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



# *Newsletter*

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Volume XLII, No. 1

September 2014

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## **President's Message**

Welcome to 2014-2015! Although it may appear that Friends activities have been on hiatus over the summer (our tireless *Newsletter* editor, **Ruth Newmark**, gets a deserved brief respite), the vast majority of our programs operate year-round and the flow of international visitors continues unconcerned with traditional academic calendars. The constant influx insures that life at the International Center is always ripe for new friendships and is never the same from week-to-week, so please be sure to add us to your calendar.

I would be remiss if I did not thank you for your continued confidence in my leadership and for your support of our newly elected 2014-2015 Friends board, including newcomers, **Tashu Malik** and **Jean Selzer** who join continuing officers: **Joan Adamo**, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Karen Davis**, **Elisabeth Marti**, **Carol Smith**, and **Eleanor tum Suden**.

These women and other faithful leaders, including: **Jennie Chin**, **Nori Faer**, **Josie Foulks**, **Nancy Homeyer**, **Kristine Kneib**, **Audrey Leriche**, **Judith Muñoz**, **Ruth Newmark**, **Georgina Sham**, **Marion Spors**, **Liz Fong Wills**, and **Mary Woo**, have been busy updating programs (e.g., Family Orientation), creating new programs (e.g., Volunteer Orientation), securing funding for our Scholarship Program, enhancing our Resale Shop shopping experience, planning activities for existing programs, gearing up for an exciting year of Special Events (e.g. Friends Dinner Socials and Ethnic Dinners), garnering publicity, and even auditing our financial reporting. Together we work with the goal of improving our members and participants' overall enjoyment. We are open to suggestions that will help us build upon last year's suc-



### *Volunteers Make Life Sweet*

Seen at the June 3 ice cream social hosted by Chancellor Pradeep Khosla and Volunteer50 "in appreciation of your service and outstanding contribution to the UC San Diego community": Cat Hare, Jing-Yu Chen, Keiko Hirai, Katya Newmark (holding Friends volunteer appreciation certificate), Nadine Weydenhammer, Chancellor Khosla, Dagmar Bocakova, and Justin Costello.

cess, to further expand our membership and to keep the donations flowing to fund ever-needed scholarships. We welcome and encourage new volunteers, leaders, and/or board members, so do not be shy!

I strongly encourage every member to be more active this year! Please attend our incredible dinner events; dates can be found in this *Newsletter*, and on our website (<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends/>) under master calendar and special events. Please consider inviting one or more international visitors into your home for a shared meal (contact **Karen Davis**, Hospitality-at-Home coordinator, at [Ksndavis28@gmail.com](mailto:Ksndavis28@gmail.com)). Please participate in any of our daily programs and be part of the very rewarding cultural exchange that awaits you.

*Katya Newmark*

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## 2014-15 Campus Support Group Approval

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

June 9, 2014

Eleanor L. Tum Suden  
Financial Advisor  
Friends of the International Center

Dear Ms. Tum Suden,

I am pleased to acknowledge the Friends of the International Center as an official support group of the University of California, San Diego. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Friends members for their significant support of the International Center, and student scholarships, as well as their contributions to the international experience of our students both here and abroad. For 50 years, the Friends of the International Center have provided an integral part of the university experience for our international students and helped to share the diverse cultural landscape of San Diego.

It is a pleasure to recognize you and the members of your group for your continued effort and commitment. The Friends of the International Center are an invaluable resource to UC San Diego's international community. I wish you every success with this and your future endeavors.

With kind regards,

**Pradeep K. Khosla**  
Chancellor

### September Calendar

Sept. 1: **Labor Day**

Sept. 2, 9, 16, 30: **Knit-Along**, 1:00-4:00 (No meeting on 23)

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

Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Sept. 9: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

Sept. 11: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Sept. 19-26: **Resale Shop** will be closed; will reopen with regular hours on Sept. 29: Monday-Friday, 10:00-3:30

Sept. 17: **International Kitchen**, potluck, Noon

Sept. 20: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00

Sept. 29: **Fall Quarter begins**

## Let's Celebrate Indian Summer

—by *Audrey Leriche*

After four successful events and a summer break, the Friends of the International Center Dinner Social show is back for a second season! New characters, new themes, but the same passion and ambition to entertain our audience with delicious food and fun activities.

Our season premiere is planned for Saturday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the International Center, when we hope to welcome you to our Indian Summer party planned around an Indian-inspired menu. **Tashu Malik** (a native of India), **Katya Newmark**, and I have designed a menu that will be authentic without being overly spicy: Mulligatawny Soup, Chicken Tikka Masala (or Indian Cream of Tomato Soup with Paneer and Vegetable Biryani for those who abstain from eating meat), a refreshing Indian Summer Salad, and Coconut Burfi with Mango Purée for dessert. Your hosts for the party will do their best to make the summer last forever to the rhythm of Bollywood music.

So, please mark your calendar and make your reservation quickly. Bring your friends and come to

make friends! Reservations are required by Monday, September 15. Cost is: \$10 UCSD international students, postdocs, and family; \$15 Friends of the International Center; \$20 everyone else, except children under 5 years, who may come free.

You will find a reservation form at <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends/>. Don't forget to indicate if you prefer a vegetarian meal. Payment may be made by mailing a check payable to the Friends of the International Center to: Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018 or by stopping at the Friends Resale Shop (Mon.-Thurs., 10:30-3).

With questions or to volunteer, please contact **Audrey Leriche** at [ay.leriche@gmail.com](mailto:ay.leriche@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

Come Join the Fun!

Saturday, September 20, 6 p.m.

Friends Dinner Social:  
An Indian Summer  
featuring food and  
entertainment from India

Reservations required  
by September 15

## Journey to a Seldom Visited Country: Iran

—by *Katya Newmark*



Liz Fong Wills at Friends 2014 Annual Dinner



In the International Center kitchen: Shohreh Karimaghahi prepares Salad Olivieh, one of the dishes to be featured on the October 25 menu

You do not want to miss our upcoming Ethnic Dinner scheduled for 6:30 on Saturday, October 25, at the International Center. The evening promises to give our guests a glimpse into the rich culture and cuisine of Iran, for many the country still referred to as Persia, and will feature another cooking collaboration between our local and international communities.

The kitchen will be in the capable hands of Friends Master Chef, **Liz Fong Wills**, and Guest Chef and frequent Friends participant, **Shohreh Karimaghahi**, a native of Shiraz, Iran, who is here with her husband, **Arya Iranmehr**, while he pursues his Ph.D. in UC San Diego's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Shohreh is the epitome of a modern-day Iranian woman: she has a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, has worked for years in the airline industry, is an amateur photographer, dresses as if she could be on any of the leading fashion runways, and is an amazing magician in the kitchen. No doubt she has many more talents yet to be discovered, and we are delighted that she has chosen to share her culinary talents with our Ethnic Dinner guests.

The dinner will feature specialties from Shiraz, our guest chef's home region. Those who attended the Friends International Cooking Experience class taught by Shohreh in February 2014 will attest to how delicious the Persian food that she had prepared was. As a matter of fact, it was this class and the ensuing lunch that led me to ask Shohreh whether she would be willing to put on a dinner for the Friends. She generously agreed!

Further information, including the full menu of the planned, mouth-watering multi-course dinner, as well as the entertainment to follow, will be announced in the October *Newsletter*.

We are confident that you will not be disappointed with your journey to Iran, so please make your reservations early, invite your friends and those you hope might become your friends—the fastest way to make a friend is over a shared meal! Please also re-

member that your dinner ticket purchase supports our scholarship program furthering UC San Diego student's global exploration.

For your convenience, you will find a reservation form on p. 11 or on the Friends website under Special Events.

**Iranian Dinner**  
**Saturday**  
**October 25 at 6:30 p.m.**

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**A Fundraiser for**  
**International Scholarships**

### Friends and Oceanids 4th of July Celebration at the International Center





Candace Kohl and Dagmar Bocakova arrange flowers



Vivian Lodes is a hands-on event chair; here she is unpacking drinking cups



Matthew Costello and Paul Yunouye set up the projector in the Center lounge

## 2014 Annual Membership Dinner

—by Ruth Newmark with photos by Stuart Smith, Carol Smith, & Katya Newmark

The gods were with us on Tuesday, May 20, the evening of the Friends Annual Membership Dinner. After experiencing a heat wave not seen before in our area at that time of year, the temperature dropped considerably and the forecast was for weather cool enough to require a warm wrap. Instead, we were treated to the most perfect of evenings with temperatures so pleasant that there was no thought of the weather. This made for an unanticipated and unusual gathering: instead of people crowding into the International Center lounge—where appetizers and drinks had been set up—guests mingled outside, some already taking seats at their assigned tables. That check-in was outdoors may have been a contributory factor.

It hardly mattered where people congregated as long as they socialized, but it was a shame that few guests saw the wonderful photographic presentation that **Katya Newmark** and her daughter, **Danya Costello**, had put together that offered an insightful overview of the many varied activities that Friends sponsored during the academic year. Commented **Kristine Kneib**: “Thank you, Katya, for capturing on camera and words a sensitive



vignette of all the volunteer activities leading to our premier event.”

To say that the Friends Membership Dinner with its Scholarship Awards Ceremony is the highpoint of our year may sound like a platitude, but it can't be stressed enough that this is a very important event for us at which Friends get to play host to different campus groups. The easy-going mix of Friends, students, University administrators, faculty, and staff lends a very special air to this annual event.

That we are not alone in this assessment is evidenced by guests expressing similar sentiments, of

which the following, voiced by two medical students, are illustrative.

Wrote **Lindsey Youngquist**: “The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to meet people who have supported the Friends of the International Center. I'm very grateful for the scholarship and look forward to this summer's adventure of learning and service.”

Echoing Lindsey's sentiments, **John Waggoner** added: “I thank the Friends for this generous scholarship and for the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people during your spring dinner event. I am extremely impressed by your organization, and I hope to someday also contribute to future UCSD students' international travel, enrichment, and outreach opportunities: These types of experiences are truly priceless.”

The International Center's central courtyard looked festive, with tables better distributed than last year, so that all could see and hear the speakers. We learn from experience. White tablecloths, bouquets of flowers artfully arranged by **Candace Kohl**, **Dagmar Bocakova**, and **Cat Hare**, and flameless candles graced each table.

The meal was prepared by a group of stalwart volunteers under



Elisabeth Marti and Alma Coles



Some of the cooks take a moment to pose for pictures: Mary Woo, Audrey Leriche. Katya Newmark, Alma Coles, Dagmar Bocakova, Karen Davis, Vivian Lodes



Jean Selzer and Matthew Costello look on as Barbara Fitzsimmons and Eleanor tum Suden check in Grace Casas-Silva



Scholarship recipient Benjamin Smuin converses with Nancy and Bill Homeyer



Appetizers

the guidance of Executive Chef **Alma Coles**, who had designed the menu around a theme aptly called *lemon delights*. Appetizers consisted of garlicky lemon hummus and spinach dip with pita bread and crudités, served with white wine or lemonade. The main meal started with Greek *Avgolemono* soup and was followed by an entrée of lemon chicken with basil and capers, basmati rice, lemon-peppered roasted vegetables, and a tabouli salad with a mustard lemon dressing. For the vegetarians, there was a citron-glazed tofu option. A delicious lemon cheesecake was served for dessert, along with a well received citron tea far less familiar in the States than in Korea, where this traditional herbal tea is

enjoyed as much for its flavor as for its purported anti-aging properties.

Our thanks go to **Vivian Lodes**, who despite being new to our organization readily took on the daunting task of event chair, and to **Alma Coles**, who once again served as master chef.

They were ably assisted by: **Dagmar Bocakova, Bill Coles, Danya Costello, Karen Davis, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Gail Fliesbach, Catherine Hare, Nancy and Bill Homeyer, Kristine Kneib, Candace Kohl, Audrey Leriche, Elisabeth Marti, Judith Muñoz, Katya Newmark, Ruth Newmark, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Carol and Stuart Smith** (official photographers), **Marion Spors, Eleanor tum Suden, Liz Fong Wills, and Mary Woo.**

Acknowledging everyone's contribution, our President wrote the committee members: "Thank you one and all for all the help provided over the past several months in preparation for tonight's general meeting/scholarship awards dinner. Each of you played a vital role in making the evening a success. I appreciate being part of the winning team and gladly bestow upon each and every one of you a bouquet of roses, though it is too bad you can't smell them as the aroma was an energy lifter!" Katya accompanied her note with a variety of photos, many of which are seen here.

Special thanks are due the members of the International Center staff who helped serve: **Kim Burton, Grace Casas-Silva, Maribeth Erlich, Jim Galvin, Roark Miller, Kelly**



Table hosts: Paul Yunouye, Kelly O'Sullivan, Marybeth Erlich, Kirk Simmons, Tonia Pizer, Jan Tuomainen, Roark Miller, Dagmar Bocakova, Judith Muñoz, Justin Costello, Vivian Lodes, Jim Galvin, Carol Robertson, Rachel Rigoli, Kim Burton, Grace Casas-Silva

O’Sullivan, Tonia Pizer, Rachel Rigoli, Carol Robertson, Dean Kirk Simmons, Jan Tuomainen, and Paul Yunouye. The willingness of staff—including the I-Center’s Dean—to help serve is a perfect demonstration of how staff and Friends support each others programs.

But there is more to our Annual Membership Dinner than eating and socializing. It is also the time that Friends elect new officers.

After welcoming the assembled guests, President **Katya Newmark** conducted a brief business meeting that included the election of 2014-15 officers, overseen by **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, who placed the proposed slate of officers before the membership. Her pro-forma question whether there were any further nominations from the floor elicited understandable chuckles. A vote was soon taken, and the candidates were unanimously elected to considerable applause.

Dean **Kirk Simmons** then introduced our guest speakers, but not before voicing generous words of praise for our organization, noting the Friends valuable contributions to the international community and



Associate Vice Chancellor Ed Spriggs



Interim Vice Chancellor Alan Houston



Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Jean Selzer, Katya Newmark, Karen Davis, Elisabeth Marti, Tashu Malik, and Kristine Kneib

### Slate of Officers for the Year 2014-15

President:	<b>Katya Newmark</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs:	<b>Jean Selzer</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership:	<b>Renate Schmid-Schoenbein</b>
Recording Secretary:	<b>Tashu Malik</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Karen Davis</b>
Corresponding Secretary:	<b>Elisabeth Marti</b>
Nominating Committee:	<b>Nori Faer</b> <b>Kristine Kneib,</b> <b>and Alice Blake-Stalker</b>

the campus at large, not the least awarding \$76,000 in scholarships this year.

Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, **Ed Spriggs**, revealed that he was retiring at the end of June and spoke warmly about what the International Center and the Friends have meant to him over the years.

In recognition of Ed’s longstanding support of the Friends, Katya presented him with a certificate of appreciation and a gift of citron tea, quipping: “The cliché is that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade, which Friends give an international flavor: ‘When life gives you lemons, make citron tea,’ the Korean tea that you will enjoy at the end of this meal.”

Prof. **Alan Houston**, Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, addressed his remarks primarily to the scholarship recipients in our

midst, reminding the students of the precious relationship between donor and recipient, and the need for students to live up to the trust placed in them. It was an inspirational talk that urged each student to live up to his/her academic potential.

The evening concluded with the presentation of international scholarships—about which we will report in some detail in future *Newsletter* issues—and with Katya’s words of thanks to event chair, **Viv Lodes**, top chef, **Alma Coles**, and Scholarship Committee chair, **Ruth Newmark**.



Katya, Alma, Ruth, and Viv

## My Days at the International Center

—by Sylvia Komin

We are from Germany. My son, a postdoc in physics, is at UCSD for two years, and I was happy to visit him and his young family. My grandson was born in San Diego and I was free to babysit for six months. My daughter-in-law recommended that I attend the Wednesday Coffee at the International Center. So, the first time we attended the Coffee together.

I met **Georgina Sham** and **Mary Woo** and we had the first of many talks together. I asked Mary what she was doing; she answered that she was making stuffed animals to be given at Christmas to the kids of Wednesday Coffee participants. At the end of the morning, we had a very nice potluck lunch.

The next Wednesday, Mary and several other volunteers were

again making more stuffed toys. I came, I saw, I observed that all were sewing by hand. But I also saw sewing machines on the table, and I took what looked like gingerbread shaped fabric, asking myself: “Why should I sew by hand (I’m lazy) and not by machine (it would be faster)?” And so I tried to sew by machine, and I sewed, and sewed, and sewed. I had to laugh, because I hadn’t sewn by machine for 30 years.

During most of the weekly Coffees we worked on different crafts. **Dagmar Bocakova** taught us how to needle felt and to make little bags that we appliquéd, and to make bookmarks using fabric and modeling clay. **Doris Sant’Anna** taught us how to make coasters and earrings, and, for Valentine’s Day, **Mary**

### Resale Shop

Having remained open during the summer months, the **Resale Shop** will close from September 19-26. The Shop will reopen on September 29 with regular hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00-3:30.

**Woo** showed us how to create our own greeting cards. What a wonderful world was opening up for me! Never before had I done such things. To be honest, I hadn’t liked crafts at all. Perhaps, I had inhibitions.

The result of these wonderful activities was that on several occasions I went with Doris to different handicrafts shops where I bought a lot of things, including beautiful fabrics for quilting, pearls for making earrings, embossing materials for greeting cards, and Fimo modeling clay for other projects. I took all these things with me back to Germany, and here, in Berlin, I will continue to create.

All my friends are wondering about my new passion. I thank each of you for teaching me and providing me with new inspirations. Attending the Wednesday Coffees was a wonderful experience for me.

Of course, I don’t want to forget the different lunches we prepared, the fun cookie exchange we held before Christmas, and our many enjoyable and interesting conversations we had. Oh, I really, really miss the Wednesday Coffees.

Dear **Georgina**: My special thanks to you and your organization. It was a wonderful time for me, and a wonderful experience to meet you and all the other volunteers, and to see and to learn about volunteering. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

## Wednesday Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

Time has flown by and we’re at the end of summer already! During the summer months, we said *bon voyage* to **Dagmar Bocakova**, who has been a mainstay of our crafts program. She finished with face painting at the July 4<sup>th</sup> party, followed by a needle-felting session at Wednesday Coffee. We had a baby shower for three ladies all expecting boys: **Ying Ju Chen**, **Laura Chen**, and **Angela Kim**, at which we played games and ate. We also had a pizza-making class, learned from **Tashu Malik** how to cook plant-based foods rich in potassium, and enjoyed numerous craft sessions, as well as a taco bar lunch.

Now we are moving into the Fall Quarter with the following schedule:

- Sept. 3: *FIMO craft* with **Keiko Hirai**.
- Sept. 10: *Sewing stuffed toys*. For the past 4 or 5 years, we have been providing all the children who attend our Holiday Party (December 10 this year) with a handmade stuffed animal, so we’ll start sewing early.
- Sept. 17: *A potluck lunch* to welcome new participants and to begin the new academic year. Please bring a dish from your native country to serve 6-8. Dishes should be easily divisible, so everyone can sample a little.
- Sept. 24: *Decorating picture frames* with **Doris Sant’Anna** and **Tashu Malik**.

*Gus’ English Conversation Table* and our *Mommy/Daddy & Me* classes have been meeting throughout the summer and are in full swing, as are **Jennie Chin’s** Tuesday afternoon *Knit-Along* sessions.



## Hospitality

Nori Faer shared the above photo of the party that she held on a Sunday in early June at **Stanley's** and her Valley Center home for 34 participants of Gus' English Conversation Table.

Responded President **Katya Newmark**: "How wonderful that Nori's fears that people would not want to drive to North County were unwarranted. I continue to hope that everyone on the board—and many others—will choose to participate in Hospitality-at-Home this coming year! Please remember that you can have just one person for coffee; you do not need to make this a stressful/labor intensive experience."

If you would like to participate in Hospitality-at-Home, please contact **Karen Davis**, who has volunteered to chair this program so gratifying to host and guests alike.



Julianne Singer at work in the Shop

## Praise for the Resale Shop

Dear Katya Newmark:  
Just wanted to complement you and the volunteers of the Resale Shop. The shop is so well run and the volunteers are terrific. They are very friendly and helpful. They are quick to alert customers to new items that may interest them and are very helpful. All the volunteers are terrific, especially, **Julianne Singer** and **Josie Foulks**. They are dedicated to the Resale Shop, are a joy to converse with, and represent you very well.

Thanks also for keeping the shop open during University breaks as many of us at the VA enjoy getting out of the hospital during the day are disappointed when the shop is closed. The afternoon hours really work well for us.

Thanks to you and the volunteers for a job well done!

**Sadra Sullivan**, MN, RN, CCM  
Neurosurgery Care Coordinator  
VA San Diego Healthcare System



July farewell to Dagmar Bocakova

## Friends Will Miss Dagmar

Together with her husband, **Dagmar Bocakova** came to UCSD from the Czech Republic (albeit natives of Slovakia), so that **Marian Hruska-Plochan** could pursue advanced studies in his field. During this time, Dagmar became an integral part of our community, participating in many Friends activities, most often in a leadership role. An accomplished artist, Dagmar used her talents to teach Wednesday Coffee craft classes, to make inspired decorations for Friends events, and along with **Audrey Leriche** from France and **Katya Newmark** to launch the successful Friends Dinner Social program that has brought an increasing number of international researchers and families in contact with the International Center community. Most meaningful to Dagmar herself was being invited to serve on the Friends Board of Directors.

The couple left on July 20 to start a new life in Zürich, Switzerland. Dagmar's first goal: to improve her German.

## Scholarship Donations

Our treasurer **Karen Davis** reports a number of donations made in May, but received too late for inclusion in the June *Newsletter*. Of course, donors were thanked promptly, but we also wish to acknowledge them publicly. Our thanks go to **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Edward Spriggs**, **Edward Liberman**, and **Doraine Offerman**.

A frequent contributor to our scholarship program, Doraine explained that this time her gift of learning was given in honor of **Therese Tanalski**, addressing her message directly to Therese: "Your friendship has inspired me for many years!" In a personal note to **Ruth Newmark**, she added: "Therese kept bugging me in the 70s to join the Friends. Therese has serious health problems and I want to honor her friendship with a meaningful scholarship donation. As I have written you before, the letters printed in the scholarship report section are the highlight of the Friends *Newsletter*!" [For more fascinating reports, see pp. 9-10.]

**Membership:** Vice President **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** is pleased to announce two additions to our membership. In May we were joined by cell biologist **Reika Watanabe Castillon**, already a volunteer in our Resale Shop, and in July, after attending our July 4th picnic, by **Donald Jasko**, an attorney by training with special interests in music publishing.

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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April 7, 2014

Dearest Friends of the International Center,

I would first like to extend my sincere gratitude for your scholarship assistance toward my study-abroad trip to Kenya, Africa last summer. Without your help and interest the amazing adventure that I encountered would not have been possible.

I spent only one month in Kenya, but I saw almost the entire country and gained an education second to none. Out of my 31-day visit, I spent 28 days in a small tent in various wilderness settings. This allowed for a fantastic first-hand view of everything that the nature of Africa has to offer.

The first two days were spent in Nairobi, where I visited the Kenyan Wildlife Services, the National Museum of Kenya, and the Institute of Primate Research. All of these organizations are very influential in wildlife conservation efforts in Kenya and throughout Africa. Life in Nairobi is bustling and hectic. Everyone has a place to which they are heading, and you had better not be in the way! Getting one's bearings in Nairobi can be difficult, but experiencing life in a lively African city is an important part of gaining culturally diverse experiences.

After leaving Nairobi aboard our giant Unimog, my group and I traveled to an open-area wildlife refuge by the name of Mugie Ranch. Here wild animals are free to come and go as they please, but when they are within the premises of Mugie Ranch they are protected and revered. We spent four days at Mugie, where we were able to follow a pride of radio-collared lions and witness the females and cubs dining on a zebra. On game drives, we were also able to encounter large groups of elephants, giraffes, zebra, bushbabies, cape buffalo, hartebeest, elands, and gazelles. The wildlife on the Kenyan wooded savanna is rich and assorted, providing an excellent up-close and personal view of nature.



From Mugie Ranch, we made our way to the Women Cultural Village of Twala. Here the wonderful women of Twala showed us various aspects in their day-to-day lives. We learned



to dig water from a dry creek bed, herd and tend cows on foot, prepare the inside of a gourd with smoke to keep milk fresh without refrigeration, make Opuntia juice, dance and sing, and live like the Masai people.

It was also while staying in Twala that my group was privileged to accompany UCSD's own Dr. **Shirley Strum** on a walk to visit the wild baboons. It is among these baboons that she has conducted her very influential research, shedding light on the inner workings of baboon social life and primate translocation.

It was Twala that made me truly fall in love with the Masai people and the wealth of cultural diversity that can be found in Kenya. Leaving Twala was difficult, but we waved goodbye and headed to the Tana River Rainforest.

We stayed for ten days within the Tana River Rainforest, where we each conducted a pilot study on a primate group of our choosing. I conducted my research on a group of the critically endangered Tana River red colobus monkeys, studying the feeding habits of lactating females as compared to the feeding habits of females that were not lactating or caring for infants. Also, while in Tana, I was able to follow a troop of baboons, watch a few skirmishes between troops of mangabeys, listen to hippos in the river snort and chuckle. On the way back to my tent, I accidentally even encountered a leopard!

After finishing the research for our projects and getting my fill of hippos sneaking past my tent at night, we loaded back onto our Unimog and headed toward the beach.

We arrived at our final destination, the beaches of Diani, in time to catch the most beautiful weather and paradisiacal sliver of white sand and warm ocean one can imagine. I pitched my tent right on the sand beneath two palm trees and awoke for three days to the soft roar of the tide receding. I shared my beach home with various hermit crabs and hedgehogs, and gave my final research presentation in my bathing suit and flip-flops. I honestly don't know if there could have been a more wonderful

place to take a final exam and give a presentation than the beaches of Diani.

After our relaxing stay on the beach, we packed up for the last time and headed back to Nairobi. There my group members and I said our heartfelt goodbyes, realizing that a month in a tent in the Kenyan wilderness will draw you closer to each other than one could have thought.

In all, my trip to Kenya was the most amazing experience that I had as part of my undergraduate career at UCSD. It was the type of experience that not only makes you appreciate the little things like hot showers and power outlets; but also makes you value the big things, like the amazing cultures of others and friendships made for life. There is not a day where I do not miss falling asleep to the roaring serenade of wild lions or awaking to the busy hum of the Kenyan wilderness. I plan to return to Kenya as soon as I can, and I encourage others to take an adventurous step and travel there as well. The best advice that I can give is to pack sunscreen, take a camera, no, take two, and remember that the most prized souvenir you will bring back is not one you can stuff in your backpack: it is who you will have become upon your return home.

*Rhiannon Schultz*

Biological Anthropology, UCSD alumna

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June 20, 2014

Dear Friends,

I hope all is well with the end of the school year and another round of international programs beginning. I was one of the Friends Scholarship recipients last year (Global Seminar Math in Rome) and I wanted to check in with you and let you know how I am doing—how I'm using the experience you and others helped me to afford.

My experiences in Italy last summer have helped to embolden me in my pursuits, as well as to enlighten me regarding other cultures and people. Since that time, I've been involved with a number of organizations, most notably as a study-abroad ambassador through the STARS program at the International Center, and as a team member for the Global Water Brigades trip to Honduras during spring break. That last one was quite an eye opener.

This year was my last with UCSD, I am now going on to pursue my Ph.D. in biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health. I hope to continue using my experience abroad in the future, with the idea of performing medical and disease research at an international level. My one goal is to help and affect as many people as possible in the most positive manner I can. These dreams have been made possible with the help of many, including you and those at the IC. I can't thank you enough.

*Sam Tracy*

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## A Year in Barcelona

It has been seven months and nine days since the first day I arrived in Barcelona, Spain. To think that before this experience, I questioned multiple times that the yearlong program would just be too long. However, I have to admit that it could not be a more perfect length of time. I am the type



of person that needs to ease into new situations. Slowly however, I moved out of the dorms we were situated in for two weeks and moved into an apartment with three girls: an Italian, a French, and a Mexican. That was definitely the turning point. I truly have been blessed with amazing roommates and friends.

To think that I have made Barcelona my home filled with people I love, is still such a marvelous thought. I always dreamed of Barcelona and the experiences I might have, but I never thought that it would develop in the way that it has. It has been a realization that has developed over the last few months, and only towards the end do I feel so grateful that through the times of frustration, I had people I could come to for help.

The highlight of my experience has definitely been traveling. Each time I land safely back at El Prat Airport [Barcelona's main airport] I sit in my seat, exhausted and stressed from the flying. But then I take a moment to thank those who have made it possible for me to have done all that I have. I thank my family and my friends for all their emotional support they have provided, and I thank the UCSD community and the Friends of the International Center for having financially supported me not only through all these trips, but for having financially sustained me in Barcelona. It is a gratitude that is hard to express in words, but, for me, can only be reciprocated by one day doing the same for other college students who wish so much to widen their horizon.

I can say with all the cheesiness in the world: "I have experienced a moment in my life I will never forget and will always be grateful for."

*Rebecca Korff*

International Studies/Economics major, ERC

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June 29, 2014

I would like to thank you and the International Center again for the scholarship to study humanities and history in Edinburgh. Today was my first day in Europe, and I absolutely love it. It's hard to believe that some buildings are older than our United States.

*Daniel Byrne*, Global Seminar

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# Reservation for Scholarship Benefit: Journey to Iran Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Please complete this form and enclose a check, made payable to the Friends of the International Center. Send to Ethnic Dinner Chair, Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018.

Reservations must be received by Friday, October 17, and will be accepted in the order in which they are received.  
Late reservations will be charged an extra \$5.00, or may be refused.

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(If you spell out the names of everyone in your party, all will receive nametags at the door.)

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The Friends of the International Center *Newsletter* is published monthly, September through June. All material submitted must be received in writing by the editor no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

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Circulation: **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**

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