



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

Newsletter

Volume XLV, No. 4

December 2017

President's Column

I recently came across a new coin of phrase: "*volunesia* (noun) *that moment when you forget you're volunteering to help change lives, because it's changing yours.*" A Google search yielded 41,000 results and while I could not readily verify its origin, I did note that the phrase appears to have been embraced worldwide and has made its way on to mugs, t-shirts, and many an organization's promotional material. Thankfully, rather than *volunesia* being perceived as an affliction, the sentiment leads to greater volunteer engagement and mutual positive benefit.

Since UC San Diego attracts such a high-achieving group of scholars and staff, it should be no surprise that those I am fortunate enough to meet, either through my official role as President, or as a volunteer, provide such personally enriching moments in my life. The loss of our building has resulted in the creation of many new opportunities and attendant joyful moments: brainstorming menu ideas with professional chefs, working with a variety of staff dedicated to strengthening community on campus, and experiencing personal growth as I am compelled to take on greater technical challenges in this ever-increasing technical world.

Regretfully, the loss of the building has significantly increased the administrative demands upon my time resulting in my daily program interactions being far more limited. While I try my best to meet most of our participants, I am extremely grateful to those that take an initiative to help forge a closer relationship, and this greater familiarity certainly helps when I am, months or even years later, asked to write a letter of reference for one of our Friends participants. Upon learning of our former participant's securing of new jobs, it is impossible not to experience a sense of pride knowing the positive and impactful role Friends has played in the lives of others. Thank you to our amazing cadre of program volunteers!

Volunteering on the Scholarship Committee is a rewarding experience, and not just because of the opportunity to help students fulfill their dreams, but because it is to be kept in touch with the myriad of challenges faced by our students—the realities of food, immigration, and financial insecurity, and the all-too-often familial instability, are more powerfully communicated through student first-hand accounts than can ever

HOLIDAY LUNCH

**FOR FRIENDS AND
IC STAFF**

**WEDNESDAY,
DEC. 6, NOON
DOLORES HUERTA ROOM**

**RSVP BY NOV. 28 TO
BFITZSIMMONS@UCSD.EDU**

be achieved through the media, books, or film. If we are to build for a better future, we need to first understand the needs and desires for whom we build. Thank you to our **Scholarship Committee!**

In advance, I thank you, our generous of heart and pocketbook donors, knowing that I can continue to count on your generosity during this giving season so that Friends can fulfill its goals of helping change and improve the lives of those around us. Thank you!

Wishing everyone a peaceful Holiday Season!

Katya

Katya Newmark
PresFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

Gus' Table

—by Jeí Yoon Park

We are having much fun and have covered some interesting articles about personality, wild fires, and Halloween.

As you all know, October is the first month to start the holiday season. So Gus' Table group invested two sessions to celebrate and experience American culture: Halloween.

The week before Halloween, we carved pumpkins together, continuing a tradition. Most of the group members had never carved a pumpkin before and were excited to make a jack-o'-lantern. A Study Abroad staff member picked the winner: **Minah Yoo**, who carved a pumpkin-king-like Jack, the main character in the animated film, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

On Halloween day, we dressed up like a witch, a skeleton, a jester, and some other funny characters. Volunteers brought cookies and chocolates. We all really enjoyed ourselves and it made for a memorable day.

More holiday celebrations are in the works.



FRIENDS

RESALE SHOP

We are keeping busy at the Resale shop. We welcomed new team members **Yei Yi** and **Wonyoung** from Korea and **Laura Libotte** from Belgium. Bit by bit, we are figuring out the work schedule and parking.

Thanks to **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Sonya Wainwright**, and myself, Thursday morning is now "German speaking Thursday," and we are amazed at how many German-speaking visitors we meet at UC San Diego. **Horst Hoffmann**, a German native who used to work at the International Center, stopped by and brought delicious chocolates.

Often **Irma Canan** and many of the Everyday English students visit after class, and it is always a joy to chat.

One afternoon, Chancellor **Khosla** and the newly appointed Executive Vice Chancellor, **Elizabeth Simmons**, stopped by as well, and enjoyed seeing the Shop.

All of us love meeting people from around the world, and between us all we speak so many languages.

Come visit us. The Shop is open Tuesday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We have lots of holiday merchandise. Keep us in mind when looking for a gift. We always have cookies or chocolate on hand!

In keeping with UCSD's academic calendar, the Resale Shop will be closed from December 16, 2017 until January 9, 2018.

—Marion Spors

December Calendar

Dec. 1, 8, 15: **Friday Chat**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 2: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00

Dec. 5, 12: **Gus' Table, English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 5, 12, 19: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:00

Dec. 6: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Dec. 6, 13: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 6: **IC Holiday Party**, Noon

Dec. 6, 13: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 1:45-2:45

Dec. 7, 14: **Everyday English**, 10:00-11:30

Dec. 12: **Friends Board meeting**, 10:00

Dec. 14: **Cooking Class**, 9:00-Noon

Dec. 16: **Fall Quarter Ends**

Dec. 16: **Resale Shop closed until Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018**

Friday Chat

—by *Cindy Tozer*

One can always expect spirited discussions about all sorts of topics at Friday Chat. I learn something new every week: e.g. Shanghai culture these days is well known (in all of China) to have experienced some radical changes from earlier cultural traditions. Now, married men may be very active in household duties and young married women may be accepted in high positions in business. It seems the rest of China looks askance at this trend and prefers the “old ways.” This was collaborated by all of our Chinese participants with nods and smiles and stories to tell.

Eileen Tozer, my daughter-in-law, has been an enthusiastic volunteer

**Friends
Volunteer Hours
for October
1,032 = 5.86 FTEs**

in our Friday Chats. I would most happily welcome another volunteer at Chat—as a regular or as a part-time sub or even an occasional volunteer to help when I may be out of town, especially because **Michelle Grandin** occasionally has parenting or work duties on Friday.

Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

Because of the holidays, Wednesday Coffee will meet only twice in December. On the first Wednesday, **Marie Perroud** will teach us how to make stunning ornaments using Styrofoam balls, pins, and tiny colorful squares of fabrics.

On the second Wednesday, December 13, we will enjoy a potluck lunch, and while waiting for noon to start eating the food, we will do some folk dancing.

We are sad that because of lack of proximity and the fact that Mommy/Daddy & Me meets in the afternoon, we will not be having a Holiday Party with the children. However, we do have many stuffed animals left from last year, and they will be given to the Mommy/Daddy & Me group, so that the children will have presents for their holiday party. We will also give them the Santa suit and hope they will find a Santa amongst the dads.



The Mommy/Daddy & Me class will have its final session of the year 2017 on Wednesday, December 13, and our international volunteer leaders are planning to throw a Holiday Party for participating families.

Before the International Center's relocation, the party had been hosted every year in the Center's lounge by Wednesday Coffee. Kids received stuffed ani-

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by *Mariko Usui with photos from 2016*

mals sewn by Wednesday Coffee participants, spending weeks before December in making them. To the kids' delight, these were presented them by Mr. and Mrs.

Claus with each international family enjoying a brief photo shoot with Santa and his helper.

Last year, the party could still be held on the Center's patio and in the Oceanids and West Pavilion, and the space was festively decorated with items graciously lent us by the Resale Shop.

Being grateful for these great memories, Mommy/Daddy & Me volunteers are excited to prepare for this year's party. Wednesday Coffee chair, **Georgina Sham**, has kindly offered us more stuffed animals and we are thrilled that **Alice Blake-Stalker** has agreed to be Mrs. Claus again.

We will have holiday sing-alongs, crafts, games, and snacks. Class hours will start at 1:45 p.m. and be extended until 3:30 p.m.



Jim Chase and Alice Blake-Stalker on the International Center patio



Matthew Costello and Housing, Dining, and Hospitality's Farzin Khorsandjamal hang large African textiles



Katya Newmark and Chef Josie, a certified chef de cuisine, who together planned the menu



The tables are festively set with flower bouquets surrounded by photos from Katya's West African trip



Liz Fong Wills in African shirt and wearing a glorious Maasai neckpiece that she reported to be very heavy

It Still Takes a Village

—by Liz Fong Wills

Even though we no longer shop, cook, and clean up afterwards, the Ethnic Dinners still require a village-worth of enthusiastic volunteers to produce each fundraising project. Each event is an amazing team effort, leading to a result we can all be proud of. Having **Katya Newmark** as co-chair is a dream come true! She does all the hard stuff, like figuring out how to get the fundraiser listed on the UCSD Master Calendar. I get to do the fun stuff, like reading ethnic cookbooks and selecting the wine and before dinner nibbles.

Based on where we recently have gone on holiday or a work-related trip, my husband, **Chris Wills**, decides on the country or region to be featured. Katya helps me make up a menu that will bring that region to culinary life. Then Katya works with UCSD Catering, asking them to cook dishes for us that they may not ever have attempted before. Our most recent Pan-African menu must have been a real stretch for them, but they did an outstanding job. The spiced ground meat with a custard-like topping from South Africa, called *bobotie*, and the *kati kati*, Cameroon's distinctive chicken dish, received special raves.

Meanwhile, **Ruth Newmark** contacts recent Friends scholarship recipients from the countries that we feature. She seems to remember all of them, and always manages to choose the best speakers to speak at the dinner! This time we heard from **Bannet Muhoozi**, a medical student originally from Uganda, and **Inbok Rhee**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Political Science Department conducting research in Kenya.

With its soaring walls and ceiling, the Great Hall is a challenge to decorate. However, Katya solved the problem by showing photos she took on her trip to West Africa in a continuous loop projected onto a large screen. And to jump-start the evening, she found two spectacular drummers with the **Teye Sa Thiosanne African Drum and Dance Company**.

Katya also worked with her daughter, **Danya Costello**, to make the table decorations. For this dinner, they made picture frames with photos of Africans in native dress that surrounded the flower bouquets created by **Candace Kohl**. With a little help from **Farzin Khorsandjamal** in Housing, Dining, and Hospitality, **Matthew Costello** climbed up a big scary ladder and helped us put up beautiful African fabrics borrowed for the occasion from **Joan Adamo** and **Candace Kohl**.



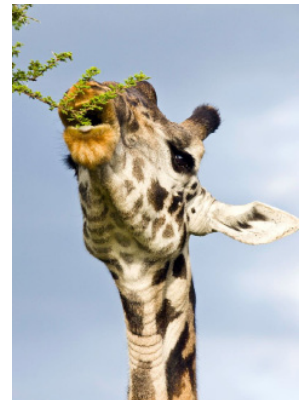
Third generation drummers, Nigel Zuniga and Sekani Thomas, get the evening off to an exciting start



Chris Wills expounds on his photos



A Rawanda silverback gorilla approaches Liz



Tanzania giraffe



Candace Kohl with a bouquet featuring Protea, a plant native to South Africa



Scholarship recipient Bannet Muhoozi and Ruth Newmark



South African *melktert* are lined up for dessert presentation

Using her design skills to put together our printed program, **Gail Fliesbach** found cute clip art to liven up the prose. **Georgina Sham** did the nametags and seating arrangements, ensuring that each table had something in common. **Joan Adamo** and **Barbara Fitzsimmons** handled the check-in of the guests.

The official photographer was **Lou Adamo**, while Katya snapped numerous pictures in between her other duties. **Justin Costello** was another eager recorder of the event.

Chris enjoys these dinners because his post-meal presentations give him the opportunity to teach the Friends and our guests about the natural world. Being a biologist, he often sees things differently from the rest of us. Being a photographer, he can show us what he sees!

Everything worked flawlessly. We thank **UCSD Student Affairs** for their financial support, for without their help these dinners would have to come to an end. And the lives of all of us in the village would suddenly become a lot less interesting. My thanks to you all!

**Please join us at our next Ethnic Dinner:
Saturday, February 10, 2018 that will feature Australia**



*Just a few of the many enthusiastic comments expressed to event co-chairs,
Liz Fong Wills and Katya Newmark:*

- ❖ Last night was such fun! The drummers were a wonderful idea. You chose well for the menu, and all of us at our table enjoyed the program notes on African food. **Chris's** presentation was, as always, outstanding! The pictures of birds in flight were just stunning.—**Janine Mendis**
- ❖ Delicious food and great company. As someone who has a passion for nature and wildlife, I particularly enjoyed the presentation that **Chris** made. It was a treat for all the senses. Looking forward to many more evenings with the Friends of the International Center.—**Barry Raghunathan**
- ❖ I loved the drummers, the food was delicious (I Googled **Marcus Samuelsson**), and as usual **Chris's** presentation was very beautiful and entertaining.—**Danièle Rodé**
- ❖ Thank YOU for all your support, **Katya!** And thanks to everybody for making it such a spectacular evening!—**Chris Wills**
- ❖ Tonight's African dinner has been a true labor of love. Thank you all! Thank you **Liz** and **Chris!**—**Katya Newmark**
- ❖ It was a delightful evening, the food was delicious and the speakers/entertainment wonderful! I look forward to the Australia event!—**Nikki Waters**

WE OFTEN ASK OURSELVES: “DO FRIENDS PROGRAMS HAVE AN IMPACT?” INDEED THEY DO.

—by Ruth Newmark



number of our former international visitors enjoy staying in touch with their contemporaries by remaining on a Friends program's e-mail distribution list. Thus, on July 27, 2017, back home in Taiwan, **Yinzu Chen** wrote **Friday Chatters**, who have a mailing list of 70 current and past participants:

“When I saw the following book presentation, I thought in you, the most diverse and brilliant group of women that I have ever met. And I think the Friday Chat is very important for many in their settlements in San Diego.”

The book to which Yinzu refers—*The Resilient Self* by **Chien-Juh Gu**—deals with issues familiar to many of UCSD's international spouses. Using life-history interviews, the author explores the identity of Taiwanese American women. “Most of the women immigrated as dependents when their U.S.-educated husbands found professional jobs upon graduation. Constrained by their dependent visas, these women could not work outside of the home during the initial phase of their settlement. Mourning their lost careers and lacking fulfillment in homemaking, these highly educated immigrant women were forced to redefine the meaning of work and housework, which in time shaped their perceptions of themselves....”

Friends of the International Center try to mitigate these initial hardships, and from what we hear from people like Yinzu Chen and others, what we do is appreciated.

For a second positive testimony,

also written in July, I quote **Bree Chunharas**, from Thailand, who became a volunteer teacher in our **Mommy/Daddy & Me** program:

“Dear all, thank you for such a lovely farewell party. I couldn't believe it's almost two years and six months since I've joined MDM volunteer team. I still remember the day I come here and knew nobody. Being new mom was hard, especially when you were not in your home country. No friend to share a common experience or ask when there was a difficulty with breastfeeding. I can't even sing any lullaby song to soothe baby **Emma** when she was crying.

“Then I met a group of friends who contribute themselves to MDM group. Not only they came to join the class; they took their time to learn the songs, create the wonderful program for teaching. They were not professional teachers, but all the programs were operated honestly by heart-made.

“We also tried to improve the communication skill. Everyone here uses English as a secondary language; we all learn together with no criticism.

“Since then, MDM was a part of our life. Emma joined the class with me every week since she was 6 months old. The familiar music she absorbed day by day helped her sleep well, ride in the car without crying like crazy. Now when she grew up, I was always delighted when seeing her try to dance or sing along those songs. I realize that music is now helping on her social skill and speech as well.

“Thank you Mommy/Daddy & Me volunteer team for the beautiful friendship that will last forever and also for every effort to continue this program for the international families.”

“I'm still in San Diego for one more year but starting to work in my dermatology field. I'm sure Emma will miss her friends a lot.”



or quite a different satisfying experience, I refer to lines from **Liz Fong Wills**, who as Friends **Ethnic Dinner** chair skillfully managed to recruit

a team of volunteer servers. Servers most often came from among UC San Diego's international graduate students or post doctoral fellows. (I had to change the tense from “come to came,” since Friends no longer are able to prepare our own dinners, that are now prepared by caterers, who, starting with our recent November Pan-African Dinner, expressed their desire to use their own, professional staff.)

Wrote Liz: “I want to share this lovely e-mail from an [**Oceanids**] Newcomer. **It shows that we are needed and appreciated!**

“**Malte Risto** is a J-1 post doc from Germany, who didn't have a white shirt to wear as a waiter for our Ethnic Dinners. **Marion Spors** found him one at the **Resale Shop** that fit him perfectly and reduced the price to 50 cents!”

Here follow excerpts from Malte's farewell letter to Liz:

“I just wanted to say thank you for everything that you have been doing for the international people (myself included) here in San Diego. When I came here two years ago I knew nobody and signed up for the movable feast. A huge part of my life here started from contacts I met on the feast (including meeting my current girlfriend, **Julie**). I loved

the evenings at your house, eating and listening to your travel stories, or discussing politics with **Chris** or other folks at the wine tastings.

“Now it is time for me to move on and start a new chapter in my life. **Farewell and may you have many trips to exotic destinations in the future, and may you be welcomed by people with arms as open as yours.**”



or a further example, I come to lasting friendships.

Not only do many of our internationals and volunteers continue to stay in touch, be it via e-mail or on Facebook, but they also meet up long after the international visitors have left UC San Diego. A case in point—well, really two cases, as you will see—follows.

Friends President, **Katya Newmark**, and her son **Justin** recently spent several weeks in Scandinavia and, while in Sweden, arranged to visit **Victoria** and **Johan Bourghardt Fagman**, delighted to accept their invitation to have dinner at their place. From regular e-mail exchanges, Katya knew that **Dagmar Bokacova** would soon follow, although sadly their visits did not overlap.

While at UCSD, Dagmar, who hails from Croatia and Slovakia, became an active participant in several of Friends programs, most notably co-chairing with Katya and **Audrey Leriche** the **Friends Dinner Socials**. Dagmar was soon recruited by Katya to join the Friends Board of Directors, in the hope that she would bring a valuable perspective from the point of view of the internationals we serve.

In 2014, Dagmar and her husband left UCSD to move to Switzerland. For a period, Dagmar, a talented artist, continued to make flyers for Friends Dinner Socials from afar.

It was through Friends activities,



Victoria, Johan, and Dagmar

that Dagmar and Victoria became close friends. Both are currently living in Europe and make a point of visiting each other annually. In August, Katya received a photo from the latest Göteborg reunion, and I cite from Dagmar’s accompanying note:

“I returned from my visit in Sweden yesterday. It was a lovely visit that provided lot of relax time. It was a very nice moment to find your present and a card in my guest room! Thank you very much! It triggered a lot of memories and Victoria and I spent a lot of time remembering our friends from San Diego.

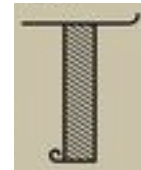
“Now I am back to the tasks I had pushed aside. Most special for me is that my visual arts project was approved by the crowdfunding site and I am going online today! It is a project that uses art and creativity as a tool of integration and language learning. Based in Zürich, the course introduces work with various materials and different art techniques and encourages ‘strangers in the city’ to share their stories about immigration and life in a new country.”

In a long e-mail to **Jennie Chin**, Dagmar elaborated on the proposed project: “**The idea is partly inspired by my time in UCSD International Center**, partly by one of the integration projects I am a part of in Switzerland. Called *Spielend Deutsch lernen*,

it offers theater classes for people with all levels of German skills (even very basic ones). If I succeed in making the first course, together with a planned exhibition, I will apply for support from the city’s Integration Office, but that is a very optimistic and very long-term vision.”

“We have quite a few international friendships that outlive their time here,” observed **Katya**, “and I am happy so many choose to share their meet-ups/reunions with me. A group met this summer in Prague, another in Austria, and, as said, Dagmar visits Victoria every summer. I get less feedback from the Asian community, so have less knowledge if they continue their friendships across countries, but I always hope yes.

“**It is wonderful to know that many continue to find ways to maintain their FIC connections, which makes me very proud of the work you all do cultivating these multinational friendships!**”



o bring the impact of Friends programs up-to-date, I include words of appreciation for our **Family Orientation** program written in September by **Janie Piao** from China: “**I’m so impressive about orientation yesterday. I can’t imagine there could be so many rich and colorful activities we spouses can take part in. Thank you for all the International Center staff and especially your Orientation team.**”

The above illustrations of the value of our Friends programs underscore what **Mariko Usui**, a Japanese national and chair of **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, states so beautifully:

“**I’m just so thankful the Friends are there! The Friends network has been connecting us with so many fantastic people that we could never have met alone.**”

Membership

—by *Renate Schmid-Schoenbein*

We welcome three new members who joined our organization during the month of October:

Originally from Turkey, **Seyhan Karakulak** received her Ph.D. from UCSD's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She is often seen at Friends evening events and wrote this about our November Ethnic Dinner: "Thank you very much for the wonderful dinner and the great culture tour of Africa."

Jeii Yoon Park, from Korea, has become an outstanding participant



Katya Newmark, Seyhan Karakulak, and Barry Raghunathan at the African Dinner

Scholarship Donations

—by *Ruth Newmark*

Donations to Friends come in many ways, and not all are destined for our scholarship program. However, the following were, and each comes with a story.

Because **Victoria Wu** has made previous donations to the Friends *Fung Scholarship*, I have corresponded with her from time to time, and this spring invited her to our annual scholarship awards dinner, so that she might meet some of the recent recipients of the *Fung Scholarship*. When Victoria contacted me this fall, I was amazed to learn that she already is in her third year of medical school, here at UCSD. Wrote Victoria: "The second year is truncated by a couple months, so that we have some time to study for our board exams. I'm very happy to have both completed and passed my first licensing exam!"

In reference to her continued scholarship donations, Victoria explained: "I am very grateful to have been a beneficiary of a great UCSD education and my family and I are delighted to be able to help fund great learning opportunities for my colleagues. I am sorry to have been unable to make it to the scholarship ceremony last time (medical school has such a demanding schedule!),

but please keep me updated this year and I will try my best to attend."

In due course, a donation arrived, accompanied by this thoughtful note:

"Dear Friends of the International Center. Thank you for your continued support of student education and enrichment of UC San Diego. We are proud and honored to be a part of the scholarship fund in honor of Dr. **Bert** and Mrs. **Luna Fung**. We hope that all the scholarship recipients find their partnerships with the Friends to be invaluable and unforgettable. All the very best, The **Wu Family (Wei, Shirley, Victoria, & Sabrina).**"

The November Pan-African Dinner—in itself a fundraiser for scholarships—generated several additional contributions. Wrote **Ann Craig**, Interim Provost of Sixth College: "I was looking forward to attending my first function as a formal Friends member!" Unable to attend the Ethnic Dinner, Ann suggested that the cost of the dinner be added to her, already thoughtful, previously made scholarship donation.

Penny & Dane Winkelman and **Danièle Rodé** also made extra scholarship donations when making their Pan-African Dinner reservation,

and leader at the Tuesday English Conversation Table. Jeii always comes up with fascinating topics to discuss and receives high praise from program chair **Nori Faer** and fellow conversation leaders, **Susan Graceman** and **Claire Harootunian**.

Eileen Tozer is the daughter-in-law of our own **Cindy Tozer**, who, among other things, leads the Friday Chat group. Eileen earned a Ph.D. at UCSD and enjoys participating in Friday Chat. She is very helpful in leading small conversation groups whenever the group becomes too large and needs to be divided.

Once again, welcome to our new members!

as did **Deborah Park** and **Maxine Baker**, who added their contribution by selecting the option: "I am a proud scholarship supporter."

What's more, **Paola Desii & Harry King** sent a donation marked for the Friends scholarship fund with this note addressed to Ethnic Dinner chair, **Liz Fong Wills**: "We can't make November 4, but hopefully this check will help."

Additional contributions to the Friends scholarship fund came from longtime Friends: **Maryruth Cox**, **David Jordan**, and **Alice McCauley**.

We thank you all, but so do the scholarship recipients.

To quote **Melissa Maffei**, a Muir College student majoring in pharmaceutical chemistry, who spent five weeks studying Drugs, Behavior, and the History of Neuroscience in Greece:

"I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to travel to Greece through the UC San Diego Global Seminar program this summer. This would not have been possible without the scholarship I received, and I extend my sincerest gratitude to the **Friends of the International Center** for enabling me to have this enriching experience."

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends of the International Center,

Just a few nights ago, I was lying in bed at night thinking of my time studying abroad in Dublin. Recalling my life during those five weeks felt surreal—I almost could not believe the experience I had had a couple of months ago. The generous scholarship I received from you made this time of personal growth and adventure all the more pleasurable.

Of all the many great things I did while in Dublin, from touring the Dail (the Irish parliament) to witnessing the Cliffs of Moher, some of my fondest memories are of simply exploring the city with the great people I met. The streets of Dublin always felt safe to me, and everything was within walking distance. Needless to say, coming from San Diego, this was quite different from what I was used to. I particularly miss walking with my good friend Betsy to the market a couple of blocks down from our accommodation. The baked goods were always fresh and the produce always bursting with flavor. We also frequented the many parks in Dublin that were absolute BEAUTIFUL! Gardens may be a more apt word to describe them, but taking a stroll through these lively community areas was a great way to unwind from studying.

Going out for a pint or grabbing some pub food was another of my favorite parts of being in Dublin. The Guinness was of course amazing, but corn beef and hash were not typical food items one would find. The Irish proclaimed delicacy is, in fact, something called a chicken baguette—I'm craving one right now! It's a toasted baguette smeared with butter and a dollop of a delicious creamy sauce, with of course, breaded chicken, and finished with sautéed peppers and onions, and fresh lettuce and tomatoes. It may not sound like much, but I could not get enough of it.

As I am writing this, I am sipping some coffee, which brings me to another great thing about Dublin, and Europe in general: the coffee is so good. I instantly loved Americanos as a replacement to the typical American drip coffee (something hard to find, at least in Dublin), which has led me to consider investing in my own espresso machine.

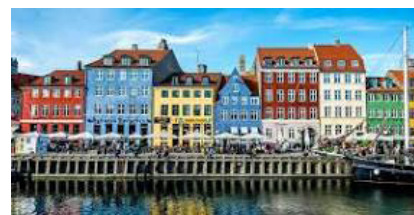
Since I was in Dublin to study, cafés and coffee became a huge part of my time there. Not just because of the deliciousness of the coffee, but also for being with my classmates, studying and working on projects, enjoying laughter and great company. Finding different cafés to try in the vast city was a fun adventure for us that took us to unique venues and allowed us to immerse ourselves in Irish culture.

Of course there were some rough patches, but I am picking roses here, not weeds. And I am finding that in reflecting on all the great times I had in Dublin, the not-so-good parts are being expunged from my memory, and are becoming less and less important. Being able to go on this Global Seminar was life changing, it really was. I feel more confident, I feel like my life is more grounded now that I have a global perspective, and I have great memories, and new great friends.

I cannot thank the Friends of the International Center enough for the scholarship that made this experience possible. The desire to travel has been sparked within me, and I want to be able to enable others to have these opportunities in the future, too.

Ryan Pell

Global Seminar: Ireland, Britain, and the New Political Europe
Marshall College, Political Science/Political Theory major



Denmark: The Happiest Country

I had the unique opportunity of spending three amazing months in Copenhagen due to a collaboration with a lab in the Center for Biosustainability at the Technical University of Denmark. The trip was planned in order to facilitate the exchange of laboratory practices and techniques between our UCSD lab and theirs, and I learnt many important skills and techniques as well as helped to train several members in their lab on protocols developed within our lab here at UCSD.

While living there, I was fortunate to be able to foster close working relationships with many of my newfound colleagues, who took it upon themselves to show me the best sights and sounds of their beloved city. Between the statue of the Little Mermaid, the bright, attractive colors of Nyhavn, and the whimsical world of Tivoli, Copenhagen has much to offer to the wide-eyed traveler in terms of excitement and wonder, mixed in with the historical charm characteristic of most European cities.

However, by far the most astonishing thing I experienced in the country was not a physical attraction, but a cultural phenomenon. According to United Nations rankings, Denmark is the happiest country on earth, and in my time there, I slowly came to see why. Many Danes believe strongly in two ideologies: social responsibility and the worth of the individual. While seemingly at odds with each other, the mixing of these two ideas has allowed socialism to flourish here, where it has failed in so many other

countries, and almost everyone I met was content and well taken care of.

This experience has opened my eyes not only to new laboratory techniques, new sights, but also new cultural ideologies, and I have found many new friends on the opposite side of the globe. I am extremely grateful to the Friends of the International Center for helping me financially in my time there. I hope that my experience will encourage more people to go out into the world to expand their horizons and experience different cultures.

Justin Tan

Ph.D. Candidate from Singapore,
Department of Bioengineering
Luna Fung Scholarship

Dear Friends,

Thank you again so much for choosing me for this award. I would not have been able to go on the Revelle in Rome program had it not been for this scholarship. Attached is a journal I kept about my experiences in Rome that I thought might be interesting.

Grazie mille,

Jessica Chan

Revelle College, Biology major

Here follow three brief excerpts from Roaming in Rome, Jessica's insightful journal documenting, both in words and photographs, her Global Seminar experiences.

Galleria Borghese

I think the true genius of "The Rape of Proserpina" by Bernini is in the details of the work. The tears running down Proserpina's cheek, her flexed toes, and the eerily realistic indentation that Hades' hands make on her body. The work is beautifully composed, but the details make the masterpiece. I do find the glorified representation of rape troublesome, even if the sculpture taken out of context is a masterpiece. The message that these various "The Rape of [blank]" paintings and sculptures send is troubling to me.

Galileo

The Galileo Museum was the most interesting to me of all the museums we visited because I have the most background knowledge about the instruments on display. Many of the instruments were used to investigate various physical concepts covered in the physics classes I have taken.

Capitoline Museum

I found this bust interesting because unlike most of the other marble statues, it is made of more than one type of marble. From far away, I mistook the different colored marble as actual cloth. This bust highlighted how color adds a whole other dimension to sculptures.



Hello Friends!

I received a scholarship from you for my study abroad semester at Lund, University in Sweden. I am about half-way through of my time here, and just wanted to write you and give you an update. Again, thank you so much for the scholarship! I have loved being here, and experiencing a completely different culture. I am so grateful for this opportunity.

In general, I am soaking up the Swedish culture and, of course, studying for my neurobiology course. *Fika* is a lovely tradition, and I love getting to bike everywhere! It is so green and beautiful here, and the weather has not been too cold or rainy [yet]!

I've also had plenty of time to travel to other cities in Sweden, as well as go to other countries. I honestly never

would have thought I would be experiencing so many new things in my life. I grew up not traveling very much, so this has been a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. It is so amazing, and there are so many other regions in Skåne that I still want to see. I hope to accomplish this before I come home in December.

Not only is it beautiful around here, but people are so polite and nice. I have made some Swedish friends, and hope to keep in touch with them when I return to California. Also, the nations [social clubs] that the university offers are full of fun activities every week! I personally love attending the pub at Kalmar nation, and just getting to hang out, or listen to music.

Thank you for helping me get to enjoy this lovely city!

Hannah Hartin

EAP, Sweden

Revelle College, Biology major

Friends of the International Center:

I'd like to start off by saying that I am extremely grateful for all of your help in making my trip abroad a possibility for me. It has been an amazing experience here in Rome. Aside from the typical things that are experienced abroad, such as different customs and culture, I think that this trip has enabled me to grow as a person more than anything else.

Being transported to this new world in Italy has allowed me to gain independence, courage, and new outlooks on my future. I am positive this will be an experience that I will remember for time to come, as this opportunity has added to the person I am going forward.

Thank you once more for all your help. I hope that you will continue to help students experience an opportunity from which I have gained so much.

Nicholas Taylor

Global Seminar, Revelle in Rome
Revelle College, Biology major

Friends are always delighted to receive letters from past scholarship recipients, especially when they relay good news. Some of you will remember **Yeung-ping Chen**, our 2014 Diane Lin scholarship recipient, then a Ph.D. candidate in the Music Department specializing in composition. Several of us got to know Ping well and were thrilled to be invited to an evening at *Falling Star* for a performance of his music and readings of related poetry, many poems dealing with alienation. In May 2015, there was a most impressive performance at the Mandeville Auditorium of his work, *The Moon in La Jolla*, inspired by fellow Hong-Kong native and one-time UCSD student, **Yasi**. In this orchestral piece, specifically commissioned for the occasion by the La Jolla Symphony, Ping employed telematic technology featuring our campus's carillon. In time, Ping returned to his native Hong Kong, and, in the spring of 2017, he received his UCSD doctoral degree. In late October, I received the following note from Ping, addressed, among others, to several members of the UCSD music faculty, **Katya Newmark**, and me. — Scholarship Committee Chair

I wanted to thank you for your advices, encouragements, and supports on my studies and job search over my years at UCSD.

In November, I'll be officially appointed as a faculty member (Lecturer in Composition) by the School of Music at South China Normal University (華南師範大學) in Guangzhou, China. This academic position is equivalent to a regular Assistant Professorship in the United States, and I'm very fortunate to be given this platform to continue my composition researches. It's also a meaningful opportunity to me as SCNU is a good school in my home country, and Guangzhou is my fiancée **Sisi's** hometown.

I'll try me best to carry the inspirations, compassions, and visions that I had from you and UCSD, and I hope there'll be a chance that I could see you again/work with you in SD/China someday.

Best wishes to you, and please keep in touch.

Ping



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*Friends of the International Center,
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icfriends.ucsd.edu
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Editor: **Ruth Newmark** (editorFIC@ucsd.edu)

Contributors: **Joan Adamo, Jennie Chin, Nori Faer, Nancy Homeyer, Katya Newmark, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Georgina Sham, Marion Spors, Cindy Tozer, Mariko Usui, Liz Fong Wills**

Contributing Photographers: **Katya Newmark, Lou Adamo, Chris Wills, Justin Costello**

Circulation: **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**

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