



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

Newsletter

Volume XLII, No. 9

May 2015

Annual Membership Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony

We invite you to attend our Annual Membership Dinner and enjoy an evening in the company of your fellow Friends members, International Center staff members, and our always-interesting student guests. Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor, Experiential Learning, and International Center Dean, **Kirk Simmons**, will say a few words and will then introduce our “new” Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, **Juan Gonzáles**, as our featured speaker.

The Friends Scholarship Committee appreciates the dedication of the many volunteers engaged in activities that raise money specifically for our Scholarship program: the Resale Shop, the Ethnic Dinner Program, and our Board, and express its appreciation to those who donate to the Friends Resale Shop and who generously donate to the Friends. Through our combined efforts and collaboration with the University, the Friends is able to make scholarship awards in the record amount of \$100,000 for 2015.

The evening will begin at six o’clock with wine or raspberry lemonade and light appetizers in

the lounge. Dinner will follow, and will start with a vegetable soup and continue with chicken in a lemon dill sauce, roasted red potatoes, spinach salad with pecans and dates, and end with chocolate mousse for dessert. Tea will be available at the end of the meal.

The cost for attending the annual dinner is just \$20. Please note if you desire a vegetarian meal on the reservation form found on page 11 of this *Newsletter* or online at <friendsannualdinner.eventbrite.com>. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 12, so we encourage you to complete and return the reservation form, along with your payment, as soon as possible.

The dinner will be held outdoors in the central patio, so we suggest that you dress warmly.

President **Katya Newmark** will conduct a brief business meeting that will include the election of officers for 2015-16 as proposed by **Kristine Kneib**, Acting Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Ruth Newmark, Scholarship Committee Chair, will then introduce the Friends Scholarship

Annual Membership Meeting
and
Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00 PM
International Center

RSVP by May 12

Awardees for 2015.

An added feature this year will be hearing from a former Friends Scholarship recipient about the importance of our scholarship. **Emily Wolfsohn** will tell us about her time in Chile that was so rewarding that she extended the study from a semester to a year!

We look forward to another memorable evening celebrating our scholarship awardees.

Jean Selzer

Katya Newmark

Annual Dinner Committee Chairs

Notable:

“In all, my trip to Kenya was the most amazing experience that I had as part of my undergraduate career at UCSD.”

Rhiannon Schultz

2013 Friends Scholarship recipient
B.A. Biological Anthropology

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee—composed of **Alice Blake-Stalker**, **Nori Faer**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Kristine Kneib**, and **Judith Muñoz**—is pleased to submit the following names for office for the year 2015-16:

President:	Katya Newmark
Vice President, Membership:	Renate Schmid-Schoenbein
Recording Secretary:	Tashu Malik
Treasurer:	Karen Davis
Corresponding Secretary:	Susan Graceman

The above slate will be voted on at the Friends Annual Dinner Meeting to be held at the International Center on Tuesday evening, May 29, 2015. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but the nominee must both be eligible and have given his/her prior approval.

To assure the necessary quorum, we ask that you please send in your proxy statement available on the back page of this *Newsletter*, if you cannot attend the annual membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Muñoz
 Nominating Committee Chair

Volunteerism Revisited

An editor always likes feedback from readers, and so I was delighted to hear from **Katya Newmark** that in response to her April 2015 President's column discussing volunteerism, she had received a note from **Lynn C. Anderson**. Many will recall that from 2007 until 2012, Lynn served as UCSD's Dean of International Education and Director of our International Center. Even though she returned to her native state of Minnesota, Lynn has maintained her membership in the Friends and continues to support us in other ways. Lynn also continues to be an enthusiastic reader of our *Newsletter*, addressing her remarks not only to Katya, but also to **Eleanor tum Suden** and **Jennie Chin**:

"I read with great interest, as always, the latest Friends *Newsletter*. You all continue to do so much fabulous work—more and

more all the time it seems! Know that I am so very appreciative.

"Great that you are including the number of volunteer hours/FTE in each *Newsletter*. I wanted to let you know that we did track that previously—Eleanor, if my memory serves, you tracked it and it was sent to the Campus Support Group Advisor each year for inclusion in UCSD reports, so there might be past data you can use. I know I included it in budget requests to campus and in presentations. I thought it was also in past IC Annual Reports, but went through the last two just now and couldn't find it. So, while there isn't data going back 53 years—there is more data to be had. If I find any of the specific numbers, I will send it along to you, but I remember it was something like 5-6 FTE annually."

Soon thereafter came this corroboration: "I found a reference

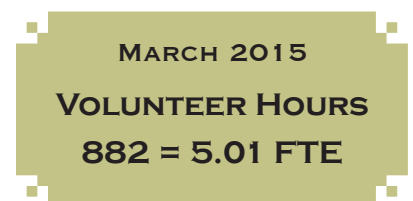
May Calendar

- May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon
- May 2: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00
- May 6, 20: **Family Orientation**, 9:15
- May 6, 13, 20, 27: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon
- May 6, 13, 20, 27: **Gus' Table**, 10:00-Noon
- May 12: **Board Meeting**, 10:00
- May 12: **IC Volunteer Appreciation Reception**, 2:00-3:30
- May 14, 28: **Int'l Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00
- May 15: **Friends sponsor International Café**, 12:00-1:15
- May 19, 26: **Knit-Along**, Noon-4:00
- May 19: **Friends Annual Dinner Meeting and Scholarship Awards Ceremony**, 6:00
- May 20: **International Kitchen**, Noon
- May 25: **Memorial Day**

from Katya from September 2013 as follows: "The Friends contribute significant volunteer hours ranging from 3.5-7 FTE each month."

Thank you Lynn for reminding us of the importance of keeping records!

Ruth Newmark



President's Message



The value of international friendships, and even acquaintances, cannot be overstated. My husband, daughter, and I just returned from a trip to Egypt and Jordan and while photographs of our trip will document the magnificent sites: the great pyramids of Giza, rock carvings in Petra, etc., it is the people we met and the knowledge gained that will provide the indelible memories.

I ask that you read the following as glimpses into people's lives from other lands.

Our Egyptian tour coordinator and I formed an instant bond when I shared that I was as interested in learning about everyday life in Egypt as I was in seeing Egypt's famous sites, and so we were invited to dinner at the apartment he bought for and shares with his mother in Cairo—a definite highlight of our trip. May, I again plug the value of the Friends *Visit an American Home* program?

That it was Mother's Day did not prevent Mohammed's mother from spending the day cooking for us, and as every good son does, his mother's culinary talents were praised, and while we did not share his opinion, the meal was nonetheless memorable. From this visit we experienced that many of Cairo's side streets remain dirt; spoons are used more than forks; cooking with coconut oil has begun to make its way into health-conscious Egyptian homes; eating while watching

television is common; most homes have satellite dishes and current American television shows are broadcast (subtitled and edited for profanity and extreme sex); most homes have many sofas and seating areas, since large family gatherings are the norm; a bucket with a long string is used to buy goods from the street and to send back payment; divorce is as common in Egypt as it is in the USA; couscous is a favorite dessert loaded with powdered sugar and milk; what we consider to be *Middle Eastern* desserts are called *Oriental*; and, as in so many cultures, an overabundance of food and warm hospitality is a given.



One of our tour guides (for several days) is a Muslim Mother Teresa, and while she works many jobs to support her mother and two sisters, she gives hugs and money away freely. Given her situation, this makes little sense, but she reminds me that her faith is based upon compassion, educating and helping others, and bears no resemblance to the so-called religious Muslims in the news.

Our Jordanian driver (for several days) lived in Florida and says that while America offers the best of everything, his one and only

criticism of America is that at age 18, our children are sent off on their own, and this does not mesh with the strong Arabic culture of caring/providing for your children until you die.

I could write more, but will end with a wonderful exchange I had with a Palestinian woman, born and raised in Saudi Arabia, who attended university in Canada, and did a fellowship in dentistry at Ohio State University. I asked her why she chooses to remain in Saudi (as it is called). As we applied mud on one another's backs at the Dead Sea, she looked wistfully across the sea to Palestine, and said: "I cannot go back to my true home, and except for the fact that I cannot drive in Saudi, which is really @\$%, home is what you make it and life is the same anywhere in this world: we work, we marry, we do our best to raise our children, and leave the world just a little better than when we found it."

Wishing you all happy travels, even if it is only through your exchanges with our international visitors who have much to share!

Katya Newmark
presFIC@ucsd.edu

Gus' Table

—by Nori Faer

There were a variety of interesting topics discussed last month, including a discussion about sounds that we can't stand hearing (nails on a blackboard, for instance). One week the topic was on the feeling we call "awe." We discussed every possible emotion, and a fair number of participants had something to say. I learned that "goose bumps" are called "chicken bumps" in China.

Representing the Friends of the International Center, President **Katya Newmark** and I, as Scholarship Committee chair, attended the 2015 Scripps Institution of Oceanography Fellowship Student Brunch. The invitation read: "Please join us for a special brunch with Scripps fellowship students, Sunday, March 1, 2015. Come hear presentations from students representing the broad spectrum of ocean, earth, and atmospheric science at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Meet the students, discuss the research, and view scientific posters. Your support helps train the next generation of environmental leaders. This has an effect far beyond the education of a single person. It impacts the lives of all those who will be affected by their scientific innovations."

I recognized quite a number of Friends among the roomful of guests; as always our members support the University in many ways. It was good to see Friends Life Member **Lanna Cheng Lewin**, an expert on marine insects, being recognized for her outstanding support of Scripps Oceanography students.

We learned that there are about 240 graduate students at Scripps Oceanography and that the average cost of graduate study per year is \$68,000. This is the cost incurred and covered for the most part through funding from state, federal, and, more importantly now, private support. The cost of supporting a graduate student is soaring at a time when federal funding is increasingly scarce. Now, more than ever, help is needed to support critically important student fellowships and scholarships. Scripps Oceanography guarantees funding for a graduate student's first five years at Scripps Oceanography, but students are encouraged to help find their own funding; the more so, since it may well take 6 years to earn a Ph.D.

Fellowships generally carry a payout of about \$10,000/year, and the students shared that this sum allows them to focus on their research rather than working as either a teaching or research assistant, which in turn allows them to further their academic research.

While Friends fellowships are more moderate in scope, their impact is still of considerable value, since the \$2,000 generally pays for essential international travel and often a bit more. Thus it did not come as a surprise to hear from **Jill Harris**, one of the panelists and presenters at the event, that without our funding she would not have been able to conduct research in Curaçao. —**Ruth Newmark**

Study of Coral Reefs

I am a doctoral student in marine biology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and I am grateful to have been awarded a scholarship from the Friends of the International Center. I used this award to travel to Curaçao, where I spent two months



Experiments above water

at the CARMABI (Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity) Research Station.

I study coral reef conservation biology. Worldwide, we are losing coral reefs due to a range of problems caused by humans: runoff from coastal development and agriculture, overfishing, climate change, and ocean acidification are some of the major issues. When coral reefs begin to die, many of them are overgrown with seaweed. My dissertation is about the interaction between coral and seaweed. Ultimately, my goal is to better understand the ecology of coral reefs, so that we can find new and effective ways to protect them.



Experiments under water

Marine conservation is a global issue, and I have been fortunate to work in many places around the world and collaborate with a range of international partners. These international experiences are good for both my data and for my perspectives on conservation issues and development as a scientist. For example, part of my dissertation is a comparative project in which I repeat the exact same experiment in different locations. Because the environment varies from place to place, I can get a better idea of which processes are controlling coral-seaweed interactions. The bonus benefit comes from working with people from different countries: I view my work from diverse perspectives, learn different ways of doing science, and practice communicating with people from all over the world. Moving forward in my career, these international experiences are making me a more well-rounded and effective scientist.

I had a wonderful time and successfully completed all of the experiments that I had planned. However, what really stands out is one particular night at the research station. CARMABI is home to scientists from the U.S. and the Netherlands, and there are always visiting scientists from universities around the world. When I was there, I met scientists from Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Canada, in addition to Dutch, Curaçaoan, and American scientists.

We were all working on separate projects, so where we really came together was at the research

station's tiny, shared kitchen. One night the Italian scientist decided he wanted to make *gnocchi* from scratch, for everyone, so the rest of the group came up with our own representative dishes to contribute (our American contribution was beer and a nice green salad; the Portuguese made a perfect *semifreddo* to accompany the sweltering tropical heat). In true Italian style, dinner wasn't ready until almost 10 p.m., but now I know someone's Italian grandmother's secret to light and fluffy *gnocchi*. We toasted in five languages, passed dishes around the table family-style, and I remembered exactly why international research is such an important part of science.

Jill Harris

*Friends Carol & Stuart Smith
Fellowship*

Jim Arnold Lecture

The annual **James R. Arnold** public lecture will be held Friday, May 8, 2015 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium of the Sanford Institute for Regenerative Medicine, near the glider port. The speaker this year will be Dr. **Marcia McNutt**, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Science* and former Director of the United States Geological Survey. The title of Dr. McNutt's talk is: "Geoengineering: No Hope or Planet's Last Hope?"

The event is free but registration will be required due to limited seating. To register go to <https://jimarnoldlecture2015.eventbrite.com>. For further information, please contact physcievents@ucsd.edu or (858) 822-6436 or speak to **Candace Kohl**, who as a doctoral student worked closely with Jim.

Scholarship Contributions

—by *Ruth Newmark*

Treasurer **Karen Davis** is pleased to report a handsome contribution to our scholarship fund from **Louise Engleman**, as well as another from **Jerry and Barbara Fitzsimmons** to help fund a fellowship in the memory of their respective mothers, **Nan K. Fitzsimmons** and **Helen M. Kilgore**.

The Friends Scholarship Committee met in April to read fellowship applications from international students engaged in advanced studies at UC San Diego, from domestic graduate and medical students embarking on international studies, as well as from large numbers of undergraduates planning studies abroad. *It is with your generous contributions that the Friends scholarship program has continually increased in scope, so that for the first time in its forty-year history, we will be able to make awards totaling \$100,000!*

Because our fellowships and scholarships are of value not only to the recipients, but also to the University, different units are matching our funds. It is with great appreciation that Friends thank the **Graduate Division**, **Student Affairs**, the **Medical School**, the **Financial Aid Office**, and the **UC Education Abroad Office** for matching our \$50,000 dollar for dollar.

Friends can be very proud of this partnership that extends far beyond a simple financial collaboration. From our scholarship program's early beginnings, UCSD has shown great trust in the ability of the Friends Scholarship Committee to reach intelligent decisions. As rare as it is to allow a donor to personally select recipients of their philanthropy, you should know that the Committee has again been asked to help select recipients of other study abroad scholarships. While this adds considerably to the hours members of the Scholarship Committee devote to reading applications, it is one way that Friends can repay our University for its support of our scholarship program.

A big thank-you to these Committee members who volunteered to read the more than 220 Spring applications: **Jeri Abernathy**, **Joan Adamo**, **Kim Burton**, **Alma Coles**, **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Jean Fort**, **Candace Kohl**, **Katya Newmark**, **Ruth Newmark**, **Josephine Randel**, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, and **Carol Smith**. The Committee is greatly indebted to staff members who process the applications for us; in particular we thank **Zoe Ziliak Michel** in the Graduate Division and **Kim Burton**, **Kelly O'Sullivan**, and **Sheri Liebovich** in the Programs Abroad Office.

Be sure to come to the Friends annual dinner on May 19 to meet the 2015 scholarship recipients. Join one of last year's recipients in congratulating this year's students; wrote **Sunny Young**, a psychology major in Muir College who is spending the academic year at University College Utrecht in the Netherlands:

"I AM SO EXCITED FOR THE STUDENTS THAT ARE SOON TO BE EMBARKING ON THEIR STUDY ABROAD JOURNEY. WISH THEM LUCK FOR ME!"

May 2
**Friends Dinner
Social**
6:00 p.m.

May 12
**IC Volunteer
Appreciation Reception**
2:00-3:30 p.m.

May 19
**Friends
Annual Dinner**
6:00 p.m.

The Importance of the International Center in My New Life in San Diego

—BY MACARENA GALAZ

Photos by Katya Newmark



A new life in another country wasn't something I expected. However, now that I have been living in San Diego since 2012, I have to say that it has been the best experience ever, mainly due to the support of the International Center at UCSD.

My husband and I are from Chile, and we came to UCSD because of his Ph.D. program in the physics department (his research is focused on the theory of microscopic magnetism). Coming here meant giving up my work as an organizational psychologist. I had to struggle with starting a new life, adjusting to cultural differences, and learning a new language. To be honest, it was not simple. A transition like this means leaving the life you built with the people you love and grew up with. It requires finding a new sense of belonging, and this is definitely the reason why the International Center has been so important for me. All the good memories about my new life in San Diego inevitably lead me to the Center and its activities.

It is at the International Center, where I met my fantastic English tutors, **Teresa York**, **Christina Villalobos**, and **Toby Wolf**. With them I felt heard again. I enjoyed the beautiful process of exchanging information about our cultures and understanding their differences,

especially during my first year. After that, I began to participate in other great programs, such as the Wednesday Morning Coffee and cooking classes, where I met the best people ever. These activities provide a great support group for spouses of UCSD's international students and scholars.

At the International Center, I found wonderful people from many countries. Not only did they have interesting life stories to share, but they also had a hand to give you when you needed help and company. Of course, this place would not be the same without its amazing volunteers, especially **Jennie Chin**, **Katya Newmark**, **Georgina Sham**, **Mary Woo**, and **Keiko Hirai**, who have been so welcoming and friendly. I really appreciate the effort of these women who have helped me in so many ways. Through them I even discovered a new passion: cooking. I have no words to express how grateful I am for being part of the cooking class and Wednesday Coffee, where I've gotten new skills, knowledge, and experience.

The Friends of the International Center gave me the opportunity to share some of my country's cuisine by letting me prepare Chilean food



Mary Woo and Macarena preparing Chilean lunch

twice in 2014. The first time, I was asked together with my Mexican friend, **Alejandra Ornelas**, to design a Hispanic menu for the International Cooking Experience class. We showed our friends how to make empanadas, nopal salad, and rice pudding. It was really amazing to watch my cooking classmates enjoy eating empanadas for the first time. I remember being so nervous, because I didn't know if they would like Latin American flavors. Fortunately, our menu was a success.

The second time, I was in charge of preparing a Chilean lunch for seventy people. With the help of an incredible group of volunteers, we made Chilean salad, *pastel de choclo* (beef and corn pie), and *leche asada*, a delicious cinnamon-lemon custard. Seeing many Chileans from the UCSD community come to our lunch and receiving positive comments from the people who came to enjoy our meal made my day. I'm so glad I was part of this big, memorable event.

As a conclusion to my experience at the International Center, I have to say that it truly fulfills its mission as a place that brings together people from different countries to promote social and intercultural participation and awareness. That's why I need to thank all the members and volunteers of the International Center for their dedication and creativity in all the activities they organize for us every week. But most importantly, thank you guys for making me feel comfortable, as if this were our second home.

Visiting an American Home

—by *Elisabeth Marti*



As chair of Visiting an American Home, I would like to interest you in this rewarding Friends program by telling you about a personal experience.

In early March, my husband and I had a very nice time together with **Uttama Sahoo** and Dr. **Dipak Sahu** from India, and **Alice Blake-Stalker** and her husband

John, who took care of transportation for our guests. When the foreign visitors do not have a car, it works out really well to invite another couple that will do the driving while the host is getting the meal ready at home.

Our Indian guests had been in San Diego since October of last year (August for Dipak), but neither one of them had been north of UC San Diego. We had chosen to serve lunch, as our garden is very inviting. At the same time, the guests were able to see some of San Diego's surroundings during daylight. Both couples brought dessert, which made the preparations even easier and the menu more interesting.



Dipak and Uttama with Elisabeth and Kurt Marti

Kurt and I were excited to find out that Uttama and Dipak will become parents in August. We hope to hear from them when the baby arrives.

You, too, might enjoy hosting one of UCSD's new international visitors. If this sounds appealing, please get in touch with me at <kurtmarti@sbcglobal.net>.

Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

The May schedule of special Wednesday activities is as follows:

- May 6: *May baskets and potluck lunch*. It is an old custom to make May flower baskets; we will provide both flowers and baskets, but if you have some to contribute, please bring them with you. Upon the project's completion, we will enjoy a potluck lunch together. Please note that we will meet at the Mesa Apartments Community Room, kindly reserved for us by **Arti Sharma**.
- May 13: *Beading or origami or board games or mahjong*. Come and decide what you want to do.
- May 20: *Mexican lunch*. **Alma Coles** will design the menu and lead us in preparations. Lunch will be served at noon for \$5/person.
- May 27: *Needle felting* with **Keiko Hirai**, who will show us how to make cute little animals from wool.

The Coffee program has a number of fabulous volunteers, including a relatively new one: **Lynn Jahn**. Lynn learned about us from reading an article about Friends in the *La Jolla Light* and decided to give us a try. Did we luck out! She has taken the volunteer plunge with great enthusiasm and *joie de vivre*.

Lynn has a degree in chemistry, worked for SDG&E in its environment department for 25 years, until she retired. Then she went to work helping a relative as a store manager for Adelaide's flower shop in La Jolla; she did that for twelve years, before retiring a second time.

She now spends many days at the Center. For the Friends Wednesday Coffee's annual holiday party, when we give all the young children handmade toys, Lynn took it upon herself to create some 40 additional stuffed animals for us, because she noticed that we were running low. Suffice it to say, we had a lot of very happy children. Naturally, we quickly recruited Lynn to help teach some of our craft classes.

For Valentine's Day, she baked 200 Valentine-themed cookies providing participants an opportunity to apply their creative skills to decorating the cookies that were then passed around for all to enjoy. In addition, Lynn attends the weekly Knit-Alongs and participates in other Friends activities.

We are thrilled to have this gifted and talented individual in our midst. Not only have we gained a lovely volunteer, but many of us have gained a wonderful friend as well.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Reflections on My Summer at the University of Cambridge

It was pouring when I arrived at the Cambridge City Centre Station the night before our program started. I had heard rumors about the significant amounts of rain the United Kingdom gets and how heavy it can be, and Cambridge did not wait to show me the weather condition I would be living under for the next two months. However, as soon as the rain cleared out by the morning on the first day of the program, Cambridge was everything I had imagined it to be—historical buildings dating back to the 1200s, tea shops around every corner, and elegant and majestic chapels all surrounded by the famous River Cam. Inside the well-known King's College was where most of our program activities took place, including the dining hall where our formal dinners were held and rooms where we attended class. Although the classrooms were similar to the ones we have at UCSD, the learning experience was vastly different than the lecture styles I am used to. Even though I mainly took classes to fulfill requirements for UCSD, the learning continued outside the classrooms.

Every inch of Cambridge embodies a historic contribution to the world, including a table at a pub called the Eagles where **Crick** and **Watson** brainstormed the Double Helix Structure of the DNA. The moment I sat down on that table was the moment I realized I had picked the perfect place to study abroad. Not only was Cambridge the birthplace of many English cultures, but it is also one train ride away from the bustling city life of London.

The first tradition I experienced is also the most popular in Cambridge—punting. I heard that there are more punts on River Cam than on any other river in England. Punts are flat-

bottomed wooden boats navigated by pushing against the riverbed with a pole. I never tried punting myself, because punters have to balance on the flat parts of the boat and I did not want to fall into the river. However, I did ride in punts while my friends were punting, and even went on a punting tour around Cambridge in which the punter acted as tour guide and told us the history of Cambridge as we cruised along the river.

Walking around Cambridge was just as eye opening. In fact, one of the girls I met in the program was staying in the same building where **Charles Darwin** used to live when he attended the college! Furthermore, I went on a walking tour around most of the colleges and learned that **Isaac Newton**, **John Harvard**, and even **Gandhi** attended the University of Cambridge! One of my favorite things I encountered while walking around Cambridge was seeing the original manuscript of *Winnie the Pooh* in the Trinity College Library.

Another memorable tradition I experienced as a student in University of Cambridge was their formal dinners. To be admitted to these dinners, women must be dressed in cocktail dresses, while men must be suited up with ties. Students were served a complete three-course meal with complementary wine.

Knowing that so many Nobel Prize winners graduated from the very same university I studied at definitely inspired me to excel academically. Ranked the fourth best university in the world, the University of Cambridge is known for its rigorous academic curriculum. And the summer programs are no different. I took two business classes to complete my business minor and a criminology course out of interest. The two busi-

ness classes were Business Creativity and Innovation and International Management and Ethics. Although similar business classes are offered at UCSD, the learning experiences between the two universities were very different. Business classes at UCSD use recent events in the business world as real life examples to teach us. By contrast, the class at Cambridge was based on a more theoretical point of view. The approach Cambridge took was definitely more difficult; however, it gave me a lot of foundational knowledge and insight on the real world case studies I learn about at UCSD.

To further dive into what Europe has to offer, friends and I would travel to nearby cities and countries on the weekends. These weekend trips were filled with adventures—both good and bad ones—that made me realize we learn best not in moments of comfort and convenience, but from times of spontaneity, challenge, and risk-taking.

I thank the Friends of the International Center for helping to fund this important chapter of my life!

Tammy Zhan

Sixth College

Management Science major

A Semester in Ireland

I spent the semester at National University of Ireland—Galway, as a third-year visiting student in the College of the Arts. My major at UCSD is International Studies—Sociology, so to align with my studies I took three Irish sociology courses titled Globalisation, Prostitution and the State; Gender and Human Rights; Revisiting Violence: Aggression and Abuse in Contemporary Irish Family and Institutional Life. In addition, I took a

course on the Literature of Medieval Wales, and also a Gaelic language class. Studying in Ireland was a truly unique experience and I can say that I expanded my knowledge in a way that I definitely could not at home.

In October, I enthusiastically registered to attend the Structure and Agency in the Contemporary Politics of Gender and Sexuality Colloquium at the University of Limerick. The topics discussed at the colloquium ranged from contemporary debates around commercial sex in Ireland, sex trafficking in Germany, issues of migrant sex workers and male sex workers, and more. I also had the opportunity to attend a public seminar by Irish sex worker and activist **Laura Lee**, who discussed the myths and realities of sex work, as well as viewpoints on policy changes and how to reduce crime and violence.

Being surrounded by, to learn from and meet a collection of international and local NGO activists and academics who are extremely passionate and knowledgeable on these subjects, gave me a definite new outlook on possible paths of post-graduate study and career ideas. The possibility of doing research in the realm of sex work and sex work policy was something that could not have arisen given the discourse of criminalization and taboos surrounding the subject in the U.S.

I did not spend all my time studying. I had a tremendous amount of fun joining NUIG's surf and windsurfing club, and enjoyed making friends with local students and bonding while braving Ireland's ferocious weather.

I also had the opportunity to travel around Ireland to see some of the country's most beautiful landscape, waters, cities, and countryside, and experience the hearty and lively culture encompassing great music, traditional Irish language, delicious food, and the kindest of people.

Erin Chan

Eleanor Roosevelt College
David Crowne Memorial
Scholarship

What Language Reveals in Lebanon

February 5, 2015

Last week I moved from Beirut, Lebanon (where the Friends scholarship funded me) to Istanbul (where I'm continuing my research with a Fulbright Fellowship).

The Friends of the International Center has been a tremendous benefit to me as so few governmental or non-governmental foundations will fund research in Lebanon, due to its precarious security situation and political climate. While my research concerns education in Beirut in the late Ottoman period, its implications are visible in daily life across the city. Where I lived in East Beirut, people in my neighborhood were much nicer to me when I spoke French rather than Arabic. Now this isn't a reflection of my language abilities, as I sound pretty dumb in both, but it's also not a reflection of theirs: most urban Lebanese switch casually between the languages, starting a sentence in one and continuing in another, frequently English for younger people and French for those over 50.

My hypothesis is that it reflects two social perceptions of difference. When I've lived in the Middle East previously, my Arabic was decent enough to leave most strangers thinking I was an Arab from some other country. Jordanians thought I was Lebanese, Egyptians thought I was Syrian, and so forth. However, Lebanon is a place where difference can be criminal. Every day witnesses raids on refugee camps and gunfights between police and Syrians. I think my spoken Arabic (and my ethnic origin) were ambiguous enough to put people on their guard, in a time when other Arabs are viewed with suspicion.

The other social structure I think it reflects is an important part of my research—Lebanese Christian valorization of France/Europe/West/Whiteness and demonization of Arabness (and the whole grab-bag of Orientalist tropes). So a *Bon Jour* is decidedly not so *Bon*. It's a performance of my White Europeanness and an implicit rejection of Arabic language and Arab culture.

While I can't say that I loved my time in Lebanon, I learned a great deal, both in the libraries and archives and outside of them. I saw how the continuing (U.S., Turkish, Saudi, etc.) policy in Syria spilled over into Lebanon, making even simple interactions fraught with meaning. I saw incredible inequality, both against the Syrian and Palestinian refugee populations, as well as the Indian and Sri-Lankan guest workers.

My archival work was a success. I discovered amazing records of Ottoman and French missionary education in the 1800s, personal diaries of WWI, and fascinating snippets of everyday life in the period. But there's an ugly side of everything, and I hope my dissertation, drawn upon this research, can help us understand the issues of today.

Edward A. Falk, Ph.D. Candidate in History



London on EAP

I want to start out by saying how thankful I am that I was awarded a Friends of the International Center Scholarship. The money really helped in paying for the huge costs of studying in England.

London has to be one of my favorite places in the entire world. There is so much to do and see. My 14 weeks there were spent adopting the customs and culture of the

Brits and enjoying, exploring, and getting lost on the east, west, north, and south sides of London. Before heading for England, I already was pretty independent, as I had left for college at only 17 years old. In London, though—maybe because I was away from all my friends and family—I came to know myself better and grew into a different independence. My confidence in myself increased. I became more open-minded and learned how it felt to be the foreigner.

My favorite memories from the experience were exploring London and traveling to other parts of the UK and Europe, including Brighton, Newcastle, Ireland, Scotland, Paris, Barcelona, Rome, Milan, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Athens.

Staying in non-English speaking countries was very interesting. I had to be more creative in communicating, I had to rely more on my intuition to get around, and had to be open to the fact that I would probably get lost and waste some time trying to figure out how to get from an airport into the main area of the city. As I began to travel more and more each weekend, these things became second nature, and I soon I was no longer bothered by the new climate, culture, or language. I embraced the new experiences, sites, food, and culture.

I even got the chance to meet my aunt and first cousins in Greece and my second cousins in Newcastle. These were once-in-a-lifetime experiences, since financially I would not be able to travel just to Newcastle or Athens from the U.S.

Now that I am back, I long to return to the UK and Europe, as I am sure every study-abroad returnee says. I know one day I will go back there, but for now I just try to encourage everyone I know to study abroad and experience something out of their comfort zone.

Evelyna Vartanians
Human Biology major
Muir College

My Experience Abroad

Before going abroad, I had an overwhelming flood of questions and concerns running through my mind about what this experience will be like. What sort of adventures will I undertake? What sorts of mishaps will occur? And the most prominent question, will I enjoy my trip?

Now, as this journey is coming to an end, I am left to think deeply about what has actually transpired. The best way I can describe my experiences is to discuss the different lifestyles of an exchange student.

The first is similar to the customary freshman-year experience, with the exception that you are now old enough to drink, go to bars, and visit clubs. Along with this experience, there is a phase of extreme social activity where you will meet a great number of people from all around the world. It was refreshing to meet people coming from different cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles. I really enjoyed learning their life stories, and how these experiences shaped them to who they are today. When everyone is open to learning about others, you are bound to create long-lasting friendships.

The second lifestyle is the travel experience. Having spent most of my life in California, I had never had the opportunity to travel in Europe or even in other states within the United States. I was stuck in a California bubble without even knowing it. Therefore, when I finally traversed across Europe, I was able to break out of this bubble and witness how large our planet really is. It is absolutely incredible how much there is in the world: the eclectic people, the intricately constructed architecture, and the naturally developed landscapes. Each city I traveled to had its own personality, and my favorite of all these locations were the cities interwoven with nature. Every time I saw such natural beauty, I would suddenly feel a wave of peace, serenity, and utter bliss. Nothing needed to be said, only felt.

The third lifestyle of an exchange student is the academic one. This lifestyle is typically not seen as the most important by the student, but surprisingly was one of my favorites.

As a student studying engineering, I was required to take two engineering courses, both of which were project-based classes. As I attended these courses, I grew more and more interested in what was being taught. The courses were very hands-on, and I learned an incredible amount on project management, product design, electronics, coding, and, most importantly, how much more I need to learn in order to achieve my dreams and goals.

The last, but I feel the most important, lifestyle of an exchange student is its introspective aspect. I had much time to THINK about myself while abroad, which is good, because I never had the opportunity to do so back at UC San Diego because I was continuously studying or working.

Here are some important life lessons that I learned:

- Have confidence in yourself. Confidence is not fearing failure.
- Stay calm. No matter what bumps you meet in the road ahead, as long as you stay calm, you can devise a clear solution to get over that bump.
- Be a sponge. Go travel and take in all that is around you.

While it is not necessary to go abroad to learn different life lessons, I feel the act of studying abroad provides the opportunity and the time to do so. Overall, my study-abroad experience has met and exceeded my expectations. While I do not represent all those who have studied abroad, for me, my abroad experiences have definitely been life changing.

Harry Ng

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