



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

Newsletter

Volume XLV, No.7

March 2018

President's Column: HOW WE ARE SEEN

One of my favorite questions to ask international visitors is: *Please share something that has surprised you about living in the United States*, as the answers reveal not only something about the visitor, but also about views of America held by those outside its borders. The answers are sometimes surprising (the silence), sometimes to be expected (the weather), and almost always offer a path to a deeper discussion on a wide variety of subjects. So, for this month's column, I thought you might enjoy reading a small sampling.

Nearly everyone expresses surprise and pleasure that Americans are so friendly: we are quick to say hello, we often smile when we pass complete strangers, we greet people entering and exiting our stores, etc. For many, including ourselves, these little gestures can elevate our mood—an act of particular significance to so many who feel the loneliness born of separation. Yet, our informality in using first names can take some time getting use to, since outside the United States the use of a first name reflects a close relationship that one does not have with a restaurant host, bank officer, or the

like, or even when meeting someone for the first few times.

At least 48 foreign countries are represented on the UCSD campus. The countries with the largest on-campus communities are: China, India, and South Korea.

Many talk about transportation, whether it be the size of cars, the amount of traffic, parking, and, of course, the reliance upon cars, though the perceptions about these same topics differ widely. All lament that our big SUVs are increasing in popularity worldwide, when they are so poorly suited to environments abroad, which already struggle with roads too narrow to accommodate cars larger than compact size. And while our locals find traffic increasingly stressful, by comparison our international visitors by and large find traffic here to be stress-free: we drive without honking, we drive in orderly and largely courteous manners, we yield to pedestrians. For our visitors, our parking spaces are

very spacious and provide proximal access to the places we wish to be. Perhaps you, too, will find it amusing to know that in South Korea double parking is normal, and it is expected that you will either contact the owner of the car blocking you or will simply push the offending car(s) out of your way with no need of moving the car back to its original site. (Cars are manual drives and are left in neutral)

Access to human services and education is viewed either very positively or very negatively, and is heavily influenced by the speaker's country of origin. As you might expect, those whose home countries have wider economic inequalities tend to respond more favorably to what is offered in the United States than those whose home countries have strong socially oriented governments. However, for all, there is surprise at the high cost of education, the high cost of medicine, and the absence of basic subjects in our schools (e.g., music, art, foreign languages).

Cultural diversity is another surprise for our visitors, as many expected to be surrounded by stereotypical all-white communities

filled with gun-brandishing Americans they read about or see in movies. Indeed, I have learned that almost every other culture views the United States as a very dangerous place to live in (or visit), and it would seem this opinion is primarily based on our liberal rules of gun ownership.

Our cultural diversity provides a sense of relief that there is tolerance and a wide range of cultural resources and support. At the same time our cultural diversity triggers discomfort, as most visitors are unfamiliar with the breadth of cultures they now find themselves surrounded by. This latter topic of discomfort/non-familiarity inevitably leads to praise for the Friends, and the personal growth afforded our participants as they experience interacting with others not like themselves in a supportive and respectful community.

It is not just our genetics, but also our clothing, music, and food that is diverse. Many enjoy the

freedom to dress differently, to taste different cuisines, to hear different music, and also the comfort of finding ingredients that they did not think they could get being so far from home. I am compelled to explain that San Diego is not representative of the entire United States and this too leads to discussions about regionalism in every country.

I hope that you, too, will find that what emerges from these conversations is a reminder of our own societal biases that cause us to view identical experiences in a myriad of different ways. Since I will never be able to explore the richness of our world's diversity first hand, I am ever so grateful to all who so graciously share their culture with me.

Wishing you a spring filled with friendly smiles,

Katya

Katya Newmark
presFIC@ucsd.edu

March Calendar

March 1: **Cooking Class**, 9:00-Noon

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **Everyday English**, 10:00-11:30

March 2, 9, 16, 23: **Friday Chat**, 10:00-Noon

March 6, 13, 20, 27: **Gus' Table, English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

March 6, 20, 27: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:00

March 7, 21: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

March 7, 14, 21, 28: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

March 7, 14, 21, 28: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 1:45-2:45

March 13: **Friends Board meeting**, 10:00

March 30: **César Chávez Holiday**



Wednesday Coffee

- ❖ March 7: *English Tea* with **Georgina Sham, Lynn Jahn, and Mary Woo**
- ❖ March 14: *Origami* with **Junko Takemasa and Maki Sakai**
- ❖ March 21: *Lavender Sachets* with **Lynn Jahn**
- ❖ March 28: *Crocheted Easter Baskets* with **Marie Perroud**

Thanks GIFTS

We gratefully report that Friends received a fine number of contributions, primarily to our scholarship fund.

Destined to the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* were donations from: **Ruth & Leonard Newmark** made in honor of their grandchildren, **Danya and Justin Costello**; from **Katya Newmark & Matthew Costello** made in celebration of their family day; and from **Jean Fort**, who also made an—always welcome—separate unrestricted gift.

Ann Bowles, Georgia Crowne (for the *David Crowne Scholarship*), **Anne Gro Veja Salvanes, Alan Hofmann, Christa McReynolds, Priscilla Moxley, Ariane & Hannes Pessentheiner**, and **Ellen Scott** made special donations when making reservations to the Friends February Australian Dinner, in itself a fundraiser for Friends scholarships.

Ann Bowles made an additional scholarship contribution, accompanying the latter with her membership renewal, as did **Kim Signoret Paar & Hans Paar**.

Joan & Irwin Jacobs made a donation to the Friends UCSD Foundation account designed for undergraduate study abroad.

Thank you all! Wrote **Duy Trinh**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science: “Once again, I would like to thank you all for your generosity. I have greatly benefited from it, and sincerely hope that many others after me will also be given the opportunity.”

THERE IS JUST ONE RESALE SHOP LIKE OURS!

—by *Marion Spors*, Shop Coordinator

There are many resale shops in San Diego, but only one **Friends Resale Shop** at UC San Diego. We love our cottage on Library Walk and we are thankful to our many generous on- and off-campus supporters and donors, such as **Kim Burton, Sally Warren, Sandy Sherman, Barbara Henningson, Anne Rosenblatt, Margo Villarín, Lynn Jahn, Cindy Tozer, Maria Foulks, Jennie Chin, Ginny Young, Alma Coles** (who gave us bikes to sell!), and, of course, the wonderful La Jolla **Second Act West** designer consignment shop, to name just a few.

We also like to thank our own UCSD Teaching Lab Safety Coordinator, **Sheila Kennedy**, who gives us a great assortment of used lab coats and goggles at the beginning of each quarter. We wash them and then sell them at \$8 per package. This is just one way we work together with different campus groups.

Not long ago, I was invited to introduce the Shop and its mission to the very friendly and supportive **Sustainability** team, an action group that meets monthly at the Price Center and consists of staff members and students across campus.

In fact, our Resale Shop is getting known for innovation. San Diego State University student **Henry Chavez** stopped by recently to find out how we run the Shop. He is involved in a project that researches campus-based resale and thrift shop concepts, and it seems that at the moment we appear to be the only shop of this kind in San Diego. SDSU would like to open a shop, and I am hopeful that Henry will share his research paper with us.

We are continuing to help

the **Career Center** and I recently brought over two of our mannequins for one of its student seminars. We dressed both mannequins in high-end business attire, ready for a job interview. We will repeat our mannequin placement at the upcoming job and career fair at the Price Center.

I also introduced the Shop to the new **Hub**, a brand new office in the Student Center that tries to provide access to basic needs resources at affordable prices. I am happy to report that they know about us and our mission.

We are always eager to help our students and staff to get dressed for special occasions, and we try our best to offer a nice variety of interview suits. However, we are having trouble finding enough gentlemen's suits that fit our younger student population.

On the sales end, we are grateful for an amazing team of talented and enthusiastic volunteers who work hard every week to provide cool merchandise and to greet and serve our customers.



Please stop by on Tuesday through Friday, between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. You will find not only super affordable books, cards, records, shoes, dresses, jeans, shirts, and accessories, but also kitchen and household items. Do take a moment to meet our wonderful team of volunteers. We speak just about every language you can think of, and we will try our best to accommodate your needs.

Please note above our awesome new ad created by our own volunteer and media director, **Mayra Nevarez**. We also invite you to follow us online, either on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsResaleShop-UCSD/>) or Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/friends_resale_shop/).

As of March 1, we will share the cottage with a great team of student coaches from the **1st Gen Student Success Coaching Program**, a program that assists first generation undergrads to succeed.

What's New at the International Faculty & Scholars Office?

—by *Roark Miller*, Director



The International Faculty & Scholars Office (IFSO), along with its sister units the International Student & Programs Office (ISPO), Study Abroad, and the Dean's Office, promote global education on UC San Diego's campus. We do this in part by paving the way for international scholars and students to attend classes on campus or contribute to innovative research, or by sending our domestic students abroad to take classes or participate in research experiences, or through developing partnership agreements between our academic departments and peer programs around the world that facilitate educational exchange. These efforts by our units contribute to the amazing diversity we see here on campus, and their success can be attributed to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who provide support for our internationals on a daily basis.

Shifting immigration policies over the past year have increased the workload seen at IFSO, but such challenges can really bring out the best in a team, and IFSO has many new team members this year to revitalize us all. This past year we have hired five new colleagues: **Victoria Gerginis-Mellos**, Office Manager; **Nari Shin**, J-1 Intake and Compliance Coordinator; **Danny Richman**, Employment-based Immigration Assistant; **Emily Rowley**, J-1 Immigration Assistant; and **Lucas Olson**, Immigration Advisor. We've also promoted **Sandra Vargas Tinoco** to Assistant Director, and currently have a search open for a Senior Immigration Advisor.

This is a lot of change for an of-

fice of 12 persons; and it's proving to be an exciting time, with a lot of new energy and creative ideas, and with a whole lot of learning going on, which is just what we would expect in an academic environment.

The International Faculty & Scholars Office serves approximately 2,800 international faculty and researchers each year, who are invited to campus by academic departments across the institution. The activity of an "international scholar" on UC San Diego's campus can span a matter of days or weeks, for those who come to consult with colleagues or participate in seminars, or last a lifetime, for those faculty who come from abroad and end up making UC San Diego their permanent academic home.

In between these extremes we have postdoctoral researchers, who typically train for several years or more on our campus; visiting graduate students who are on our campus for six to twelve months to pursue research towards completion of their dissertation and, ultimately, their Ph.D. (some then return for a postdoctoral experience!); and visiting scholars, who are already established in their careers in institutions in their home country, but are collaborating with their colleagues here at UC San Diego for a year or two. IFSO staff file the necessary paperwork with a variety of federal agencies (U.S. Departments of Homeland Security, State, and Labor) to enable our academic departments to invite these world-class researchers to our campus.

Our scholars come to the U.S.

on a variety of visa types — some about which you may have heard in news headlines recently.

The H-1B is an employment category, for persons in a "specialty occupation." As an academic institution with a huge research engine and with particular emphasis on STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), UC San Diego attempts to recruit the best and brightest—from all over the world. The rarefied skills and knowledge required for positions supporting our institution's groundbreaking research easily fit the H-1B regulatory specifications, and we use this classification for several hundred of our researchers each year, as well as our faculty and clinicians.

The J-1 category is for "educational and cultural exchange," and while many of our J-1s are employees at the institution, the majority of our J-1 "Exchange Visitors" come on their own funding. The government's goals in establishing this classification was promotion of world harmony—our J-1 Exchange Visitors (and their American counterparts who go abroad on programs such as the Fulbright) essentially become cultural ambassadors when they return to their home countries, sharing their stories of academic and personal success in the U.S., and of the friends that they have made in this country.

If you yourself have interacted with our J-1 Exchange Visitors in your activities on campus, know that you also are a cultural ambassador—spreading friendship and

building bridges between cultures with each of your interactions.

There are other classifications we also use—TN (“Trade-NAFTA”) for Canadian and Mexican nationals pursuing work in certain occupational classifications that require at minimum baccalaureate degrees, O-1s for persons of extraordinary ability; we even have A-2s—persons on their government’s business pursuing research in collaboration with UC San Diego researchers.

To support our international scholars while they are here, IFSO staff members have to keep up on immigration regulations and federal agency policy changes—and the changes in policy have been coming fast and furious lately! Executive orders can have direct and immediate effects, such as banning entry to the country to certain internationals, or effects more indirect and slow to surface, such as increased scrutiny of H-1B petitions resulting in more requests for substantiating evidence.

Budgetary issues can play a role—increased scrutiny of employer-sponsored permanent residency petitions, as evidenced by mandated personal interviews for all applicants, without the budget to increase staffing, has significantly slowed down processing of green cards for our faculty and researchers. And should we have a government shut-down—IFSO will be prevented from filing H-1B petitions, as the Labor Department will be forced to close its doors.

These are just a few examples of how IFSO staff are kept busy. But in addition to immigration regulations and advising on how these changes might affect our individual scholars, we also get to interact with our scholars in ways not related to immigration.

Located on the 2nd floor (Suite 2126) of McGill Hall, we provide space for the Friends bimonthly **Family Orientation** meetings, as well as space for the weekly **Mommy/Daddy & Me** program,

and therefore get to see the younger generation on a regular basis. I was even asked to play Santa at the last December meeting of the M/D&Me group, and did my fair share of intimidating the delightful children (how many other six-foot seven-inch Santas are out there?).

Two IFSO staff members hosted with **Judith Muñoz** the American Football 101 and Super Bowl viewing party; another IFSO staff member just presented a workshop on professional development for our scholars’ spouses (and some of our scholars as well).

This ability to interact with our international scholars outside of the immigration arena, often fostered by the wonderful programming provided by the **Friends of the International Center**, is a component of the job that we cherish, and one that can help rejuvenate us in the face of increasing complexities and challenges we face on the immigration front.



2018 Super Bowl

—by *Judith Muñoz*

As the Super Bowl ended with the Philadelphia Eagles beating the NFL powerhouse, the New England Patriots, Round Table Pizza at the Price Center erupted in cheers. Over thirty international scholars plus some family members rooted for the Eagles. Like most Americans, they seemed to support the underdog team. The February 4 watch party was hosted by the **International Faculty & Scholars Office**, in conjunction with the **Friends of the International Center**.

Prior to the watch party, my husband, **Dan Muñoz**, and I (**Judith Muñoz**), along with **Robert Brown** presented Football 101. (Bob is a former football player currently employed by UCSD in community relations.) Football 101 allowed the international scholars an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the complex game of American



football. While other professional sports are played around the world, American football is unique to the United States. The American phenomenon of the Super Bowl and its parties is a new experience for international scholars. To make the game more understandable, Dan and I also provided explanations during the game.

It was one of the most exciting Super Bowl games and it was enjoyed by all. The participants also enjoyed the pizza and snacks provided by the International Faculty & Scholars Office.



Seated: Tonia Pizer, Jim Galvin, Jay Minert, Sabrina Kaiser, Kim Burton, Tina Brill, and Luis Legaspi
Standing: Kri Howland, Jessica Keith (no longer in the Study Abroad office), Sara Vatch, Kelly O’Sullivan Sommer, Andra Jacques, Rachel Rigoli, and Sheri Liebovich. Not pictured: Lisa Armstrong, new on the Global Seminar team

Study Abroad San Diego

—by *Kelly O’Sullivan Sommer*, Director

It’s hard to believe 2018 is upon us and we are well into Winter Quarter. I’d like to give you a little glimpse into what life is like for us in Study Abroad this time of year.

Fall Quarter was outreach time, during which we reached over 15,000 undergraduate students and had more than 3,000 advising contacts. Winter Quarter is our heavy application time. Thankfully we are now fully staffed at 14 and we have a great student assistant staff of 12. Among our staff we are fortunate to have a part-time financial aid advisor, funded in part by UCEAP (UC Education Abroad program) grant money, and a graduate assistant from San Diego State University, funded by the VCSA (Vice Chancellor Student Affairs) office.

Despite our efforts at reaching and advising such large numbers, our number of students going abroad was down these past

two years: 933 in 2015-2016 and 874 in 2016-2017. This downturn is a nationwide trend and may be due to the current political climate worldwide, as well as perceived safety and risk issues related to traveling internationally right now.

At UC San Diego, study abroad may be perceived as impossible or at least a great challenge to our very large cohort of STEM and engineering majors (59.6% in the Fall 2017 entering class); it may not be on the radar of our first-generation students which makes up about 28% of our population; and it may not be of interest to our nearly 20% of international students studying here for four years. So what are we doing to counteract these perceptions and encourage more students to study abroad?

Study Abroad UC San Diego is committed to making our study

abroad programs accessible to all of our students. We are intentional about how we do outreach, how we advise, and how we work with them through the long months before they depart on their programs. We are also working with the International Center’s Dean’s office to develop new mobility schemes, such as exchanges and faculty-led study abroad programs to ensure a breadth of programs that will meet our students’ needs.

In addition to the presentations, info sessions, tabling events, fairs, and orientations we engage in regularly across campus, we have also partnered with the Campus Community Centers to offer a variety of workshops and advising for students in their spaces. Every week, one or more of our advisors goes to La Raza Resource Centro, to the LGBTQ Resource Center, to the Women’s

Center, to the Cross-Cultural Center, and to the Black Resource Center to be available to chat with and advise students who may not otherwise consider study abroad or may not feel comfortable coming to our office.

We advise students using a developmental model, which means that we ask open-ended questions to guide students to consider their goals and expectations while studying abroad. Expectation management is a big key to success when traveling and studying abroad! The more students think about what type of learning and living environment they would like to experience abroad, the better we can help them find a perfect program to match their expectations and ensure their success and their thriving while abroad.

Our staff members participate in and give presentations at national and international conferences and site visits to ensure we are keeping up with and contributing to the literature and knowledge in the field of international education, and so that we have the first-hand experiences to share with our students about the countries and programs they are going to. We are

also very involved with Diversity Abroad, a national organization that is rich with sources to help us advise underrepresented students interested in study abroad.

Because paying for study abroad is the top concern of our students and is also a main reason for pre-departure withdrawals from programs, we have partnered with the Financial Aid Office to have **Tina Brill** in our office three days a week to meet with students. We have developed partnerships to increase our scholarship availability with each of the six colleges and with OASIS. We offer many scholarship and financial aid workshops throughout the year, including scholarship essay writing workshops, to help our students apply for and be successful at receiving our campus-based scholarships, UCEAP scholarships, national scholarships, and of course our very own Friends scholarships!

Our partnership with the Friends Scholarship Committee runs very deep. You may not know that beyond the fundraising efforts, the Friends Scholarship Committee reads applications not only for the Friends specific scholarship fund, but also for sev-

eral named scholarships, as well as for the Study Abroad Office General Scholarships for which we've had funding the past four years. When we approached **Ruth Newmark** (chair) and the committee about potentially reading double the number of applications there was not a moment of hesitation in agreeing to our proposal. Indeed, the number of applications that the Friends Scholarship Committee reads has steadily increased every year, and we are extremely grateful for the committee members' dedication, fairness, and thoughtfulness in considering every student's application.

Once students are committed and planning for their time abroad, we work with them through their academic approval process, their visa and health clearance process, and then we offer several pre-departure orientations (both online and in-person) to assist them with any cultural, adjustment, health and safety, or even packing questions or concerns they may have.

Please stop in, say hi, and meet our staff if you're coming to the Dance Hall. We'd love to tell you more about what we do.

Thank You

In the Friends monthly *Newsletter*, you routinely get to read letters from scholarship recipients, many of which come with words of thanks. But it is by no means merely our scholarship recipients that appreciate what Friends do. In a December e-mail to **Cindy Tozer** (chair of *Friday Chats*, who also takes participants on hikes and exposes them to tennis and other things of interest), **Shenjin Wu** expressed his thanks and fond memories in this way:

Friends Volunteer Hours for January 2018 853 = 4.85 FTEs

"Days in UCSD were so happy and unforgettable. I just needed to study at that time, and in my spare time, I could do some sports. Actually, at the beginning, I felt alone, but gradually I met friends like you. It's so lucky. With you, I gradually adapted to the local life and start a precious friendship. Thank you and I miss you.

I am now in a venture capital company. I do research about dif-

ferent industry and, of course, I will invest in startup company. It's interesting but extremely busy.

I think the life in China is faster; people work harder comparing to the life in America, more stress. Due to the busy work, I now only play badminton sometimes. Because there are more people playing it here, it's easier to find partner. Maybe I will try to play tennis in the future." when I have more free time."

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Atmospheric Observations over the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian Ocean, and Persian Gulf

In summer 2017, I participated in a 3-month research cruise from France to Kuwait and back, coordinated by Max Planck Institute for Chemistry. The cruise enabled me to make measurements of rare, atmospheric particles that can significantly influence several climate-relevant properties of clouds, including phase, reflectivity, and efficiency in precipitation. Ice nucleating particles (INPs) are rare atmospheric particles (1 in 10^5) that contribute to aerosol-cloud interactions, which currently represent the largest source of uncertainty to Global Climate Models, and are the greatest impediment to our ability to predict how the climate will change given increases in radiative forcing.

Despite about two decades of increased scientific activity aimed at elucidating aerosol-cloud interactions, the uncertainty of their contribution to total radiative forcing of the climate has remained largely unchanged. One hypothesis in the scientific community is that INPs are poorly represented in Global Climate Models, and that this is in part due to the dearth of INP observations globally, and particularly over the oceans.

As a graduate student who studies INPs, the cruise was an incredible opportunity to sample in a vast, never-before-sampled region: the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea. I collected ~ 43 filtered air measurements, and ~ 35 seawater measurements. Currently, the total of published INP observations over the ocean amount to ~ 70 , some of which are 40 years old, so I have an opportunity to contribute significantly to global INP observations.

The strait between Yemen and Somalia is a dangerous region due to high pirate activity (and indeed, we had a near-encounter!), so this region was previously inaccessible to research vessels. The conditions were harsh at times, reaching 50°C (122°F) in the air temperature in the Persian Gulf, with seawater temperatures of 30°C , so it was extremely hot for about two weeks of passage.

We disembarked in Kuwait for a 2-day break, and we also disembarked in Saudi Arabia for a 2-day visit to King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, an institution that helped us get permissions to pass through safer waters in the region. We passed twice through a highly active pirating region between Yemen and Somalia and were prepared for this situation with about 5 or 6 armed security personnel and weapons. The personnel at one point did have to display our weapons to approaching pirates between Yemen and Somalia to deter them from coming closer. We also saw bioluminescent bacteria, flying fish

and other interesting sea life, not to mention lots of stars!

While AQABA enabled me to study INPs in never-before accessible regions of the world, there was also an incredible assortment of technology synthesized to study gas and particle phase chemistry of the atmosphere. For the first time UAVs were deployed on an atmospheric research cruise to get snapshots of the vertical profiles in terms of particle counts, so we could directly observe events where dust was getting transported above the boundary layer.

I was impressed by the extraordinary coordination executed by Max Planck Institute to realize the cruise. It required several years of work to attain the permits and permissions so that we were able to cruise through previously inaccessible waters safely.

Friends of the International Center funds were a tremendous relief during this 3-month period. Students are reimbursed after the trip for many up-front expenses, but there are many reimbursements and most of mine are still pending! I purchased some electronics in Kuwait, so that I could automate my instrument to switch off when we began to sample our own "stack", the emissions from the ship, so that I could keep my air filters free of contamination. I also needed to front expenses for my stay in Malta, where I embarked on the vessel.

I got married in June, a few weeks before the cruise, so my husband and I deeply appreciate the support of Friends of the International Center to help us with my cruise expenses during a time when we also had a lot of personal expenses.

Observations I made during AQABA will comprise a chapter of my thesis and I'm looking forward to filling a gap in my subfield of science that could potentially ultimately result in better parameterizations of aerosol-cloud interactions of Global Climate Models. The cruise was a once in a lifetime opportunity for my career, and I'm sincerely thankful for the support of Friends of the International Center in helping me participate in the cruise by minimizing my financial burden.

Charlotte Beall

Ph.D. Candidate, Climate Science Program
Scripps Oceanography

Charlotte Beall counted herself fortunate to be among a group of faculty and student representatives of Scripps Oceanography and the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) able to attend this summer's international climate

negotiation, known as COP23, at which countries grappled with the uncertainty on how best to proceed in the global fight to reduce greenhouse gas emission. When asked about her experience in Bonn, Charlotte responded: "COP 23 was a great experience for me. Lots of delegates and press came to our presentations this year, which was great. The U.S. presence was dramatically different than last year in Marrakech. There were no government scientists present (NOAA, NASA) the way they have been previously, and the We Are Still In Coalition was mostly corporate.

The best part for me was that I came away with a clearer perspective on how I can design a career in science that in addition to contributing to the academic problems of climate

science also contributes to some practical outcomes." — Scholarship Committee Chair



Charlotte Beall at the CO23 Conference in Bonn, Germany

Dear Donor,

Thank you for supporting my study abroad experience in the Frontier Lab Summer Program at Osaka University in Japan. I am a fourth year undergraduate student, Class of 2018, at UC San Diego majoring in Bioengineering: Biotechnology and minoring in Mathematics. In the 8-week summer program at Osaka University, I did research in chemical process engineering and its applications in renewable energy, while learning about Japanese culture and daily life of Japanese people.

The two months of study abroad has been a life-changing or life-resetting experience for me. Being in Japan really helped me reevaluate what is important to me and what I want to pursue in my future studies. Biotechnology has always been presented to me to be a tool for medicine and curing disease, but after my study abroad experience, I learned that the engineering tools in biotechnology can be applied to more than medicine; in this case, it can be applied to chemical engineering as well. Engineering has now been opened up and is not always about finding the final solution. Engineering is a work in progress itself; engineering is about improvement to existing solutions, either through a new solution or maybe a change in the method we do things.

Through this Education Abroad program, I now have a deeper understanding as to what graduate school entails, where students have their own projects and conduct independent

research. I got to see the difference in how Japanese students express their attitude towards graduate school and what graduate school means to their careers in comparison to American students. Nonetheless, the passion for learning and the basic skills of communication and respect remain the same in both settings.

From talking and making friends with the students in the lab, the homestay family, and UC students in the program, I learned a lot about what it means to be a student and to be 'young' and what skills I have and what I need to work on. This has been an unforgettable learning experience.



Winnie Shi in front of the famous sign advertising Glico candy, Osaka

I am incredibly grateful to have been able to make so many friendships with other UC students and sharing the amazing experience of climbing Mt. Fuji and going on the Shikoku-Awajishima trip with them. I deeply appreciate having built a relationship with my homestay family: from experiencing home-cooked Japanese meals and having an Osaka takoyaki party at home to learning about Japanese fashion and Japanese attitude towards politics. There were so many rewarding experiences in and outside the lab that have changed the way I will view the world and that I will hold onto for the rest of my life.

The Friends of the International Center scholarship was a huge help financially as well as mentally. It allowed me to focus on the program and take more time to engage with both Japanese graduate and undergraduate students in the lab. Since this program was a full time research program, I was not able to work during the program. Being so close to graduating, not having additional loans relieved a lot of financial pressure.

Your scholarship made experiencing Japan possible, and I would not have been able to meet so many different people and make so many connections without your help. Thank you.

Winnie Shi
Revelle College

Dear Friends,

Travelling to Japan was something I had wanted to do for a long time, so I'm really happy to have had the chance to study abroad in Tokyo this summer. Although the time I spent was short, I was able to improve on my Japanese with native speakers, and engage with Japanese culture up close. Previously, my only exposure to learning the language was through self-study in high school and the few classes I was able to take at university, so being able to interact with so many different people who spoke Japanese in a variety of different dialects was helpful to my study of the language, as well as my understanding of the culture itself. I was glad to use the knowledge I gained in the classroom in daily life in Japan.

Japan is famous for its many kinds of temples. After I completed my program at the International Christian University in Tokyo, I travelled directly to Kyoto and there I was able to see such famous temples as Kinkakuji, a Zen temple completely covered in gold leaf, and Kiyomizu-dera, a temple selected by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. I enjoyed the tranquility of the environments, and how respectful people were of the cultural significance they held.

Because I already liked eating Japanese food in the States, I was excited to try all the Japanese food I could eat in Japan. I quickly learned about such popular fast food restaurants as Matsuya and Sukiya, and enjoyed being able to order meals in Japanese. I also had the chance to visit friends I had made while still at UCSD, and try authentic and tradi-



Visiting friends at a family party in Kyoto

tional dishes such as homemade *ta-koyaki*, fried octopus balls, and *nabe*, a variety of Japanese hot pot dishes.

I became very appreciative of the politeness in Japanese culture, which I was able to observe daily. When riding escalators, people will line up on the right side to allow other people to pass easily on the left side. Interestingly, I found out that whether people line up on the right or the left side varies depending on the region in Japan, differing, for instance, whether you are in Tokyo or Osaka. In consideration of the passengers, talking on public transportation, be it on buses or trains, both of which are highly used, is greatly discouraged.

All the places I visited in Japan were very clean, even in small alleyways, and especially in crowded areas. There were virtually no trashcans in sight, which forced people to carry their own trash home, while also keeping public areas clean.

Protecting the environment is of great concern in Japan, shown in how recycling and trash collection are regulated. Trash is divided into different categories, and segregated, among others, into consumables or burnable materials. Recycling, too, has different divisions and recyclables are handled on specific days of the week, such as Tuesdays for burnable materials and Wednesdays for glass. The care for the environment by the Japanese people left a deep impression on me. There is a lot that we can learn from the Japanese people that would benefit us.

I definitely want to return to Japan, and I highly recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to visit. I am very thankful for the opportunity Friends of the International Center has given me to study abroad. I hope the Friends can continue to provide support for students wanting to study abroad!

Daniel Tan

Warren College,
Computer Science major

OAP in Denmark



My experience abroad in Denmark was more than I could have ever imagined! I learned so much about life, myself, the world, and medicine. I could not feel more blessed to have had this experience.

Danish culture is both refreshing and genuine. On the surface, Danes may appear cold and unfriendly (especially to Americans), but they are the most caring and generous people I have ever met. Danes have a miraculous hold on work-life balance and value family time immensely. Most of them are heading home as early as 3 p.m.! Doctors work 37 hours/week and are easily able to maintain a happy family life, something which seems like a novelty for an American doctor. It is this appreciation for life and family that I fell in love with.

As for the many other countries I visited, I was surprised by the knowledge I gained about myself.

When you are abroad, nothing feels comfortable. Ordinary things, like buying groceries and finding your way around the city, become a challenge. You learn that there is so much more out there than the bubble in which you have lived. I was astounded by how giving and helpful the locals and corresponding tourists were. Even though these new cities seemed so foreign, it now feels as if the same human values flow through the world.

Academically, I have never felt so involved in the medical community. In my Medical Practice and Policy course, I was taught by doctors how to be a doctor. I wasn't wrapped up in the nitty gritty biological details of biochemical terminology, organic chemistry reactions, or Newton's laws; I was learning the practicalities of treating human beings.

From my three-hundred person lecture halls at UCSD, the idea of being a doctor seemed abstract and

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