Tip of the Quarter

“What kind of career can I get when I graduate with this degree?” is a common question during our advising sessions.

Many times, the answer ends up being another form of question asking “What do you want to do when you graduate?” – A part of figuring out what career path you want to pursue is through practical experience. Experiential learning can help you narrow down your interest – knowing what you want and knowing what you don’t want. Getting good grades and learning as much as you can in your classes is important, but it is not the only key to landing a career. Not only do employers hire recent graduates with a high GPA – they also look for well-rounded individuals with practical experiences and skills that are applicable to the workplace.

In this newsletter, you will find information on how to make the most of your college years and develop your career potential. Explore learning opportunities by studying abroad, participating in UCDC, and attending public lecture series. Apply for internships and find options by visiting the Career Services Center Internship Supersite and the Academic Internship Program. Gain leadership experience by joining a student organization or volunteering. With that said, take advantage of those opportunities and utilize the many resources that UCSD offers.

APRU Undergraduate Summer Program

Peter Cowhey, Dean of the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, has committed to sponsor one International Studies Program student to attend the 7th APRU Undergraduate Summer Program. His sponsorship will cover round-trip transportation to/from Nanjing University in China and the conference registration fee. All transportation arrangements will be made through IR/PS.

Click here for more information.

International Studies Course Offering – Spring 2014

To see updated course offerings and course descriptions, please visit isp.ucsd.edu
ISP Alumni Club

Last quarter, a core group of ISP alumni gathered to brainstorm the launch of a San Diego Club for ISP Alumni. The purpose of the ISP alumni club is to engage ISP alumni all over the globe, starting in San Diego.

Our overall goals include:

- engaging ISP alumni with meaningful professional development opportunities;
- providing ways for ISP alumni to mentor and connect with current students;
- developing ways to increase the visibility of the Program; and
- to establish a fund to support ISP summer internship stipends for ISP juniors and seniors or scholarships for ISP freshman or transfer students.

If any of you would like to become involved in San Diego or wherever you are living now, please contact Mary Jo Ball, Director of Alumni Affairs, at mjball@ucsd.edu or 858-822-6756.

Alumni Spotlight

Jimmy Lee, International Studies, East Asian Studies ‘09 Development Associate, Plant with Purpose

Having lived in four different Asian countries before attending UCSD and having been exposed to many cultures through the international schools I attended, there was no doubt that I wanted to be part of the International Studies Program at UCSD. As an ISP student, I took advantage of the Intensive Language Program and the Joint Program in International Studies by studying abroad in Shanghai for six months. My study abroad experience is one of my favorite and most memorable experiences during college; cheering for the Korean taekwondo team at 2008 Olympic games in Beijing, fighting altitude sickness in Tibet, drinking yak milk (and baijiu) in Inner Mongolia, and attending China’s largest beer festival in Qingdao.

Immediately after graduating from UCSD, I divided my time among the San Diego Asian Film Festival (organized by the Pacific Art Movement), the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the San Diego Latino Film Festival, and the Asian Cultural Festival of San Diego. Since then, I have been working for over three years as the Development Associate at Plant With Purpose - a San Diego based international development organization working to alleviate poverty and reverse environmental degradation around the world. Through Plant With Purpose, I have travelled to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, leading a group of supporters on a trip to witness the transformative work that is being accomplished by our partners. I also serve on the board of Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of San Diego and the board of the United Nations Association in San Diego. Even though I graduated over four years ago, I am still learning so much every day.

My advice for current students would be to intern and/or to volunteer as much as one can while in college - never stop gaining new skills. Sometimes it takes pure luck and just being at the right place and at the right time to gain employment after college. Interning and volunteering offers you more opportunities to catch that lucky break. On that note, Plant With Purpose offers a slew of internship opportunities each quarter: such as development, grant writing, finance, and programs. You can find out more information at www.plantwithpurpose.org/internships.
Patrick Johnson  
**International Studies-Economics and History ’14**  

Last winter I realized that to make my college career complete, I needed to get an internship under my belt. At the same time, I realized I desperately wanted to complete a lot of internships because I had no idea what I wanted to do after graduating in one very short year.  

To get experience in my top three (very different) career path interests, I applied and juggled internships for each. In the humanitarian field, I worked for Project Concern International as an intern for their Business Development Unit - the grant writing division of the organization. Project Concern International is a San Diego-based NGO that works on diverse projects across the globe, including women’s empowerment and combating AIDS. To satisfy my curiosity with the corporate world, I next interned at the World Trade Center in downtown San Diego - a public-private entity that works to promote and facilitate international trade for San Diego businesses. Working at the San Diego World Trade Center was an excellent combination of my International Studies major and Business minor. The experience allowed me to glean quite a bit of savvy business insight from the professional staffs.  

The most impactful internship was with the Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) at UCSD. As an intern, I helped facilitate a conference on public policy concerning nuclear proliferation. It was the most impactful because I got to work with such a stunning group of intellectuals. This experience has convinced me to pursue a career in academia, with goals of eventually getting a doctorate degree in Foreign Affairs. I look forward to completing my International Studies Honors Thesis with gusto, as both a summary capstone to my UCSD studies, and a preparatory project for future graduate studies.

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**Introducing 21st Century China**  

Lei Guan  
**Director, 21st Century China Program, IR/PS**  

The 21st Century China Program is based at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS). UCSD is quickly becoming a center of excellence in China studies and policy-relevant research on China. One may look at the program as a think-tank based at a public university. The difference between us and other stand-alone think-tanks is that we anchor much of our policy discussion in primary research and that our faculty also teach and train students – the next generation of experts on China and international affairs.

We also put a premium on active collaboration with Chinese scholars and policy experts. For example, the program has recently secured a multi-year grant to create collaborative research projects. We also cooperate extensively with the Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China, the first overseas center established by any Chinese university.

The 21st Century China Program has many opportunities for students at UCSD, especially ISP students who are interested in China and its evolving role in the international system.

We have a regular public lecture series where we invite distinguished scholars and practitioners from around the world to come and share their knowledge with the UCSD community. You can take a look at our winter offerings in our December newsletter. We can also accommodate ISP students or student groups who would like to meet with a guest speaker, as we did last year with visiting Chinese lawyer and women’s rights activist, Guo Jianmei. All you need to do is to contact us at 21china@ucsd.edu.  

We also sponsor a student-oriented online news magazine, run by the IR/PS students, called “China Focus.” ISP students who are interested in getting involved as writers or editors can contact the editors or the program director at 21china@ucsd.edu. Right now, China Focus has an ongoing collaboration with Prospect, Journal of international affairs at UCSD.  

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**Contact ISP**  
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**Events**  

- **Territoriality, Conflict and the Politics in New Spain**  
  Thurs, Jan 23, 9am - 5pm  
  Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies  

- **Navigating the Next Round of Reform in China**  
  Thurs, Jan 23, 5pm – 7pm  
  21st Century China Program  

- **U.S. Policy on Crimes Against Humanity**  
  Fri, Jan 24, 8am – 9:30am  
  IR/PS Dean’s Roundtable Lecture Series Event

- **Non-Profit Networking Night**  
  Wed, Jan 29, 5p – 7pm  
  Career Services Center

- **The Human Consequences of Totalitarianism: A Conversation with Author Adam Johnson**  
  Thurs, Jan 30, 5pm – 7pm  
  School of International Relations and Pacific Studies

- **Finding the Right Career for You**  
  Fri, Feb 3, 1pm – 7pm  
  Career Service Center

- **Internship Search Workshop**  
  Tue, Feb 11, 11am – 12pm  
  Career Services Center

- **Barbara Foley: Biography and the Political Unconscious**  
  Wed, Feb 19, 4pm – 5:30pm  
  The Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture Series

- **Sustainable Job Fair**  
  Tue, Mar 4, 11am – 3pm  
  Career Services Center

- **Mexico Moving Forward Symposium: 20 Years of NAFTA and Beyond**  
  Thurs, Mar 6, 7am – 6pm  
  Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies