



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

# *Newsletter*

Volume XLII, No. 6

February 2015

## **Friendship**

You may be asked why you support and/or belong to the Friends of the International Center and while, of course, I hope your answer includes all three prongs of our mission: supporting international education; fostering friendship, understanding, and cooperation within the international community; and providing a meeting place at UCSD to support these aims, it is my firm belief that friendship forms the bedrock of the Friends mission. When our members and participants talk about the Friends community, in general the first thing that is mentioned is the friendships that are formed and/or solidified through Friends activities. And for me, indeed it is the personal relationships and friendships that have taken root through the Friends, that keeps me coming back for more.

History has taught us the significance of international friendship, but it was not until the commercial marketing efforts by Hallmark in the early 1920s that friendship was recognized as something worthy of celebration. And it was not until 1958, when a Paraguayan physician, Dr. **Artemio Bracho**, founded

*Cruzada Mundial de la Amistad* (the World Friendship Crusade), that international friendship was officially recognized as a path to world peace. Over one hundred countries took up the cause and, in 2011, Dr. Bracho persuaded the United Nations General Assembly to officially proclaim July 30 as the International Day of Friendship “with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.”

If International Day of Friendship is not celebrated until July 30<sup>th</sup>, you may ask why am I writing about it now? My answer is trifold: because I believe that the Friends recognizes the relevance and importance of international friendship and thus celebrates this relationship every day; because February for me is about reaching out to others to remind them that they are loved and cared for; and, because our upcoming Friends Dinner Social (February 7) has as its theme Celebrating Global Friendship. I hope you find my answer persuasive and that it compels you to attend not only our Dinner Social, but also future Friends events.

### ***Celebrating Friendship***



#### **Friends Dinner Social**

**Saturday**

**February 7, 6:00 PM**

Deadline to make reservations  
Monday, February 2

I end with a thank you to our volunteers, **Chef Jimmy** and his team, and **Liz and Chris Wills** for their time, energy, and talents that will make our January 31<sup>st</sup> scholarship fundraising dinner another example of the Friends international friendship celebration.

*Katya Newmark*  
presFIC@ucsd.edu

## **Friends Dinner Social #7**

Join us as we celebrate global friendship and have some good old-fashioned fun on Saturday, February 7, 2015. We will have a menu featuring dishes from around the world, we will play some party games designed to include everyone, and we will have a photo booth with fun props so

that everyone will have at least one nice memento of their evening. This is a family friendly, casual, affordable evening. Come with friends and/or come to make new friends!

First Course:  
*Thailand: Tom Yum Soup*

Main Course:  
*Morocco: Couscous with Chicken*  
(vegetarian option)  
*Italy: Spinach Salad with*  
*Mozzarella in an Orange Vinaigrette*

Dessert:  
*Venezuela: Pineapple Cake*

**RESERVE by February 2!**  
Our dinners continue to sell out,  
so don't delay!  
Online: [https://figlobalfriends.  
eventbrite.com/](https://figlobalfriends.eventbrite.com/)  
or  
E-mail: [icfriends@ucsd.edu](mailto:icfriends@ucsd.edu)

### February Calendar

Feb. 4, 18: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Gus' Table**, 10:00-Noon

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Friends Friday Chat 'n Chew**, 10:00-Noon

Feb. 7: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00

Feb. 10: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

Feb. 10, 17, 24: **Knit-Along**, Noon-4:00

Feb. 12, 26: **Int'l Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Feb. 16: **Presidents Day**

Feb. 18: **International Kitchen**, Noon



Madeleine Rast, Nancy Homeyer, Audrey Leriche and Elisa Postila



The January 7 group watches PowerPoint presentation

## Family Orientation in 2015

—by Nancy Homeyer

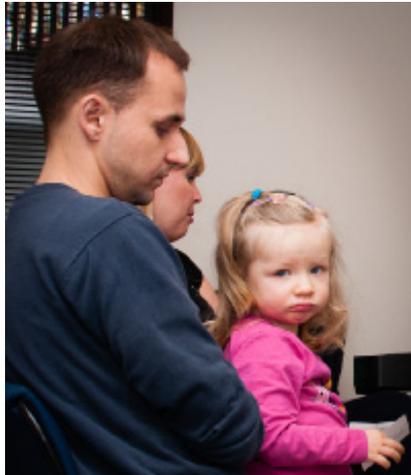
Like everything else at the International Center, Family Orientation is about welcoming and about friendships. This particular program is about welcoming a specific group of people to UC San Diego from abroad. They are the family members (i.e. spouses) of visiting scholars (or, occasionally, of graduate students) who are accompanying their wife or husband or partner to the U.S. They are frequently professionals with careers in their own right that have been put on hold. They may have children of various ages with them. They are not employed when they arrive, though they are usually eligible to apply for a work permit. They have a lot of adjusting to do, a new language to learn or improve, and they usually know no one in this country. This is where Family Orientation comes in—together with the International Faculty and Scholar Office (IFSO). Our goal is to introduce them to new people and to the resources that are available for them through the programs of the Friends and staff of the International Center as well as of the community. Our goal is to help make this be a positive and rewarding time for them...for them to have a good experience and a good time.

The program was started in

April of 2010 by **Joan Adamo, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Carol Smith, and Eleanor tum Suden** at the request of **Lynn Anderson**, the former Director of the International Center. The presentation changed little until 2014, when practically everything changed. First of all, **Ruth Newmark**, in addition to **Georgina Sham, Madeleine Rast**, and others at Wednesday Coffee, revived and revised the *Welcome!* booklet that is packed with information for newcomers from abroad. It was decided that a copy would be given to each attendee at Family Orientation, replacing multiple handouts and verbal explanations. Then **Katya Newmark** took a lot of pictures and created an excellent PowerPoint presentation that became a key element in updating and streamlining the way we do business.

Best of all, two internationals, **Audrey Leriche** and **Elisa Postila**, joined us as presenters. (**Padma Dolma** has also joined us more recently.) They brought with them a valuable fresh perspective. We now do Family Orientation with at least one local and one international as presenters. These new leaders can speak from the heart about changing cultures and how it affects everyday life. They can relate how easy it is to make friends when everyone has that

Photos by Elisa Postila



Michal Rytter with daughter Magdalena



Anna Wabnick and Audrey Leriche



Wen Gu and Tengjian Huang



Nori Faer introduces new arrivals to Gus' Conversation Table

same goal. They can give advice on overcoming obstacles and taking advantage of opportunities that may not be directly in the experience of the locals. They emphasize how Friends activities have benefited them personally. And they serve as great role models.

Meanwhile the seasoned leaders ensure that all the programs of the Friends and applicable ones of Oceanids and the International Center are covered, in addition to such subjects as English improvement, travel, the normalcy of cultural adjustment issues, and the rewards of joining the Friends. We supply newcomers with a calendar of upcoming events and highlight the special ones. We give them links to helpful websites. Currently, **Joan Adamo**, **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, and **Madeleine Rast** are filling this role along with me.

The latter part of the Family Orientation has not changed substantially. At the end of our presentation, we stop by the Oceanids Kitchen Exchange, the Resale Shop, and end up at Wednesday Coffee. We see the activities that are taking place, meet people, observe Mommy/Daddy and Me, and drop in on the English conversation table where **Nori Faer** and assistants are gracious about stopping the conversation to tell us what they are

discussing that day.

Later in the day, the session leader sends an e-mail to each attendee and makes applicable referrals with names and e-mail addresses to the leaders of Wednesday Coffee, the conversation tables, the Resale Shop, International Cooking Experience, Knit-Along, Hospitality at Home, and the International Center's English-in-Action tutor program, in response to the interests that attendees have expressed. In that way, we facilitate the entrance of the newcomers into many of the programs of the Friends and the International Center.

Over the past four years, we have had 313 people come through the program. Here are some of the statements we have received as feedback from recent arrivals:

"Many thanks for the orientation yesterday; it was really helpful, I will definitely be back!"

"Thank you all for the presentation of this morning, it was really helpful and I enjoyed it a lot. We'll certainly meet at one of the forthcoming events."

"Thanks for the orientation and all the informations, it's precious and very usefull. I can't wait for the new activities."

"Thank you and thanks to the rest of the team, also. I have being

reviewing all the materials you gave me. It's really helpful. Many things to do with the kids, lots of practical info too. Thanks again."

"Thanks for your email and I was enjoyed a lot the orientation programme and it was helpful to me. I am really excited to join and participate such more programmes in future at International Centre, UCSD."

The volunteers in Family Orientation enjoy the program every bit as much as the newcomers and find it equally rewarding.

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## Membership

Vice President **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** is pleased to report that Del Mar resident, **Carol Kerridge**, a friend of **Candace Kohl**, has become a member of the Friends; that several people have renewed their membership at a sustaining level; and that longtime member **Louise Arnold** became a life member, a generous gesture that underscores Louise's continuous support of the Friends mission. Membership now stands at 237.

## An Interview with My Resale Shop Colleague: Marion Spors

—by Joe Nichols



Our fashionista

A longtime friend of the University of California adds a new face to the Friends Resale Shop!

The city of Göttingen has been good to the Friends of the International Center. In 1987, **Marion Spors** came from Germany's Georg-August University to UCLA on an Education Abroad Program (EAP) scholarship. Says Marion: "I feel very fortunate that EAP allowed me to advance in my field (they funded me twice), and I finished with two masters, first in social science, second in expressive art therapy, and finally a Ph.D. in the social/political sciences. My then boyfriend, **Julian Schroeder**, was a postdoc at UCLA (he is a biophysicist), and when he was offered a faculty position in UCSD's Biology Department in 1990, we both moved to La Jolla and married."

Marion interned as a producer at KPBS and interned as an interior design assistant at Design Line Interiors, positions she described as: "these two jobs were so much fun!" Her career path led her to work at

local hospitals and rehab clinics as an expressive art therapist and health educator, working mostly with women who had eating disorders. She worked for many years at Kaiser Permanente, from which she later retired.

Asked about her interests, Marion revealed: "I love reading (I am in two book clubs), music, dancing (I am a Zumba instructor and love salsa and samba), fashion, architecture, and interior design. I have a black belt in karate and used to teach it."

Marion has made good use of her talents in interior design to spruce up the Friends new office space by adding some area rugs and a few striking pictures on the walls. More importantly, she has overseen a complete makeover of the Friends Resale Shop, turning a rather drab space into a light-filled area. Fresh paint, new carpeting, better displays, but most of all relocation of the entrance, have given the Shop a much more welcoming feel.

The remodel reflects the Friends efforts to make the Shop attractive to a younger crowd, both as shoppers and volunteers. As Coordinator of the Friends Resale Shop (a position she shares jointly with **Josie Foulks**), Marion can frequently be seen changing the merchandise, not only featuring seasonal items, but also bringing in some appropriate décor that highlights a special event or holiday.

All this bears out Marion's vision to lend the Friends Resale Shop the air of a boutique, with-

out losing sight of the fact that the very reasonable prices of our merchandise appeal to everyone at UCSD. Marion keeps in touch with our customers by taking a regular volunteer shift; you will find her at the Shop on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings.

Asked how she became active with our organization, Marion replied: "I knew **Liz Fong Wills, Georgina Sham, Alma Coles, Heli Hoffman, Judy Vaquier**—all very active members both of the Friends of the International Center and the Oceanids. I have been a member of Oceanids on and off for many years, and have helped Liz with the Oceanids Newcomers program. I love the winetasting group and have attended many wonderful Moveable Feasts. I have also attended many of the awesome Friends fundraising dinners at the International Center. Over the years, Julian and I have met so many wonderful international students and scholars. I try to open my house and my heart to those scholars and their families from other countries and other cultural background—those visiting, as well as those remaining here."

Marion and Julian have two daughters, **Julia**, age 20, currently a junior at UC Berkeley and **Nikki**, 15, a sophomore at La Jolla High School. The family is keen on skiing and enjoys summers in "good old Europe." Expounds Marion: "The UC system has been very good to all of us; EAP has opened so many doors for me. After Julia went to UC Berkeley, I felt that it was time to give back to UCSD."

It was Marion's acquaintance with **Katya Newmark** that brought her to the Friends Resale Shop. They had met a few years earlier at the San Diego chapter of National Charity League (NCL), where Katya was also President at the time. Explained Marion: "I am very grateful to Katya, who is so very gracious and generous. She connected me with **Alma Coles**, then Resale Shop Coordinator, and gave me the opportunity to update the Resale Shop. I feel very fortunate to be a member of the Friends and to serve on the Board, and to be able to work together with so many talented women and men at the International Center. It's great to be part of the Friends family."

Voilà we now have a Resale



Boutique on campus!

I saved one unusual tidbit about Marion for the last: she is an avid motorcycle rider. I can imagine her roaring up to the Resale Shop and doing a wheelie!



## New Resale Shop Logo

—by *Marion Spors*

Here is our new Resale Shop logo: young, hip, and contemporary. We are trying to attract not only our own UC San Diego students, staff, and faculty, but our goal is to spread the word about the Friends of the International Center Resale Shop throughout the community with the help of our new logo, which will be featured on our webpage, on new signs and posters, and hopefully eventually through an ad campaign.

My friend **Carrie Morris**, owner of **Smashing Designs** in La Jolla, created the logo for us free of charge. For those who only see the logo in our *Newsletter's* black and white printed version, please note that picking up on the Friends logo, each letter in "Friends" is spelled out in a different color with the logo's similarly colorful spokes used to dot the "i" (for a color version, see [icfriends.ucsd.edu](http://icfriends.ucsd.edu), *Friends Newsletters*, February 2015, p. 5).

First displayed on a poster in November 2014, the catchy new logo called attention to our Resale Shop's participation in the International Fashion Festival, held in the International Center courtyard as part of UCSD's campus-wide celebration of International Education Week.

## Donations

Friends of the International Center is fortunate to have many generous supporters who make round-the-year charitable contributions to our organization. However, at the end of the calendar year 2014, our Treasurer, **Karen Davis**, and our Corresponding Secretary, **Elisabeth Marti**, were kept especially busy acknowledging a flurry of gifts, *mainly* (but not all) designated for scholarships, surely sent in response to President **Katya Newmark's** compassionate letter explaining how Friends scholarships fulfill dreams.

A large number of donors were already acknowledged in our January *Newsletter*. We resume to thank in alphabetical order: **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Lynn Anderson** (former Dean of International Education and Director of the International Center, now residing in Minnesota), **Barbara Baehr**, **Gayle Barsamian & David Clapp** (who made their gift in memory of **Hilda Wyans** and in honor of **Luna Fung**), **Maryruth & Charles Cox**, **Georgia Crowne** (whose gift is intended for an undergraduate scholarship in memory of her husband, **David Crowne**), **Nori & Stanley Faer**, **Heidrun Faulconer**, **Jean Fort** (whose donations are earmarked for the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* and the *Luna Fung Scholarship*), **Conrad Fung** (yet one more donation made in celebration of **Luna Fung**, his mother), **Donna & Thomas Golich**, **Lynn & James Jahn**, **Mariette Kobrak**, **Lily & Shao-Chi Lin** (who continue to make annual gifts in memory of their niece, **Diane Lin**, Friends President from 1997 to 1998), **Claudia & Carl Lowenstein**, **Christa McReynolds**, and **Darlene Palmer**.

*Thank you all.  
You make  
a difference!*

## What Friends Offer UCSD's International Visitors

Dear Friends of the International Center,

I would like to tell you about my experience at the conversation class offered by the Friends of the International Center.

I arrived in San Diego at the end of July. My partner works as a postdoc at UCSD, and I decided to join him. We both come from Italy.

In the beginning, I was confused and disoriented. I spent time walking around San Diego, discovering and visiting places, sometimes feeling lonely and missing all my friends and relatives in my own country. Then, through an e-mail sent me by my partner, I learned about the Friends. So, I decided to jump in and start on a new adventure.

At the International Center there's the possibility to enjoy a lot of different activities, like the Mommy/Daddy & Me group, art and crafts group, the kitchen group, the resale shop, and the conversation classes.

When I started in September, there only was an English conversation class on Wednesday morn-

ings. Now I have classes every Wednesday and Friday, from 10 to 12, and thanks to a tutor service [the International Center's English-in-Action], I come also on Monday, when I have a sort of private conversation class with a small group of two or three other girls. This little group is very interesting because we are all women and can share ideas about life, love, and other specifically female topics!

For me, coming to Friends of the International Center activities is a stimulating experience.

The conversation sessions are a lot of fun: we joke about accents, the way to say something—in other words, we laugh a lot. The thing that all participants have in common is that we each come from different countries and more or less share the same life: many of us decided to follow our spouse or partner to UC San Diego, and all of us have to cope with this



Chiara Parrella

situation in the best way we can.

For each meeting, the program chair, **Nori Faer** asks three different people to select an article to share with the others in the group. One is in charge of local, a second of national, and a third of international news, and each has to be prepared to discuss his assignment. We start our conversations in this way, and then continue with other topics. Everyone is free to suggest a theme and the group can share thoughts about that. For instance, we have discussed what is moral and ethical, and we often talk about issues taken from the most important American newspaper [*The New York Times*].

Sometimes, at the end of a conversation class, we share information about San Diego and its lifestyle. We may talk about the means of transportation, where to buy a car, or how to get a California driver's license. We may suggest a new restaurant we've tried or a place we've visited.

The best thing about the Conversation Table is that we are an open group. Open, because everyone can join. Open, because leaders and participants are open-minded to differences, curious, and respectful of different opinions. The cultural differences are interesting, because we learn much that is new about a country—the way of life, traditions,



Photos by Katya Newmark

Gus' Table: Wednesday English conversation group, December 10, 2014  
 Commented Chiara upon receiving this and other photos: "Thank you very much for the pictures! It is a beautiful memory of all of you and my new Friends of the International Center friends." In a similar vein, Glênio Sarmiento from Brazil wrote: "Thank you so much for this photos with my new friends from the world."

and customs.

What can I say about the Mommy/Daddy & Me class? I just spent one hour there the first time I came to Wednesday Coffee. There were lots of little children, either with their mother or father. There were different activities for the babies and toddlers, like songs, dances, and simple games. I went there because in my country, I'm a kindergarten teacher, so I thought it will be a good experience to volunteer with kids from other countries. However, I quickly realized that my English was not enough to lead the group, so I decided to take part in the conversation class!

At the Wednesday Coffee arts and crafts group, we can do different projects, such as making jewelry, sewing, carving pumpkins for Halloween, and, for sure, you improve your English and meet new people while you do all this.

The Friends Resale Shop is a

thrift shop at the International Center. My participation there does not include volunteering but rather buying a lot of clothes, books, and shoes! There are also handbags and many household items, and everything for 1, 2, 3 or 5 dollars! I think it's a very important cause, because the money the Shop earns is used to help provide scholarships for international education. The Shop is a nice place, tiny and comfortable, where you can always find someone willing to talk with you, and this is yet another way to improve your English while having fun!

Unfortunately I don't know much about the kitchen activities. There are Thursday cooking classes, and every third Wednesday, there is an international lunch prepared by volunteers in the Wednesday Coffee program, and every Friday there's a lunch called "International Café," where for only \$5 you can have a meal that

features traditional cuisine from different countries. Those lunches are other ways to meet people, talk with them, improve your English, and, of course, eat a nice meal!

Thanks to the Friends of the International Center, people can enjoy a lot of activities and take part in UCSD life. That's why for me attending the conversation class is like a breath of fresh air!

*Chiara Parrella*

*Upon Chiara's request, her English has been corrected, but her enthusiasm for our programs shines through. Regretfully, Chiara had to return to Milan in January, but she hopes to have her visa issues straightened out by April, so that she can once more participate in all that the Friends, San Diego, and a new marriage have to offer. —Ed.*

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## In Memoriam

With sadness, Friends learned of the recent death of life member **Florence Masters**. Upon being widowed, Florence left Iowa to move to La Jolla to be near her daughter. Once settled, Florence began tutoring in the American English in Action program, for which she was recognized in 1994 as Tutor of the Year. She also participated in Wednesday Coffee, where she oversaw the making of a quilt, and enjoyed contributing to the Friends *Newsletter*. From childhood on, Florence liked foreign languages and was fascinated by foreign cultures. She talked with pride about her Fulbright experience in France and relished being in an international environment.

We send our sympathy to her daughter, **Patricia Masters**.

We also extend our condolences to life member **Betty Beyster** upon the death of her husband, **J. Robert Beyster**, founder of SAIC, a leading technology and engineering company.



## Wednesday Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

We are sad to have lost **Doris Sant'Anna** as a great volunteer and wonderful crafter. Doris left in mid-January for Florida to join her son and family, who had moved earlier.

Mommy/Daddy & Me also lost a dedicated volunteer in **Tomoe Nakashima**, who returned to Japan with her two little boys. Fortunately, **Midori Iwamiya** and **Naoko Nakanishi** will take turns with **Fatemah Raga** and **Uhood Al-Ali** in leading the group, with **Alice Blake-Stalker** continuing to coordinate the program.

Here follows our Wednesday Morning Coffee schedule for February:

- February 4: *Making pine needle baskets* with **Georgina Sham**. We will have lots of pine needles and raffia—enough for everyone to make a small basket.
- February 11: *Decorating Valentine's Day cookies*. **Lynn Jahn** will have baked a lot of cookies for us to decorate.
- February 18: *French lunch* with **Alicia Boutonnet**. The menu will feature *Salade Niçoise* and *Boeuf Bourguignon*, with *Mousse au Chocolat* for dessert. Please meet us in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. to prepare these typical French dishes that will be served to all at noon for \$5/person.
- Feb 25: *Making shopping bags from T-shirts*. **Tashu Malik** will guide us in this especially useful project, as we will need plenty of shopping bags once the California ban on plastic grocery bags goes into effect this summer.



Santa (Jim Chase) and Mrs. Claus (Alice Blake-Stalker) visit Wednesday Coffee

## Holiday Celebrations

*Photos by Katya Newmark*



Elisabeth Marti, Candace Kohl, Katya Newmark, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Kirk Simmons, and Alice Blake-Stalker at the December 9 International Center Holiday Lunch attended by Friends and IC staff



Noble Dwarika and Daniel Byrne, two Friends scholarship recipients who spoke at the Holiday Lunch about the importance of our scholarship for their study abroad



Meant to be reminiscent of the Christmas market in Marion Spors' German hometown of Göttingen, the gazebo set up in IC's central courtyard made the Resale Shop an attractive place to shop, nibble on cookies, and enjoy a drink of hot cider, eggnog, or mulled wine. Many Friends and IC staff stopped by to enjoy the Holiday cheer.



Madeleine Rast proudly displays the paper star she made as part of a Wednesday Coffee holiday project



Caroline Molina, Alicia Boutonnet, Hanae Kido, Arti Sharma, Alice Blake-Stalker, and Georgina Sham (barely visible behind hat) at the Cookie Exchange



ISPO staff member, Tricia Chan Schueler, looks as festive as the Resale Shop Christmas tree that required the help of Danny Adams to assemble. The tree looked wonderful with all the ornaments! Volunteers had fun decorating the Shop and sharing holiday stories from their native countries.

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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## Mongolia

As a current graduate student at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) here at UCSD, I am interested in studying the relationship between global economics and environmental policy. Specifically, my research focuses on the intersection between natural resource management, sustainable development, and energy, and what role the U.S. can play in helping shape the environmental protection framework in countries where regulation is loose or non-existent.

My interests have led me to Mongolia, a sparsely populated land, with a harsh environment and largely agrarian society, where a mining boom is transforming the country in unprecedented ways.

In 2013, with support from IR/PS and the Friends of the International Center, I had the honor to serve as a Boren Fellow in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Boren Fellowship is named after **David L. Boren**, a United States senator from 1979 to 1994 and current president of the University of Oklahoma. During his tenure in the Senate, Mr. Boren expressed his view that with changes in the world the U.S. would need more experts in the languages and cultures of nations not commonly represented in U.S. schools.

With an expected increase in the mining sector and corresponding GDP growth, there is growing concern about future political stability in Mongolia. Its legal and financial institutions remain underdeveloped and are creating obstacles to improving the country's economy and business climate, in spite of its great natural resources. There are already signs that all may not be well. The recent request from the government to renegotiate the Oyu Tolgoi investment



agreement has made investors wary. Oyu Tolgoi is about 50 miles north of the Chinese border. It is owned by Australian and Canadian mining companies and the Mongolian government. There are estimates that the mine could become the world's third largest copper and gold mine with continued foreign investment.

Also of concern are environmental issues, which are ballooning from the massive scope of the mining efforts and rapidly accelerating economic growth. These include the destruction of grazing and pasturelands, over consumption of water supplies, poisoned waterways, and air pollution. Issues are also developing due to pressures created by the growing inequality between those who work for the mines and those employed in the more traditional fields, such as herding and cashmere production. These resentments are further warning signs of possible volatility.

To try and mediate some of the looming environmental problems I began to research alternatives to the carbon intensive fuels that Mongolia is burning through at an alarming rate.

Mongolia consumes roughly 1 million tons of petroleum products

annually, with diesel accounting for up to 60 percent of consumption. Nearly 90 percent of that fuel comes from neighboring Russia, while the remaining 10 percent is supplied by China. Reliance on essential energy supplies makes Mongolia vulnerable to supply shocks and price rises and poses a major risk to its development goals. It is also a main contributor to Mongolia's air pollution problem. Ulaanbaatar is among the top 10 cities with the worst air quality in the world.

Through my research, I discovered that landlocked Mongolia is currently exporting about 80% (34,000 tons) of its rapeseed plant production to crush plants in China, while there exists a further 1 million hectares of available arable land (abandoned after the 1990 change of political regime) open to potential biofuel feedstock cultivation. Rapeseed is a key ingredient in the production of clean burning biodiesel. This situation has prompted interest in developing small-scale, community based biofuel-processing plants within Mongolia's borders.

The development and use of biofuel in rural Mongolia has the potential to bring several benefits to rural households, including: increased income, general opportunities from

harvesting, processing and refining rapeseed; reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; energy security benefits in the form of locally produced biofuel; revitalization of rural areas through improved infrastructure; and sustainable farming and value added agriculture.

Thanks to the generous support from the Friends of the International Center, I was able to hone my language skills and further deepen my knowledge of Mongolian economic, political, and environmental issues, while also working on the front lines of some of Mongolia's most pressing development challenges. I formed the Biodiesel Board of Mongolia (BBM), a non-governmental autonomous organization that works to coordinate all aspects of sustainable biofuel industry growth through education, communication, governmental affairs, and technical and quality assurance programs. USAID and Asian Development Bank have expressed interest in supporting the organization in the future.

As I continue my work in Mongolia, it is my hope that low carbon fuels can deliver cleaner air for Mongolia's cities and towns, real action on climate change, and jobs in Mongolia from clean and renewable technologies. Next year BBM will meet with government officials and global financial institutions to discuss creating a mandate in which biodiesel will comprise 10% of fuel demand in Mongolia by 2020.

*Christopher McCarthy*

*Ruth Newmark Scholarship* recipient

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## Border Constructs

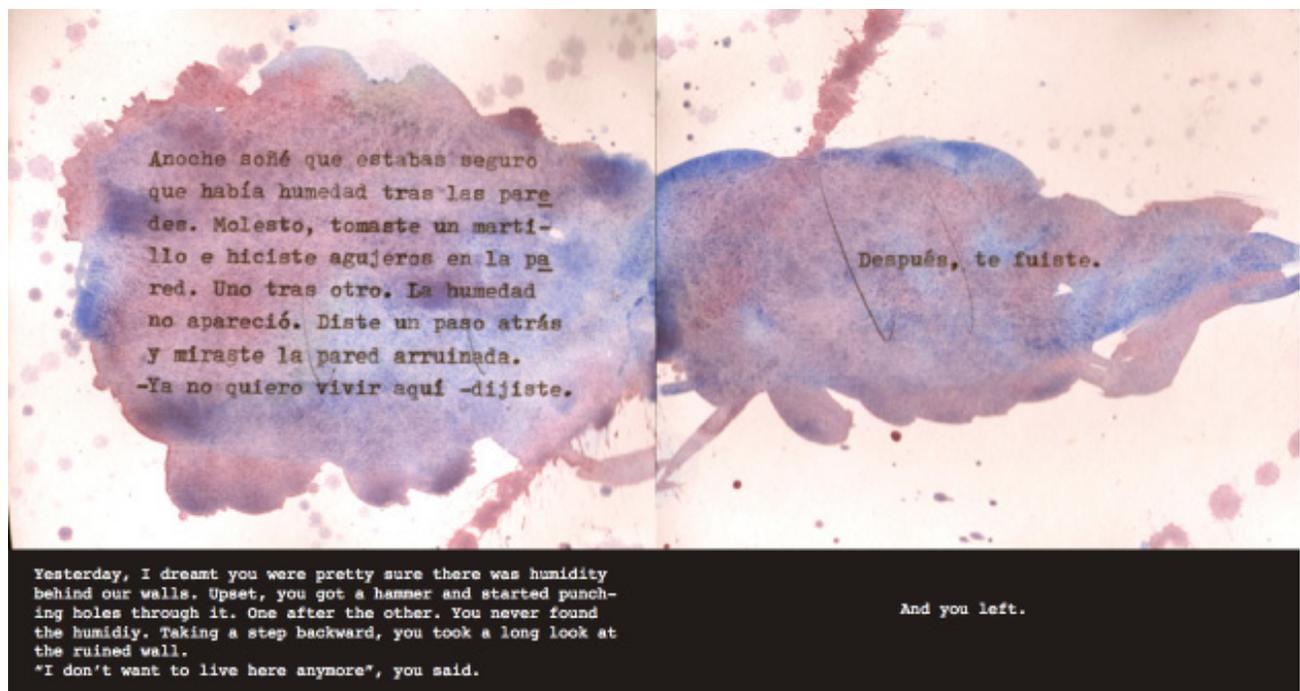
As an international student in the Department of Literature's MFA Writing Program, I was honored last spring with a Friends of the International Center scholarship. Coming from Tijuana, México, just 30 miles south of La Jolla, the scholarship allowed me to continue my work trying to bridge the relationship between San Diego and Tijuana beyond the political and linguistic barriers, exploring our complex, asymmetrical, but also shared borderland experience.

In my personal writing practice, the experience has been enhanced by the

cross-genre and experimental outlook of the MFA program and has led me to investigate how to incorporate materiality into my texts, primarily by typing on different materials and photographing the resulting work.

The question of materiality has also led me to writing essays about how fiction and writing (even legal writing), such as ideas of "nation" and "culture" are enforced and made "real" by material constructions and aesthetic experiences, as in the case of the border dividing Mexico and the United States. It has led me to investigate artistic projects that deal with how we perceive and deal with ideas of the law and legal contracts that make borders historical constructs that change over time.

During Spring 2014, I co-taught an experimental course with **Ashley Eliza Smith** called "Edgelands Futurism," in which CAT (Culture, Art, Technology) students from Sixth College had to investigate border issues and speculate on the future of our particular border as affected by technology and scientific research. To do so, we organized three optional trips to Tijuana where CAT students





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Friendship

February 2015



**Friends of the International Center**  
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**Friends of the International Center UC San Diego**  
9500 Gilman Drive #0018  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0018

**E-mail:** icfriends@ucsd.edu

**Telephone:** (858) 534-0731

**Website:** icfriends.ucsd.edu

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