

September 2009

Dear UCSD EAPers,

Greetings to our amigos Down South (of the border), and to those Down Under, in Kiwiland and South Africa.

Well, finally some news from sunny La Jolla. Bet you guys thought we had forgotten you - no way! There are so many things that need to be done here ASAP, but everything goes on hold until this letter is written or you'll be home before we know it. Two of our student assistants, Rachel (EAP- Leeds. UK) and Grace (OAP-France & EAP-Ghana) have put together a newsletter to inform you of additional campus and local news.

We presume you've all adjusted to your new environment and academic system. We have been hearing from some of you through email or post cards. We love to hear about your adventures. Since you left, a few of us on the PAO staff had some adventures of our own. Rachel and her family did a house exchange with a family in Paris for a month. Kathleen gave birth to a baby girl, Lilian. Jenny drove across the U.S. Molly Ann broke her femur again a couple weeks after the SD Rock & Roll Marathon. (if you want to call that an adventure).

PAO UPDATES: Our Global Seminars just completed its second successful summer of exciting programs, with even more for next summer in some unique places like Amman, Jordan, Nova Scotia, Istanbul, Athens, and Oxford

A new Administrative Fee is being assessed to all who study abroad. You all dodged the bullet!!

We have just hired the new PAO Student Assistants (formerly called interns). Betsy Gomez (OAP-Russia), Stephanie Austin (OAP-UK), Talin Galoosian (EAP-Padua, Italy), David Huang (EAP-Shanghai, China), Margaret Reed (EAP-Budaest, Hungary), Lana Puckett (OAP-Bariloche, Argentina), Katherine Murray (GS-Paris, France), Shirley Pon (EAP-Cristchurch, New Zealand), Jamie Lewis (EAP-Perth, Australia), Pauline Lee (EAP-Córdoba, Spain).

UCSD UPDATE: Graduation was very colorful again this year. Study abroad returnees wore beautiful stoles around their necks with the colors and symbols of their country abroad. Some wore more than one. Something for you to look forward to at your graduation.

With the California budget crisis, we are all being furloughed 13 to 18 days (depending on our salary). This includes faculty.

EAP UPDATE:

NEW EAP PROGRAMS: All in Asia – summer beginning Japanese, summer Thailand, and a summer program in English in Beijing. We are waiting to hear if our new Language & Culture program in Argentina will be approved.

The number of those planning to follow in your footsteps are: Australia-12, Brazil-8, Chile-4,

Costa Rica-0, New Zealand-5, and South Africa-7.

Besides all the UC students going abroad, there are 204 Reciprocity students coming here (EAP is a two-way exchange you know). We have nine Aussies coming (from ANU, NSW, Monash, Melbourne, Queensland & Sydney) We also have one coming from PUC Brazil, three from Santiago, Chile, and one Kiwi (Victoria.). Please try and contact the ones coming from your host university. Maybe you can relieve some of their anxieties. Remember how you were feeling last year?

Information on the following items might relieve some of your anxieties about your return:

ACADEMIC CREDIT: Please make sure you have completed AND REVIEWED all the necessary paperwork while you are in your host country. Remember, there are deadlines there (for add/drop. etc.) just like here. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE check your study lists for correct titles, units, grading option, etc. (keep your pink copy) and save us all from Major Headaches later. Be aware that just because you drop a course at a host institution, it doesn't mean it was dropped from the EAP study list. That must be done officially. Also, remember that many departments require documentation of EAP coursework in order to get major/minor/GE credit. Please keep papers, reading lists, syllabi and exams (if permitted).

WINTER REGISTRATION: The on-line schedule of classes should be available October 30th. You can access it at <http://tritonlink.ucsd.edu>. If you have forgotten your PAC number, you will need to contact the Registrar. Enrollment for continuing students begins Nov. 4th.

HOUSING: If you are interested in International House, you can access their application on line at <http://ihouse.ucsd.edu>, phone (858) 534-2262, fax (858) 534-6372. The regular on-campus housing website is <http://hdsu.ucsd.edu/>. We are keeping a list of people looking for roommates. As far as off-campus goes, don't forget the area around UCSD is wall-to-wall condos/apartments. You can also use the California Housing Board, http://eap.ucop.edu/reciprocal_exchanges/housing_board.shtm.

FINANCIAL AID: Any questions should be directed to Julie Ta (taj@ucsd.edu).

SHIP:.

The University Student Health Insurance was waived for you while abroad. It will automatically be reinstated when you register for Winter. If you want to waive this, you must go to <http://tritonlink.ucsd.edu> (Finances) and click on "Apply for a health fee waiver" by the end of the first week in class. **Remember that EAP insurance ends two weeks after the program is over, so there will be a short period when you have no coverage through EAP or SHIP unless you purchased the GAP insurance before departure. Please make sure you find some insurance for that period of time unless you are covered by your parents' insurance policy. The General Student Guide has some suggestions.**

RE-ENTRY: It's not too early to think about your return home! People usually anticipate a certain amount of culture shock when going to a foreign country, but what they don't often realize is that returning home can also be a shock (usually bigger). Having been abroad for a

year, you have been accustomed to another way of life--different ways of socialization, of learning, of spending free time. Many of the things that initially seemed strange to you might now seem comfortable, sensible and familiar. You have adopted at least part of what used to be a foreign culture, and so the United States may well feel a little "foreign" to you on your return.

You'll come home full of excitement about your year and eager to share your experiences. You'll feel changed and matured. Be prepared for some disappointment when you find your family and friends are less changed than you are, and less than enthusiastic about hearing in minute detail about everything you experienced and learned. Many people find these unexpected aspects of the return home a bit of a surprise. As you return to the U.S. then, try to approach your home culture with the same sort of appreciation and patience as you approached your host culture. In the next newsletter, we'll give you a few more pointers on how to ease your re-entry.

In the meantime, enjoy every minute of the time you have left. If you haven't been keeping a journal, you might want to start now. There is an old Chinese proverb which says that memory is paler than the palest ink and we wouldn't want you to forget the wonderful experiences you are having.

Cheers,

Molly Ann and Kathleen