



Friends of the International Center, at UC San Diego

Newsletter

Volume XLVI, No.4

December 2018

President's Column

I remember reading John le Carre's novel *A Perfect Spy*, and thinking about what it takes to pass oneself off as a native: the requirement to master not only a foreign language, but a foreign culture as well. Mastering a culture seemed challenging in 1986 (the book's release), and thinking about it now, especially when I talk to our international visitors, strikes me as no longer being just challenging but nearly insurmountable if one is striving for "perfection." Even as a native-English speaker, I find it increasingly necessary to look up words and abbreviations that did not exist ten years ago, let alone two years ago; add to this the incorporation of emojis and text-speak and mastery of cultural literacy feels illusive, even to me.

Thankfully, our visitors are not seeking to become perfect spies and are grateful to learn whatever bits of cultural insight we can provide. In turn, our visitors are happy to share their culture. Recently, I was in the Resale Shop at closing time with two of our volunteers, **Mariko Hattori** (Japan) and **Shinae Kim** (Korea), who shared that it would not be acceptable to tell an older customer that the store was closing. Receiving my assurances that this is

okay in America, Shinae gently said: "I am sorry to tell you that the shop's hours are until 1:30 p.m. and it is now 1:45 p.m." Following the customer's departure, Mariko noted that even after two years, she is still learning to adopt American cultural norms that allow her to offer such a statement. This led to further discussion, and my hypothesis that some cultures confer respect automatically, while others confer respect when it is perceived as having been earned. I encouraged both women to challenge this hypothesis, and it was clear that challenging my statement was another American norm not easily embraced, since much to my dismay, for them, I am first the President of Friends, rather than a friend.

American holidays always prompt discussions about cultural norms about the foods we eat for holiday meals; what gift, if any, is appropriate to give; to whom to give and when to open a gift; and even at what time one should arrive when invited to someone's home. By the way, there is general



Mariko Hattori, Maureen Nichols, and Shinae Kim

consensus that it is nice for good friends to arrive at the scheduled start time to offer help, and for other guests to arrive on time (Germany), ten to twenty minutes late (United States), twenty minutes late (Africa, third-hand info), thirty minutes late (Asia, Europe), up to two hours late (Latin American countries), and even later (Arabic countries). And, all agree that it is very awkward to be the first guest at a party.

Our lack of uniformity in responses to these questions, and worse, our further explanation that the answer can differ depending upon age, the region of the country, and many other factors are often puzzling to those who come from more homogenous countries with more prescriptive rules. Wonderfully, Friends reflects the diversity of America and helps convey our

melting pot culture. While our international visitors find our diversity liberating, they also find it hard to navigate the cultural nuances. Who can blame them?

I encourage you to please open your home and share a cup of tea, a plate of cookies, a glass of wine, or a meal, with one or more of our international visitors. Our Visiting an American Home program runs year-round. I assure you that you will not regret your decision and reassure you that what will be treasured most by your guest(s) is your hospitality and the opportunity to experience another view into American culture as reflected by you!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday season!
Katya

Katya Newmark
presFIC@ucsd.edu



Holiday buffet 2017

Holiday Lunch

Monday, December 10, 2018, Noon to 1:30 p.m.

The Friends will enjoy a festive lunch in celebration of the holidays. We will gather on Monday, December 10, at noon, to enjoy a seasonal meal and conversation among Friends and Global Education staff members. We will meet at the Huerta Vera Cruz Room in the Student Center building, adjacent to Mandeville Center. **Maxie Gluckman**, a Friends scholarship recipient, will be at the lunch to share some thoughts with us about her studies on transforming education in a diverse society. Door prizes will be featured.

This year the menu will include a variety of seasonal dishes, including a fall vegetable casserole, apple cranberry walnut salad, couscous salad, grilled & marinated vegetables, grilled free-range chicken breast, rolls & butter, and an assortment of holiday sweets for dessert.

There will be no charge for the lunch, and we send our thanks to Dean **Kirk Simmons** for funding the luncheon for Friends and Staff alike. His generosity is very much appreciated by all.

LIMITED SPACE: Make your reservation by Friday, November 30, preferably by e-mail to bfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu or by phone: (858) 453-5787. This is a **FIRM DEADLINE**, and we regret that reservations made after it or walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

Barbara Fitzsimmons & Candace Kohl

**The Resale Shop
will be closed
from
December 15, 2018
through
January 7, 2019**

December Calendar

- Dec. 1, 8: Yoga Class, 9:00-10:00; please verify
- Dec. 3, 10: **Tai Chi**, 2:00-3:00
- Dec. 4, 11: **Gus' Table: English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon
- Dec. 4, 11: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:00
- Dec. 5, 12: **Family Orientation**, 9:15
- Dec. 5, 12: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon
- Dec. 5, 12: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 1:45-2:45
- Dec. 6, 13: **Everyday English**, 10:00-11:30
- Dec. 7, 14: **Friday Chat**, 10:00-Noon
- Dec. 8: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00
- Dec. 10: **Holiday Lunch**, Noon
- Dec. 11: **Friends Board Meeting**, 10:00
- Dec. 13: **Cooking Class**, 9:00
- Dec. 15: **Fall Quarter Ends**
- Dec. 15: **Resale Shop closed for the Holidays; will reopen Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

Meet Yim Fun (Gladys) Wong:

I was grown up and educated in Hong Kong. After graduation from school, I worked as a Government staff, handling assessment of student financial assistance applications. Although my job was busy, I still spent some time to further my studies. I had been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Language and Translation. Thereafter, I studied constantly to enrich myself. Chinese medicine, Chinese healthcare, acupuncture, tai chi were my favorite subjects.

About five years ago, when my son, **Richard Chi Yung Chim**, was a Ph.D. student in UCSD, I came to San Diego. He showed me around the scenic spots and the UCSD International Center, where he volunteered for the Friday Café and many Friends of the International Center special events.

In the big kitchen, the volunteers were busy to prepare food. I participated in the volunteer work there with great fun. **Ginny Young** taught me how to prepare the American food. So interesting and delicious.

Each year I came to visit my son, I participated in the volunteer work. However, the big kitchen now has been demolished for a car park. So many pleasant memories there!

In 2015, wishing to live close to my son, I retired from my job in Hong Kong and came to San Diego. As in the previous years, I joined the volunteer work.

In the big kitchen, I met **Ginny Young**, **Mary Woo**, **Georgina Sham**, **Jennie Chin**, and other volunteers of whom I did not know their names. Their hospitality made me feel at home. Thanks to **Katya Newmark**, Georgina, and others, Friends of the International Center organize so many interesting activities. You are always so kind and generous to taking care of us.

By chatting, I learned about the Wednesday Coffee and joined. I learned to make little crafts such as handmade jewelry, key rings, home decorations, and more.

Apart from Wednesday Coffee, I joined the Tuesday Craft Circle and the Friday Chat. All the volunteers showed great dedication to the activities. I admired **Lynn Jahn's** professional sewing skill, **Marie Perroud's** classic and elegant jewelry making, **Mary Woo's** magical crochet skill, and **Jennie Chin's** meticulous arrangement for our



Tai Chi class with instructor Gladys Wong in center front

rides whenever we were having outside activities.

Cindy Tozer chairs the Friday English Conversation Chat. She is always good at jazzing up the conversation. After joining this program, I am now brave enough to speak English in front of the group, some times with more than 20 persons. Great! I have never experienced before. Thank you so much. Even more valuable: I meet many friends from all over the world.

One day, in the Wednesday Coffee, Georgina told me that she wished to hold Tai Chi Class on Monday. I promised to teach the Simplified Yang Style 24 Forms. On April 23, 2018, I started my first volunteer teaching. With the calmness surroundings in Dance Hall 409, we practice the exercise and sense the chill out feelings. **Mariko Hattori** is the most active learner. Every time she finishes practicing, she feels so happy and relaxed.

Since we have run the program for half year, most attendees have finished learning the postures of the 24 forms. In the near future, I intend to add teaching Tai Chi Fan. This is a very common exercise in China. Swinging the fan with music is sporty and interesting. It is a good exercise to hone our leg and waist muscles and helps to keep body dexterity—it is another choice for keeping fit.



Richard Chim with his mother, Gladys Wong, at the 2016 Friends July 4th party at which both served as volunteers

Program Outgrowths

—by Ruth Newmark

Friends take great pride in the programs we offer our internationals, generally spouses of visiting scholars or graduate students. We get even greater joy from knowing that such programs often facilitate informal social activities born of the friendships that have their roots in Friends programs.

Periodically program leaders, or the participants themselves,



La Jolla Farmers Market



Lunch at Phil's BBQ



Tennis group

will organize outings beyond the more structured weekly gatherings. Prompted by **Jeil Yoon Park's** enthusiastic report of local farmers markets during a Gus' Table discussion, **Serena Grädel** from Switzerland was inspired to organize a group exploration of the La Jolla Open Aire Farmers Market. Summing up the Sunday morning outing, Jeil, here from South Korea, wrote: "Ten people met at La Jolla's farmers market around lunch time. We grabbed some foods and talked a lot, and we looked around the market with live music. We took some food samples and bought fresh local fruits and vegetables. Thank you for organizing such a wonderful day, Serena! And thank you for joining us, everyone! It was a successful weekend gathering!"

Due to Global Education's greater need for the use of the Dance Hall in September, several Friends programs routinely held in that shared space, had to accommodate. Rather than cancel a meeting, Tuesday Craft Circle leaders took participants on an excursion to Jo-Ann's craft and fabric store, and followed this with lunch at Phil's BBQ, located nearby. This casual restaurant is widely hailed in San Diego for its delicious beef ribs and other American barbecue specialties, and to quote **Jennie Chin**: "Everyone enjoyed themselves and the great food. As always, it is good to take a break from everyday activities and be able to sit together and talk about what is happening in our lives."

For some time, Friday Chat's chair, **Cindy Tozer**, has organized a tennis group that gathers early Friday morning, prior to the sched-

uled time Chatters meet for English conversation. Those who want to learn to play the game are lent one of Cindy's many tennis rackets and receive elementary instruction. From time to time, Cindy takes a group of Chatters and others who wish to join them on hikes into our backcountry or leads those interested on nearby nature walks; yet many other opportunities to socialize occur, often rather spontaneously.

Not long ago, one of our international participants organized an outing for those who love karaoke. Occasionally, more rarely than when the Friday Café was housed at our International Center, a group will attend an International Café, but the considerable distance between Matthews Campus and the International House has become a bit of a deterrent.

In the summer, internationals so enjoyed a beach party that a second one was held in October. Describing the event, Cindy wrote: "I supply the s'more things and arrange for a fire pit and firewood and sticks. The rest is provided by everyone bringing a snack. We meet on the beach in La Jolla Shores, at the main lifeguard station. Because it gets dark early, we start at 4:30 p.m. It's a nice opportunity to meet old and new friends."



October beach party

Wednesday Coffee periodically extends its program by inviting participants to bring a brown bag lunch; for special occasions—notably baby showers for expectant mothers—the team leaders, **Georgina Sham** and **Lynn Jahn**, will organize a party.



Sung Won and her husband at their baby shower

We are fortunate that with people's talents and interests, we are able to offer new activities. In the fall quarter, for instance, **Gladys Wong**, from Hong Kong began offering a tai chi class, while **Vivian Lin**, from Mainland China, has been teaching a yoga class since summer.

Mommy /Daddy & Me, once an offshoot of Wednesday Morning Coffee, now meets on Wednesday afternoon in McGill Hall. The group, currently chaired by **Yukina Nakazawa**, also enjoys regular Thursday Play Dates at Doyle Park. These additional weekly meetings reach out even further into the international community by bringing together young families connected to UCSD with others they have met at an English-as-a-Second-Language class or elsewhere. Informing the Friends of her intention to leave the Mommy /Daddy & Me leadership team, **Mariko Usui**, a long-term visitor from Japan, wrote: "I can-

not appreciate enough all your kindness, friendship, and support during my time with MDM since January 2015, especially after I was honoured to join the Board in September 2016." Friends are fortunate that even though her boys are now in public school, Mariko is continuing to oversee the Play Date sessions.

It is not unusual for program leaders to invite participants to their home. Co-program leader, **Mary Woo**, invites Tuesday Crafters to her home where participants are not only treated to a delicious lunch but a viewing of Mary's quilts that inspired many of our participants to take on quilting projects this year.

Marion Spors created a real sense of camaraderie among the Resale Shop volunteers by holding meetings at her house, and **Nancy Homeyer** similarly invites Family Orientation volunteers to her home for meetings and lunch. Tuesday's English conversation group coordinator, **Nori Faer**, has opened her home to large groups of participants and volunteers across all of the Friends English conversation programs. **Alma Coles** has hosted Wednesday Coffee participants to her home for cooking classes, lunch, and gardening tips, while **Elisabeth Marti**, **Katya Newmark**, **Ruth Newmark**, and **Liz Fong Wills** have

a continuous flow of international visitors to their homes.

In some ways, such social outgrowths mimic our Visiting an American Home program. Both the Coordinator, **Elisabeth Marti**, and program hosts report receiving grateful thank-yous. Wrote **Jianping Guo**, a visiting scholar in the Philosophy Department from Mainland China, to her host: "I know your family is only one example of families in America. I'm so lucky to feel the good merits come from your family and I wish I can transfer the warmth and love."

Donations

We are most grateful to **Ann Craig**, **Christa McReynolds**, and **Laurette Verbinski**, each having made a donation to Friends while making their Sicilian Ethnic Dinner reservation.

A special thank-you goes to **Louise Kauffman** for once again making a handsome contribution to the Friends UC San Diego Foundation study-abroad scholarship account.



Volunteer Potluck

For fellowship and appreciation, every Friends volunteer was invited to a potluck at President **Katya Newmark**'s house. On October 29, about twenty attended and enjoyed getting together for a delicious lunch (**Linda Ferri**'s contribution—pumpkin fondue, presented in a baked pumpkin—stole the show) and playing games, but, most of all, for the opportunity to get better acquainted. Even those of us who have known each other for years learned new things about each other. Who knew that **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, as a 13-year-old, danced as an extra with the prima ballerina **Margot Fontayn**, when the latter gave a performance in Sacramento, California? Our hostess expressed things well, when she said: "Thank you again for not only volunteering for Friends, but also for being the lovely people you are that allows our organization to continue to provide a sense of camaraderie and community that we all benefit from!"

One of Friends newest Resale Shop volunteers, **Idit London**, here from Israel with her husband (a visiting scholar doing research on honey bees) and their three children, wrote Katya afterwards: "I want to thank you for today. I was a bit shy to come, because I don't know anyone, but it was so welcoming and warm, thanks to you and your family. I am glad I came."



Matthew Costello sows blue grass seeds



Horses and jockeys, made by Danya Costello, ride amidst blue grass



Check-in

A Winning Trifecta with Kentucky-themed Friends Dinner Social

—by *Katya Newmark*

Our October Friends Dinner Social, with its Kentucky theme, turned out to be an even bigger success than anticipated: perhaps because both our international community members and locals had little knowledge about the state prior to the evening's start. However, by the end, through the course of the evening's activities, our guests left with a heightened appreciation of the bluegrass state, and nearly all of the centerpieces featuring bluegrass with paper jockey and horse picks were quickly claimed. For our internationals, the opportunity to taste bourbon was much appreciated, and a change-up from our customary wine was a nice variation for locals.

The menu featured, admittedly slightly elevated, traditional dishes that prompted many to suggest that the university consider adding featured dishes to its offerings. The hours and labor of love provided by **Chef Gerardo** to recreate the iconic Hot Brown sandwich might not have been known, but it was most assuredly appreciated by our guests (90 reservations). For those curious to know: the turkey was first roasted and then, with meat taken off the bones, was simmered in an amount of butter and drippings that will go unmentioned, before being mounded on brioche and topped by a delicious Mornay sauce garnished with a piece of turkey crackling.

After dinner, guests were treated to an informative bluegrass concert performed by **Jason Diaz** on acoustic guitar, banjo, and, when not singing, on harmonica. Jason's voice harmonized beautifully with vocalist **Becky Gleason**, as songs by **Johnny Cash**, **Earl Scruggs**, **Alison Krause**, and many others were covered, along with traditional gospel songs. Quite a few of our guests shared that they had never heard bluegrass music before and thanked me for expanding their knowledge of musical genres.

Our next Friends Dinner Social, featuring a German winter-market theme, complete with post-dinner concert by Friends scholarship recipient and Ph.D. candidate, **Pete Braden**, will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2018, at 6:00 pm, at Village 15 meeting rooms. You will likely receive your invitation prior to receiving this month's *Newsletter*, so I hope that if you have waited until now to make your reservations that you will still find openings and/or will add your name to our waitlist.

<http://FDSGermany2018.eventbrite.com>



HDH's Joyce Almond with Chef Gerardo ladling sweet pea and mint soup



Buffet line



Main course



Jerry Fitzsimmon and Marie Perroud await their shot of bourbon



Ayaka and Ryo Watanabe from Japan speak with John & Krista Neis



Guests from many countries enjoy a regional USA dinner

*Dinner chair, **Katya Newmark**, deserves much of the credit for a lovely evening and it is no surprise that she received many compliments. Here follow representative remarks, as well as some of the many photos Katya took:*

•I wanted to thank you for a truly fun, tasty, and pampering evening, we LOVED the food, the music, and the atmosphere. The location was beautiful, the dining area was so elegantly set, and you mastered everything as such a professional leader! Every part of the evening was perfect!—**The Amir family** (Israel)

•You put on a great evening! Thank you. It was a pleasure to help out. Loved hearing live bluegrass music and learning more about its background and instruments.—**Norbert Kubilus**

•Thank you, Katya, for putting together this very pleasant evening: delicious food, good company, interesting information about Kentucky, and finally the concert. The Bluegrass music was great; the young lady singer had a beautiful voice.—**Marie Perroud**

•Thank you Katya for inviting us. It was such fun to play bluegrass music for you. We're so glad you enjoyed it—**Jason Diaz**

•It was a really fun night for us. **Joon** and I thought it would be our last chance to attend the Friends Dinner Social before our daughter's delivery, so it was a wonderful evening.—**Jei Yoon Park**

•Thanks for a fun evening at the Dinner Social Saturday night. It was nice to visit with so many internationals—loved the musical program. Please tell **Matthew** and **Danya** that I'm enjoying my bluegrass and horse racers; they are adorning my kitchen counter.—**Barbara Fitzsimmons**

•Congratulations, Katya, on a fabulous event last night! Gorgeous table and centerpieces, unusual menu (in all the best ways), delicious food, great entertainment, and an all-around wonderful program. We all had a wonderful time.—**Linda Ferri**



International scholars



Appalachian apple stack cake for dessert



The musicians: Rebecca Gleason and Jason Diaz

**Friends
Volunteer Hours
for October 2018
988 = 5.7 FTEs**

Membership

Please welcome the Friends newest member, **Kathleen Micheletti**, already an integral part of the Friends Scholarship Committee, and **Ron Campnell**, who joined our organization at the October Friends Dinner Social.



Katya Newmark thanks everyone for attending the Friends Dinner Social

A New Financial Team

—by *Ruth Newmark*

When, at the Friends May 22, 2018 Annual Business Meeting, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, **Elisabeth Marti**, placed in motion the proposed slate of officers for the year 2018-19, she asked whether there were any additional nominations from the floor. **Katya Newmark**—who would be serving as Friends President for a fifth year—and I, nominated again as Friends Treasurer, both laughingly quipped that we would be glad to have someone else take over for us. Our organization is fortunate that no one has come forth to take Katya's place, even though her husband indicated he would gladly pay to have her spend more time with him. Joking aside, Katya and I were reelected, along with **Jean Selzer** as Recording Secretary, **Georgina Sham** as Vice President (Membership), and **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** as Corresponding Secretary.

Ever since I accepted the role of Friends Treasurer in late 2016, the Friends Board has been aware that I had done so only for lack of anyone else coming forth to assume this post upon the resignation of **Karen Davis**, who returned to fulltime

employment. Since then, Katya has looked hard to find a willing and able candidate to replace me.

Shortly after the May 22 election, she called to tell me that a superb candidate had succumbed to her plea for new blood on the Friends Board of Directors and that at a later date **Linda Ferri** might well be interested in stepping in as Treasurer.

Linda, relatively new to the Friends, but not new to our campus, where, among others, she worked at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, was introduced at the Friends June Board meeting and warmly welcomed. She soon was appointed to serve on the Friends Audit Committee, along with **Nancy Homeyer** (chair), **Michelle Grandin**, and **Cindy Tozer**.

At the October Board meeting, I readily agreed to relinquish serving as Friends Treasurer, and Linda Ferri was unanimously approved as incoming Friends Treasurer, starting November 1, 2018.

During the interim period, Linda and I worked together to facilitate a smooth transition. Because the work involves considerable interaction with different parts of



Georgina Sham, Linda Ferri, and Ruth Newmark

the University, the task of Friends Treasurer is complex, but we can be confident that with Linda's acumen, training as a mathematician, managerial and technology skills, as well as experience of running a business with her husband, **Norbert Kubilus**, past President of Coleman University, the Friends are in good hands.

To the relief of **Joan Adamo**, who with great reluctance had accepted the post of Financial Adviser when **Eleanor tum Suden** resigned due to poor health, the Board appointed me as Joan's successor as Financial Adviser. A big thank-you to Joan for doing an excellent job of keeping all the records required for maintaining the Friends status as an official UC San Diego support group.

Also part of the financial team is **Georgina Sham**, the designated Assistant Treasurer.

Cooking Class



The 2018-19 cooking class resumed its second-Thursday-of-the-month schedule with an October 11 session, once again held in Revelle College's 64⁰ demonstration kitchen. Working under the tutelage of **Chef Vargus**, the international participants were able to experience firsthand what is meant by all-American food. They learned about ingredients, such as the difference between dill and sweet pickles; and they learned techniques, such as how to core a head of iceberg lettuce with one's hand, and how to fold batter to make perfect brownies. They stuffed ground beef with cheese to make moist hamburgers, and tackled the preparation of other American classics. Not the least, they got to eat delicious food and have fun.

On the schedule were two sessions in November, one for our international visitors, on November 8, featuring typical Thanksgiving dishes, and the other, on November 29, for the Friends Board, so that Board members may experience personally what the cooking class is all about. Both the latter and the regular December 13 cooking class will have a holiday theme.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Global Seminar in Weimar

This summer, I spent almost six weeks in Europe exploring and studying in Weimar, Germany. I was abroad as a student with UCSD's Urban Studies and Planning global seminar, *Modernism and Design: The Bauhaus Experience*. I gained academic knowledge, personal independence and excitement for my future:

Academic:

I feel fortunate to have studied abroad on a global seminar hosted by my major. Going into my final year this fall, I have already developed foundational knowledge of urban studies; however, to study it in a different environment strengthened my ability to apply it to different situations. One of our projects was to create a development proposal for student housing in Weimar. I have done these types of projects before at UCSD, but working on this project in Weimar made me and my peers realize there are different things to consider in Germany than in the US. For example, Europe's lighter reliance on cars did not require space for parking within our site, but heavy reliance on bicycles in

Weimar demanded accommodation for bicyclists within our development proposal.

Being abroad on an urban studies program was fun and engaging, because our studies revolved on understanding cities—tours and spending time in public spaces were thus a part of our curriculum. This made the trip more special, because class didn't demand that I stay indoors studying, but to go see new things. The professors leading the program were two people that I have connected with often at UCSD, but got to know better abroad.

Personal Independence:

I always had a curiosity about traveling abroad, but now that I have done it, I want to do it again. While in Germany, for the first time, I considered graduate school and a career abroad. I don't speak German, Dutch, or French; yet I spent time in Weimar, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Paris. I was abroad, depending solely on financial aid to provide for myself, but I was able to manage my means and still have a wonderful time.



April Alarcon in Amsterdam

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to the Friends of the International Center for the financial support of my trip.

I thought a lot about my parents while I was abroad and kept wishing they could see the things I was. It reminded me how important this trip was: I'm a first-generation college student of color from a low income, immigrant family. This trip was part of all my parents worked and sacrificed for, and it gave me the knowledge and confidence to undertake big opportunities.

April Alarcon
Revelle College

Revelle in Rome

For the month of July, I had the privilege to study Humanities 3 abroad, in Rome, Italy. FIC helped with its generous donation, allowing me to have this great opportunity.

I had never traveled by myself for a long period of time, and actually had not been outside the U.S. since I was a small child. As a result, the initial experience in Rome, with its sprawling layout and crowded public transportation system, was quite intimidating. The immediate thing I noticed was how much smaller the cars and the streets were. All the Italian drivers drove aggressively, and it was important to learn quickly how



Bernini's David

to cross the streets safely.

As I became accustomed to the city environment, I greatly appreciated the beauty of Rome. It is indeed a large, developed city, but there are seemingly randomly interspersed monuments and incredibly old architecture. One day, my friends and I were exploring some of the streets, when we suddenly turned into a large plaza and there was the Pantheon right in front of us! It was so strange to see people going about their daily lives with such old architecture, like the Coliseum, casually in the background. I had great fun exploring with my classmates and became pretty

adept at taking the buses, tram, and metro!

As for classes, I particularly enjoyed learning about artists like **Michelangelo** and **Vasari**. It made it that much more special to see their works after I had learned about their lives and the struggles they went through to produce the art.

During my stay in Italy, I also took trips to Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, Florence, and Venice. The Global Seminar [Revelle in Rome: Renaissance, Reformation, and Early Modern Europe] has been one of my favorite experiences of my college life, and the scholarship from Friends of the International Center really helped to ease the financial burden and the cost of traveling abroad!

Kirsten Wong

Revelle College
Bioengineering major

Change in Modern South Africa

My time abroad during Summer 2018 was spent for the first half in Cape Town, South Africa, then followed by Livingstone, Zambia. The benefit of splitting time between these two locations was a deeper understanding of the diversity of Africa.

South Africa is an industrialized country and full member of the global economy. Daily life was similar to what my life had been back home in California. I enjoyed exploring the wide variety of local food options available. My favorite meal was a plum, prune, and apricot lamb dish served with quinoa.

The role of student was easy to fulfill and I loved the way the program incorporated field trips with lectures to make the material salient. My understanding of apartheid now runs deeper than a mere recollection of facts through speaking to people who were violently displaced from District Six,

Dear Friends of the International Center,

This past summer, I was able to travel to Athens, Greece for the Drugs, Behavior, and the History of Neuropsychology Global Seminars Program. When this program was presented, I was easily captivated by the opportunity, because I had never been to Europe and had planned to take psychology courses over the summer.

Even though I've traveled internationally in the past, seeing Europe and experiencing its culture has opened my eyes to a new way of living. Traveling and living in Greece has allowed me to experience a lifestyle that incorporates both modern and ancient traditions.

Aside from being a student and tourist, this program has allowed me to grow and develop to become a more open-minded and independent person. I saw how cultural norms in America differ from those in Greece, and have begun to think about how many of the things that Americans stress over are minuscule in the sight of other cultures. It reminded me that although people are expected to plan ahead in life, overall, we as individuals should stop, relax, and enjoy the present moments.

This trip was both a productive and life-changing experience. I thank you for playing a big role in supporting my study abroad experience, and I hope you will continue to support and inspire others to travel and experience the world!

Jemima Ruth Bagcus

Eleanor Roosevelt College, Psychology major



Parthenon

seeing where **Nelson Mandela** had been imprisoned on Robben Island, internalizing the incredible work and sacrifices made in an attempt to unify South Africa and end the cycle of grudges and domination. Even years after the end of apartheid, the effects could be seen in the way the color of my white skin could incite fear or disdain in some members of the over 80% black population. As a 5'4" woman I had never before inspired fear. This taught me a great deal about the relativity of power in different contexts.

The theme of power dynamics arose repeatedly and most notable within our own study abroad group, as many of the female members struggled with the differing gender norms. In Zambia, for example, there are rather established gender

roles that clearly divide "women's work" from "men's work." Many female students wanted to participate in activities deemed inappropriate for women and so felt undermined and underestimated. For coping with their discomfort, they used different strategies with different results.

As one of my fellow students said: "I chose to say nothing and silently stew in resentment." This was not an effective strategy. Other students were more assertive. When a male Zambian took a hammer out of one female student's hand so he could hammer for her, she said: "No thanks. I've got it," as she grabbed the hammer back and continued her "manly" work. When women asserted themselves in this way, they found that although the men were bewildered, they were not offended.

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December 2018



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