

Field Report: Marshall Plan Scholarship

Electronic Correlations in Kagome Lattice at University of California Davis

Klaus Steiner

September 28, 2018

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Davis is a small city in the north of California, about 30 minutes drive away from the capital of California Sacramento. The area itself is known for its agriculture and therefore the city is surrounded from farmland. This puts Davis a little isolated spot, but you can easily reach Sacramento and the bay area by bus or by train. Because Davis is very flat, it is common to commute by bike to the campus. A big part of the city is taken by the UC Davis campus and thus, it is one of the main employers in the city. Generally, the people I worked with are very friendly, hard working and knowledgeable, but were also keeping a good work-life balance. Therefore, I very much enjoyed the work environment of my host research group.

QUALITY OF THE HOST INSTITUTION

The university is known for its excellent programs in agriculture and veterinary medicine, however I also had a good impression about the physics department. In particular of my supervisor Prof. Scalettar, due to his experience in his field, and helpful advises he gave me for my research. During the teaching period, the university were inviting several speakers from different universities across the states. I really enjoyed these seminars, because most of the speakers were from well-known institutions or universities and presented interesting topics. UC Davis offers several activities for international scholars e.g. welcome dinners, culture nights or free breakfasts. Therefore, I felt accepted and especially in the beginning of my stay this was important to meet new people. International scholars also had to attend an orientation meeting, where general information of the visas and insurances are explained. Personally, I found this important, because it helped me to get a better understanding of my responsibilities as an J-1 visa holder and how the health care system in the USA works.

CONTACTS WITHIN THE HOST INSTITUTION, INCLUSION IN THE ORGANIZATION

During my stay, I was participating in weekly group meetings and seminars. In the meetings we were discussing the recent research progress and finding solutions if problems occurred. From the research group of Prof. Scalettar I learned new methods, but I also contributed by introducing the group to new techniques, which are common in my home research group.

My supervisor at UC Davis was Prof. Richard T. Scalettar:

Distinguished Professor
Physics Department
One Shields Ave.
University of California, Davis 95616
fax 530-752-4717

Responsible for administrative things was Onelia Yan:

Business Office
UC Davis Physics

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE MARSHALL PLAN STUDENTS AND FELLOWS

To all my fellow future Marshall Plan students, it is a unique opportunity to make new contacts in the field of your research. Therefore, I recommend to do networking and participate in seminars, if the university is offering any. Usually, one is very busy with the research project, however I also think that it is also important to participate in social events and to experience the culture.