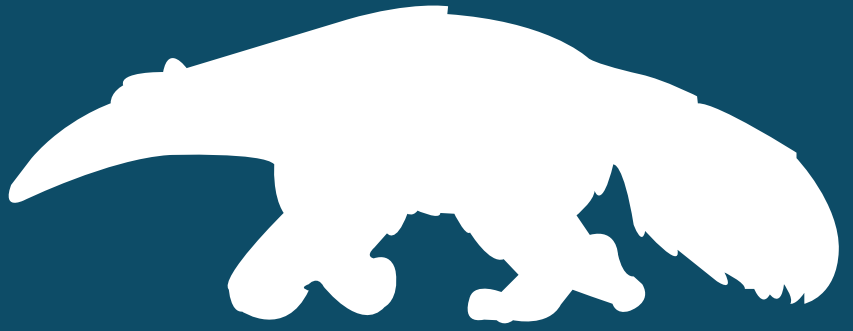


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THE GREEN VINE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY MINOR RETREAT

BY JAENNA WESSLING

During the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday weekend, students and pursuing the Global Sustainability Minor and staff members from the UCI Global Sustainability Research Center went on a retreat to the Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center. The weekend was filled with community building exercises, empowering workshops based on various sustainability topics, hiking, discussions about equity and equality, and so much more! In addition, the students also had a chance to experience locally grown cuisine prepared by an amazing eco-chef!

As a Global Sustainability minor student, this experience meant so much to me. I felt so happy and honored for all that I have experienced and learned. It was an amazing opportunity! From this experience I was able to meet so many incredible people and gain insight from other students who shared their knowledge and passion for sustainability. After attending this retreat, I truly feel more connected to my community and empowered to make a difference!



Photos by Castle 'Hank' Kim, sites.uci.edu/castlek



CARMELISA'S STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

BY CARMELISA MORALES



Seine River, Paris, France

Bonjour, tout le monde! It's hard to believe I was in Europe less than a month ago. I was studying abroad in Paris, France this past fall semester. It's hard to sum up my experience in just a few paragraphs. With my classes and homestay experience, I immersed myself in Parisian and French culture, learned about the country's history, met and talked to Frenchies, ate amazing food, and visited neighboring countries. There was so much to learn and do, there was never a dull day.

Some of my most memorable experiences come from living with my French host family. My hostmom helped me navigate through the Paris metro, showed me the secret spots of the city, and cooked me some of the best food I've ever eaten. It was also very surprising to find that their lifestyles were so sustainable. They appreciate public transportation and walk everywhere. The food they cooked and ate was always locally grown. They used the minimal amount of electricity by plugging in appliances only when being used and waiting until the very last minute to turn a light on. There was an appreciation for enjoy the sun, taking a stroll, sitting outside, enjoying a nice cup of coffee and book. It was refreshing and I appreciated how the simplest things could make them happy.

It was hard saying goodbye to Paris, but I know my adventures will never stop and I'll come back the next chance I get. I encourage everyone to go abroad, whether it's for your studies or to just travel. It's an experience that everyone should have. Feel free to contact me if you would like to know more about my travels! Au revoir!



Left to Right: Eiffel Tower, Paris, France; Lyon, France; Musee d'Orsay, Paris, France.

The PowerSave team has been brainstorming many interactive programs for the new year. With the current drought crisis, we have prepared many water saving activities. It is very important for students to know not only how to conserve water daily, but that their efforts matter. I will be doing my water themed program, DIY Water Conservation Workshop. I am very excited from the past success of this program as it is the second year we're doing it! UC Irvine has made efforts towards water conservation and we are proud of its successes.

A great source of water savings comes from the transition from grass to native plants. Because native plants are accustomed to California weather and water conditions, caring for them does not require much water. Replacing non-recreational grass with native plants has resulted in large water savings. This workshop will bring awareness to UCI's efforts, teach students how they can contribute to the campus' water conservation, and give students the chance to plant their own succulent/cacti! The PowerSave team has been planning other interactive water saving activities along with UCI's Student Housing Residential Education Board. Tune into our next newsletter for what we have in store next!

DIY WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

BY JANET ORTEGA



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