Dear UCEAP Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that UCEAP’s Founding Director, William “Bill” Allaway, and his wife Olivia both recently passed away. The news brings enormous sadness to the UC study abroad community and it comes as we are gathered for our Annual Conference in Santa Barbara. This is where most of us had the pleasure of seeing and speaking with Bill, Olivia and their entire family on the occasion of UCEAP’s 50th Anniversary in 2012.

It was truly visionary, innovative and gutsy for Director Allaway to create The Global Campus, as he called UCEAP in the title of his wonderfully rich and inspiring book about education abroad and the University of California. To build it required hard and sustained work and determination, but also a wide range of skills – of leadership, diplomacy, management and scholarship, to name a few, as well as a great deal of charisma that would inspire others to follow in his lifelong crusade and enterprise. The legacy that Director Allaway leaves is remarkable, meaningful, powerful and forever lasting. I learned the news as I was attending a conference session entitled “Around the World in 90 Minutes”, in which administrators from several of our study centers abroad presented a brief snapshot of their programs and cities, often in the form of a video created by UCEAP students. I was then reminded of the scope, the depth and the richness of what Director Allaway had created, and of the profound way he had changed, and would continue to change so many of our students’ lives. It was particularly fitting that one of the pieces was about the University of Bordeaux, a place with such deep meaning for the Allaway family, and where he chose to focus his philanthropy in recent years.

I feel most fortunate to have gotten to know both Bill and Olivia, even though our interactions were few and far between. I could always feel the towering presence of Bill in everything UCEAP, but more as that of a gentle giant and wise advisor, who was kind enough to provide some advice when we asked, but was also respectful of the way the program continued to grow and evolve after he left the directorship. Only because of the foundation of academic excellence and the network of outstanding universities that he created have we been able to celebrate 50 years of success for the flagship program of the University of California that is EAP. We also felt the wonderful support that Olivia provided to our students, staff and faculty. She was a beam of contagious happiness that shone on our community for so long, and her comforting presence, her radiant smile and her kindness will live with us always.

Sincerely,

Jean-Xavier Guinard
Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director