



*Friends of the International Center,
at UC San Diego*

Newsletter

Volume XLVI, No.2

October 2018

President's Column

In my opinion, uncertainty and fear are two of the most emotionally challenging emotions one can experience, no matter the circumstances that give rise to these feelings. For many the circumstances arise from a medical condition, for some from a major life change, and for a growing many it is the current state of affairs, their own or worldwide.

Yesterday, I was struck that at each of my stops running errands (the spice store, the butcher, Costco, and Trader Joe's), these emotions were voiced by clerks and patrons alike, without provocation. And, what struck me even more was that all, even those who confessed to having cast their votes differently, expressed a strong desire to return to a world of greater tolerance, respect, and sense of community—where people are happy to extend their hand without regard to ideology.

Amusingly, all spoke about these businesses as places that exude a spirit of love and inclusion, welcome respites from the less personal businesses they frequent. It is my strong belief that Friends, through its many programs and activities, members, and volunteers provides just such a place of love, inclusion, acceptance, and tolerance that helps ease the uncertainty and fears that many, not just our international visitors, experience. Please remember that Friends doors are always open to you.

Best wishes for a more loving world,

Katya

Katya Newmark
presFIC@ucsd.edu

Family Orientation

—by *Nancy Homeyer*

Lots of new happenings at Family Orientation. We have two new international volunteers, **Laura Libotte** from Belgium and **Fernanda Vio** from Chile, and a new local volunteer, **Loreen Wilhelmy**, a longtime member of the Friends. We have a fresh, new *Welcome!* booklet thanks to **Mayra Nevarez**, **Eileen Tozer**, me, and others. And we have a refreshed and updated PowerPoint presentation thanks to **Eileen Tozer** and many photos by **Katya Newmark**. We're good to go into 2018-2019. This has been a group effort to get all of this done. Thank you all tremendously.



An unusual view of Mt. Etna

RESERVE!

Ethnic Dinner: SICILY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
6:30 PM, GREAT HALL,
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

JOIN US ON A TRIP TO
SICILY WITH A DELICIOUS
CATERED DINNER FOLLOWED
BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY
PROF. CHRISTOPHER WILLS
ON THE ISLAND'S HISTORY
FEATURING PHOTOS FROM
HIS AND HIS WIFE'S VISIT TO
SICILY'S SPECIAL PLACES AND
EVENTS

A FUNDRAISER FOR
FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIPS

To MAKE RESERVATIONS:
[http://FICSicily2018.](http://FICSicily2018.eventbrite.com)
eventbrite.com

RESERVATION DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

TEN MILLENNIA OF HISTORY IN SICILY

Text and photographs by Prof. Christopher Wills



A view of 3rd century upper class Roman life at Villa Romana del Casale

THIS SPRING, my wife Liz and I visited Sicily, one of the world's most remarkable islands. We were able to share part of our trip with our family, and now we would like to share it all with you.

Sicily has been at the center of collisions between cultures and civilizations for at least ten thousand years. We will take you on a tour of this vast history, along with some quick detours to the nearby island of Sardinia and to the astonishing volcanic island of Stromboli. On the way, we will explore some of the influences that have shaped Sicily's cuisine, and see how the Roman, Byzantine, and Muslim worlds all contributed to it.

We will explore, in sequence, the monuments and cultures that are everywhere on the island. We will visit traces of the ancient warlike agricultural societies that occupied Sicily and Sardinia before the arrival of the Phoenicians, and their descendants, the Carthaginians, in about 1200 BC.

For the next millennium Sicily was at the center of fights for dominance among the Carthaginians, the Ionian Greeks, and the Romans, with the Romans eventually winning. We will visit some of the world's best-preserved remnants of these ancient civilizations, including breathtaking Roman mosaics that give a glimpse of third-century Roman life and of the incredible world of nature in the Mediterranean Basin that was still in its full flower during Roman times.

We will travel to southern Sicily and to remote parts of Sardinia to search for evidence of that natural world. Not much is left, alas, but we will explore some of the efforts by conservation groups to bring it back.

With the split of the Roman Empire into East and West and the rise of Christianity in the fourth century, it was the East that snatched Sicily from the West, but it was Norman invaders from Normandy who warred with the Muslim world for eventual dominance of the island. We will see how the churches and cathedrals of the time provide palimpsests of this complex history, with some of the most magnificent Byzantine mosaics to be found in churches that still have traces of their Greek temple origins.

It is during this time that Sicilian life began to assume its modern pattern. Norman invaders brought a brief Renaissance to the island's big cities, during which Christians, Jews, and Muslims lived in relative peace. But the giant estates originally established by the Romans, the *latifundia*, still dominated the island's interior, and life there continued unchanged. We will follow how Sicily fell under the sway of the Holy Roman Empire, the Counter-

Reformation, and finally—after conquest by Spain—the Inquisition.

Throughout southern Sicily, these upheavals generated astonishing churches and statues of the High Baroque, one of the world's greatest explosions of decorative art. The Church of that time lives on in celebrations of the Holy Week, before Easter in the towns of Caltanissetta, Enna, and Trapani. We were able to immerse ourselves in the enthusiasm for the preservation of these ancient rituals, despite their sometimes-unfortunate historical baggage. And we got a glimpse of the life of an old noble family in Caltanissetta, the Militellos.

It was in Sicily that modern Italy began, with Garibaldi's invasion of the island in 1860. From this beginning, Garibaldi was able to unify much of the Italian peninsula. But Sicily soon became a backwater, dominated by the criminal brotherhoods of the Mafia. Throughout our trip we saw how the people of the island are finally moving away from the Mafia's grim domination, and starting to join the modern world.



Amazing breed of goats introduced into Sicily in 700 B.C.

For reservations, see p.1

Wednesday Coffee & More

—by Georgina Sham

October will be a busy month of activities at Wednesday Coffee—some new, some revivals, all lots of fun. We expect to learn shuttle and needle tatting (a lace making technique which can also be used to make nice earrings or necklaces) from **Georgina Sham** and **Marie Perroud**. **Maxine Bloor** will return to give us another lesson on using Fimo, a polymer clay that can be used to make a variety of decorative objects and jewelry, and Marie will demonstrate how to make shambles bracelets.

Meanwhile, the Tai Chi class with **Gladys Wong** on Mondays is going well. We have learned all the forms for 24 Form Yang style, and when we become proficient at them, Gladys will start teaching the Tai Chi Kungfu Fan Dance—probably after the New Year when she comes back from visiting Hong Kong, where she intends to buy authentic fans!

The Yoga classes on Thursdays have also been going well. **Vivian Lin** is an amazing teacher and the class will continue at least through December.

English Conversation



Tuesday's conversation topics around Gus' Table are nothing if not varied. A recent September topic was inspired by **Jei Yoon Park's** visit to Seattle, where she became impressed by its public transportation system, in particular by the coordination between its bus and rail lines that share the same stops.

She was so pleased to see a convenient public transport system in the United States—one that functions much like the one in her native country, Korea—that she suggested the group talk about “the difference between your country's and San Diego's transportation systems. We could cover bus, metro (subway), ride-sharing services, almost everything.”

Membership

We regret to write of the loss of one of Friends longtime members, **Ken Bowles**, who died in August 2018. Ken enjoyed a distinguished career at UC San Diego, joining the university in 1965 in the Department of Applied Electrophysics (now Computer Science Engineering) and, together with his wife, **Lou**, and daughter, **Ann**, was a frequent attendee at Friends events and loyal supporter.

We thank **Ann Heinemann**, a Friends enthusiast of many years for joining us as a Life Member.

A further note of appreciation goes to our corporate members: the **Salk Institute for Biological Studies** and the **Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research**.

Venue Conflicts

Because space on campus is at a premium, it is only natural that priority is given to direct University business. The Dance Hall, the place where many Friends activities are held, is sometimes needed for special UCSD meetings, and so it happened that a number of our programs had to find alternative solutions in September, and may occasionally have to do so in subsequent months. Rather than cancel events, an alternative space or time of day may be found, or a field trip scheduled. To avoid disappointments, please verify all dates, times, and meeting places.

October Calendar

Oct. 1: **Craft Circle**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **Tai Chi**, 2:00-3:00

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **Gus' Table, English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 3, 17: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 2:30-3:30

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Everyday English**, 10:00-11:30

Oct. 4, 11, 25: **Yoga Class**, Noon-1:00

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Friday Chat**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 9: **Friends Board Meeting**, 10:00

Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30: **Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:00

Oct. 11: **Cooking Class**, 9:00

Oct. 13: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00

Socializing

Those of us fortunate enough to spend time with our international families are reminded over and over of the value of socializing, whether it be through attendance at one of Friends more formal programs, or by attending any of the informal social outgrowth activities born of the friendships that have their roots in Friends programs. Many of our volunteers are to thank for providing the initial catalyst in these “extra” Friends get-togethers, and it is wonderful to know so many of our international participants have taken up the baton as well.

There are fairly frequent gatherings centered around the exploration of San Diego, whether it be through hikes, visits to local attractions, or shopping. And, as one might expect, food-centered activi-

ties are always a draw.

Just a couple of examples from recent events: a beach barbecue organized by a couple of our international participants that was happily attended by a few of our volunteers that introduced many attending to s’mores—a treat that instantly gained a new international following; an evening organized by one of our international participants for those who love karaoke and attended by Friday Chat leader **Cindy Tozer**; and a potluck with game night hosted by **Katya Newmark**, introducing international participants to the highly social game of bunco. Commented Cindy: “We all enjoyed the fast play and moving around to different tables. Katya, the quintessential hostess, even had prizes for different categories of play.”



A get-together for tennis before Friday Chat



Game night

These events are not exhaustive, but illustrative of the desire our international participants have in trying everything that may lead to making new friends, to sharing bits about themselves, and finding ways to include their spouses/partners in their new social circles.

We will continue to have more activities with social opportunities for casual conversation and fun, and hope that you might consider leading an informal get-together at your house, at a museum, beach, park, etc.

It cannot be repeated too often that our international participants are highly appreciative of the opportunities Friends provide them and how often we are the first and, sadly all-too-often, only locals who welcome them into our homes. The opportunity to see an “American” home is priceless. And is this not the best reminder to volunteer to host for our Visit an American Home program? Please contact **Elisabeth Marti** at hostFIC@ucsd.edu.

**Friends
Volunteer Hours
for August 2018
650.5 = 3.7 FTEs**

Visiting an American Home

Over the last years the Friends program *Visiting an American Home* has brought together many foreign visitors to UCSD with local hosts, and the reports are enthusiastic not only from the visitors, but from the hosts as well.

The emphasis of these get-togethers is not so much on the food served as on conviviality. Offerings can be as simple as coffee and cookies, a lunch or brunch, a happy hour, or a dinner. More important for our

international visitors is seeing an American home and perhaps a new neighborhood.

Wrote **Camilla Matthiassen** and her husband, **Jannik Boll-Nielsen**, several years after they returned to their native country, Denmark, in a letter to **Ruth Newmark**: “We remember being very inspired by your warmth and willingness to let two complete strangers into your home the very welcoming way you did. The experience was extraordinary

to us in so many ways, but mostly because of the wonderful friendship we made with you and your family that evening. It will be a lifelong one in spite of distance and time.”

The program needs additional people to host. Please let me know if you would like to participate. This can be just once per year or two or more times. I hope to hear from you.

Elisabeth Marti
hostFIC@ucsd.edu
or (858) 755-1408

Friends Dinner Social

—by *Katya Newmark*

Our first Friends Dinner Social will introduce guests to another part of the United States with a strong regional culture: Kentucky. While there is no substitute for visiting in person, with each dinner we do our best to create an ambiance that creates a sense of the region/country we are highlighting. And while I toyed with recreating our version of a Kentucky Derby, I was quite certain that, as accommodating as the University has been, it would frown upon my request to allow local thoroughbreds inside the beautiful Village 15 meeting space; neither was I certain that our guests would appreciate a request to dress in outlandish hats, and yet the Derby did provide the inspiration for our evening.

From our reception icebreaker/game, to our beverage offerings, to our centerpieces, our better-than-authentic menu (less grease), and our after-dinner bluegrass concert, you can expect to experience a bit of the charm and culture that would engulf you if you were to take a

trip to the Bluegrass State. Detailed information about the menu can be read at <https://fdskentucky2018.eventbrite.com>, and for the rest, please know that I much prefer to surprise you! Please make your reservations quickly since space is limited!

Friends Dinner Social:
USA Regional Flavors—Kentucky Bluegrass
Saturday, October 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Village 15

Make Your Reservations:
<https://fdskentucky2018.eventbrite.com>
Reservations due by Friday, October 5



Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by *Yukina Nakazawa*

Ever since I took over **Mariko Usui's** chair position on July 1, (Mariko continues to manage Thursday Playdates), the Mommy, Daddy & Me class has met every week, except for university holidays. In July-August, we offered circle time with singing, dancing, and other fun activities led by **Chia Ying Lin**, **Mayo Kodera**, **Sim Scano**, and me, with about 8-12 families participating each week.

Due to the loss of **Mariko**, **Aki Arimoto**, and **Cathy Lin**, with **Sim Scano** searching for a job, and **Mayo Kodera** expecting her second baby in November, we were anticipating a lack of volunteers for the current academic year, but fortunately we were able to welcome two new volunteers: **Tassana Janwanishstaporn** from

Thailand and **Fernanda Ana Sosa Batiz** from Mexico. Having these two new moms is a longed-for change. For a year or so, MDM has had no volunteers with daughters, and I observed that most of the weeks, participants were all boys. However, since these two moms started volunteering, I have seen girls in the class—that is nothing but good. Happily, we also have new families from different countries, not only from East Asia, but also from Central and South America and Europe.

Because of heat advisories issued for San Diego, our Thursday Playdate sessions were cancelled three times. At the end of August, we said good-bye to two of our regular members: **Veronica Martinez** and **Daniella Madrid Perez**. They were among the ini-



tial Playdate members and contributed greatly by bringing toys and leading activities. They said that MDM made their San Diego life happy and memorable, and that they could not appreciate the program enough.

Several parents have asked if we could change the starting class time to a later hour. The class age range has changed from 3-5 year-olds to younger 0-3 year-olds, so that many parents, including me, are having a hard time managing kids' nap time and class. In light of this, we are now holding the class, still on Wednesdays, from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Scholarship Awards Dinner 2018

—by Ruth Newmark with
photos by Justin Costello and Katya Newmark

- ❖ *Thank you for arranging the awesome dinner last Tuesday. I really enjoyed talking to all the awardees and also people who provided us the opportunity to do so.* —**Minju Kim**, Ph.D. student in Psychology from Korea
- ❖ *I did genuinely enjoy my time at the dinner, and it was wonderful meeting you, the other students, the sponsors, and the table hosts. The whole environment of the event was very warm and welcoming, so I did feel as if I was sitting among friends rather than people who I just met. I am happy that I decided to attend the event, as listening to other people's stories about their experiences abroad were inspiring, and they have helped me a lot in emotionally preparing myself for my time abroad. I am thankful for this opportunity and for all of the help that you and Friends have contributed to realizing my dream of going abroad.*— **Kimberly Yew**, Human Biology major, going to Taiwan
- ❖ *Thank you so much for the wonderful Friends of the International Center dinner this week! I was so inspired and rejuvenated after a long couple of weeks after chatting with the amazing people at my table. I had to leave the event earlier than I expected and did not get the chance to thank you in person. I think the work you are doing is so wonderful and it is great that you include medical students in this!*—**Cecilia Leggett**, M.D. candidate, heading to Costa Rica

The Friend annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, held on May 22, 2018, at the UCSD Student Services Center, in its large Multipurpose Room, reached maximum capacity: 171 people for a sit-down dinner.



Students check in and mingle in the SSC courtyard



Jose Luis Ortiz Tarin, a Spanish Ph.D. student, is served a drink

There was a good mix of Friends, administrators, faculty, staff, donors, and members of the local community, all there to fete the many students present in recognition of receiving their international scholarships. Not all the students were recipients of a Friends scholarship, for it has become tradition for Friends of the International Center to host not merely the recipients of our own scholarships (74 this year!), but also additional study-abroad students chosen to receive differently funded awards.

Based on the many comments received by Friends President and Dinner Chair, **Katya Newmark**, and me—including those from the students quoted above—Katya remarked: “Feedback from those who attend is unequivocally enthusiastic and positive with many expressions of appreciation for Friends work on campus, scholarships awarded, and gratitude for hosting this atypical event. Guests

continue to delight in the ability to mingle with a wide range of people, and as much as Scholarship Chair, **Ruth Newmark**, and I work to seat people together who will have things in common, we never cease to be amazed at the additional connections discovered during the evening. We also know that with each event, the administration reports gaining a deeper appreciation for Friends unique all-encompassing outlook, its history of and growing successes, and the value gained in creating community. I am only sorry that every Friends member does not experience the vibrancy and good will that abounds: as **Barbara Fitzsimmons** wrote me: *One could just feel the energy sparking all over the room.*”

In the September *Newsletter*, we covered the dinner menu, the Friends general membership meeting with its election of officers for the year 2018-19, as well as the kind introductory remarks made by

Dean **Kirk Simmons** and Assistant Vice Chancellor **Jeffrey Orgera**, and the fascinating account by our guest speaker, Dean of Undergraduate Education, **John Moore**, of his own study abroad and his more recent interface with international education. In this issue, we will concentrate on the scholarship aspect of the annual dinner.

Like last year, we again invited two former Friends scholarship recipients—one a graduate, one an undergraduate—to tell us a little about themselves and about how they used their 2017 award.

Charlotte Beall, a Ph.D. student in Climate Science at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, regaled us with stories about a scientific cruise off the shore of Somalia, an area rife with pirates, necessitating the accompaniment of armed security personnel, where the temperatures often reached well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Recounting the experience with humor, Charlotte remarked: “The personnel at one point did have to display their weapons to approaching pirates between Yemen and Somalia to deter them from coming closer. We also saw bioluminescent bacteria, flying fish and other interesting sea life, not to mention lots of stars!”

Coordinated by the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, the 3-month exploration from France to Kuwait and back required several years of preparation to obtain the necessary permits to cruise safely through previously inaccessible waters. As Charlotte explained, the expedition



Charlotte Beall



Jean Selzer with Matthew Wills from the UK



Graduate students Huchen Liu, Charles McLean, and Jessica Ng

presented her with an extraordinary opportunity to study rare, atmospheric particles that can significantly influence climate-relevant properties of clouds. The cruise allowed her to take numerous samples of ice nucleating particles (INPs)—the focus of her doctoral thesis—in a never-before-sampled region: the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea, in the hope that her study of INPs will ultimately lead to a better understanding of global climate change.

Charlotte thanked Friends for her award that allowed her to purchase some special electronics and pay for sundry incidental expenses connected to the cruise, thereby minimizing the financial burden of the trip, a trip that started in Malta with her wedding to **Jesse Dewald**, Director of UCSD's EnVision, an arts and engineering studio in Jacobs School of Engineering, and was followed by a 3-month separation!

As Friends Scholarship Committee Chair, it was my privilege to present the recipients of our 2018 scholarship awards, beginning with some introductory remarks from which I quote freely:

Scholarships mean different things to different people. Scholarships may provide funds to attend a conference, to buy equipment essential for research, to help defray the cost of study abroad, or to pay for an airplane ticket to Ecuador to conduct archival research. In all cases, though, they build confidence and are a boost to the mo-

rale. For those who wonder what scholarship recipients say upon receiving the news of their award, I would like to illustrate by quoting three replies from this spring's recipients.

Wrote **Simone Sternini**, a *Luna Fung Scholarship* recipient from Italy, pursuing a Ph.D. in Structural Engineering: “I am honored to have been selected for such an important recognition.”

Upon hearing that she had received a second Friends scholarship, **Olga Lazitski-Torres**, a Russian graduate student working towards a Ph.D. in the Department of Communication, and a 2016 recipient of a Friends *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* wrote: (not sparing any exclamation marks): “Thank you so much!!! I can't believe it! I am so happy to hear about this award!!!”

And finally, I cite **Rebecca Dehnel**, a rising 2nd year medical student going to Jordan: “This is hugely exciting!!! Thank you so much. I will proudly accept this award. May 22 is actually my birthday and I will gladly spend it with you all.”

The latter revelation gave us an opportunity to toast Rebecca. Not finding this enough, our President began to sing Happy Birthday, and other guests followed with gusto. This sense of camaraderie demonstrates so well the closeness Friends feel to all within our community.

There is no way that Friends of the International Center, or,

for that matter, our scholarship recipients, can thank our many donors enough. We can, however, show our appreciation by applauding all who contribute to making our scholarship program prosper. This applies to our individual donors, Resale Shop and Ethnic Dinner volunteers, our university partners, and each and



Geert & Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Brenda Fung, and her brother, Conrad Fung



Donna (Davida) Huchel in animated conversation with a student



everyone who helps in countless ways to make the Friends of the International Center's scholarship program thrive—and that includes the members of the Friends Scholarship Committee (**Jeri Abernathy, Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Kathy Hodges, Louise Kauffmann, Candace Kohl, Katya Newmark, and Ruth Newmark**, chair), who read 250 applications.

The value of the combined 74 scholarships for the year 2017-2018 comes to 128,000 dollars, divided among 30 graduate fellowships @ \$2,000, 4 medical fellowships @ \$2,000, and 40 scholarships @ \$1,500 for undergraduate study abroad. We are very proud of our scholarship recipients' academic accomplishments and their vision for the future.

Here follows the list of graduate students.



International Graduate Students

NAME	ORIGIN	DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL
Baragwanath, Kathryn	Chile	Political Science
Brink, Claudi	South Africa	Philosophy
Checa-Gimero, Paloma	Spain	Visual Arts
Edwards, Max	United Kingdom	Philosophy
Kim, Minju	South Korea	Psychology
Lazitski-Torres, Olga	Russia	Communication
Lee, Sang Eun (Eunice)	South Korea	Literature
Liu, Huchen	China	Political Science
Lopez-Rivera, Edwin	Colombia	History
Marchand, Elisabeth	Canada	Psychology
Marcos, Patrícia Martins	Portugal	History
Ortiz Tarin, Jose Luis	Spain	Mech. & Aerospace Eng.
Pal, Sridip*	India	Physics
<i>*Luna Fung Scholarship</i>		
Ribeiro, Germano	Brazil	Sociology
Rubio, Juan*	Colombia	Music
<i>*Fitzsimmons Scholarship</i>		
Speitel, Sebastian	Germany	Philosophy
Sternini, Simone*	Italy	Structural Engineering
<i>*Luna Fung Scholarship</i>		
Taskin-Alp, Yasemin	Turkey	Sociology
Thirumalaisamy, Sindhu	India	Visual Arts
Vidart, Daniela	Colombia	Economics
Wills, Matthew	United Kingdom	History
Wu, Hua (Miranda)*	China	Anthropology
<i>*Diane Lin Memorial Scholarship</i>		



Lily & Shao-Chi Lin with Ruth Newmark

Donations

We thank **Sandra and Chapin Day** for their contribution to the Friends Scholarship Fund, made at the time they renewed their membership in our organization.

A special thank-you goes to **Richard Fitzsimmons** of Falls, Pennsylvania, who sent a donation explaining: "It is that time of year again to celebrate the life and influence of my late mother, **Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons**, (1908-2008), on the 10th anniversary of her death, August 23, 2008. R.I.P. Please add it to the *Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons Memorial Scholarship Fund*, established by my brother and sister-in-law, **Jerry and Barbara Fitzsimmons**. All best wishes in the important and significant work you and the Friends do on behalf of international students. Know that I enjoy the Friends newsletters."

Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons was an incredible woman, devoted to her family, her church, her community, and to education. She was an outstanding student and an accomplished organist. On her 100th birthday, it was said: "Her life is witness to profound changes in society, technology, education, politics, medicine, and women's issues, to mention just a few of the experiences she has participated in, or witnessed, over her long, productive, and fun-filled life. And, she is still learning and setting a good example. She is an inspiration."

The Friends Scholarship Committee chose as the 2018 recipient of the *Fitzsimmons Scholarship*, **Juan Rubio** from Colombia, a Ph.D. candidate in the UCSD Music Department writing his dissertation on a Latin American popular music genre called *cumbia*. Wrote Juan: "The funds provided by the Friends of the International Center will not only foster my own research but also my teaching, thus making a direct impact in the wider UC San Diego community."

Domestic Graduate Students Studying Abroad

NAME	DESTINATION	DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL
Assefa, Christiane	Netherlands	Ethnic Studies
Ciborowski, Haley	Guatemala	Public Health
French, Beverly*	French Polynesia	SIO
<i>*Carol & Stuart Smith Scholarship</i>		
Gates, Zaynab	Latin America	Education
Gluckman, Maxie	Honduras	Education
McClellan, Charles*	Japan	Political Science
<i>*Ruth Newmark Scholarship</i>		
Ng, Jessica*	Chile	SIO
<i>*Ruth Newmark Scholarship</i>		
Sugla, Rishi	Greece	SIO



Rebecca Dehnel



Medical Students Studying Abroad

Asmerom, Betial*	Ethiopia	School of Medicine
<i>*Teclé Kidane-Mariam Memorial Scholarship</i>		
Dehnel, Rebecca	Jordan	School of Medicine
Ermias, Yokabed	Ethiopia	School of Medicine
Leggett, Cecilia	Costa Rica	School of Medicine

Congratulations!

We will continue our scholarship ceremony account in next month's *Newsletter*, when we will feature the Friends undergraduate study-abroad scholarship recipients, along with the address by the dinner's undergraduate speaker, **Michaela Juels**.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends,

Terima kasih! Thank you! My name is **Crystal**, and I'm an incoming UCSD junior currently wrapping up a 5-week [EAP] study abroad program at the National University of Singapore. While there, I've been learning Bahasa Indonesia and taking a hands-on Biodiversity course that included a one-week research excursion to Pulau Tioman!

In my Biodiversity course, I worked with a team of NUS and exchange students to study the coral reefs of Pulau Tioman. By taking data on the coral cover and presence of carbonate eroding organisms like parrotfish and sea urchins, we found that there was a significant decrease in the amount of biological carbonate available in Pulau Tioman's reefs between 2017-2018, which reflected a decline in the reef's health. My team and I learned how to design our own study, analyze data, and present and report our findings. I also

got to learn about Singapore's unique mangrove and rainforest ecosystems at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. This program has taught me many of the skills I will need for field research in ecology.

For my Bahasa Indonesia course, I learned about Indonesian culture, cuisine, music, and art, on top of learning how to speak and write Indonesian. I learned how to cook the delicious *Bakwan Jagung*, [corn fritters] how to make batik tie-dye, and participated in the Kreatif Connections festival celebrating Singaporean-Indonesian connections. Through this class, I was able to dive into Indonesian culture and have first-hand interactions with people of Indonesian heritage. I made many good memories and friends in this class, and I'm excited to see how my experience in connecting Indonesian

culture to my own heritage will help me further my ability to communicate and express myself.

This experience would not have been possible without your support! I'm extremely thankful that you have generously funded students like me to go and explore both science and culture. Your support has made it possible for me to broaden my understanding of the world and continue my experience in both ecological work and in working with people of all different walks of life. I hope to continue using these new skills and experiences in raising awareness about environmental issues and to promote community action to tackle the issues we face today.

Crystal Chan

Eleanor Roosevelt College
Environmental Systems: Ecology,
Behavior & Evolution major

August 2, 2018

Hello, friends!

I'm writing this on my last day of lectures in Prague. It's currently 96° and I'm sweating more than I ever have before, but I still can't believe that in a couple of days I have to leave the city I've learned to call home.

I've learned so much on this Global Seminar—not just about the beautiful city I'm in, but about myself. One of my biggest fears before travelling was the concept of independence. I've never been out of the state on my own, and all of a sudden I would be across the world for two months by myself. As terrifying as it was, I've learned that I'm far more capable than I ever gave myself credit for. I have been able to book weekend trips to different places, budget my money, go out with friends, and somehow stay on top of my schoolwork. I feel

I've certainly gained a new air of independence.

Another big change for me now is that I love going out without a plan. There are so many hidden gems scattered around Prague that you can never anticipate, but they charm their way into your heart one way or another. Whether it be little cafés or the best gnocchi, all these places were found by chance and I'm so lucky to have experienced them. The places we planned on going have all been great, but I learned that Prague's best-kept secrets can't be found on Yelp or Tripadvisor and sometimes, you're lucky enough to stumble upon them on your own.

I've also learned a lot about how I deal with stress and being out and around others for extended periods of time. As this is a global seminar,



Prague

we do things as a group all the time. Whether it be a day trip to a neighboring town or going to a local art gallery, spending time with the same twenty five people four days in a row for five weeks straight is a lot, and can be emotionally taxing.

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