



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

Newsletter

Volume XLIII, No.7

March 2016

Friends Dinner Social
Saturday, March 12, 6:00 p.m.

President's Message

With so much information to share and the laudatory letter from Dean **Simmons**, my monthly column will be appropriately short, sweet, and filled with expressions of gratitude. Thank you to our Friends Board members and volunteers who kept everything running so smoothly during my absence; thank you to our wonderful Ethnic Dinner team for another fabulous evening; and thank you to our marvelous Friends members for your continuing support, through your attendance, participation, volunteer efforts, in-kind and financial donations. Please continue to spread the word about the many and varied opportunities available through the Friends.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter/Happy Spring.

Katya Newmark

presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu



Can you identify the people in this undated picture? If you guessed Alma Coles in the Easter bunny suit, you are correct!

Letter to the Friends

Dear Friends of the International Center,

It is always an immense pleasure to have this opportunity to communicate with the full membership of the Friends through the monthly *Newsletter*. First, I cannot forego thanking each and every one of you for your remarkable contributions and support to our rapidly growing international community at UC San Diego.



Kirk Simmons

I find it amazing that our international student population has grown 320 percent since 2009. For the 2015-2016 academic year, we have over 7,300 international students enrolled on campus or pursuing optional practical training under the sponsorship of the University. The number of visiting international faculty and scholars continues to increase at a robust rate. For this academic year, UC San Diego is ranked 7th in the nation among all universities and colleges in the number of international faculty and scholars engaged in research and teaching on our campus, a population exceeding 2,700 before dependents are taken into consideration, many of whom enjoy the Friends support and "Friendship" during their time in La Jolla.

From my convenient vantage point I witness the daily activities of the Friends in offering a range of outreach initiatives to our visiting international faculty and scholars and their dependents---in the lounge, on the patio, in the Oceanids Pavilion, on a bench beside the building or along Library Walk.

The numbers of participants are growing and continue to represent a wider range of nationalities

and cultures. You have kept up with the demand for greater social and cultural integration with an ever-richer range of programs and general support. For this, we are deeply grateful.

On a more subtle level, the Resale Shop and other very special individuals work towards providing the funds to support our very deserving students with the extra boost that ensures the opportunity for an international experience. With an eight percent increase in tuition looming on the horizon for 2016-2017, the Friends Scholarship Program remains a crucial driver of intellectual and professional readiness, as our students prepare to enter the global workplace.

On the scholarship front, we recently received an additional \$51,000 in scholarship funding from the office of the Executive Vice Chancellor to complement \$50,000 in existing funding from the office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (VCSA). The VCSA funds were transitioned from temporary funding to per-

manent funding for fiscal year 2015-2016, which will guarantee continuity of support from the VCSA in the coming years.

If we combine these local funds with the Friends Scholarship Program funds (\$100,000), we will have over \$200,000 in University funds to award for study abroad for the coming academic year. Additionally, UC San Diego students compete successfully for over \$500,000 in scholarship support from national and other state entities, bringing the potential for scholarship support to over \$700,000 for the 2016-2017 academic year

The devastating loss of our dear colleague, **Paul Yunouye**, Assistant Director for International Student Programs, at the beginning of Fall quarter, remains present in our minds and our hearts. It is my hope and desire that you will honor Paul through a generous donation to the *Paul Yunouye Memorial Scholarship* fund, which is being graciously administered through the Friends Scholarship Program.

I am frequently asked about replacement plans for our aging International Center and International Center West building. All I can say at this juncture is that the International Center remains a distinct element of the new campus development plan. I would say patience is of the essence as master planning continues for the new East-West campus corridor.

My very best wishes.

Kirk

Kirk Simmons

Dean, International Center



March Calendar

- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **English Conversation Table**, 10:00-Noon
- March 2, 16: **Family Orientation**, 9:15
- March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Intermediate English**, 10:00-11:30
- March 4, 11, 18, 25: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon
- March 8: **Board Meeting**, 10:00
- March 8, 15, 22, 29: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30
- March 10: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00
- March 11: **Friends sponsor International Café**, Noon-1:15
- March 12: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00
- March 16: **International Kitchen**, Noon
- March 25: **César Chávez Holiday**
- March 27: **Easter**
- March 30: **English Tea**, Noon

DONATIONS: Treasurer **Karen Davis** has many contributions to the Friends to report, some of which came with a clarification. For instance, life member **Jean Fort**, who has been sending annual year-end donations to the Friends for more than 30 years, requested that this year's donation be divided, with half going to the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* fund and the remainder to be considered an unrestricted gift. **Leonard & Ruth Newmark** also made a contribution to the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* fund; theirs came with a note explaining that it was "in celebration of their grandchildren, **Danya and Justin Costello**"; while **Eleanor tum Suden** designated her donation towards the *David Crowne Scholarship*.

We thank them as well as these other generous donors: **Joan & Lou Adamo, Barbara Baehr, Claire Harootunian, Kenneth Watson, Patricia Bertrand** and her son **Kevin Bertrand, Nicola & Ronald Branson, Lanna Cheng Lewin, Carol & Michael Ziegler, Maureen & Joe Nichols**, and **Christa McReynolds**. A special note of thanks goes to **Louise Arnold**, who continues to support us even though she has moved to the Bay Area.

MEMBERSHIP: Please welcome new members **Erika Streuer** and her husband, **Richard Greene**, members of Oceanids and friends of **Elisabeth Marti**.

Friends Dinner Social
Saturday, March 12, 6 p.m.
Food and Music of Spain
Reservation deadline:
March 9, 2016

Friends Dinner Social: Classic Spain

—by *Danya Costello*



Please join us for our March 12 Friends Dinner Social entitled *Classic Spain*. Our menu will include *Gazpacho* (cold tomato and vegetable soup), *Tortilla Española* (egg and potato omelet), *Albondigas* (Spanish meatballs) with a vegetarian option of *Espinacas con Garbanzos* (spinach with chickpeas), *Ensalada Valenciana* (green salad with oranges), and *Plato de Mixto Postres* (plate of mixed desserts). We will also serve both alcoholic and non-alcoholic sangria.

After dinner we will be treat-

ed to a musical performance by one of San Diego's top classical guitarists, **John Burke**, a performance we know you will not want to miss!

The dinner will be prepared by our wonderful, hardworking volunteer crew. Please contact either **Katya Newmark** or me, (**Danya Costello**) at icfriends@ucsd.edu, if you would like to join our team. We can use as many helpers as we can get, and we thank you in advance for your help. We also promise you lots of laughter and pictures!

Cost per person is \$15 for Friends; \$20 for community/guests; and \$10 for international UC San Diego students, schol-

ars, and families. Children under five years of age are free. Please be sure to indicate on your reservation if you prefer a vegetarian meal or need reserved parking (disabled permit required).

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 12, at 6 o'clock, for an evening of delicious food and great music, and make your reservation by Friday, March 9, 2016.

Reservations may be made online at FICSpain2016.eventbrite.com or by filling out the reservation form (found at icfriends.ucsd.edu under Special Events), or by sending a check to Friends of the International Center, International Center #0018, UC San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093.

Remembering Betty Burton, 1918-2016

Betty Burton, mother of **Kim Burton** who works in the Study Abroad Office, became an active member of the Friends soon after she moved to San Diego in 1999. As a former teacher, Betty was intrigued by the English-in-Action tutor program and had several tutees over the years, many of whom she kept in touch with over time. For several years Betty and Kim were also a host family, while the program was still administered by the International Center.

Once we learned that Betty was an avid scrapbooker, she was asked by then Friends President, **Carol Smith**, to be the Friends historian. Not only did Betty enjoy attending and documenting Friends activities, she also appreciated her regular involvement with the Friends Board members and interacting with staff and volunteers at the Center.

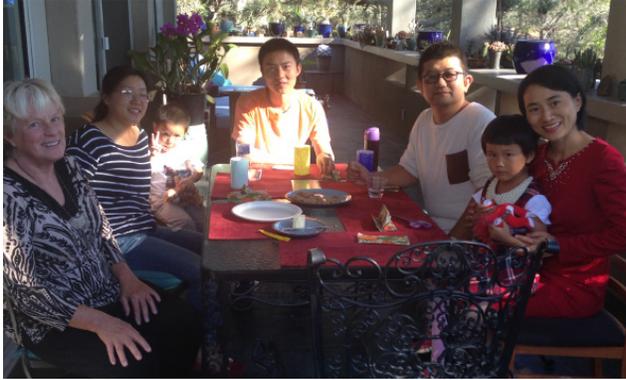
Betty was born in Buffalo, New York and later moved westward to attend Indiana University in Bloomington. After graduating, she worked as a teacher in Indianapolis, where she met her future husband, **Richard Burton**. The couple then continued that westward trek to California. Betty taught for the Los Angeles Unified School District for over 40 years as a physical education teacher.



Betty and Kim Burton with two scholarship recipients at the Friends 2012 Annual Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Betty loved to recount the story of the one summer that she worked at Disneyland as the night supervisor of the Tinkerbell Toy Shop and the evening that she met **Walt Disney**. During the last few years, she was an avid gardener, hosted weekly scrapbooking get-togethers with neighbors and friends, made regular trips to Disneyland, enjoyed musical theater, and kept involved with Zeta Tau Alpha sorority activities.

We extend our condolences and love to Kim.



Lunch party at the Del Mar home of Candace Kohl, co-hosted by Friends member Carol Kerridge (absent in the photo)



Matthew Costello, Luisa Liboni, Katya Newmark, Raphael Negri, and Ruth Newmark (seated)

Visiting an American Home

—by *Elisabeth Marti*

I want to share some impressions from Friends about their experience of hosting our international visitors.

Candace Kohl and her friend **Carol Kerridge** jointly hosted a lunch for two Chinese couples and reported back: “Here is a picture from our lunch party. Everyone had a good time and it helped that both children go to the UCSD child care nursery school and knew each other.”

Ruth Newmark, too, chose lunchtime to host, thinking that the international visitors might not only enjoy seeing the home, but also the garden. In her account of the visit, she wrote: “My family and I recently hosted a young Brazilian couple, **Luisa Liboni** and her husband, **Raphael Negri**. Luisa is an electrical engineer and a professor at the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of São Paulo, currently on a leave of absence in order to dedicate herself to working on her Ph.D., which includes spending a year at UCSD in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department. Raphael is an architect and civil engineer. In Brazil, he works in a construction company as quality, research, development, and technical support manager. He, too, is a Ph.D. candidate, but at

a different Brazilian institution and also in a different field—construction engineering. Explained Luisa: ‘His company gave him support to come to San Diego in order to do part of his research and studies at the San Diego State University, so, we both are studying here.’”

Continuing her report, Ruth wrote: “Over a leisurely lunch that lasted about three hours, we discussed family life, the growth of the artisanal beer industry in San Diego (Raphael brews some of his own in Brazil), the differences in the construction business in our respective countries, Italian food (both are of Italian ancestry), and more.

“Curious, we asked how they learned about our Visiting an American Home program. We heard that it was Raphael, as the spouse, who attended our **Family Orientation**. He was enormously impressed by all the information he received and by the friendliness extended. This he said is in sharp contrast to San Diego State, where neither he, nor Luisa, was offered official welcome activities (although Raphael’s advisor did a nice job of welcoming him). It was the Friends Family Orientation program that provided useful tips, greatly facilitating their one-year transition to San Diego.

“They chose to rent in Mission Valley to be relatively close to SDSU, while being able to use UCSD’s shuttle service that takes Luisa to and from our campus. They are getting settled: have bought furniture at IKEA, purchased a car, and have also brought over their beloved schnauzer, who is thrilled that San Diego has a dog beach, since in Brazil he is used to swimming in the family’s pool!”

In a thank-you note, Luisa remarked: “We are really enjoying this city. It is beautiful and people are so nice! How good you are involved in the International Center. We liked our reception and the activities are very well planned. I think this is so important to help us integrate with the university and the city.”

Many of UCSD’s international visitors are eager to meet San Diegans in their home environment. If you would like to participate in our Visiting an American Home program, please contact me, **Elisabeth Marti**, at hostFIC@ucsd.edu.

January
Friends Volunteer Hours
688.5 = 3.91 FTEs

Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

We hope you've been coming to our **International Kitchens** on the third Wednesday of each month, when we prepare a lunch with an international theme. This month is no exception. On March 16, we will have a luncheon celebrating St. Patrick's Day; so come to a great Irish meal prepared by our volunteer participants for only \$5/person.

The International Kitchen concept was introduced by Canadian **Sheila MacDougall**, who, around 1974, began to prepare international lunches with a group of fellow volunteers. **Alma Coles** continued the program as coordinator, and we cooked and enjoyed monthly lunches, except in the summer. When this got to be too laborious, lunches were reduced to one per quarter.

Such was the schedule when I started coordinating the International Kitchen. In the Fall, we celebrated *Oktoberfest*; in the Winter Chinese New Year; and in the Spring, some other event (this might be *Cinco de Mayo* with a Mexican lunch or ...).

Things changed in 2011, when **Felicity Poad** volunteered to prepare an Australian lunch in Winter, and **Hilda Wynans** and **Anke Halbersman** offered to prepare a Dutch lunch in Spring, each in addition to our customary lunches. Then in the Fall of 2012, **Christoph Altrock** volunteered to cook a Swabian lunch, because his brother was coming to visit from Germany and bringing with him lots of *Spaetzle* (tiny dumplings). That was the end of *Oktoberfest* and the beginning of once again offering a different cuisine each and every month—now even offering some International Kitchen lunches in the summer!

Cooking has become an extremely popular Wednesday Coffee activity. Limiting it to once a month didn't seem enough, so we decided that on each 5th Wednesday (generally four per year), we would offer an additional cooking session. These have featured cupcake decorating, learning the benefits of certain foods, or preparing a special dish (quiche, apple pie, pizza, salads, stuffed eggs, come to mind).

The most popular theme has proven to be a full fledged English tea, which is what we will prepare on March 30. Our English tea will include traditional finger sand-



Georgina Sham and Marie Perroud are seen preparing a soul food lunch in celebration of Martin Luther King's Day

wiches, scones, and sweets, accompanied by a selection of teas. Initially, we only prepared food for the kitchen crew, but two years ago, we opened it to others who may attend for \$5 a person. We use proper tablecloths and dishes. Très élégante!

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- March 2: **Lynn Jahn** will teach us how to make *stamps* with which to personalize our own cards and wrapping papers.
- March 9: Using fabric and rice, **Ginny Young** will show us how to make a family of cute *miniature chicken beanbags* with which to decorate our house for Easter.
- March 16: In celebration of *St. Patrick's Day*, beginning at 9:30 a.m., **Ginny Young** will lead us in making an Irish lunch. The menu will feature Chicken and Dumplings, Soda Bread, Irish Flag Salad, and Potato Chocolate Cake. Lunch will be served at noon for \$5/person and all are welcome to come.
- March 23: Today's activities will center on Easter and *Easter eggs*, culminating in an *Egg Hunt* for the children.
- March 30: *English Tea*. We will meet in the kitchen with **Mary Woo** and



Georgina Sham to prepare dainty tea sandwiches, scones to be served with Devonshire cream and jam, and an array of sweets. At noon, we will sit down to enjoy an elegant *English Tea*. Cost \$5 per person, on a first come first served basis.



English Tea, April 29, 2015



Katya Newmark and Alma Coles help serve at December 4, 2015 Café



Dean Kirk Simmons joins Ruth Newmark and Elisabeth Marti for photo op



Friends sponsor Friday Café featuring the food and culture of Kazakhstan

Explore the World: Friday Café

—by Courtney Giordano

Each week during the academic year the International Center celebrates international food, music, culture, and exchange at the long-standing Friday Café. As many of you are intimately aware, the Friday Café was started February 13, 1981 by then Dean **Phyllis Clark** and quickly became a campus favorite. In the 35 years since its inception, the Friday Café is still as popular as ever, although slightly modified.

The Café still attracts large crowds (between 250 and 300 guests) each week, including members of the domestic and international campus communities. This weekly gathering provides an ideal opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and community members to mix and mingle over food from around the world. The most drastic change in the Café has been the switch from in-house food preparation to catering. We work closely with Bekker's Catering to provide recipes for each country to best reflect the culinary traditions, while maintaining the \$5.00 per plate cost. With the food cooked for us we have the luxury to plan additional programmatic features that further incorporate cultural components into the Café.

In addition to the delectable food provided by Bekker's Catering, Friday Café showcases the cul-

ture and traditions of each country by featuring a student, scholar, or volunteer cultural ambassador. The cultural ambassadors share everything from anecdotal stories of life in their home country, to music, to fashion.

This year we kicked off the Friday Café with the Friends of the International Center's very own **Marion Spors** representing Germany and modeling her dirndl in honor of Oktoberfest. Marion shared fun facts about both *Oktoberfest* and German culture, while also getting the entire crowd on their feet for the German Chicken Dance!

The last Friday Café of the Fall quarter, which was sponsored by the **Friends of the International Center**, was particularly culturally rich, featuring **Akbanu** from Kazakhstan, who shared her culture through her presentation, dress, and even the sale of authentic Kazakh crafts.

When possible, we work with international student organizations, for instance with the Iranian Student Association (ISTA at UCSD) on January 15, 2016. Member **Sina Nejad** played songs on his *tar* (a Persian long-necked string instrument) to the delight of the crowd.

Many people ask how we choose the countries to feature.



Beer stein in hand, Marion Spors models her German dirndl

Despite what one might think, it is not personal food preferences. After receiving large numbers of requests for certain countries to be featured, we decided to solicit input from Café attendees during the final two weeks of Spring quarter 2015. Surprisingly, Guyana was the most requested country! It turns out this was directly linked to the Alternative Breaks@UCSD student group, whose members attend Friday Café, rain or shine, each week, and that had just returned from a service trip to Guyana.

In addition to selecting countries based on input, we feature countries with some of our largest student populations—such as China, India, Mexico, Japan, and Iran—and scholar populations, including Germany, France, Italy, and Brazil.

We also choose countries related to our Sponsored Student Services Program, including both current and target sponsoring organizations, countries, and embassies. This year we will feature the

countries of currently sponsored students from Kazakhstan, Chile, Singapore, Vietnam, Brazil, and Ecuador.

Finally, we decided to feature Norway (in celebration of our newly initiated campus-based exchange with University of Oslo), Cuba (in support of embedded program development efforts underway), and the remaining countries to ensure regional balance. As you can see, we put a lot of thought into country selection to ensure a rich and diverse cultural and culinary representation.

I would be remiss to finish this article without affirming the critical role that campus and community sponsorship play in ensuring the continued success

of the Friday Café. The **Friends of the International Center** is a prodigious supporter of the program by sponsoring 2-3 Cafés a year. Not only are we grateful to the Friends for the financial sponsorship support, but also for the encouragement of Friends participants by volunteering as servers at the Friday Café. Without both forms of generous support, the Café would not be so robust.

We are looking forward to ending the Winter quarter on a high note with FIC sponsorship of the Café on March 11th. We will enjoy culinary delights from Egypt, including *kofta kebabs* with spiced rice, feta salad, and *umm ali* (puff pastry with raisins, almonds, pine nuts, and pistachios) for dessert.

**Friends sponsor Friday Café
with an Egyptian theme
March 11, Noon-1:15
Cost: \$5**

We hope you all will join in on the fun! For more information on the Friday Café and to view weekly menus, please visit icafe.ucsd.edu.

Courtney Giordano is a staff member of the International Center's Dean's Office with the daunting title of Institutional Relations and Communications Program Coordinator. She counts coordinating the Friday Café among her favorite duties.

Meet Fatimah Zandi

My name is **Fatimah Zandi**. I am from Iran and have been in San Diego for close to two years. I studied and practiced law in my home country, working mostly in corporate law, before coming here.

I met my husband in Iran and we got engaged there. He is an American citizen and had lived in the United States before we met. We decided to start our new life together in America, so I came and we got married in California.

Currently, I don't have a job and I can't work as a lawyer here until I pass the bar exam. Since there are many differences between Iranian and American law, I will need to learn many different rules and regulations and get more familiar with American culture to be successful.

When I came to San Diego, I was looking for a place where I could become more familiar with American ways of life, but where I

also could meet people from other countries. One of my friends introduced me to the Conversation Table at the UCSD's International Center. Since then, I have been participating almost every week in the interesting conversations at Gus' Table.

I was looking for a volunteer job, when **Nori Fear**, the coordinator of the Conversation Table, introduced me to **Marion Spors**, the Resale Shop manager. This quickly led to my working in the Resale Shop. On Friday morning, I work with Marion and in the afternoon with **Miki Suefuji** from Japan. I learn many things during my working time, but we also have fun. Working in the Shop is really good for me. It helps me to improve my English and I meet fantastic people. I really enjoy my time there.

In November, I participated with many others from the Resale Shop in the international fashion



Fatimah in her beautiful Iranian finery, International Fashion Show, November 20, 2015

show held as part of the celebration of International Education Week. It allowed me to show off some of the beautiful clothes and jewelry of my native country, Iran.

I want to say thank-you to the Friends of the International Center and all at the International Center who keep this amazing place for meeting people from around the world.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends,

My Global Seminar in Greece marked one of the most interesting experiences I embarked on. It coincided with the Greek Referendum, a pivotal moment in the European Union, resulting in either a “Grexit” should Greece default on its loans (which would undermine the key tenets of the EU itself), or in Greece’s continued reliance on EU funds to pay its debt. Because of this looming crisis before the trip, I began to feel uneasy about the political climate. However, once in Athens, I soon found my fears to be unfounded.

Athens, an ancient city, marked by wars and conflicts but also beauty and age, became my home for the next five weeks, where I would saunter along the Acropolis with its iconic Parthenon temple, engage myself in Syntagma Square to understand the Grecian struggle against growing economic concerns, and explore the Byzantine monasteries, tucked away in the upper mountains of Metora.

The rich history of Athens, coupled with its complex cuisine—*souvlaki* (my daily staple)—and wealth of innate beauty, ranging from the picturesque islands of Santorini and Kos, to the ruins of the ancient city itself, allowed me to explore a culture so different from my own, yet in ways so similar. I remember—at the height of uncertainty with the referendum—the anger, frustration, and fear many of the Grecian people faced as they braced to lose their savings and livelihood. I understood their loss and feeling of helplessness as the political scene unfolded in front of them. I saw the raw energy of nationalism, channeled to stand against their economic oppressors. And yet, I remember—despite their frustrations, and economic uncertainty—how kind and gracious they were to us. How in spite of these difficulties, they were so hospitable

and so willing to tell us their concerns, treating us not as tourist, but as an extension of their families.

I wish I could point to one specific event that would encapsulate the essence of my trip. Would it be journeying to the island of Kos, unravelling the secrets of medicine in the Hippocratic gardens, where we sipped on herbal tea and learned about the various plants and remedies that would lay the foundation for Western medicine? Or was it the trip to Delphi, where we delved into the secret lore of the Oracle and her eclectic visions, which ultimately doomed Athens in its war against outside forces? Or perhaps it was the weekend trip to Budapest, where we transversed down the Labyrinth that had imprisoned Count Vladimir Dracula for over seven years, explored the glory of St. Steven’s Basilica and surrounding castles, and relaxed in Budapest’s renowned bathhouses?

But none of these experiences by themselves defined my trip. My experience cannot be distilled into one defining moment, but rather showcased



Visiting the museum at the Temple of Hephaestus, Athens

as a collection of glistening memories that stand as a testament to all the new bonds I’ve formed, the new cultures I’ve lived through, and the new understanding of cultural norms I’ve formed. As my course wound to an end, I decided to spend an extra two weeks in Europe to further enrich my experience with other cultures and countries.

Returning back to my normal life, it feels like my trip was but a reverie. I became so inspired by all I had experienced abroad that I began a second trip the very next week. This trip led me back to my home country, where I volunteered through the Vietnam Volunteer Network program in an orphanage for children affected by Agent Orange. I volunteered in Vietnam for three weeks, taking care of the children by washing, bathing, feeding, and changing them, as well as teaching English to those willing to learn.

Because of these opportunities, I began to understand my role as a global citizen. Overall, my summer course abroad became the catalyst for my volunteer experience, leading me down the path to global health—a career choice I never had previously considered. I am currently applying for medical school and am now considering a joint master degree program in public or global health.

As I’m ending this report, I can’t help but remember the sights and sounds of the ancient city: from the soft rumble of the street merchants outside that awoke me each morning for class, to the aromatic lamb in my *souvlaki* nestled against fresh veggies, creamy *tzatziki* sauce and warm pita, to pearly-lit skies tucked away behind the glimmering Parthenon. I couldn’t be any happier for it—for having the ability to gather so many fond memories in a short summer

and now being able to share these pockets of memories with others. And I couldn't be more grateful to the Friends of the International Center scholarship committee to gift me with this opportunity to explore my world and reach an understanding of all the differing yet similar cultures around me. Thank you for your gift and thank you for all you have done for this student.

Billy (Thien Nguyen)

Muir College

Physiology / Neuroscience major

Update: *In spite of having to do so while in Greece, Billy finished all his medical school applications on time. "After many interviews and essays later, I received my first acceptance to UC San Diego's School of Medicine. I'm pretty happy that it worked out, and I think that the study abroad experience allowed me to grow as an individual and become a more culturally competent physician-to-be."*

Dear Ruth and Katya,

I want to sincerely thank you for welcoming me into the Friends scholarship family, as well as in yours. It has been an honor knowing you both and I enjoyed a lot last time we had lunch together, as well as the time with **Professor** and **Mrs. Lin**.

I will be travelling to India over the upcoming Christmas break. I will be presenting my work at an international conference in Bombay, India where my thesis advisor will also be giving an invited talk. I am using the Friends scholarship to support part of my travel expenses. It is my first time at an international conference, and it is a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with experts directly in my field of research. I am looking forward to the experience.

Please let me know when the applications open for next year's Friends scholarship so that I may reapply. These funds have been very valuable to allow me to participate in inter-

national exchanges of scholarship. I have applied for a U.S.-France doctoral exchange program, which consists of a weeklong symposium, lab visits, and professional exchange in Grenoble, France in the field of nanomedicine. I will need funds to support my participation in such programs and

your scholarships provide an incredible opportunity to make that possible.

Thank you again.

Madhura Som,

Ph.D. candidate from India

Department of NanoEngineering

Diane Lin Scholarship

Dear Friends of International Center,

Thank you for offering me the precious *Luna Fung Scholarship* this year; the second time I received a Friends scholarship. Since the day I learned that I was granted this scholarship, I have been both honored and grateful to Friends of International Center. It has given me tremendous confidence and inspired me to give back to the community one day in the future.

I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Division of Biological Sciences. My thesis is on the decision-making behavior of fruit flies. This past year has been the most challenging period of my project to this date.

I conceived and started this behavioral project in the summer of 2014. Since then, I have been working on building the hardware for my setup. This was not an easy journey for me as a biologist: designing the electric circuits, 3-D printing the outer structure, and incorporating infrared laser into the setup design. With the help from engineers at Qualcomm Institute, I was able to finish the current model in April 2015. Shortly after that, I recruited two undergraduate research assistants to help me with running experiments. Together, we have assayed 629 flies as of Dec. 21, 2015. These data formed the basis of my Ph.D. candidacy exam/defense, a poster presentation, and two undergraduate presentations

The Ph.D. candidacy exam is one of the most important events in a doctoral student's life. In August, I passed this exam before a formidable thesis committee, consisting of six prominent faculty members. I would not have been able to get to this milestone without the support from many people. The support from the Friends of International Center, obviously, has been one of them. Now that my project is finally getting on track after the start-up phase, I was fortunate also to receive a David Goeddel Graduate Fellowship from the Division of Biological Sciences this past summer.

In 2016, I plan to attend Santa Fe Institute's Complex System Summer School, a workshop highly relevant to my project and data analysis. With funds from both the Friends scholarship and the David Goeddel award, I will be able to pay the tuition and associated costs of this workshop. I cannot express enough how grateful I am to the Friends of International Center and Division of Biological Sciences.

UC San Diego has become my home, when I am not in my hometown in China. This is all because of the welcoming and accommodating community here, and because I have spent an important part of my formative years at UCSD. I hope more and more international scholars will benefit from the kind and inclusive community. Certainly, I would like to be part of the effort to make that happen.

Ruichen Sun

Ph.D. candidate from China



Global Seminar in Jordan

Five months ago, I returned from a trip that I can confidently say changed my life. My time in Amman, Jordan was one of the most difficult, wonderful, and redefining times of my life. My study abroad took me far away—both in the literal, physical sense, but also in a very personal, emotional sense, as I felt very far from anything I thought I knew. There were so many things that I learned in Jordan; obviously many I learned in class and in real-world public health experiences, but there was an equal amount of learning outside the classroom. The latter took place in restaurants where no one spoke English, in the clinic where I watched medical interactions in a culture so different from my own, but most importantly in conversations upon my return to the States.

The Global Seminar allowed me to study topics that I love in a brand new environment. The Public Health and Epidemiology courses taught by **Wael Al-Delaimy**, M.D., Ph.D., a professor with decades of experience all over the world, were equal parts challenging and fascinating. This learning has provided me with a very strong foundation for other public health core classes offered here at UCSD, and have helped me develop my love for global public health, a topic that I hope to continue studying through a

master's and potentially a Ph.D. program.

My classmates and I had the opportunity to work in refugee clinics, gaining incredible clinical experience in an entirely new culture. I shadowed an obstetric doctor, who was a fantastic teacher (despite the fact that she hardly spoke any English) and an amazing woman. The way she interacted with patients spoke more than words ever could, and it was truly inspiring to see such love in a medical setting.

Experiences outside of the clinic also offered a whole new education. Because there was only one Arabic speaker in our group, and very few English speakers around Amman, the situations that came out of such a foreign culture with its language barriers were often laughable, and led to stories I will tell for the rest of my life. There were many instances where we had to rely on kind and generous strangers to get us to where we needed to go, and the people of Amman will forever have a dear place in my heart. From young men running into the street to halt traffic, so that we could safely cross, to catching us a taxi and telling the driver where we wanted to go, to giving us water after we were lost in the city and looked especially dehydrated, the people received us with love and laughter, and I

will never forget how they treated us.

Spending the summer in a Muslim country, and then returning to America to a political and social climate that sees Muslims in a very negative light, has been eye opening. So many times, people have been shocked to find out that the Jordanians were so kind, or that I was not afraid to be in that country, or would go back in a second, if I had the chance. There is so much hate and fear being perpetuated in our world right now that I have used every opportunity to spread a little more truth and love about a people I have grown to deeply respect, and to whom I owe my amazing summer.

I think the most important thing I learned, and maybe the most important thing that I will ever learn, is the hatred that comes out of fear. And that hate, while so easy to spread and so difficult to halt, is so often based on fear and misunderstandings. The classes I took in Jordan will help me in my schooling and future career; however, the experiences that I had in Jordan, and the life lessons that these people have taught me, will be the things that will help me in life, and have forever changed who I am.

Megan Ludington

Eleanor Roosevelt College
Public Health major

News from Zimbabwe

*In mid-January, we received this note from 2014 scholarship recipient, **Leanne Williams**, who for more than a year has been trying to obtain a visa and other permits needed to conduct fieldwork in Zimbabwe. Every so often, Leanne has written to explain the situation, but for a change this note contains good news.*

I hope that your new year has started out well. I wanted to write and let you know that I have *finally* reached Zimbabwe—with my full research clearances and visa, which means good support and protection for me and for the people that I am studying and living with. I have only been in Harare for just over a month, but I am happy to write the promised scholarship report in whatever format or time frame is most helpful.

Thanks again for your patience. I remain very grateful for the support of the Friends of the International Center.

Leanne Williams, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology



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