under their wing and considered me one of their own. These rewarding experiences were realizations that during my experience I had overcome many language and cultural barriers to make friendships with Chileans.

I knew that my time in Chile would not be my last experience abroad. Seeing as making lasting connections with another culture and conducting research were some of the highlights of my study abroad experience, I decided to apply for a Fulbright Research grant in Nicaragua. As a Fulbright Student I will conduct research in the field of young adults’ civic engagement and be cultural ambassador helping to enhance mutual understanding between Americans and the people in Nicaragua. Leading up to my Fulbright experience I will be in Washington D.C. this summer interning with Innovations in Civic Participation. I would not have these opportunities ahead of me if it had not been for my year in Chile. Study abroad teaches you to take advantage of every opportunity and this attitude should continue after you return. The best time to begin pursue your dreams are not five or ten years down the road but right now! For this reason, my goals for the future are not only realistic but also achievable.
If everything in Rome or any other foreign city were the same as back in America, then there would be no reason to go! There would be no reason to leave home and explore the world that exists beyond. A huge value in traveling and living in a new place is to break out of your comfort zone and push yourself to learn and grow. Having the opportunity to study abroad gave me the chance to realize these little differences between places, and has changed my perspective on life for the better.

My Italian adventure began with a late night stay in a small Italian hotel in the center of Rome. How incredible it was to finally see the ancient cobblestone streets with my own eyes, and hear beautiful Italian spoken all around me. A whirlwind of adventures commenced as I started school, attended my first orientation, and moved into my very first apartment with other eager traveling students. Mastering public transportation was the next feat, and the fact that it was in a foreign language made it no simpler. The next four months combined into one fantastic escapade; from trips to cities all over Italy and Western Europe, to quiet nights in talking to nomads from all over the world. The fun never stopped. I won’t lie to you though, and say that studying abroad didn’t have its challenges. There were times where I longed for my friends and family at home, and wished to be back in the comfort of my own American bedroom. What I hadn’t realized in those times quite yet, was that I had made an entirely new family abroad. A colorful family made up of every new friend I had met, from all different walks of life.

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I have been a soccer player for 15 years, and so abroad I reached out and was able to find weekly pickup soccer matches to participate in. I played with an international mix of people, ranging from the ages of 20-45, and had so much fun getting to know them and play on their teams. I also decided to work part-time abroad in a church nursery. Every Sunday I would make the 40 minute walk through Rome’s city center, past the Vatican Museum and up the Spanish Steps to a church where I would play with Italian children for 2 hours. The best part was that it didn’t even feel like a job.

With my experience abroad I was able to foster a sense of personal autonomy that I became confident in. Living in a country foreign to my own showed me so much about outside cultures, and gave me beautiful insight into just how many different kinds of people there are in the world, all with very different life stories. Studying abroad helped me see how capable I am of doing everything I want to do if I am willing to work hard for it.

What may have been the most important thing I gained from studying abroad, however, was the awareness that if I wanted to create an amazing life for myself where I would be able to continue my travels and see the world, I needed to push myself to work harder in school. Before going abroad I had no career goals, but upon returning to the UCI campus I decided to push myself harder than I ever had. I became involved more on campus, especially with international community, and decided to pursue a career path that would give me opportunities to travel and even live abroad. If I hadn’t studied abroad, I think I would be a lot more lost and scared to graduate than I am. Living in Rome was the best four months of my life, and though those months are over, I will forever have the confidence and drive to go abroad again and start new adventures.
This spring the Study Abroad Center joins the Institute of International Education (IIE) in their five-year initiative ‘Generation Study Abroad’, which aims to increase the number of college students studying abroad. Currently, UC Irvine sends about 14% of a graduating class abroad which is only slightly more than the national average. Our goal is to send 20% of a graduating class abroad by 2020. Every student should have the opportunity to study abroad and scholarships are extremely important in making this possible!

We are very grateful for the generous support of alumni and friends who donated during 2013-14.

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The following students have been awarded UCI scholarships to study abroad during the 2014-15 academic year. Recipients are encouraged to share their experiences abroad with UCI students. Past recipients, like Natalie Bui, have shared their blogs. You can read all about her journey in Spain [here](#).

- Natalie Bui, Spain
- Eunice Chan, Hong Kong
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Number of Benjamin A. Gilman Scholars @UCI increases!

The Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship provides awards for U.S. undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding to participate in study and intern abroad programs worldwide. This year, there are 9 UCI summer scholarship recipients & 18 UCI fall/year scholarship recipients. This equates to a 50% increase for UCI and we are now ranked 3rd across the UC system for number of scholars awarded.

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