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



# *Newsletter*

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Volume XLI, No. 4

December 2013

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## President's Message

Although the end of the year and the busy holiday season is fast upon us, please save time in your calendar to participate in the **Friday Café** that Friends will sponsor on December 6, our annual **Holiday Lunch**, December 10, and/or our second **Friends Dinner Social**, December 12, and/or join in any of our regular ongoing activities. Please consider inviting your friends as well, so we may all enjoy the vibrancy of a growing community.

Traditionally, December is a month of giving and we hope very much that you will consider giving your time and opening your home to participate in our Hospitality-at-Home program—how wonderful to share your holiday traditions with a visiting scholar. To participate, please e-mail: [katya@san.rr.com](mailto:katya@san.rr.com). Of course, it is also the season of gift giving and financial donations of all sizes are greatly appreciated.

The gift of international friendships cannot be overstated. My husband and I recently returned from a wonderful vacation we took in order to participate in one of Central Mexico's holidays: *Día de los Muertos*. Our experience was incredibly rich because of the hospitality of locals willing to share their lives, so that we could better understand the many incantations of this holiday.

While one can learn much by reading, one cannot learn the finer nuances of a culture, and especially the language, without personal guidance. This distinction is difficult to learn by book, and I encourage everyone to share the many nuances of life in America with our international visitors whenever the opportunity arises.

Throughout our travels we are reminded of the importance personal connections play, not only while experiencing a new culture, but also in our daily lives. No matter the length, it is these connections that give rise to the lasting impressions that permeate our memory and create the rich fabric of our lives. I wish you and yours happy holidays filled with abundant connections.

*Katya Newmark*

Holiday Lunch  
Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Noon  
Reservation Deadline: Friday, Dec. 4



Our annual Holiday Lunch is always a special time to visit with our members and enjoy a festive lunch. This year it will be better than ever. With the generous sponsorship of the International Center's Dean **Kirk Simmons**, it will be free of charge to both Friends members and staff! We all thank Kirk and the Center for this generosity, especially appropriate at this time of year.

We will gather in the dining room on Tuesday December 10, at noon to enjoy a tasty meal and lively conversation. Scholarship recipients will be at the lunch to share some thoughts with us about their experiences. Door prizes will be featured.

This year the menu is being prepared by the same catering service that handles the Friday Café, and will be coordinated by Chef **Martin Lahtov**. The menu will feature a buffet with vegetarian Greek and pasta salads, ham and turkey carving stations, and rolls. Dessert will be chocolate mousse cake.

Reserve your space by Wednesday, December 4 by e-mail to **Eleanor tum Suden** ([etumsude@san.rr.com](mailto:etumsude@san.rr.com)) or telephone her at (858) 587-8865. We emphasize that this is a firm deadline, and reservations made after it or walk-ins will not be accommodated.

Join us for this festive occasion!

*Barbara Fitzsimmons, Candace Kohl, Carol Smith*

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## Community Spirit:

**Friends Dinner Social** or when the wish of one individual becomes an outstanding collective project that leads to a successful social event!

—by *Audrey Leriche*

**Katya Newmark** had the wish to see Friends of the International Center mix with visiting scholars/students and their relatives, sharing an opportunity to meet and have a good time together. Soon after, the idea of a dinner was set.

First edition of the *Friends Dinner Social* took place at the International Center on October 5, under the leadership of **Katya Newmark**, **Dagmar Bocakova**, and **Audrey Leriche**, and with the help of a wonderful crew of other volunteers. From the prep work to the dinner itself, each step of this project was a success, because it involved both Friends and visitors in a warm and friendly spirit.

Since I am French and was in charge of the cooking, the meal had a French flavor and consisted of: *coq au vin* with mashed potatoes, a mixed green salad with blue cheese and walnuts in a vinaigrette dressing, and for dessert an Alsatian apple tart with meringue topping. Additionally, we served tea and coffee, while wine was available at \$1 per glass. Cleverly, Dagmar, who is the Wednesday Coffee crafts coordinator, showed Coffee participants how to make seasonal floral centerpieces that we then used as the evening's table decorations.

Sixty-four people representing many different countries were welcomed: 38 internationals (some with babies), 20 Friends members, and 6 non-affiliated guests. Our goal of seeing people mix and enjoy each other's company around a good meal was met. We outperformed expectations when you consider that people stayed late and left asking, "When is the next dinner?" Is there a better reward?

Thank you to all the volunteers and guests for having been there to make this project come to fruition. Dagmar's and my special thanks go to our many helpers—some of whom worked the full day—that included (in no particular order): **Nori Faer**, **Liz Fong Wills**, **Ginny Young**, **Mira Vendler**, **Katya Newmark**, **Ying-Ju (Jacey) Chen**, **Richard Chim**, **Eriko Saragai**, **Davide Povero**, **Sascha Duttke**, **Becky Wright**, **Ruth Newmark**, **Miracema Ueyoshi**, **Barbara and Jerry Fitzsimmons**, **Mariko Usui**, **Bill and Nancy Homeyer**, **Justin Costello**, **Danya Costello**, **Susan Burke**, and **Mary Woo**. Another note of appreciation goes to **Kristine Kneib** for getting event coverage in the *La Jolla Light* (September 26, 2013), and to **Katya** for taking pictures.

That we all had such a good experience, during the preparation and the actual dinner, is clearly encouraging for the future. We are ready to host such an event again, and already have scheduled our second Friends Dinner Social for Thursday, December 12.



Dagmar Bocakova and Audrey Leriche



Mary Woo, Susan Burke, Becky Wright, Sascha Duttke



Salad, mashed potatoes, coq au vin and apple tart on separate plate



One of many centerpieces made by Wednesday Coffee crafters

## Friends Dinner Social #2

—by Dagmar Bocakova

After a successful trial, it is my pleasure to announce the upcoming second Friends Dinner Social. Reserve your evening of Thursday, December 12, 6:00 p.m., and join us at the International Center for a dinner with international scholars, their families, and Friends of the International Center.

This time, we are planning a casual gathering in a winter holiday spirit, featuring three kinds of pizza (geared for vegetarians, cheese lovers, and those who prefer pepperoni) and salad. Our volunteers will prepare a selection of delicious homemade cookies, and we will serve hot and cold drinks, including a winter specialty—a spicy mulled wine!

What would a Christmas party be without a Christmas movie and popcorn? After dinner we will spend time together watching *Edward Scissorhands*, a modern fairy tale with Johnny Depp, suitable for young and old.

Join the party with friends and family and find out how Christmas and other winter holidays are celebrated in different countries around the world, or share with us how you celebrated your first Christmas abroad.

Friends Dinner  
Social

**Pizza  
and  
Movie**

Thursday,  
December 12, 6 p.m.  
International Center

RSVP by Dec. 6

Visiting scholars and families \$10, FIC members \$15, all others \$20; children under 3 years eat free. You can make your reservation via e-mail with me, **Dagmar**, at bocakova@gmail.com, or you can stop by the International Center to make your reservation together with payment in the Friends Resale Shop, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Cash and check payments will be accepted. Reservation and payment closure date is Friday, December 6.

### BETTY NOBLE SHOR, 1930-2013

**Betty Shor** died peacefully in her sleep early on October 13, 2014 at the home of her son, Professor **Alexander Shor**, of the University of Hawaii. Friends have lost one of our earliest supporters, whose contributions were recognized in 2011 with the Friends Member of the Year award from the Chancellor's Associates. The citation notes her many years of service in the Resale Shop, starting in 1987; as well as service on the Board, as Parliamentarian.

Betty and her husband, Professor **George Shor** of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, enjoyed the Ethnic Dinners, and thus joined the Friends. Betty helped prepare one memorable dinner when the power went out and George rounded up enough Coleman lanterns to allow the dinner to proceed until the lights came on as dessert was served. Betty also enjoyed the Scholarship Committee meetings to select our scholarship students.

Betty and George came to SIO in 1953. At that time, SIO was the only part of the campus, which later expanded to the full university campus we know today as UC San Diego. Apart from Friends, Betty was involved in Scripps Estates where they established their home, and in Oceanids. She volunteered at the Scripps Aquarium, and a dozen times with the scientific party on Scripps research ships, and also worked with SIO Prof. **Carl Hubbs**.



Betty at 80th birthday

Betty has a long history of writing and editing, especially scientific books. She authored or co-authored histories of Scripps Institution and Oceanids. In recent years, she assisted **Ruth Newmark** with research for our 50th anniversary publication: *Celebrating 50 Years of the International Center at UC San Diego, 1961-2011*.

Betty also co-edited the newsletter for the Bamboo Society of America for many years. Bamboo grew well in the Shor's garden, as well as succulents. Betty provided plants, especially succulents and geraniums, to the Friends Resale Shop. These were eagerly awaited and quickly purchased by many Shop customers. In addition to her general volunteering in the Shop, Betty reviewed and priced donated books.

As background: Betty was born in Boston, raised in the Black Hills of South Dakota in a gold-mining town, attended Wellesley College for two years, and married George Shor in 1950. They enjoyed 59 years of marriage before George died in 2009.

Two sons, Alexander ("Sandy") and **Don**, and a daughter, **Carolyn**; seven grandchildren; as well as many friends will miss her special contributions.

—Eleanor tum Suden

# Friends Resale Shop

—by Ruth Newmark



The Resale Shop is one of the Friends major ways to reach out into the community, and since its inception in 1981 continues to raise money for scholarships, while providing a warm and welcoming place, both for our customers and our volunteers.

• **Josie Foulks**, the current Shop co-Coordinator, is pleased to report an amazing group of new volunteers.

Of these, **Douglas Shriner** works the Monday morning shift. A recent transplant from Texas with a daughter at UCSD, Doug has already become a member of the Friends and quickly joined the Wednesday Coffee English conversation group at Gus' Table.

**Arti Sharmer** is from India. Her husband is a student at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. Says Arti, "I volunteer at the Resale Shop on Tuesdays when my son (who is 8 years old), and my husband are at school. I like meeting people from various places."

A kindergarten teacher in Austria, **Gerti Csapo** reveals: "I have been living here in San Diego with my husband, who is a postdoc at UCSD in the Department of Radiology, for about 11 months, and I love to help out at the Resale Shop."

Also among these new volunteers are several UCSD students:

**Christina Liu** divulged this about herself: "I am a student from San Gabriel, CA (in LA county). I wanted to volunteer at the Friends Resale Shop because it seemed like a lot of fun, and it is!"

**Stephanie Chang** said: "I love volunteering at the Resale Shop. I like helping great causes, and work hard doing so."

**Scott Probert**, a UCSC transfer student from Oxnard, explained: "I wanted to volunteer at the Resale

Shop because I've been buying most of my stuff from thrifts for several years, and I thought it would be great to help at one."

When **Lavinia Osilesi**, a sophomore with a most engaging smile, was asked how she came to volunteer, she replied that she first knew about the Shop strictly as a customer. Once she learned that the money raised goes to international scholarships, she felt that this was a cause she wanted to support.

• But more than simply being a venue to raise money, the Friends Resale Shop offers an unusual opportunity for social interaction and exchange of ideas. Every time I stop at the Shop, I am delighted to find customers in conversation, seemingly enjoying chatting with our volunteer staff and with each other.

• The outreach by past Shop Coordinator **Gayle Barsamian** to our UCSD's undergraduates and international spouses was inspired, and present Coordinators, **Alma Coles** and **Josie Foulks**, are continuing to enlist volunteers from among these groups. The problem, of course, is that such help is often temporary, for as these volunteers graduate, return home, or obtain paid employment, finding replacements requires frequent recruitment of new volunteers.

• So, once more, we plead: help us staff the Resale Shop.

• Equally important: Please tell all your acquaintances—including the students on campus—about our Shop, right now stressing that it is a great place to find holiday items and unusual ethnic artifacts that make fine gifts.

• Winter Holiday: The Resale Shop will be closed from December 21 through January 5, 2014.

**Happy Holidays!**



Lavinia Osilesi and Georgia Crowne

## Membership

In November we were joined by these new members: **Roark Miller**, Associate Director of the International Center and Director of the International Faculty and Scholars Office, and **Barbara & Alexander Stanculescu**. Barbara learned about the Friends through **Elisabeth Marti**, and joined because she supports the Friends mission.

We are saddened to announce the death on November 5 of **Patti Alksne**, who supplied our Resale Shop so faithfully with clothing from her consignment shop, Second Act West. We extend our condolences to the Alksne family.

Membership Chair **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** hopes that the *2014 Membership Directory and Handbook* has arrived in your mailbox and will prove useful.

## Cooking Class

—by Jennie Chin

Our International Cooking Experience met on November 14, featuring a menu of Beef Bourguignon with homemade bread and ending with a scrumptious Pavlova.

The December class is scheduled for Thursday, the 12th, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$6 per session, a true bargain considering each class includes not only hands-on experience but also lunch! Reservations are required; please contact Jennie (enjien1@hotmail.com).



English Tea



Gus' English Conversation Table



Ying-Ju Chen with skirt she made at Knit-Along



Aehyang Park of Mommy/Daddy & Me with student

## Wednesday Coffee Activities

—by Georgina Sham

- ❖ Dec. 4: *Cookie Baking*. We will bake a variety of cookies in preparation of the following week's Cookie Exchange
- ❖ Dec. 11: *Cookie Exchange, Santa's Visit, and Lunch*. Please bring 4-dozen (48) cookies, and you will go home with 3-dozen (36) cookies of a variety! We'll eat the rest at our Holiday party. Santa will make a visit and hand each child one of those cute stuffed animals we have been sewing all these months. Then, a free soup lunch for everyone until the food runs out—a Wednesday Coffee tradition.
- ❖ Dec. 18: *Make Christmas Presents*. We will finish our bag project and make paper Christmas decorations.
- ❖ Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: *NOMEETINGS*. The International Center is closed.



Sample of the many stuffed toys made

A few years ago, **Renate Berthold** and I, with the input of many, including our international visitors, put together a *Welcome!* booklet that was distributed to our Wednesday Coffee participants. We ran out of copies and for some time talked about reprinting it. **Madeleine Rast** and **Ruth Newmark** have just revised and updated it, and it is now available again.

*Welcome! Information for New UCSD International Arrivals* explains who our sponsor—the Friends of the International Center—is, what Wednesday Coffee and its spin-offs provide, and briefly explains some of the other programs and activities of the Friends. Mention is also made of the Oceanids Kitchen Exchange, the Center's Friday International Café and its English-in-Action tutor program. The booklet also lists places to shop, places to go, places to see, and how to get there without a car! We hope you will read a copy, be amazed at all the information, and give us feedback on how we can improve on it, on our programs, and on what else we can do to inform our participants of how these many programs at the International Center work.

**Jennie Chin**, chair of our *Knit-Along*, reports that she has introduced a slightly modified format. The group will continue to meet on Tuesday, but sessions will start earlier—at noon—at a bring-your-own lunch, during which time they will practice English conversation. Knitting/crocheting will start at 1:00, ending at about 3:30-4:00 o'clock. Says Jennie: "Anyone is welcome to join us for lunch. At a recent session we talked about tipping in this country: how much, when, where, and customs in other countries."

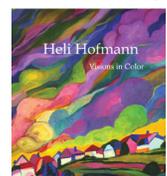
## Visions in Color

There being many talented and productive people among our membership, it is rare that we will single out the publication of a book by one of our members. However, the publication of *Visions in Color: Post Impressionism* by Friends Life Member **Heli Hofmann** warrants a note.

Over the years, Heli, an accomplished artist, has been generous to the Friends, first donating a mosaic rendition of our logo, a site-specific work she created for the expansion of the International Center in 1985. It graces one of the central patio walls.

Inspired by becoming a U.S. citizen, Heli—who was born in Bavaria, Germany—painted *Flag Glory*, an oil painting on canvas with a strong allusion to the United States flag. Yet, Heli is quick to point out that as the colors red and white are common elements in the flags of many nations, *Flag Glory* has references far beyond the United States. This work, too, she donated to the Friends. Gratefully accepted, we hung the painting between the I-Center's kitchen and dining room (where it may still be seen), and celebrated its unveiling on April 13, 2004, at a luncheon organized by **Alma Coles**.

*Visions in Color* may be purchased at Amazon.





An overflow crowd listens to the speakers

Jerry Fitzsimmons and  
Chris WillsAlstroemeria or Peruvian lilies  
with Peruvian folkart

## High Andean Dinner

—by Liz Fong Wills

### *Mil gracias!*

Many, many people were responsible for the High Andean dinner held for a sold-out crowd on Saturday, October 19. Special thanks to our chef-in-chief **Alicia Meneses**, a Peruvian architect who currently teaches Spanish at various local schools. One of her students is **Lou Adamo**, who helped Alicia's husband, **Jorge Meneses**, barbeque the *anticuchos*. It was the general consensus that her recipes were the best at our practice dinner, better than any that I found in Peruvian cookbooks. Because of her artistic leanings, Alicia's dishes are both attractive in appearance and tasty!

The reservations were managed by **Joan Adamo**, **Gail Fliesbach**, and **Eleanor tum Suden**. The nametags and printed programs were handled by **Gail Fliesbach** and **Georgina Sham**. **Candace Kohl** arranged for the Peruvian lilies that made such wonderful centerpiece for our tables. The tables themselves were set by **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, **Nan** and **David Oslett**. Their job was complicated by our having to borrow 79 plates plus flatware from the Oceanids Kitchen Exchange to make the

record-breaking total of 181 place settings.

**Ruth Newmark** arranged for us to hear from two charming Friends Scholarship recipients: **Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi**, a doctoral student in astrophysics from Peru, and **Amy Kennemore**, an American Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, who just returned from doing research in Bolivia. Daniella also pitched in to help us cook!

We were also lucky to have the help of **Eileen Collyer**, a Chilean postdoc in Neurosciences, who happens to be not only a fountain of knowledge about Chile, but also a very good cook. The sous chefs included: **Kathy Wong**, **Mira Vendler**, **Miracema Ueyoshi**, **Jennie Chin**, **Mary Woo**, **Ginny Young**, **Elisabeth Marti**, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi**, **Keiko Hirai**, **Holly Belasco**, and your humble servant.

**Jennie Chin** guided the wait staff, a wonderful collection of hard-working students and scholars. Some were international postdocs: **Robert Kretschmer** (Germany), **Laurent Fattet** (France), and

**Davide Povera** (Italy). We also had **Lucia Borruso**, an Italian M.D., and **Gautam Akiwate**, an Indian first-year grad student in Computer Sciences, along with **Danya Costello** and **Justin Costello**, children of our current President, **Katya Newmark** and her husband **Mathew Costello**, and grandchildren of our Scholarship Chair **Ruth Newmark** and her husband **Leonard**. The Family Weekend program provided two undergrads who also served.

**Jerry Fitzsimmons** was the official bartender, in charge of dispensing the Chilean pisco sours for the before-dinner "cocktail hour." Bottles of pisco were generously donated by **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Lu Sham**, **Carol Smith**, and by our daughter, **Anne-Marie Wills-Rivera**. **Danya Costello** was in charge of the *chicha morada*, the non-alcoholic Peruvian purple corn drink.

The official photographers, whose pictures accompany this article, were **Carol** and **Stu Smith**, with a couple of additional snapshots by **Katya Newmark**.

**Henri Migala** and **Christopher Wills** entertained us after dinner with fascinating Power Point presentations on Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. Henri riveted the audience with stories of his stay in a tiny pre-Inca village in the Bolivian altiplano.

The International Center has



Jorge Meneses and Lou Adamo grill anticuchos in the parking lot



Jorge and Alicia Meneses with Jennie Chin



Eileen Collyer stirs the pot of *aji de gallina* only 113 folding chairs, far short of the 181 that we needed. We are most grateful to **Joan and Lou Adamo, Barbara and Jerry Fitzsimmons, Gail Fliesbach, Marjorie Jackson, Ruth and Leonard Newmark, Georgina and Lu Sham, Eleanor tum Suden and Kathy Wong** for lending chairs, so that nobody had to sit on the floor. We could have rented them, but this would have reduced our profits.

Our thanks to **Katya Newmark** for her guidance, and to **Jim Galvin** for officially welcoming our guests, promoting education abroad, and saying kind words about the Friends on behalf of the International Center.

Our thanks to everyone involved for earning enough from this one dinner to fund several more scholarships! And thanks to all who came and supported us.

*Some comments:*

It really was such a great delight and pleasure to be among the Friends yesterday. What a great organization and mission! And thank you for allowing me to be part of such a wonderful event!  
—Henri Migala

The dinner was delicious—we especially liked the potato/cheese dish and the very tasty chicken. Chris's photos were outstanding—maybe he should be working for *National Geographic*! Henri's account of life in a remote Bolivian village was fascinating.  
—Janine & Asoka Mendis

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the dinner. I really enjoyed the event and met some amazing people. I had a wonderful night.  
—Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi

I am truly in awe of the amazing hard work and support you all give to students!  
—Amy Kennemore

Thank you for providing a truly wonderful evening: as usual the food lived up to its reputation, as did the after-dinner presentation. Our attendees were treated to an organized, attractive space that provided a wonderful opportunity to engage in interesting conversations in a welcoming environ. None of this would have been possible without each of your contributions.  
—Katya Newmark

I could NOT have said it better than Katya. Our team is the BEST! You guys make me look good. Thank you for working so hard and making everyone so happy! I hope that everyone has recovered, and that **everyone has put January 25 on his/her calendar schedule for the Chinese New Year dinner.**



Liz with bottles of Pisco for the Gods

## Donations

Friends are extremely grateful for the many donations received throughout the year. They help provide scholarships; help pay, among other things, for the wonderful resource booklet offered to the dependents of new international arrivals; and, of course, contribute to keeping our numerous programs afloat.

Friends Treasurer **Karen Davis** thanks **Nadine & Ollie Wilson** and **Joan Bowes** for their kind donations, as well as **Debra & William Burns** (whose son attends UCSD) and **Kim Signoret-Paar & Hans Paar**, who designated their donations for scholarships.

A very special thank-you to the **G.A. Fliesbach Foundation** for a most generous contribution to the Friends Scholarship Fund.

### December Calendar

- Dec. 3, 10, 17: **Knit-Along**, 12:00-4:00
- Dec. 4, 18: **Family Orientation**, 9:15
- Dec. 4, 11, 18: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon
- Dec. 10: **Board Meeting**, 10:00
- Dec. 10: **Holiday Lunch**, Noon
- Dec. 11: **Wednesday Coffee Cookie Exchange and Lunch**, Noon
- Dec. 12: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00
- Dec. 12: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00
- Dec. 21-Jan. 5: **Resale Shop Closed**
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1: **International Center Closed**

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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Dear Friends of the International Center,

This summer I spent three weeks living and working in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The 20 hours of flying time was made worth it when I saw my first glimpse of the African continent from the plane window.

During these weeks I worked with the World Wide Orphans Foundation on a program evaluation of summer camps for children living with HIV. The SeriousFun camps aim to improve medication adherence, coping skills, and social connectedness, all while providing a fun environment for kids to be kids. Thanks to the hard work of the project staff, we finished all 120-baseline interviews in the weeks that I was there.

This trip was a lot of firsts for me: the first time in Africa, the first time eating Ethiopian food, and the first time traveling alone abroad. On weekends I had time to explore the rich history of the city as well as take a side trip down to Lake Hawassa. The highlight of my trip was getting to see hippos out in the wild!



It is with deepest thanks to the *Teclé Kidane-Mariam Friends Scholarship* for allowing me to spend my summer in such a meaningful way.

*Amesege'nallo!*

*Erin Conners*

SDSU/UCSD Joint Ph.D. Program in Public Health-Global Health

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## Language and Culture in Sweden

This summer 2013, I studied at Lund University in southern Sweden to learn Swedish language and culture. My decision to study in Sweden stemmed from recommendations from my Swedish mentor in my undergraduate lab at The Scripps Research Institute. He raved that Sweden has been exponentially blooming with scientific research and discoveries, but also values family development, engendering the country as a work and family-friendly haven. After traveling through Sweden and interacting with locals, students, and professors, I could not agree more with my mentor. I believe my study abroad experience at Lund University and solo traveling throughout Europe has broadened my perspective on my future scientific career, understanding of other cultures, and recognition of the importance of maintaining contacts and relationships.

My favorite study abroad experience was neither seeing famous landmarks nor the breathtaking sceneries of the Swedish archipelagos, nor enjoying a copious Swedish smörgåsbord, but was simply interacting with the locals. Studying abroad was my first time traveling outside the United States, and during my flight to Sweden I fretted with apprehensions about getting lost and not understanding either the people or their culture.

But my anxiety quickly dissipated as soon as I landed in Kastrup, the Danish international airport closest to Lund University. Confused and unable to fathom the foreign languages and signs to my train, I approached the locals for direction and rapidly realized that Danes and Swedes are the most affable people! They spoke fluent English and readily guided me to my proper destination. These caring interactions were not just limited to this incident, but were universal throughout my abroad experience.

Although Swedes and Danes are socially reserved, they are accommodating and congenial when approached. I made many Swedish friends. In fact, one even invited me to his summer home to celebrate midsummer—a holiday that is as festive as Christmas. Although I was a mere acquaintance, his family welcomed me to enjoy a delicious dinner filled with roasted potatoes, seared salmon, pickled herring, and strawberry cream, and to dance around the maypole to celebrate the summer.

I learned much about Swedish culture, politics, and social customs. One salient social difference that I recognized was the Swedes' comprehensive knowledge of global politics. I was frequently embarrassed that I could not keep up with their discussions and debates on Middle Eastern political turmoil, South American drug trafficking, or even U.S. politics. I was impressed and ashamed by how much more they knew about United States geography and politics than I did. These interactions have actually prompted me to read CNN every morning now.

I was astonished by the Swedish welfare state and the country's extensive family-friendly policies. Many Swedish companies and jobs offer

more than six-week paid vacation time. Maternity leaves are granted for more than a year per child, and that includes paternal leave too!

Family-friendly policies extend even to academic scientific careers. Scientific careers in the United States are a rigorous career path, requiring extensive education and exacting work hours. Relationships and marriage are delayed until one is well established, usually at professorship. The scientific career path in the United States concerned me in that I might have to choose between family and career. By contrast, I met a Swedish-American professor at the Karolinska Institutet—home of the committee that decides the annual Nobel Laureates for Physiology and Medicine—who did graduate education and post-doctorate work in the States, but decided on a faculty position in Sweden, because he preferred to have a career that did not deter him from having a family. He encouraged me to try a year of post-doctorate work in Sweden after earning a Ph.D. at Harvard University, and optimistically discussed that Swedish citizenship is easy to obtain for academic scientists.

My study in Sweden has instilled personal growth, cultural awareness, and a new perspective on my career in science, and reminded me that I am not limited to a career in the United States. I greatly appreciate that the UCEAP/Friends Scholarship has contributed to this wonderful opportunity!

*Brian Wai Chow*

Thurgood Marshall College

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*Scholarship reports come in different forms and lengths. We used to get letters by post (fortunately for the stamp collectors among us, we still get an occasional postcard); then came e-mails, then e-mails with photos, then blogs, and now a video, and a very professional looking one at that!—Scholarship Committee Chair*

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**Dear Ruth,**

I have been enjoying my study abroad experience in Buenos Aires thanks to the financial help of the Friends of the International Center Scholarship. It is hardworking and dedicated organizations like the Friends of the International Center that financially enabled me to study abroad this summer!

I have been writing a blog about some of my experiences that can be used in your monthly newsletter, if you choose (<http://takingonbuenosaires.blogspot.com.ar/>).

*Upon his return to the States, Kevin wrote again:*

As promised, I produced a movie for you to share with others. I already posted it on my Facebook page and have had two students tell me specifically that they want to study abroad after viewing my video. Thank you again for the financial support. Studying abroad was a much-needed trip to open my eyes to other cultures, traditions, and lifestyles. It was the time of my life ... so far!

I hope you enjoy the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfiYRshuFgo>

*Kevin Courtney*

*Kevin is a very serious student, majoring in political science. In his scholarship application he wrote: "When studying abroad, I will be learning about Argentinian culture, politics, and language, while developing my sense of 'Scholar and Citizen.' At Thurgood Marshall College, we learn about becoming a better scholar and citizen. ... I would ultimately like to study law and practice public policy as a Foreign Service Officer."*

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Shelly on top of the 300-year-old Fortress of Palamidi with the Greek flag

Hi!

It's Shelly and I'm e-mailing you some updates of my summer abroad in Athens, Greece. I am learning and experiencing a lot of wonderful things. We take many fieldtrips to historical sites where Professor **Anagnostaras** lectures about ancient ruins or what medical practices took place there before.

Watching the sunset in Santorini was an experience that I will cherish forever. It was so beautiful, and for some reason it made me realize how far away I am from home. I guess because the sea seems endless and I can see how I am across the world from my home. It still blows my mind how lucky I am to have experienced

this different culture (where people take naps during 2-5 p.m. so that stores are closed) and to have seen such a beautiful place.

This world is so big and there is so much to learn and explore. I am truly thankful to have studied abroad in Greece, and I feel like I've become a more curious and open person. This study abroad experience has exposed me to a whole new environment and people with a completely different lifestyle from what I am used to. This makes me want to learn more about what else is going on in other places of the world. I will forever remember the beautiful views I've seen and the extremely friendly and hospitable people of Greece.

*Shelly Lui*

Marshall College, Human Development major, Cognitive Science minor

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September 13, 2013

Dear Friends,

These last five weeks in Amman, Jordan were some of the best and the most eventful weeks of my life. Fourteen strangers in one degree or another joined this program and fourteen lifelong friends (complete with inside jokes and extended family) completed it. It has been about a week since arriving back in America, and I still feel like I have tons of stories to tell.

A year ago, I'd never heard of the war in Syria or the rebellion in Egypt, much less recognized the country of Jordan. Now, it's a different story altogether. Participating in the Global Seminar in Amman, Jordan, studying public health and epidemiology under the instruction of Professor **Wael Al-Delaimy** has affirmed my choice in career and also further widened my horizons.

I spent the last five weeks with my peers on a journey around Jordan—exploring amongst other places the alleyways and the tourist haunts, shadowing doctors and conducting research in Palestinian refugee camps, and attending lectures in our so-called “training room” in the King Hussein Cancer Center. I learned and pieced together from scratch a picture of Jordanian culture, the Islamic religion, and the situation in the Middle East. I've become a lot more aware of politics and the interdisciplinary nature of



Petra

medicine and public health. I've become a lot more confident in my abilities and myself. I learned a little bit of survival Arabic I'll never forget. And I've had invaluable experiences and unforgettable memories along the way.

There's nothing quite like setting foot in two countries I've never been to (France and Jordan), and being surrounded by people talking in languages I can't understand. Or visiting one of the Seven [existing] Wonders of the World, and eating food cooked underground, and then stargazing in the desert the next night. Or riding a camel and dodging its attempt to eat my hair in the morning. Or exchanging cultural views and hearing life stories from a physician in a Palestinian refugee camp, and teaching origami and making people smile despite the language barrier. I'll

miss bargaining with storeowners, and striking conversations with taxi drivers. I'll always remember the people I encountered, the sights I've seen, the family I've adopted and who've adopted me, the lessons I learned inside and outside the classroom, and the wise words of our professor who has our utmost respect and admiration.

There are no words to describe how grateful I am to the Friends of the International Center for supporting students like me in participating in these study abroad programs. I wasn't sure how I would be able to afford to study abroad this year, and I'm so glad I found a way. Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping me to grasp this opportunity. *Shukran jazeelan* (thank you very much), and best wishes to you and to all the students hoping to go abroad. I look forward to sharing my experiences in the future.

*Hermione Gaw*

John Muir College, Biology major,  
Urban Studies/Planning minor

*When, with Hermione's permission, I shared her report with Prof. Wael Al-Delaimy, he replied: "Thank you Ruth for sharing; this is very beautiful. There is no doubt that your organization does know how to choose the right students to support for this program."*

*To read more about Hermione's adventures, see her sensitive blog: <http://meetsmarhabaa.tumblr.com/>*

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**Studying abroad in Paris, France** was an amazing experience, and I could not have done it without the Friends Scholarship. I am so thankful to have received the funds to explore multiple museums and actually live in a quirky Parisian apartment for five weeks. I loved visiting all the museums, especially the Pompidou and its abstract art collections. Without the scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to try a million crepes, ice creams, and baguette sandwiches on twenty different streets. I really enjoyed visiting Versailles and Giverny, where I saw how historical French royalty and artists lived. My favorite part was riding bikes on the grounds of Versailles and really getting to know everyone in my class. It is a shared experience I wish never to forget.

Taking **Meg Wesling's** class was wonderful in that we learned how to be conscious of our surroundings in ways that an ordinary tourist wouldn't be. Learning about the famous authors who lived where we walked, on the streets and in the parks, helped me feel like I was a real inhabitant of France. I learned about **Guy Debord's** “Dérive” that encouraged a few of us to take a route we had never taken before. We ended up finding Creperie des Arts, and it was the most amazing and perfect crepe experience we will ever have. There was a cute black and white cat as we entered into the cavern-like space and the stain glassed windows made us feel like we were living the life. Of course, there were bug bites, humidity, and rainstorms, but none of that stopped us from having a good time and experiencing the beauty of Paris!

*Diana Li*, Sixth College, Media major

### Jordan Global Seminar

In Jordan, they say the secret to getting around is through climbing the hidden stairs that connect the many hills (more like small mountains) of Amman. Here, there are multiple crisscrossing streets that constantly change names, all posted in Arabic letters, making it a challenge to navigating the city. Not only are these stairs difficult to find, but they are dimly lit, unmarked, and scary. Needless to say, it took some serious guts to follow the path and keep on climbing, praying that you were going to end up in the right place, and hoping that you were not going to end up in yet another dimly lit alley or in someone's home, when you only know a few utterances of the native tongue.

I found my entire stay (5 weeks) in Jordan to be symbolic of these stairs. Epidemiology was a brand new subject that really pushed me and strengthened my understanding of research. I was forced to overcome fears about a foreign land instilled by American ideologies. I was forced to trust that everything I was doing was taking

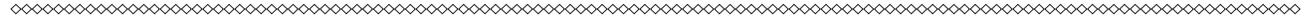
me to a place where I needed to be, and was going in the right direction, even if I felt doubtful, unsure, and lost. Fear is most useful when you can overcome it.

On my last day in Jordan, I realized that I was going to continue to climb stairs—whether literally or symbolically—until I got where I needed to be.

Contrary to what most believe, Jordan felt secure and safe. I did not feel threatened by the environment; I was enthralled by it. There is so much beauty to be seen there: Petra, the desert of Wadi Rum, and the amazing Red Sea. The many Biblical and archeological accounts of the area are so significant and historic; few have the chance to see them with their own eyes. They are places that will stay vivid in my memory; it was in the truest sense of the word—an adventure, one I would not have been able to experience without the Friends Scholarship.

*Kylan Agnew*

Anthropology/Sociology major, Global Health minor,  
John Muir College



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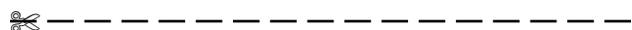
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