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



Newsletter

Volume XXXIX No. 9

May 2012

President's Message

Please come to celebrate with our Scholarship recipients at our Annual Awards Dinner on May 22. This is the 38th year of our program in which the Friends give awards to graduate and undergrads studying abroad, as well as to international students here at UC San Diego. We relish this opportunity to meet these young stars, learn of their plans, and wish them well in their endeavors.

Think of all the people who contribute to make this event possible! The Resale Shop volunteers; the Ethnic Dinner cooks and volunteers; all our donors, large and small; the campus offices that provide matching moneys; the Scholarship Committee that reads the applications and selects the winners; the organizers and volunteers for the Awards Dinner itself. There isn't enough space here to list all the names, but all of your contributions are truly appreciated.

Since the dinner is traditionally the Friends Annual Meeting, we will have a very, very brief business meeting to elect our officers for 2012-13. But our Board also includes several appointed members-at-large, and the many committees that keep our programs running. We welcome "new blood" to bring fresh insights and approaches to keep our old organization "young." So please tell me your interests. No matter where your talents lie, whether person-to-person or administrative or technical or artistic, we can use your help. See me at the Awards Dinner, or e-mail me, jadamo@ucsd.edu. I want to hear from YOU!

When I took office as president, I put Membership development as my top priority. We certainly have made progress this year, but there's much to be done. I have collected a long list of great ideas, and I need a Committee to help implement them. So I particularly ask for assistance in this area. Talk to me....

I hope to see you on May 22!

Joan Adamo

Annual Membership Dinner and
Scholarship Awards Ceremony
May 22, 6:00 P.M., International Center

Annual Dinner

—by *Arline Paa*

Our Annual Membership Meeting and Scholarship Awards Dinner will be held this year on Tuesday, the 22nd of May, at the International Center, at 6:00 p.m.

Highlight of the evening will be the presentation of Friends Scholarships to international students working on advanced degrees at our institution and to American students departing on a great adventure in their student life. Your interest in the Friends helps to make these international studies a reality.

We will enjoy an Italian menu starting with a choice of either a Prosecco-infused or non-alcoholic punch served with *antipasti a tonno* (tuna) in the lounge. From there, we will move to the courtyard for *lasagna spinaci insalate mista* and *focaccia*, served with a red wine. The meal will conclude with *tortoni*, one of Italy's best known desserts, and coffee. Bringing a sweater or wrap might be a good idea. As has become custom, an International Center staff member will serve as host at each of the tables, allowing Friends greater freedom to interact with our guests.

After dinner, **Joan Adamo**, our president, will conduct a short business meeting, with **Alma Coles**, as Nominating Committee Chair, officiating at the election of 2012-13 officers. We hope to hear from a returning student about her time abroad and plans for the future. **Ruth Newmark**, chair of the Scholarship

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee—consisting of **Alice Blake-Stalker, Josie Foulks, Kristine Kneib, Candace Kohl**, with **Alma Coles** as chair—is pleased to propose the following slate of officers for the year 2012-13:

President:	Joan Adamo
1 st Vice President, Programs:	VACANT
2 nd Vice President, Membership:	Renate Schmid-Schoenbein
Recording Secretary:	Nancy Homeyer
Treasurer:	Jeri Abernathy
Corresponding Secretary:	VACANT
Nominating Committee:	Alice Blake-Stalker, Josie Foulks, and Kristine Kneib

The above slate will be voted on at the Friends Annual Dinner Meeting to be held at the International Center on Tuesday evening, May 22, 2012. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but must have received the prior approval of the nominee. *For our organization to function effectively, we need people to serve in Board positions. To volunteer or to recommend someone to serve in either of the vacant Board positions, please contact **Alma Coles**, or any of the others on the current Nominating Committee.*

To assure the necessary quorum, we ask that you please send in your proxy statement available on the back page of this *Newsletter*, if you can't attend the annual membership meeting.

Membership

Membership Chair **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** is pleased to report that the San Diego branch of the **Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research**, located at UC San Diego and affiliated with our campus Medical School and Moore Cancer Center, has rejoined the Friends as a corporate member.

We also welcome several new members: **David Jordan**, former Provost of Earl Warren College (see his article on pp. 4-5), who joined as a life member; **Suzan Cioffi**, Director of the Retirement Resource Center; **Patti Alksne**, who has supplied the Friends Resale Shop so faithfully with clothing from her consignment shop, Second Act West; **Maria Foulks** and **Shaunte Foulks**, daughter and granddaughter respectively of **Josie Foulks**; **Patricia Axelrod**; and **Katie Mathis**, Coordinator of the Emeriti Mentor Program.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

The International Center will host the second annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, May 10, from 11:30-1:00, in the IC lounge and dining room. At this event, the Center will honor and thank all of the volunteers who give so generously of their time in support of the students, scholars, and programs at the International Center.

Andy Ceperley, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Experiential Learning and Director, Career Services Center will be presenting the Chancellor's Awards, and **Daughters of Triton (DOTs)**, an all-female a cappella ensemble will be performing at the luncheon.

We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting event. Should you have any questions, please contact **Shelly Taskin** at 858/534-0603 or staskin@ucsd.edu.

Annual Dinner

(continued from p. 1)

Committee, will present the 2012 scholarship awards.

Cost for the evening is \$20.00 per person. Please send your reservation and check by Friday, May 18. A handy reservation coupon may be found on p. 11.

We look forward to seeing many of you on this festive occasion. This is a wonderful chance to mingle with Dr. **Penny Rue**, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs; Prof. **Kim Barrett**, Dean of Graduate Studies; **Lynn C. Anderson**, Dean of International Education and Director of our International Center; Prof. **Sharon Rose**, IC Faculty Director; **Ann Klein**, Director of UCSD's Financial Aid Office; Prof. **Alan Houston**, Provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College, as well as other University guests, not to speak of the opportunity to chat with fellow Friends and a group of inspiring students.

May Calendar

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **Knit-Along**, 1:00-3:30

May 2, 16: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

May 3: **Cooking in America**, 9:30-2:00

May 4, 11, 18, 25: **International Café**, Noon-1:15

May 8: **Executive Board Meeting**, 10:00

May 10: **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**, 11:30-1:00

May 13: **Mother's Day**

May 16: **International Kitchen**, Noon

May 22: **Annual Dinner**, 6:00

Knit-Along

—by Ruth Newmark

Jennie Chin and Judy Bavasi have reason to be proud of the new program they launched this year. Reported Jennie: “We are averaging about 15 participants on a weekly basis since we started end of January. Participants are especially enjoying the English conversation topics Judy puts together for each meeting. One of the participants who never knitted before completed a project for her niece, while another new knitter just learning to work from a pattern ended up changing it to meet her needs (definitely talented and skilled young women).”

From the moment of inception, the Knit-Along aimed to do more than teach knitting. It was Jennie’s and Judy’s intent to make our international visitors feel at ease in our community. They believed that this could be done most readily by applying **Georgina Sham’s** Wednesday Coffee motto: “Make it open, make it welcoming, and hopefully make it fun.”

The new program would allow for people of different cultural and language backgrounds, to join together in a shared activity. By providing a place and time for knitting and English conversation, they hoped to instill a sense of joy in the



Daniela Zubcekova, Hiroko Nakamura, and Eunjeong Kim

act of creation. Naturally, they hoped that the weekly sessions would also create a special bond that might lead to friendships. They seem to be succeeding splendidly on all fronts.

As Jennie recounts: “When one participant, newly married and a recent arrival, had her husband leave for two weeks due to a family emergency to go back to his home country, several of the young women jumped right in to provide immediate support, and exchanged e-mail addresses to help her during his absence. Another new participant indicated that she had been ‘cooped up’ for several months, but thanks to Wednesday Coffee found out about the knitting group and decided to try it out. She found that all the participants were very

friendly, helpful, and encouraging. This further points to the importance of fostering outreach to the international community at large, and having communal gatherings like the knitting group act as an ad hoc safety net for shared support. The fact that the participants feel comfortable enough to talk to us about their issues is an important trust factor.”

Jeri Abernathy has become a valued addition to the group. Jeri is a skilled fiber artist who tells this about herself: “I grow my own silkworms to reel the silk from the cocoons, and I track down sheep fleece, clean it, and spin it into yarn. I knit, weave, and crochet with my yarn. And I teach other people how to do this.”

Her enthusiasm is contagious. Said Jennie: “Several women got to learn what it was like to spin wool into yarn, and were very appreciative of the kindness and generosity Jeri provided in teaching new spinners. Jeri also donated a large amount of yarn for the women to purchase at 50 cents a ball, and everyone felt that they had hit the jackpot with all the yarn they were able to buy at such a reasonable price. The proceeds went to the Resale Shop. Thank you, Jeri!”

The Knit-Along meets Tuesdays, from 1:00-3:30 in the afternoon.



Mira Vendler, Yuka Yamaguchi, Keiko Hirai, and Dagmar Bocakova

Professors in the Mountains of Northern Yunnan

—by David K. Jordan



Last June I was part of a faculty group that visited the northernmost tip of China's Yunnan Province, an area lying just southeast of Tibet and inhabited largely by Tibetans, some of them still nomadic. The upper Yangtze River and upper Mekong River come very close to each other in this region, which is an important part of the ecology and health of both river systems. The visit was an "International Faculty Development Seminar" (IFDS) sponsored by the Committee on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), of which UCSD is a member. CIEE/IFDS sponsors faculty trips to many countries each year with the general goal of broadening faculty perspectives and experience across all fields.

Our visit began in Beijing, where we were stashed in a hotel owned by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an historical relic still featuring coffee-free breakfasts and Maoist-era service. Nearby was the University of Nationalities, where we participated in a series of seminars about Tibet, government policy toward national minorities, the ecology of the upper Yangtze River valley and its tributaries, and the attempts being made to pro-

tect this critical waterway. Most of the major rivers of Asia originate on or near the Tibetan Plateau and depend upon its glacial ecology, so even the specific focus on the Yangtze was an educational experience for us. Our group leader was a Chinese-American academic and nature photographer knowledgeable about western China, trilingual in English, Chinese, and Tibetan, and interested in Tibetan mountain lore.

Our first headquarters in northern Yunnan (after some visits to universities and research institutes en route) was the town of Shangri-la. The place wasn't always called Shangri-la, a name that comes from **James Hilton's** 1933 bestseller *Lost Horizon*. The town was formerly called Gyaltang in Tibetan and Zhōngdiàn in Chinese. However rumors apparently spread that some towns in Burma and Nepal planned to rename various places Shangri-la, and that all the tourists in the world would then swarm in and drop money. So to get in on the deal, or even to get in ahead of the opposition, Zhōngdiàn became Shangri-la, complete with ATM machines.

With money now flowing in, mostly from tourists from coastal Chinese cities, Shangri-la is rapidly expanding

ing, and immigrant Han Chinese merchants have joined Tibetans in selling Tibetan handicrafts, sometimes actually made in Tibet. The town now sports a huge new Buddhist temple, with what has to be the world's largest prayer wheel. Not far away is a magnificent museum commemorating the Red Army's entry into Tibet sixty years ago, complete with beautifully detailed life-size waxworks of People's Liberation Army soldiers trudging through snow and rain (complete with thunder) looking miserable but heroic.

Our host institution in Shangri-la was the Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities (SISC), which operates a series of "Yangtze water schools" devoted to teaching people about the importance of cleaning up the upper Yangtze, given its importance to most of central China. This has been a great success, they told us, with branches in hundreds of schools, and has been supplemented by a series of freestanding community centers intended to promote traditional arts and crafts and the study of Tibetan.



Bamboo Grove Monastery

One of SISC's nearby "partner" institutions was the Eastern Bamboo Grove Monastery, with its school, where we visited youthful monks who were supposed to chant for very long periods. (They also tickled and poked and picked at each other to try to get their friends in trouble for unseemly shrieking and giggling. Kids in red robes are still kids.)

We spent several days on a visit to higher elevations at a new "Ecodge," at the head of a beautiful valley overlooked by an impressive glacier. The Ecodge is part of the White-Horse Snow-Mountain Nature Preserve, intended to promote sustainably profitable ecotourism (at least if running water and electricity can eventually be made operational and vehicular access can be managed). For me a high point (both literally and metaphorically) was lunching on buttered tea and hard cheese with yak herders in their summer quarters just off of the glacier at about the 13,000-foot level. It is hard to like buttered tea (although Tibetans seem to pull it off), but the cheese was good, and trying out the churns taught us once again that there are harder jobs in this world than university lecturing.

Another night was spent in private houses in a small village. It had two shops and a barn-like meeting hall with faded signs from the 2009 anniversary year proclaiming that on the whole China was probably better off because of 60 years under the Com-



munist Party. (Political slogans have gradually got less strident over the years.) In the evening, the village folk held a dance on our behalf. We low-altitude-adapted academics eventually all faded and went to bed, but a lot of village people folk-danced the night away. (Han people complain that Tibetans dance too much and work too little. Tibetans complain that Han people do the opposite. I think academic tourists may come out as wimpy from both perspectives.)

We also spent a day at the Golden Mountain Nature Reserve to see mountain monkeys in a protected if ever diminishing habitat. A very promising new monkey museum was under construction there, again as part of the broader project of trying to promote sustainable ecotourism in the region to make it as prosperous as possible without destroying its natural magnificence.

Everywhere outside of the designated nature reserves, construction equipment was gouging wide roads into the steep northern Yunnan mountains with the hope of bringing tourism into this rugged and remote region. China may make occasional bad decisions about infrastructure projects, but the nation has both the will and the means to take on projects of enormous scale, and the roads of northern Yunnan are an example. We were impressed. Also dusty.

On the whole, it was not your usual kind of trip to China.

Professor Emeritus David Jordan is a founding member of the UC San Diego Anthropology Department and an expert on Chinese culture. This picture of him was taken with one of the yak herders. Said David: "This nice man, who was exactly my age, told me which kind of grass Tibetan

Anniversary Book

—by Ruth Newmark

As editor of *Celebrating 50 Years of the International Center: 1961-2011*, I was most pleased to learn that **Alma Coles** had purchased four more books. Anticipating the considerable cost of printing, the Friends undertook this project with some trepidation. Our Treasurer, **Jeri Abernathy**, has informed us that the project is now in the black!

How is this possible, since the book was distributed gratis to our membership? We owe thanks to the Office of Dean **Lynn C. Anderson** that bought a sizable number of books for the International Center staff; to UC San Diego for providing a small stipend; to those who purchased books as gifts; and, most of all, to a generous member of the Friends who saw value in having the history of the International Center documented.

Individual copies are available at \$10 each (please leave a phone message at 858/534-0731). Future book sales will help cover expenses related to Friends social and outreach programs.

To the Scholarship Committee Chair:

I just want to let you know that the research [on Threatened Reef Corals of the World] supported by the Friends Scholarship has been published.

Thanks again for your committee's support, and personally for your friendship.

Danwei Huang
Scripps Institution of
Oceanography

Friends Resale Shop

—by Joe Nichols

The Ides of March, Spring Break, and April showers have slipped by, and the Resale Shop is in full bloom and doing its usual bang-up job of generating money for Friends Scholarships. **Gayle Barsamian** is very adept at displaying seasonal and holiday type items for many holidays, like Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's, and Easter. We remained open during finals week and spring break and did quite well with sales. In particular, we could use more jewelry to keep up with demand.

I would like to feature brief vitae of two Shop volunteers.

Mildred Cleveland was born and raised in New Jersey and



educated at Barnard College, the University of Iowa, and the famous Juilliard School of Music. For a couple of years, she was on the music faculty at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, and then, following her marriage, taught music at several elementary schools in Alexandria, Virginia. Motherhood made her a homemaker.

When her children were grown, she rejoined the work force, spending the next seventeen years as the Director of the Human Subjects Program at UCSD, insuring that the firm guidelines for research on humans were being followed. An intriguing job for sure. Since retirement, Mildred has become a world traveler, volunteering as a short-term teacher of conversational English to students of varying ages in Poland, Greece, Mexico, Indonesia, and China. Closer to home,

she became a tutor in our English in Action program. She served as Friends Treasurer, and loves the social contact with the volunteers and shoppers at the Resale Shop. For many years, she arrived on her bike, knowing that keeping fit was good exercise; deteriorating eyesight makes getting around more difficult now. Mildred is especially proud of her three children: two daughters and a son.

Keiko Hirai is a slightly newer volunteer. Keiko is keen on the idea of raising money for international education, in the belief that it broadens our visions about nations, languages, and common cultural interests.



Her motives to work in the Shop are a bit different than those of most other Shop volunteers. She sees her work not only as a great way to raise money, but also as a chance to perfect her already fluent English. This positive person, a 5-year resident of the United States, and native of Japan, loves meeting her colleagues but especially loves learning about American culture. I, for one, am a tremendous admirer of people coming from such a different linguistic tradition and thriving in America. It helps keep us humble.

Not only may Keiko be found at the Resale Shop, but you also are likely to encounter her in the International Center kitchen, where she enjoys her work as chef of the Friday International Café and as a tireless volunteer at many other functions.

Gifts

The Friends received a wonderful surprise! Thanks to the efforts of **Carol Robertson**, a special scholarship will be named in honor of former international student advisor (1989-2000), **Teclé Kidane-Mariam** (more in the June *Newsletter*).

Thank you **Alma & Bill Coles, Gail Fliesbach, Carol Robertson & Mihir Bellare, Joan & Lou Adamo, Carol & Stu Smith, Kim Burton, Kathy Hodges & Peter Thomas, Georgina & Lu Sham, and Jane Kalionzes** (of SDSU) for your kind contributions. Above all, thank you Carol Robertson for making this scholarship come to fruition.

Jim Arnold Tribute

The annual **James R. Arnold** public lecture will be held Friday, May 4, 2012 at 4:00 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Natural Sciences Building, Revelle College. The speaker this year will be **Ralph P. Harvey**, Associate Professor of Geological Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. The Title of his presentation will be "Antarctic Meteorites: Sifting the Sands of the Solar System." There will be a reception following the talk. For more information, please contact **Candace Kohl** at ckohl@ucsd.edu.

The Arnold lecture series is of more than usual interest to Friends former President Candace Kohl, who received her Ph.D. in chemistry under Jim Arnold's direction. Candace provides this additional information: "To honor our friend and colleague, Jim Arnold (1923-2012), a memorial tribute will be held in the Auditorium of Skaggs Pharmaceutical Sciences Building at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2012 (Jim's birthday)."

Wednesday Morning Coffee

Wednesday Morning Coffee meets weekly from 10:00 to noon. As customary, **Gus Lestick** hosts the English conversation table. Mommy/Daddy & Me, chaired by **Keiko Bott-Suzuki**, now has two classes: For children 24 months and under, the class is from 10:15 - 10:45, and for children above 24 months, the class is from 10:55 - 11:40. The program's coordinator, **Georgina Sham**, has planned these additional activities:

- May 2: **Origami**. **Yoko Hosogi** and **Jennie Chin** will demonstrate the art of origami. Papers provided. **Potluck** with Mommy/Daddy & Me at noon.

- May 9: **Sewing with Mary Woo**. Learn to use patterns and the sewing machine by making an apron. We have a good selection of donated fabrics to choose from, or you may bring your own.

May 16: **Ethnic Lunch**. Our International Kitchen will feature a Czech-Slovakian menu with **Dagmar Bokacova** leading us in its preparation. Please meet in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. to help prepare, and stay afterwards to help clean up. Lunch will be served at noon for \$5/person.

- May 23: **Craft**. **Yuko Kanda** will show us how to make and decorate wonderful multi-purpose bags.

- May 30: **English Tea**. Under the guidance of **Mary Woo**, we will make scones and tea sandwiches, and then sit down to enjoy an English Tea at 11 o'clock—Elevenses, for the British, being a traditional break from work. We will have an assortment of teas to taste. **Book Discussion** at 10:30. **Josine Kooman** will lead a discussion of the novel *Emma* by Jane Austen.

Should there be any doubt about the effectiveness of our outreach programs, let **Jennie Chin** share a little anecdote about Wednesday Morning Coffee and its offshoot, the Tuesday afternoon Knit-Along. In a conversation about whether participants are likely to bond, she said: "They really do form friendships. In March, **Yuko Kanda**, **Yoko Hosogi**, and **Eunjeong Kim** traveled together to visit **Eunmi Kim**, whom Yuko



Yoko, Eunjeong, and Eunmi at the San Francisco airport. Photo by Yuko.

and Yoko met at Wednesday Coffee and who now lives in San Francisco."

"Parenthetically," continued Jennie, "since I grew up in a generation where Asian cultures did not really cross over to 'talk' to each other, I find it wonderful and fascinating that the culture lines are being crossed. I'm sorry I didn't have a camera at the time, but not long ago, there were three of them—Japanese, Korean, and Chinese—all walking together and speaking in English going to ESL class after Wednesday Coffee. When one considers that their countries were once bitter enemies, this was a lovely thing to see."

International Café

The International Center is sad to see **Ginny Young** step down from her position as Coordinator of the Friday International Café, a position she has filled ably since October 2009.

Dean **Lynn C. Anderson** is pleased to have found an experienced replacement and shares this announcement: "I am delighted to let you know that **Martin Lahtov** has accepted my offer to be our new Café Coordinator beginning April 2, 2012. He and Ginny will overlap for a good portion of spring quarter and that is great. Martin has a B.A. in Economics from San Diego State University. Martin was most recently the owner and general manager of the 5- star restaurant "Taste of California" in Skopje, Macedonia. Prior to that he was director of wine operations at Harvest Ranch in Encinitas, wine department head at World Market in Illinois, and restaurant supervisor at the Mission Valley Hilton in San Diego."

International lunches are served Fridays from 12 noon until 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$5. You may find the full menus on the International Center's website (<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/about/programs-events/icafe.html>).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Menu Theme</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
May 4	Cinco de Mayo	Department of Economics
May 11	Cuban	UCSD Retirement Association
May 18	Indonesian	Counseling and Psychological Services
May 25	Tex-Mex	Student Affairs, Vice Chancellor Rue

What Do Tutors and Tutees Talk About?

—by *Barbara Baehr*

Can You Call Your Physician and Actually Speak with Him/Her?

Have you tried phoning your physician, only to hear: “He’s with a patient. He will call you later.” You wait. No one calls later or at any other time. The unusual M.D. is the one who calls you back the same, or next, day. If you call during other than office hours, the answering service says: “If this is an emergency, call 911,” then asks if you want the “on call” physician to call you. Often this results in frustration with people unnecessarily going to an emergency room.

Not so in China...at least as far as I know.

My Chinese tutee, **Xiaonan Dai**, here on a postdoc working with Prof. **Jerry Yang** in physical chemistry, told me her medical history. She had had surgery for a tumor shortly before leaving for San Diego. Her physician in China told her to be sure to have a “follow-up” by a San Diego surgeon in a few months.

I introduced her to an internist with whom she registered, and suggested making an appointment with an excellent surgeon, who operated on me years ago. She said she would tell me how soon to make the appointment after she called her doctor in China.

When I saw her the next day, she said she had called her physician in China and had spoken with him! He was pleased that soon she will have a follow-up by a well-known surgeon.

Health Insurance in Japan and the Metric System

I asked **Hayato Nakagawa**, Ph.D. (Pharmacology) if everyone in Japan has health insurance. “Of course!” he answered, looking very surprised that I asked. Healthcare in Japan is not free, but is universal, because everyone pays a certain amount regularly, deducted from salary. Not working? You still pay into the health fund. While there may be sliding copayments, there’s little hesitation about going to a doctor, because of his/her fee, if ill or injured. That should help in practicing preventive medicine.

Hayato then asked me to explain why the United States is not on the metric system like the rest of the world, since all scientific work in every country, even including the U.S., is reported in metric. No good answer to that question.

International Triton Transition Program

—by *Kelly Schober*, International Student Advisor



The International Center is very excited to welcome the freshman class of 2012 to UC San Diego in the fall, and we are already planning for their arrival. We have a wonderful new program to offer these students: The International Triton Transition Program (ITTP). This is a four week program designed to familiarize them with San Diego and Southern California, enhance the participants’ English language and academic skills, introduce them to American culture, and encourage them to connect and make friends with other UC San Diego students.

ITTP is from August 19, 2012 to September 15, 2012, the four weeks before international student orientation, and will include:

- English Language Classes taught by ESL professionals
- American Culture Classes taught by UC San Diego faculty and staff
- A full activities calendar for the duration of the program, round-trip transportation for all activities, and airport pick-up upon arrival to San Diego
- Room and board in UC San Diego residence halls located on-campus.

The overall goal is to integrate new international freshman into the UC San Diego population by connecting them with other students by studying, living, and exploring San Diego together before they start their degree. During the four weeks, students will attend classes Monday

through Friday in the mornings, and in the afternoons and on weekends, they will participate in activities in La Jolla and the greater San Diego area. Some of the places we will visit are: Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo, Midway Museum, and beaches, to name a few. Additionally, we will lead the students on afternoon “UC San Diego Activities,” including campus tours, and completing administrative tasks, such as getting their student ID cards, and e-mail accounts set-up.

We look forward to helping the new students adjust and acclimate to UC San Diego in the weeks before the quarter starts. By participating in the International Triton Transition Program, the students will have a seamless transition into their first quarter at UC San Diego.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dolphin Conservation

I am in the seventh month of my nine-month research and Fulbright program trip to the Philippines, focused on studying the ecological and human dimensions of Irrawaddy dolphin conservation. For six months, I was working on the island of Palawan, called “the last frontier” of the Philippines; my specific field site was the Malampaya Sound National Protected Area, where a critically endangered subpopulation of Irrawaddy dolphins lives. While there, I worked with a research team of six local field assistants, including two Protected Area rangers and four assistants who had formerly worked with WWF—Philippines [World Wildlife Fund].

We conducted over 50 days of dolphin surveys (during which we documented all human activity and dolphin sightings, and took photographs for photo-identification of dolphin individuals), as well as over 400 interviews of local small-scale fishers, government officials, and conservation organization workers. These interviews covered topics including local ecological knowledge about the dolphins and marine environment, fishing effort, trends in the health of the marine environment, perceptions about management and conservation, and reports of accidental capture of the dolphins in fishing gear (the main threat to this subpopulation of dolphins). I added another set of interviews in which we tried to document, based on the memories of local fishers, how the dolphins’ distribution has changed over the past decades, before scientists were studying them. It felt a bit like playing detective at times, as we tried to establish the outer limits of the dolphins’ historical range.

In addition to research, we conducted nine outreach programs at local elementary schools in all of the



villages where we worked. WWF-Philippines lent us their Irrawaddy dolphin costume, affectionately called “Waddy”, which was a huge hit with the children. We would briefly present the children with information about the dolphins and the importance of marine conservation, showing them a mini-music video that I’d made of our research, as well as clips from a documentary filmed at that site last year. Then we had interactive activities for the different age groups of children: a dance contest with Waddy for preschoolers, a trivia contest about the dolphins for first through third graders, and a dolphin conservation drawing and slogan contest for the fourth and fifth graders. All participants received school supplies, with the winners being awarded extra supplies and an Irrawaddy dolphin postcard that I’d made. These events were always fun and rewarding, and when we’d return to those villages for work, the parents and children would often thank us for a memorable day!

Finally, when I noticed that many fishers did not know that the dolphins were endangered and that many dolphin entanglements and strandings had gone unreported, I designed “business cards” with information on the endangered status of the dolphins and information on how to report strandings and entanglements. We

distributed these cards to the various villages. I also printed eight informational posters to distribute to each of my study villages, with more detailed information on the threats facing the dolphins.

It was a very rewarding six months of work. I am happy to report that the completion of my work at that site marks the accomplishment of the bulk of my dissertation fieldwork, as Malampaya Sound is my main field site. The highlight was working with local people and experiencing life in a small, friendly fishing community. Malampaya Sound is also a gorgeous area, and I consider myself very lucky to have had a chance to work and live there (in 2011, Palawan was listed as one of *National Geographic’s* Top 20 Best Destinations for tourists). However, the marine environment there is truly being overused, with small-scale fishing effort increasing even as stocks are depleted. It was at times frustrating to learn about the seemingly intractable obstacles to real conservation there, including poverty, lack of funding for environmental enforcement, and corruption, but (in a more optimistic light) it was certainly a valuable experience for a young conservation researcher. I was also able to vastly improve my Tagalog, thanks to dedicating time each night to study a little and then practicing at

work the next day.

Though I was sad to leave Palawan at the end of January, I am now happily working on the island of Guimaras, where another subpopulation of Irrawaddy dolphins is found (it is also the mango capital of the Philippines, which is a nice perk). I will be here for one month, and then spend another month across Guimaras Strait on the island of Negros, to where the same subpopulation of dolphins also travels. I am conducting the same interviews here, though at fewer villages. I am also conducting surveys of human activity in the core habitat of the dolphins, though I am not focusing on dolphin fieldwork here, as my collaborators are already conducting that research. We are hoping to combine our results to help shape conservation action for this group of dolphins, which was only discovered to science in 2004 and is also likely to be critically endangered.

I am working closely with Guimaras State College, where the head of the research extension program has

provided me with valuable assistance, from finding an apartment to hiring four very bright recent graduates as field assistants. The local dialect, Hiligaynon, is different in many ways from Tagalog, but I am trying my best to pick some up!

In addition to all of this work in the Philippines, I visited my field site on the Mahakam River in Indonesia for 10 days in November. There, I conducted preliminary interviews of villages that I will return to study later in 2012. I was accompanied by a field assistant called Y.K. Rasi from a local conservation organization and we stayed with a local family. The language barrier was quite high, but my hosts were lovely, and I am looking forward to returning.

It has been a wonderful experience thus far, and I want to thank the Friends for your generous support! I have used the **Ruth Newmark Scholarship** to purchase another digital SLR camera for documenting the dolphins, so that I could train my field assistant in photo-identification fieldwork, and so that we could have two cameras on the boat,

which is very valuable when there are multiple dolphins on different sides of the boat. The remainder of the funds was focused on outreach materials. It is definitely an honor to have been selected for a second year of funding, and I am truly grateful that I was able to add such valuable elements to my project.

Tara S. Whitty

Ph.D. Candidate, Scripps
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London on OAP

Deciding to study abroad was a difficult decision to make. The problem of money and how much it would cost to go to London—one of the most expensive cities in the world—was the biggest reason. But with the help of the Friends Scholarship, as well as loans through financial aid, and a private loan through Wells Fargo, I was able to get enough together to go! This is a decision I do not regret. The experience of studying and living in a foreign country is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Best of all, were the amazing people I met. I made friends with many I plan on keeping in touch with for a long time.

I did a joint program through Arcadia University, taking two courses at Queen Mary, University of London and two sponsored by Arcadia but taught by local British professors. Three of my classes were small and taught by incredible professors who really got to know us. The professors catered well to us, and were very interested in our experiences in our time there, but at the same time kept us on track in our studies. The Sex, Gender, and the City professor made us keep a journal of our time in London, an assignment I'll be eternally grateful for. I turned my journal into a scrapbook that I will keep forever—it contains business cards, receipts, tickets, candy wrappers, etc. from all of the places I visited within London, as well as from the cities I traveled to.

Brenda Wu

Studies in Cognitive Science

I'm from Turkey, studying cognitive neuroscience in general and neural basis of visual perception in particular as part of my Ph.D. program in Cognitive Science. In the last 1.5 years, under the supervision of my advisor, Professor **Ayse P. Saygin** [herself a 2002 Friends Scholarship recipient], and with collaborators Professor **Howard Poizner** and post-doc researcher **Markus Plank** at the Institute for Neural Computation, I've been working on a project in which we investigate the neural mechanisms of how we perceive and understand actions of other individuals (including non-humans). In the upcoming months, I intend to present the results of my analyses at two scientific conferences.

The first of these conferences is the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society (<http://www.cnsmeeting.org/>), which will be held in Chicago, Illinois from March 31 to April 3, 2012. The second is the Annual Meeting of Vision Sciences Society (<http://www.visionosciences.org/>), which will be held in Naples, Florida from May 11-16. Both of these are well-respected conferences in my research field, where the latest scientific results are presented.

I will use the **Friends Fitzsimmons award** to cover my travel and conference registration expenses. Since travel support for graduate students for conferences is limited, it would not be possible for me to attend both of these conferences, had I not received the Friends Scholarship. I thank the scholarship committee of the Friends of the International Center for providing me this opportunity.

Burcu Aysen Urgen

Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology Lab

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May 2012

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