



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

Newsletter

Volume XLV, No. 4

January 2018

President's Column

I begin the new year by thanking our many program leaders, volunteers, members, and University colleagues for their ongoing gift of time, in-kind and financial donations, and general support of Friends mission! With so many challenges facing us, the Friends provides a wonderful refuge to connect with people who share similar global outlooks and who inspire hope for a brighter future than the media and world events might otherwise suggest.

Friends continues to bring great joy to those who are involved, and the feedback from our program participants, event guests, and scholarship recipients provide ample assurance that Friends is as relevant and as needed today as it was when it began fifty-seven years ago!

Our evening events attract University and San Diego community members who remark each time of the breadth of talent and the incredibly interesting people that comprise the Friends community. Our international visitors express their gratitude, time and time again, for the welcoming, supportive, and instructive guidance they receive ... not to mention the opportunity to just feel that they belong somewhere. Our University community praises the Resale Shop, not only for the affordable items that are offered, but also for providing a physical haven where visitors can expect a display of human kindness. And, our scholarship recipients, both undergraduate and graduate, comment on the significant impact our awards make on their lives. What more can one ask for when choosing which organization to support?

Selfishly, I relish the many social connections that are afforded me through my involvement with the Friends and, of course, the opportunity to experience other cultures without having to endure the less pleasant aspects of international travel: airports, delays, jet lag, etc. And, on this note, I hope very much that you will travel with me to Australia for our February 10th Ethnic Dinner, which promises to be a most delightful evening, filled with all that Friends is known for: delicious food, fascinating educational presentations, and a wonderful group of welcoming faces that, as one of our guests shared, begin to feel like family.

Cheers to family!

Katya

Katya Newmark, PresFIC@mail.ucsd.edu



RESERVE!

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 10, 2018

GREAT HALL

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY
WITH A CATERED DINNER
FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK
BY PROF. CHRISTOPHER WILLS.
SEE AMAZING PHOTOS OF WILD-
FLOWERS AND OF AUSTRALIA'S
ICONIC ANIMALS AND BIRDS.



HEAR THE SOUNDS OF A
DIGERIDOO

**A FUNDRAISER FOR
FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIPS**
with a presentation from
Australian awardee, Alex Kershaw

To MAKE RESERVATIONS:
[http://FICAustralia2018.
eventbrite.com](http://FICAustralia2018.eventbrite.com)

RESERVATION DEADLINE,
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

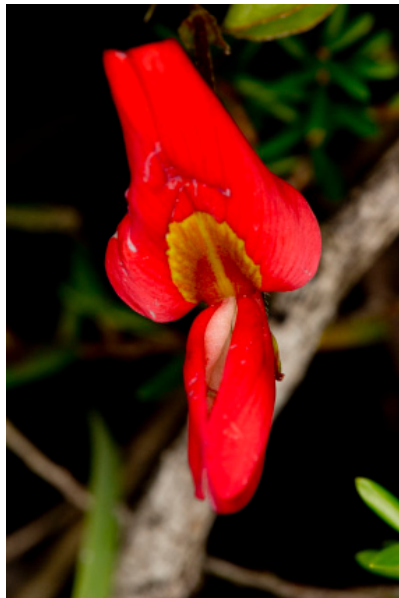
A PERFECT TRIP TO SEE WESTERN AUSTRALIA WILDFLOWERS

Arranging a trip to see wildflowers is always tricky. It requires a year with lots of rain in the spring, and the visit has to be timed to catch the flowers at their peak. Planning such a trip to Death Valley is hard enough, but imagine how hard it would be to plan a trip to Western Australia, on the far side of the world from San Diego!

Actually, my wife, **Liz**, and I didn't plan our trip. We just crossed our fingers and went. The lure was what, in a good year, is one of the most amazing displays of wildflowers in the world. There are over 13,000 species of vascular plants that are native to the vast state of Western Australia, and the majority of them produce flowers of an astonishing range and variety.

By sheer dumb luck we timed it just right. We figured on spending three weeks in Western Australia at the height of spring, during late September and early October of 2016, and another week visiting friends in Adelaide in South Australia. But we had to make our reservations months before our departure. We found to our delight that the winter of July and August lived up to our expectations. It was the second-wettest winter in Australia since record keeping began, with rainfall 80% above average. The unsettled weather actually lasted until our trip, and there were times when we had to dodge fallen trees from fresh storms.

After we arrived we drove 3,000 miles through the southern part of Australia's gigantic western state. We saw flowers every-

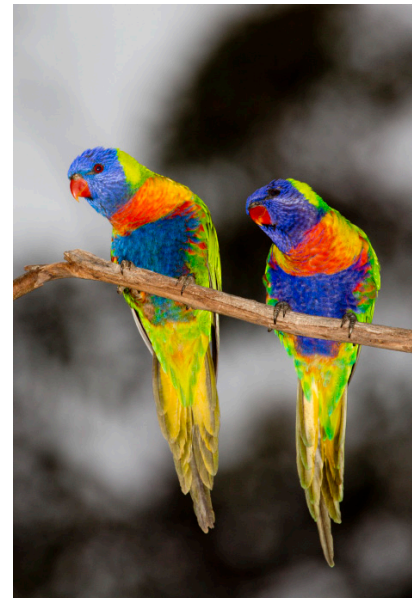


Kennedia Prostrata

where in every ecosystem. The ancient landscapes of the region date as far back as four billion years, and they contain some of the world's oldest fossils. Fresh flowers adorned these ancient sites everywhere we looked.

Our trip included some remote and seldom-visited parts of Australia's west, such as a frozen wave of rock that formed hundreds of millions of years ago. A wide variety of ground-dwelling orchids lurked everywhere, some with amazing surprises inside them. The Acacias, Grevilleas, Banksias, and Eucalypts were all ablaze.

On the way, and later in Adelaide and on Kangaroo Island, we encountered many of Australia's iconic animals and birds. The area around Adelaide was especially rich, with koalas that wandered through our friends' garden and



Rainbow Lorikeets

a dazzling variety of native parrots and parakeets. Kangaroos and emus munched on the flowers. And finally, at the end of the trip, we left the world of flowers entirely. We visited a dig where the son of a geneticist colleague is excavating fossils of animals that lived in Australia's shallow seas more than half a billion years ago—hundreds of millions of years before the appearance of the first flowers.

Join us on February 10 for our trip to an Australia, ancient and recent, that you probably did not know existed!

For time and place, as well as information on how to make reservations, please see box on p. 1.

Christopher Wills
Professor of Biological Sciences
Emeritus



An Artist's View of Australia

As has become tradition, Friends invite one or more of our scholarship recipients to our special events. In the case of our upcoming Australian Dinner, on February 10, it was almost self evident that we would turn to **Alex Kershaw**, an Australian graduate student in the Department of Visual Arts pursuing a Ph.D. in Art History, Theory, and Criticism with Art Practice Concentration, and a recipient of a Friends 2017 scholarship.

Alex came to UC San Diego in 2012, bringing with him an impressive portfolio and significant cross-disciplinary experience.

Currently in North Carolina on a photo shoot at a deer camp with little connection to the Internet, he has no real opportunity to reveal in detail what he will talk to us about at the Australian Dinner. We do

know that Alex will talk about the project *One of Several Centres* filmed in Alice Springs, as well as about a couple of other photographic assignments he worked on in the interior of Australia. Most likely, he will draw connections between these and some of the work he is presently doing in the USA.

Not knowing anything about the project mentioned, I Googled it and quote from Alex's website: "The video work *One of Several Centres* emerged from performative interactions between the people who live, work, and holiday in Alice Springs. A series of intimate video engagements reveal the ways [disparate] people create, acculturate, and cope within the town."

Alex's work in Australia, as his dissertation research here in the United States, has taken him into



Alex Kershaw as photographer, eucalyptus grove, UCSD

communities of people who possess radically different worldviews of life experiences from his own. He will have much to tell us about his pursuits.

Ruth Newmark

Friends Scholarship Committee
Chair



Australia: Past & Present

Perhaps it is my love of teaching, or my love of traveling, or my commitment to the Friends mission of cultural understanding that leads me to try to create the most comprehensive experience I can as part of my involvement in the Friends Ethnic Dinner program, chaired so well by **Liz Fong Wills** since 1995. Whatever my motivation, I am happy to share a bit more about what you can expect when you attend our Australian-themed event on February 10, 2018.

After our initial mingling over a glass of Australian wine, we will begin our evening with a didgeridoo performance by UCSD alumni, screenwriter, and artist **Christopher Canole**. The didgeridoo is a wind instrument, traditionally made from hollow eucalyptus, played by indigenous peoples in northern Australia as long as @ 40,000 years ago. It is my hope that, through the haunting sounds brought to life by Christopher, you will feel yourself transported to the

very distant past while concurrently rooted to our present, as you listen to the timeless and contemporary sounds of this amazing instrument.

Our meal will similarly bridge past and present as our talented chefs interpret traditional Australian ingredients and dishes and elevate them to today's more contemporary offerings. While the menu is still under discussion, and vegetarian options will be available, it is likely to include the following: meat pie with ground beef and ale; surf and turf (pan-seared Blue Nose Bass or Australian Halibut and Herb Pan-co Crusted Baby Lamb) accompanied by fondant butternut squash and roasted Brussels sprouts with a mint chimichurri; and a mixed green salad with leek, fennel, and orange. And, for dessert ... well, you will have to make your reservation at <https://ficaustralia2018.eventbrite.com> and come see for yourself.

Katya Newmark



Emma Forin (France), Mayra Nevárez (Mexico), Tutuki Bhattacharya (India), and Junko Takemasa, all volunteers in the Friends Family Orientation program, model clothing representative of their native country at UC San Diego's International Education Week Fashion Show, Nov. 17, 2017

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Friends 2018 *Directory and Handbook* should have arrived in your U.S. mail box to coincide with the new year. Besides a list of members with pertinent information on how to reach them and a list of current Board members, you will find useful university contact information, as well as historical highlights of the Friends of the International Center, including a description of our various programs and activities with the names of current and past chairs. Our thanks go to **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Ruth Newmark**, and **Joan Adamo** for updating and compiling the information, and to **Katya Newmark** for the latest pictures.

Prior to going to print, and just in time to be included in the *Directory*,

Friends were joined by **Ken Tomory**, Friends financial liaison with Student Affairs, who has proven to be extraordinarily helpful in explaining the mysteries of the Friends UCSD Agency account. When thanked for becoming a member, Ken said: "I'm glad to support the Friends of the International Center." Welcome Ken!

Special words of thanks go to **Nadine & Oliver Wilson** for becoming Life Members.

It is with sadness that we share that our Friend and Resale Shop volunteer of many years, **Joe Nichols**, passed away in early December 2017. Joe died peacefully in the hospital, surrounded by his wife, **Maureen**, and their three sons.

"He was a great friend to all of us at the Shop. We will miss our friend Joe dearly," said **Marion Spors** upon receiving the unexpected news. We send our condolences to the Nichols family.

CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank all who have made contributions to the Friends this calendar year, be it in terms of friendship, time, monetary gifts, or donations of merchandise to our Resale Shop.

Notes that accompany contributions are read with interest. **Georgia Crowne**, a stalwart volunteer in the Friends Resale Shop, sent hers with these words addressed to our President, **Katya Newmark**: "It is that time of year again: enclosed is my contribution to the *David K. Crowne undergraduate scholarship fund*. Although I have not seen much of you this year, I have certainly enjoyed your column in the *Newsletter*. Thank you for all that you do for the Friends. It is nice to know that the organization is in good hands. My sincere gratitude for your leadership and guidance."

A number of people kindly make donations with their membership renewal. We thank **Ellen Scott** and **Christa McReynolds** for their contributions to the Friends scholarship fund.

We appreciate **David Jordan's** strong belief in the importance of the Friends mission as evidenced by his making an extra donation to our scholarship fund when he paid for his Filipino-themed Friends Dinner Social reservation by announcing: "all your events should be for raising funds!"

WEDNESDAY COFFEE

—by *Georgina Sham*



Wednesday Coffee met only twice in December, but we ended the year with a wonderful potluck and children, who had been discouraged from coming to crafts where they may be injured, were welcomed.

Now we will start the new year with some new crafts.

Resale Shop

—by *Marion Spors*

The Resale Shop had a great holiday season with lots of lovely gifts for the whole family. We celebrated the "season to be jolly" with hot cider and chocolates. Wishing you all a very happy New Year!

The Shop will open again on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. We will miss our dear friend, **Joe Nichols**, who was loved and adored by all of us at the Shop.

**Friends
Volunteer Hours
for November 2017
951 = 5.40 FTEs**



Note napkins in red, white, yellow, blue—the colors of the Filipino flag



Friends members: Ken Watson, Christa McReynolds, and Faye Girsh



Hannes & Ariane Pessentheimer from Austria, Joshua Wollam from Texas, and Nelly El-Sakkary from Canada

Kai-Na • Let's Eat
 Pinya Punch or Wine
 Vegetable Lumpia
 Barbecue Pork Skewers
 Chicken Adobo
 Pancit Bihon
 (Rice Noodles w. Vegetables)
 Bicol Express Laing
 (Vegetables in Coconut Milk)
 Kanin (Rice)
 Cassava Cake
 Salabat (Ginger tea)



Guests evacuate after hearing a fire alarm



Coconut dance performance

Filipino Friends Dinner Social, Dec. 2, 2017

—by *Katya Newmark* w. photographs by *K. Newmark*



Our Filipino-themed Friends Dinner Social will likely long be remembered, not only for the delicious and satisfying meal, the laughter and good will that was flowing throughout the evening, the spectacular near supermoon, the lively *maglalatik*/ coconut dance, and the romantic Filipino love song, but for the three fire-alarms that occurred during the evening. The first alarm required us to evacuate the building and descend fourteen flights of stairs, not an easy task for some. Thankfully, our guests were most gracious and there was no fire, so many guests did return to enjoy dessert, two more false alarms (no evacuation), and a performance by members of UCSD's student *Kaibigang Pilipin@*.



Chef Gerardo puts finishing touches onto the dessert

Guests continue to thank us for holding these community events, for providing a venue where guests of many ages and backgrounds can mix and mingle, all while furthering their exposure to the food of different cultures. After our dinner, I received a very nice e-mail from **Tuktuki Bhattacharya** that provides all the reassurance one needs after such an exciting evening: "The dinner was excellent last night! We had a great time eating, laughing, and visiting with the others. We are looking forward to the next party already!"

Our next Friends Dinner Social will have a South Korean theme and will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018.



Event chair, Katya Newmark, holds table decorations reflective both of the Filipino flag and of a *parol*, a traditional Filipino Christmas star, prompting Georgina Sham to comment: "And you are the brightest star in the firmament! Thank you, Katya, for all the work you did on this event! It was fun!"

Photo by Justin Costello

Hospitality@Home

Elisabeth Marti is the chair of the Friends program variously called *Hospitality@Home* or *Visiting an American Home*. She recently reported about two enjoyable hosting experiences.

The first deals with a dinner hosted by **Loreen** and **Ronald Wilhelmly**, who disclosed: "We hosted **Deborah Zamuner** and **Rudi Micheletti** from Italy for a 'typical American dinner' (barbecued beefsteak, corn on the cob, green salad, and a favorite meringue dessert) on Thursday, October 19. Since they don't have a car, they came by Uber and thus had no trouble finding our house. We had a delightful evening learning about their work and interests, sharing information with them about some of the *Whos* and *Whats* and *Whereabouts* of San Diego. A week later, on one of the hottest days of the year, Debby and Loreen ventured into Balboa Park and enjoyed a visit to the Japanese Friendship Garden and lunch at The Prado. Thank you Elisabeth for bringing us together. We hope to keep in touch with Debby and Rudy throughout their stay in La Jolla. Looking forward to more new acquaintances."

The second deals with a lunch hosted in November 2017 by Elisabeth and her husband, **Kurt Marti**, themselves. The description came with a photo and a thank-you note from their international guests.

Explained Elisabeth: "Attached is a photo of our lunch. Pictured are **Sangheon Oh**, a graduate student in electrical engineering, and his wife, **Minah You**, both from Korea, and **Rachel Olivera** and **Parker Rogers**, whom we invited to give the Koreans a lift. The two couples live in the same UCSD housing complex on Miramar Street. Parker is a graduate student and his wife, Rachel, is the niece of our daughter-in-law. Also visiting were our son, **Andres**, and his girlfriend, **Jennifer**. They were in town for a wedding and had to leave early."

The thank-you note to the Martis read: "It's really happy to meet you all and spend time together. I'm sure that I can't forget this moment for a long time. Thank you for inviting, welcoming us, and sharing story. Also, the most delicious turkey I have eaten and amazing bread!"

Elisabeth was quick to point



Sangheon, Minah, Elisabeth, Kurt, Parker, and Rachel

out that she did not prepare a whole turkey, but served smoked turkey drumsticks.

Sangheon and Minah wrote a separate note thanking Rachel and Parker for the ride.

To learn more about our very rewarding hospitality program, please contact Elisabeth Marti at hostFIC@ucsd.edu.

January Calendar

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

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 1:45-2:45

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Everyday English**, 10:00-11:30

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Friday Chat**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 9: **Friends Board meeting**, 10:00

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30: **Gus' Table, English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 9: **Resale Shop reopens**

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:00

Jan. 12: Friends sponsor **International Café**, Noon-1:15

Jan. 11: **Cooking Class**, 9:00-Noon

Friends Sponsor Friday Café

In August, the new coordinator of the International Friday Café introduced herself as **Jackie Soong**, Programs and Communications Coordinator at the International Center. At that time, Jackie also mentioned that the Friday Café will continue to be hosted at the Great Hall and that due to the increase in food prices and the costs of renting the location, current sponsorship is \$400. "Sponsorship requirements are the same as years past, with a need for a few volunteers representing your organization to serve at the respective sponsored Café. Thank you again for all your support and making Friday Café possible. We look forward to seeing you in the future!"

From among the dates offered us, Friends chose to sponsor the Café on Friday, January 12. Please come to represent the Friends of the International Center; enjoy food from Argentina; mingle with students, staff, faculty, and community members; all at the minimal cost of \$5 a person.

Friends Fall Scholarships

—by Ruth Newmark

Friends scholarships are awarded twice a year—in fall and spring—with the fall awards being limited to undergraduates going on studies abroad.

The Scholarship Committee (**Jeri Abernathy, Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Louise Kauffman-Engleman, Candace Kohl, Katya Newmark, and Ruth Newmark**) convened on October 25, 2017, and was struck, by how capable most of these students are, able to perform well at a demanding institution of higher learning while having to cope with many personal and financial challenges.

Once more, our Committee was asked to recommend recipients of several non-Friends-funded scholarships and we readily complied, making the selection process that more rewarding. From among the 25 applicants, 15 received funding towards their study abroad.

Selected for Friends of the International Center scholarships were:

- **Elizabeth Pang**, a student in Eleanor Roosevelt College majoring in Literature/Writing, with a near perfect GPA, who will spend this coming spring at the International Christian University in Japan.
- **Ryan Van Brummelen**, a Sixth College student majoring in International Studies: Political Science, who will spend the spring at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Wrote Ryan: “I am elated to hear that I have been accepted as a recipient of the Friends of the International Center scholarship. This scholarship will benefit me greatly during my studies, and words cannot fully convey my sincere gratitude. I am fully prepared to share my experiences abroad, and this is the very least I can do in return for this immense gift. Again, thank you and everyone at Friends of the International Center for your generosity.”

At about the same time, Friends received an e-mail that was forwarded to me. It read, in part:

“My name is **Harrison Gill** and I am currently working on my master’s in international education management and master of public administration at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies up in Monterey, CA. I am a Sixth College alumnus from 2013. I was a Triton International Leaders peer mentor at ISPO during the 2012-13 academic year, and studied abroad with the support of a Friends of the International Center scholarship during fall 2011.

“I am currently working on a project related to finance of study abroad scholarship programs and I would love to briefly speak with someone from the Friends of the International Center, if there is any availability on your end. Thank you in advance for your reply.”

It was fun to reconnect with Harrison whom I remember as having been very serious about his study of political science with emphasis on Eastern Europe. We exchanged several e-mails in which I introduced myself. Addressing my question regarding the purpose of his study, he answered:

“To be specific, my goal is to ultimately launch a web resource as part of my course requirements on the topic of education abroad scholarship management, particularly with a focus on the financial side (this is specifically to meet my financial management course requirement towards



Katya Newmark, Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Louise Engleman-Kauffman, and Jeri Abernathy
Seated: Barbara Fitzsimmons and Ruth Newmark
Missing: Candace Kohl

my MPA degree requirement). In particular, I’m looking into scholarship endowments and funds and how decisions made regarding the fund relate to how scholarships are awarded (such as the number of scholarships awarded).”

Fortunately, Harrison provided me with some guiding questions. By reflecting on these, I was able to formulate the Friends rather complicated ways of handling scholarships that are funded from a number of very different sources, each with its own guidelines.

Friends hear over and over from our scholarship recipients, especially from undergraduates, that their study abroad experience was influential beyond their expectation. Here is one more comment that bears this out.

Wrote Harrison Gill in response to my telling him that I continue to chair the Friends Scholarship Committee and that my records show that he had used the Friends scholarship to study on OAP in the Czech Republic:

“It is a pleasure to see you are still responsible for this. You are indeed correct from your records. In fact, a series of events that followed from my experience abroad on OAP is what got me to where I am today (with a few detours in the process).”

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

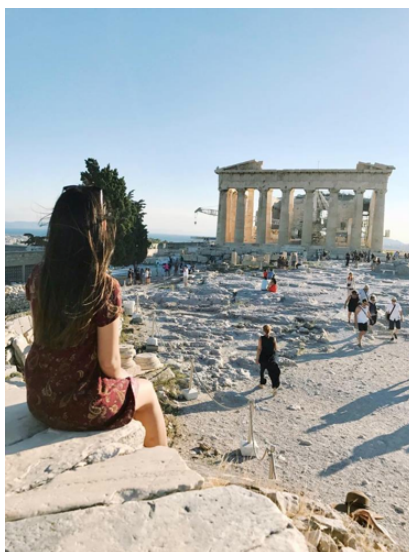
Oct. 8, 2017

Dear Friends of the International Center,

It has been three months since I left to study abroad through the Global Seminars program in Athens, Greece. Just the other day, my roommate from the program visited me and we spent all night reminiscing about all the precious memories. I miss the open-air theaters, the fresh nectarines, the endless archeological museums, and the jaw-dropping views. In retrospect, I cannot believe that I was able to do and learn so much in such a short period of time (only five weeks). It was incredible to be able to immerse myself in a totally different culture and explore so much of a new country. Although it was intimidating at first, I quickly felt right at home.

My absolute favorite thing about the Global Seminar [Drugs, Behavior, and the History of Neuroscience in Greece] was our class excursions to various Greek islands. Our most extensive one included a flight to Kos and a ferry ride to Patmos.

In Kos, the focus was on Hippocrates—the father of medicine. We visited Hippocrates Garden, learned about the Hippocratic Oath, and saw the famous tree under which



Hippocrates supposedly taught his students how to practice medicine. In contrast to the fairly isolated Hippocrates Garden, our hotel was in a very crowded and touristy area. There were countless streets lined with different shops and restaurants. We were also right next to the beach and a loading port filled with all sorts of boats, ships, and yachts. The overall vibe of the island was very lively and definitely left a lasting impression on me.

Patmos was completely different from Kos. Instead of vibrant and

bustling, it was more quiet and quaint. The town that we stayed in was rather small, and was actually a nice change in pace from Kos. While in Patmos, we visited the infamous Cave of the Apocalypse. This cave was where [the Apostle] John heard voices from God that prompted him to write the widely-known Book of Revelation.

For our History of Neuroscience class, I wrote a paper on how the written history of John's visions may have been hallucinations caused by schizophrenia, so it was beyond fascinating to visit the cave that started it all. That's why I think that the best part of global seminars is being able to physically immerse yourself in the environment and history that you are learning about.

Overall, my time in Greece was a beautiful and enriching experience that I will never forget. I would like to sincerely thank the Friends of the International Center for making it all possible. Without your gift of a scholarship, I would not have been able to broaden my perspective of the world in such a wonderful way.

Collete Truong

Muir College
Biochemistry & Cell Biology major

Drugs, Behavior, and 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.

Being my first time in Europe, this program taught me much more than just what was covered in the classroom. Living in Athens, I was exposed to an entirely different culture than what I had been living in for all my life, and I quickly felt very welcomed into the community. I learned to communicate with the local shop owners in the neighborhood our program lived in. Pretty soon, we became recognized faces in the local coffee shops and restaurants we would

frequent, and we began having longer conversations with the employees, learning more about each other with each interaction.

The excursions with our professor to famous ancient Greek archeological sites in Athens, Kos, and northern Greece were exhilarating experiences. It felt incredibly humbling to walk alongside the ruins of the Parthenon, and to wander through the site of the first medical school, knowing that I was walking on the very same ground as Hippocrates did over 2,400 years ago.

Inside the classroom, I learned a lot about the pharmacokinetics of various drug classes, the science of addiction, and the consequences of drug use. These topics were of great interest, since I am a pharmacological chemistry

major, and this was my first real exposure to the topics since most of my upper division pharmacology classes will be taken in my fourth year of study.

On some weekends, students had free time to organize separate excursions to different Greek islands, such as Zakynthos, Mykonos, and Santorini. These excursions gave us the opportunity to explore an entirely new environment, as islands differ greatly from one another.

The island I was most excited to visit was Zakynthos, known for its extraordinarily turquoise waters. While I was initially most excited to see the beaches, my experience in Zakynthos ended up being even more enriching than I could have imagined. I went with six other students, and we stayed in an Airbnb in a tiny rural village called Ano Volimes. Since our host, **Giannis**, owned a car, he offered to show us around the island for the two days we were there. He took us to his favorite local restaurants, showed us stunning beaches hidden from other tourists, and took us on an amazing hike overlooking the famous Navagio (Shipwreck) beach.

As we got to talking over the course of the stay, we learned that Giannis suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and is the president of a non-profit organization that is spreading awareness of the disease and supporting research into finding a cure. Wanting to make the most of the time he has left in his life, he built a home in Ano Volimes with his own hands and opened it as an Airbnb, so that he could meet people from all over the world without having to leave his town. Over the course of the trip, we became good friends with Giannis, and it was a very inspiring experience to meet this man and hear his story.

Overall, I had an incredible experience in Greece and I learned far more about both other cultures and myself than I thought possible. This program has not only taught me about pharmacology, but has inspired in me a curiosity to learn more about (and hopefully travel to) other cultures.

Melissa Maffei
Muir College



While most student correspondence now arrives electronically, it is especially noteworthy to get a postcard with pretty stamps, as I did last fall from **Peter Braden**, a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department, studying the experiences of animals during China's mid-twentieth century. "My research on the experiences of farm animals during the 1949 Chinese revolution also encourages readers to consider the interconnectedness of people and the environment by examining the ways that our policies and decisions affect animals and the earth," explained Peter in his scholarship application. His knowledge of Chinese was described by Prof. **Karl Gerth**, an international expert in Chinese Studies: "His Chinese language skills, both spoken and reading, are exceptional, near native."

A recipient of the Ruth Newmark Scholarship, Peter wrote: "I am writing from Taiwan after a successful visit to the library and archives in Taipei. The Friends Scholarship [Peter's underline] made the trip possible. Thank you again for your support. I hope we get another chance to talk about the history of animals when I return to San Diego."

The Friends Scholarship Committee found Peter's dissertation topic fascinating. We also learned that the history of animals has become a cutting-edge topic of historical investigation.



It has become tradition for UC San Diego to mark its November 1960 founding with an annual celebration. In November 2017, at an event described as An Evening of Nonconventional Wisdom, guests were presented with an outline of the ambitious efforts to raise two billion dollars "to transform the student experience, our campus, and ultimately the way humanity approaches problems and develops solutions." The physical transformation of the campus that will accompany the plan is astounding.

The celebration was held at the Birch Aquarium and, among others, featured two scientists who spoke eloquently about their pioneering research that they hope will have far-reaching application to daily living and general health. Yet, not all was about science and fundraising.

The official program started with a dance performance introduced by the head of Graduate Dance featuring the work of **Veronica Santiago**. I watched the innovative performance with special interest, since Veronica, a Venezuelan MFA student in the Department of Theatre & Dance, was the recipient of a 2016 Friends fellowship to travel to an international dance festival in the Czech Republic to which she had been invited in the dual role of dancer and teacher. — **Ruth Newmark**

Friends of the International Center Board of Directors, 2017-2018

* designates Executive Committee

OFFICERS

President	* Katya Newmark	presFIC@ucsd.edu
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Recording Secretary	* Lynn Jahn	lynnjahn@gmail.com
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Financial Advisor (appointed)	* Joan Adamo	jadamo@ucsd.edu
UCSD Chancellor's Designate—IC Dean	Kirk Simmons	kesimmons@ucsd.edu
Immediate Past President	* Joan Adamo	jadamo@ucsd.edu
Parliamentarian (appointed)	Michelle Grandin Brown	michelle.grandin@gmail.com
Members-at-Large (appointed):	Alma Coles	acoles@ece.ucsd.edu
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	Candace Kohl	ckohl@ucsd.edu
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STANDING COMMITTEES (each committee chair gets one vote, unless otherwise noted)

Communications	Katya Newmark	presFIC@ucsd.edu
Nominating Committee (3 appointed)	To be announced	
Scholarships	Ruth Newmark	scholarsFIC@ucsd.edu

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Holiday Party

"We have survived the physical demise of the International Center yet wish to keep our bond strong with our IC colleagues," so read the invitation to the December 6 International Center Holiday party, hosted by Dean **Kirk Simmons** and organized by **Barbara Fitzsimmons** and **Candace Kohl**. Friends and IC staff enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch, visiting with each other, vying for the raffle prizes once again donated by Candace, and listening to one of the Friends scholarship recipients relate how her desire to resume her graduate studies in the United States brought her from Thailand to UC San Diego.

Wrote **Mo Rodvanich**: "It was my pleasure to get to be part of the holiday lunch. I had such a great time! FRIENDS is doing a wonderful thing by supporting education and students' personal growth. As one of the fellowship recipients, I am very grateful."



Host Dean Kirk Simmons



Barbara Fitzsimmons with Friends scholarship recipient Mo Rodvanich, an MFA student in Theatre & Dance

James Arnold Lecture

The James Arnold Lecture will be held this year on January 19, 2018, in the Natural Sciences Building at UCSD, at 4:00 p.m.

Candace Kohl, a former student of **James Arnold**, the founding chair of UCSD's Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, tells that the speaker will be **Eric Rignot** from the University of California, Irvine. Professor Rignot is one of the worlds experts in measuring the rate of glacier melting and retreat in Antarctica and Greenland, using state of the art satellite observations and applying models to account for the observations and, more importantly, to predict the future and consequences for sea level rise.



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