



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

Newsletter

Volume XLIV, No.2

September 2016

President's Column

When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves. (Viktor Frankl)

Regrettably, we were unable to prevent the closing of the International Center proper prompting a series of changes. Each of the IC staff units has moved: the Deans Office and Study Abroad are now located next to Matthew's Quad in building 409; IFSO is now located in McGill Hall in Suite 2126; and ISPO is now located in Student Center B on the first floor. At least through the end of 2016, the Friends is operating its day-time programs in the three pavilions located at the IC. The Oceanids Kitchen Exchange will operate out of a large storage container adjacent to the IC parking lot. And discussion continues that would enable Friends cooking and evening programs to operate at the International House, the new location for the popular Friday International Café.

The future for Friends programs and the Resale Shop, after January 2017, remains unknown and I encourage you to remain steadfast in your support of the Friends mission. Now more than ever, I ask that you please help us provide a welcoming community by contacting coordinator **Elisabeth Marti** at hostFIC@ucsd.edu to volunteer to host an international family for a meal of your choosing.

The summer has been an unusually busy one for our program leaders and we owe them, our international participants, and **Jan Tuomainen** (executive assistant to Dean **Simmons**) a giant round of applause for their efforts with the physical move and dedication to continuity of Friends programs. I also extend my gratitude to our newly elected 2016-2017 Friends board members, including newcomer **Lynn Jahn**, who, as Recording Secretary, joins continuing officers: **Joan Adamo**, **Karen Davis**, **Eleanor tum Suden**, **Renata Schmid-Schoenbein**, and **Carol Smith** and appointed members-at-large: **Michelle Brown**, **Alma Coles**, **Candace Kohl**, and **Cindy Tozer**. And, a final word of thanks to **Ruth Newmark**, our faithful *Newsletter* editor, for keeping our membership informed of what's going on.

May good news come,

Katya

presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu



September Calendar

*Please verify dates and times,
and check on locations*

September: **NO English classes**

Sept., 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

Sept. 5: **Labor Day**

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Gus' Conversation Table**: 10:00-Noon

Sept. 7, 21: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

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

Sept. 13, 20, 27: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30

Sept. 12, 19, 26: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 10:00-11:30

Sept. 13: **Board Meeting**, 10:00-Noon

Date of reopening of **Resale Shop** is still to be determined

From the Editor:

So much is in flux that it becomes hard to present even a cursory overview of all that is happening with the Friends and International Center staff. Program chairs are coping as best they can and Friends President **Katya Newmark** continues to plead our case for cohesion to the administration and to itemize in detail our need of appropriate space to carry out our varied programs. We can't thank Katya enough.

What keeps all of us engaged are the words of appreciation from the many we serve. Here are some random samples:

- ❖ "It was only after joining the International Center I dropped the idea of returning home."
- ❖ "I must thank to the FIC, including volunteers and staff, because they make me and my family happy despite we are far from everything we know."
- ❖ "I felt so lonely. I had no friends or no help. I didn't go out, and stay at home every day. And I couldn't speak English so much. But **the Friends** changed my life."
- ❖ "Well, I'm very proud to have been part of this, even minimally, and I know that at a time when nationalism and protectionism ideas are being put on the agenda a friendly welcome to foreign friends is fundamental for the integration and coexistence among peoples."
- ❖ "A kind of harbor," a "home away from home" is how several described our International Center; another commended the Center for its "warm and friendly ambience."

Lynn Jahn might well have been speaking for all Friends when she wrote: "I just wanted to share this photo with you. **Junko Takemasa** has been here for four weeks. She came to Wednesday Coffee last week for the first time. Today [August 4] she made this card, thanking us for welcoming her to Wednesday Coffee. The smile on her face gives me encouragement to continue on."



Junko Takemasa from Japan
peeks out from behind her
creative thank-you card

Ruth Newmark

Friends Conversationalists

—by *Nori Faer*

As summer begins to show signs of waning, I've become acutely aware that the end of the season also brings with it the end of some of our participants' stay in San Diego. We discuss this at the conversation table and I can feel the heaviness in the air. This isn't the time to warn everyone not to get attached because they leave us. It's too late. We are attached to each and every one of them, as they are to each other.

Tuesday's conversation at Gus' Table turns to the future of the Friends programs. A few are more vocal than others and they are angry: "This was the very best American experience I have had since coming to San Diego. This is where I made my friends, learned new skills, and new perspectives. How could they tear this all down?"

Another said: "For a university who is bragging about their growing international population, they certainly have no respect or real caring for us! They are just disrespectful of all that you have done and the years you have served this group!"

We e-mail **Suleyman Ozakin** to make sure he is OK during the attempted coup in Turkey, and learn he is fine and missing all of us. I hear from **Chiara Parrella**, who is back in Italy, that she misses her life here and sends her love to everyone.

Cindy Tozer's Friday Chatters, too, is going strong and meeting weekly in the Oceanids Pavilion, while **Diana Saunders'** English language class is making good use of the Pavilion on Thursdays, but will NOT meet in September as Diana will be visiting family in the UK.

A further testament to our program's lasting value are the continuing friendships on the part of those participants who left a year or two ago. **Gerti Csapo** exchanges e-mails with **Gosha Bigaj**, who is back in Hungary. They are trying to get together during their vacations, and they include **Letty Ponomareff** and me in these exchanges. Gerti shares photos of her handsome husband and their gorgeous, growing little girl skiing in the Alps or the family sunning themselves at some lovely lakeside getaway.

*I like to think that what we, **The Friends**, offer is life changing for each and every participant. And for us.*

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by *Mariko Usui*

Our Mommy/Daddy & Me classes were on a 6-week summer break until the end of July. Meanwhile the moms organized weekly outdoor play dates held either at Nobel Park or Doyle Park—all took place in the evening. We tried to make the meetings entertaining by designing craft and sing-along sessions.

Meanwhile **Cathy Lin** from Taiwan joined our international leadership team currently consisting of **Bree Chunharas** from Thailand, **Huanwei Cui** and **Wenjing Deng** from China, and **Yuko Takehara** and **Mariko Usui** from Japan.



Also late in July, we gave a baby shower for one of our former volunteer teachers, **Naoko Nakanishi**. It was held in one of the Mesa Apartments community rooms, where **Alice Blake-Stalker** took the above picture.

On August 1, we had our first session back at the International Center. Thanks to the detailed information provided about the use of the program's new home and the warm encouragement given by **Katya, Ruth, Jennie, Georgina, Alice, Jan**, and other project leaders, our first day there went smoothly. Every one of the participants, both volunteers and parents, was willing to help in setting up the class and cleaning up afterwards, for all of which we are very grateful. Considering the current situation of the IC buildings, participants were urged to bring wipes, changing mats, and water/beverages with them.

The Mommy/Daddy & Me classes will now take place on Mondays in the Oceanids Pavilion. For children 24 months and under, the class is scheduled from 10:00-10:40 a.m.; for the older children, the class will be from 10:45-11:30 a.m.—thus the same hours as before, but on a different day of the week.

What a great pleasure to be able to get together again at everyone's beloved International Center!

Our team is ready to continue to offer fun-filled classes, in the hope that they will nurture friendships between our international families.



Wednesday Coffee Report

—*Georgina Sham*

Wednesday Coffee was overjoyed when we learned that we would be able to use the Oceanids Pavilion for our meetings. **Lynn Jahn** and other volunteers set to cleaning up the place immediately, and Lynn even scrounged banners to make the room more homey. We have now had several meetings in the room, and we like it very much—the room is bright and airy, and though somewhat crowded and lacks water and other amenities, we are quite at home there.

We have planned a full complement of activities, including a couple of potluck lunches. The only thing we miss is having cooking activities, which are very popular with our participants. We hope to have those soon, though at another venue.

In addition to the Oceanids Pavilion, the building next door, which President **Katya Newmark** has named Pavilion West, now has a place for us to store our craft supplies, so we are pretty satisfied.

We continue to meet weekly, on Wednesdays, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. On September 7, **Lexi Jiang** from China will teach us how to make snap purses (we have metal frames for the participants). **Pearl Tangri** from India will teach us to make gift boxes on September 14, and on the 21st, **Susan Louise Sonnesen** of Denmark will teach us to make flower brooches. We will round out the month with a potluck lunch on September 28.

Family Orientation in the Summer of 2016

—by *Nancy Homeyer*

Family Orientation has been meeting the needs of newly arrived family members of faculty, scholars, and graduate students at UC San Diego since 2010. It is the entry point for many into the activities of the Friends of the International Center. Our presentation centers on those activities as a way to make friends in a new country, as well as to improve English and learn about life in the U.S.

This summer we missed three sessions, although we have never missed one before. If there are no activities, there is little for us to present. While the future existence and location of our programs were uncertain, we decided to wait for firmer ground before presenting information to the public. We now have that and are settled into the West Pavilion. One session in that location shows that it works well for us. We will continue there until another change comes our way.



A Night to Remember!

—by Ruth Newmark with photos by Carol Smith, Stuart Smith & Katya Newmark.

Our Annual Membership Dinner with its joyous scholarship awards ceremony, held this year on May 17, was the last major event that Friends of the International Center held at our beloved International Center, for 45 years our campus home, a home we helped create. Funded jointly by town and gown in the spirit so characteristic of the symbiotic relationship between Friends of the International Center and UC San Diego, the building—erected in 1971 and enlarged in 1986—is in such a state of disrepair that it needed to be vacated. Thus



International Center
Sketch by Carolyn Kellogg

the knowledge that we would soon have to leave our premises cast a bittersweet shadow over our 2016 Annual Membership Dinner. Although we were still unsure exactly where we would be relocated and how all our different programs would be able to operate, we were determined to assure everyone—ourselves included—that Friends were going to continue to make every effort to offer our usual activities that provide our international community with a warm welcome and a sense of home away from home, to which they can come anytime and any day to meet up with others, to eat lunch, or simply to hang out. Perhaps it was this positive spirit, most conspicuously exemplified by our President, **Katya Newmark**, that created that night the warm atmosphere praised by so many of our guests. The number of embraces and kisses bestowed were truly amazing!

Wrote Katya at 1:20 in the morning (several of us wondered if she ever goes to sleep): “Despite

the gloomy start to the day and our guests having to bundle for the chilly weather, I could not be happier with tonight’s outcome! I wanted to share a short recap and, more importantly, to express my gratitude to all who helped pull off another fabulous event. I had several students share that they had been apprehensive about attending the dinner, and at the end could not believe how quickly the time flew by and how much they enjoyed themselves. Many expressed their gratitude at having found a group of people who are so sincerely warm and inviting, and many of our guests opined that tonight was ‘a magical evening’; I believe the magic is the result of the incredible mix of people that come together for this celebratory occasion.”

Katya accompanied this note with a wonderful array of photographs. As those who know Katya will be aware that she is rarely seen without her camera. To the delight of participants, Katya faithfully documents Friends events, and



Nori Faer, Joan Adamo, and Kristine Kneib check in guests

promptly shares her photos with interested parties.

Responded **Ginny Young**, who as usual helped in the kitchen: "One of the highlights of any of our FIC activities is your heart-felt recap and fun photos to commemorate the event! It's always fun to be at these gatherings, especially because of the wonderful people who have gathered to support the group. I know that had I not found the Friends of the International Center in my early years in San Diego, my life would have been much less rich, active, and food-filled!"

Attendance at this year's dinner was at an all time high: 141, prompting the last-minute need to rent an additional table and tablecloth for ten, which Katya's husband, **Matthew Costello**, graciously agreed to pick-up and return, all to avoid paying a delivery charge. I must stress that Friends are a frugal lot and that we try to do as much as possible ourselves, but never at the expense of either quality or style. Seating this many people in the central patio was a challenge, and required us to place a number of guests at backless benches, while others were seated far from the podium. Fortunately, these minor discomforts were readily taken in stride.

To illustrate, we heard from one of such table hosts, IC staffer **Tricia Schueler**: "My table (table 16, woot, woot!) was full of amazing students and the wonderful **Judith** and **Dan Muñoz**, who told stories of UC San



Ginny Young, Alice Blake-Stalker, Tashu Malik, Elisabeth Marti, Jean Selzer, Mary Woo, Lynn Jahn

Diego in the golden 70s. The students didn't know one another at the start of the night, but were cheering each other on as they were called up to be recognized. By the end of the evening, they had all exchanged contact information. What an amazing group of young people and 'oh, the places they will go!'"

Replied Katya: "Thank you Tricia for volunteering and for cheering on your table mates. Indeed two of the students from your table came to tell me how much fun they had at your table: the laughter, the Spanish speaking, the contact exchange, etc. As I shared, a lot of effort is put into the table seating and while we cannot guarantee results, we feel pretty confident that, with nominal effort, conversations should be lively and enjoyable. I am delighted that **Maria Celleri**, the grad student from Ecuador, and **Maria Miranda**, the undergrad going to Ecuador, will be getting together soon. Maria M. shared how much she enjoyed the chance to be with the graduate students—this is a comment we hear year after year from our undergraduates."

The event was carefully orchestrated by Katya, as dinner chair. **Joan Adamo**, **Nori Faer**, and **Kristine Kneib** welcomed guests at the check-in table and found that having the nametags in two colors: red for those under 21 years and blue for all other guests, speeded up the process.

Candace Kohl and **Lynn Jahn** made the colorful floral arrange-

ments—our podium never looked so good. The protea and many other blooms came from Candace's own garden, the agapanthus from Lynn's, and the beautiful tea roses from a member of the Del Mar Garden Club. **Tonia Pizer** noted that a lovely rose aroma greeted everyone upon arrival into the courtyard.

Many hands helped to arrange and set tables: **Lynn Jahn**, **Kristine Kneib**, **Candace Kohl**, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Jean Selzer**, **Mary Woo**, and **Ginny Young**. **Mayra Nevarez**, one of our internationals active in Wednesday Coffee, pitched in too, and upon Katya's request videographed parts of the evening's activities. Seeing that people were setting up for the Annual Dinner, a post-doc spouse from India, **Yamuna Mohanram**, quickly jumped in moving tables and chairs. When thanked, she said: "Oh, it is nothing. The Friends has made a lot of difference in my life. There is nothing I would not do for the Friends."

The fresh-flower centerpieces, flameless candles, and lime-green napkins specially folded by **Danya Costello** so that they could hold bookmarks (created by **Katya**) that spelled CELEBRATE—the theme of the evening—contributed greatly to the inviting ambiance.

As customary, drinks (raspberry lemonade and white wine) were available in the I-Center lounge. Our beverage servers throughout the evening were: **Liz Fong Wills** and the brother/sister team of



Danya Costello asks Friends scholarship recipient Emily Little to show her ID before serving her a glass of wine

Justin and Danya Costello. After taking it upon herself to become a California-certified alcohol server by enrolling in an online course that stresses safety, Danya has become the Friends most frequent pourer of alcoholic beverages and is particularly careful about not serving alcohol to underage guests.

By 6:30, our President invited guests to be seated. Our annual dinner brings together a welcome mix of people: Friends members, scholarship donors, International Center staff, University administrators, and, of course, the stars of the show: student scholarship recipients.

The IC staff's gracious offer to serve as the evening's table hosts and waitstaff is yet one more demonstration of the happy relationship between International Center staff and volunteers. That staff does so year after year, and took the time to do so this year during an especially stressful period, is doubly appreciated. Each host was provided with information about their tablemates and was asked to introduce him/herself, as well as the others at the table. From last year's feedback, we knew that this helps break the ice and further eases conversation.

For serving as exceptional table hosts, Friends thank: **Kim Burton,**



The School of Medicine table: Matthew Haynie with his wife Annie, Dean Carolyn Kelly, host Jan Tuomainen, Ilan Kolkowitz, and Joel Klas

Dulce Dorado, Roseanne Galegher, Jim Galvin, Courtney Giordano, Gabriela Hoffmann, Emily Kawahara, Luis Legaspi, Roark Miller, Kelly O'Sullivan Sommer, Tonia Pizer, Carol Robertson, Tricia Chan Schueler, Kirk Simmons, and Jan Tuomainen. They were joined in their tasks by Friends members **Alice Blake-Stalker** and **Kristine Kneib**, who cheerfully agreed to sit at tables without backs.

Wrote **Jan Tuomeinen**: "All of your hard work produced a beautiful event. It, indeed, was the best Friends Scholarship Dinner yet. You should be proud and let this success make you smile knowing all the memories these scholarships will give to so many. Thank you for letting me be a part of it." Similar



Dotan Haim, Ruth Newmark, and Olga Lazitski Kovaleva

words came from **Emily Kawahara**: "Thank you, Katya, for an amazing production. It was an honor to be a part of and it was very inspiring speaking with the students and donors."

A word about the food. The main meal was prepared by **Bekker's Catering**, while Friends took charge of drinks and dessert. The two scholarship recipients sitting on either side of me, **Olga Lazitski Kovaleva** and **Dotan Haim**, praised the food, revealing that all-too-often they rely on snacks, rarely taking the time to cook for themselves, feeling stressed by all required of them as TAs and Ph.D. candidates. But they were truly effusive about the brownies and blondies—Olga, from Russia, who is as trim and fit as can be (she teaches Zumba on campus), even accepted the offer of a second dessert! Others too liked the meal (minestrone soup, chicken breast with a basil cream sauce or a vegetarian option, penne pasta with tomatoes, a mixed green salad, all served with focaccia). Commented **Jean Selzer**: "I liked the food and, of course, the brownies and bar cookies were the best."

Our compliments to the bakers: **Mary Woo** and **Lynn Jahn**. And kudos to the hard-working Friends volunteers who plated the food and facilitated service—a number who did so without the benefit of sitting down to enjoy the meal: **Alice Blake-Stalker, Lynn Jahn, Elisabeth Marti, Tashu Malik, Jean Selzer, Mary Woo, and Ginny Young.**



Our smiling table hosts

Slate of Officers for the Year 2016-2017

President:	Katya Newmark
Vice President, Membership:	Renate Schmid-Schoenbein
Recording Secretary:	Lynn Jahn
Treasurer:	Karen Davis
Corresponding Secretary:	Eleanor tum Suden



Lynn Jahn, Katya Newmark, and
Renate Schmid-Schoenbein

Although the main focus of the Friends annual dinner is on recognizing scholarship recipients, the dinner also provides us with an opportunity to conduct an essential business meeting. In the absence of **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, the Nominating Committee Chair, Acting Chair **Kristine Kneib** presented the proposed slate of officers for 2016-2017 and called for a vote by Friends members. There not being any further nominations from the floor, the candidates were unanimously elected to loud clapping and cheers.



Katya Newmark receives thanks and
plant from Renate Schmid-Schoenbein

On behalf of the Friends Board, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** thanked Katya for her extraordinary leadership at a difficult time and presented her with a plant and bouquet of fresh flowers.

Expressing her regret at not being present at the festivities, **Barbara Fitzsimmons** wrote Katya: "I was so sorry to miss the dinner; we were homebound on the 17th. It must have been a wonderful trip down memory lane, and a tribute to the Friends. I want you to know how much I admire the incredible work that you've done as our leader during this time. Your approach is firm but fair, and I know that you've literally spent hundreds of hours dealing with the many problems that have had to be dealt with. Keep up your wonderful work, Katya, and my heartfelt thanks for your unending efforts to find solutions to this situation." Barbara's words spoke for many of us.

In her own warm manner, Katya wrote the Board still that

evening: "One more thank-you to one and all for the smiles, hugs, encouraging words, and the commitment to making this all work out going forward."

Next on the podium was Dean **Kirk Simmons**, who expressed his thanks to the Friends for the hospitality extended to UCSD's international community and for their laudable support of international education by awarding \$103,000 in scholarships this year.

He then introduced our guest speaker, **Elizabeth Perl**, who came down from Goleta, headquarters of the University of California's Education Abroad Program, where she serves as Alumni Engagement and Development Director.

Elizabeth shared her personal experience of traveling the world with her sister for a year, after graduating with a college degree that did not really suit her, and stressed how much this exploration shaped her views and future career. She also told us about the broad sweep of EAP programs, the first of which was inaugurated in 1962 at Bordeaux University, France.

Elizabeth appreciated being



Elizabeth Perl

given the opportunity to present the UCSD recipients of three prestigious, system-wide international scholarships, prompting her to write upon her return home: "I really enjoyed meeting our young scholarship recipients and seeing first-hand the great work that the Friends are doing. Thank you for all your support of UCEAP."

The evening concluded with an inspiring speech by study-abroad returnee and 2015 Friends scholarship recipient, **Noble Dwarika**, that led into the actual scholarship awards ceremony, about both of which we will report in future Friends *Newsletters*.



International Center Dean Kirk Simmons
and former IC Director Mary Dhooge

Campus Support Group Renewal Approved

It is with great pride that Friends once again received renewal of our status as an official Support Group of UC San Diego. Our thanks go to Financial Advisor **Joan Adamo** for submitting the necessary documents, including Friends Treasurer **Karen Davis'** federal and state tax returns, and Dean **Kirk Simmons'** very positive testimony re: the value of the Friends work. We are also grateful to **Eleanor tum Suden** for doing this task so faithfully in prior years, and keeping detailed records.

June 23, 2016

Ms. Katya Newmark
President Friends of the International Center

Dear Ms. Newmark:

I am pleased to acknowledge the Friends of the International Center as an official support group of the University of California, San Diego. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Friends members for their significant support of the International Center, and student scholarships, as well as their contributions to the international experiences of our students both here and abroad. For 50 years, the Friends of the International Center have provided an integral part of the university experience for our international students and helped to share the diverse cultural landscape of San Diego.

It is a pleasure to recognize you and the members of your group for your continued efforts and commitment. The Friends of the International Center are an invaluable resource to UC San Diego's international community. I wish you every success with this and your future endeavors.

With kind regards,
Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor

April 18, 2016

Corinne A. Cramer,
Director, Donor Stewardship and Advancement Services

Dear Ms. Cramer,

I am delighted to enthusiastically endorse the Friends of the International Center for a renewal of their official support group recognition. Their continuing contributions to international education and international programs at UC San Diego are immeasurable. Each month they contribute an average equivalent of five full-time-equivalents in volunteer hours. Their commitment crosses all populations of our international community from degree-seeking, international undergraduate students to visiting international faculty members and their families. The Friends is a unique and valuable organization, which has deep, historical roots in the community and is one-of-a-kind when compared to similar organizations at our peer institutions.

I encourage you to readily approve their reapplication for official group status.

Sincerely,
Kirk Simmons, Ph.D.
Dean, UC San Diego International Center

Friends Craft Circle —by Jennie Chin

The Craft Circle continues to grow. **Lynn Jahn** and **Mary Woo** have been providing additional support to the participants involved in sewing and crocheting projects.

Of late, we have been joined by several international students who are here for a month to study English, and after their class, they come to the Craft Circle to practice their English. As their classes are in the morning, having the Craft Circle in the afternoon is a plus for them. In Craft Circle, they are encouraged to share their experiences by spending time and effort speaking in English. This time the students are from China and Korea; last time we had two students from Japan. As Lynn provides an occasional class project, this is a good icebreaker for our international students.

We continue to meet every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Oceanids Pavilion, with the exception of holidays.

In Remembrance

It is always sad to report the death of one of our members, but especially so when it concerns the death of one of our earliest supporters and life members: **Marie Pearce**. Marie came to La Jolla in 1963, when her husband, **Roy Harvey Pearce**, was named the first chair of the Literature Department. Together they enjoyed hosting many successful recruitment parties at their home overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Marie became quickly involved in Oceanids, ultimately serving as its president from 1971 to 1972. The Friends of the International Center, too, benefitted greatly from her dedication. Marie worked on numerous fundraising dinners with us, served for three years as *Newsletter* editor in the 1970s, and faithfully volunteered in the Friends Resale Shop. Health issues kept her from participating in Friends activities in the last few years, so that we did not learn immediately of her death in May 2016.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends of the International Center,

Thank you for enabling me to fulfill my dream of working at the world-renowned Institute of Neurology at Queen Square, London. I completed an observership in the Movement Disorders Clinic there. My goal in doing this observership was twofold. First, I wanted to see how functional (also known as psychogenic) movement disorders are approached outside of the United States. Second, I wanted to experience practicing neurology specifically in the United Kingdom.

The Movement Disorders Clinic at the Institute of Neurology is where the most complex cases are sent in the UK. I saw patients there with diseases that general neurologists may never see in their careers. There were many observers at the clinic from other countries (Germany, Italy, and India to name a few). They

were there to see diseases that they wouldn't see in their home countries, because some genetic disorders are only present in certain ethnicities. It made me appreciate the diversity of the patient population we see in San Diego.

I also noticed that the approach at the clinic was more physician-centered, rather than patient-centered. Of course, it's hard to say whether that culture was specific to the clinic in which I was working or more pervasive in general. Seeing a different physician-patient relationship in action, for better or for worse, made me realize and appreciate the emphasis on patient-centered encounters that we were taught at UCSD.

Because my husband is from the UK, he has always entertained the idea of moving there. However, I

had no experience of how medicine, and more specifically neurology, was practiced there. The physician-patient relationship was much more formal. The attending-trainee relationship there was also more hierarchical. I met physicians there who had trained in the U.S. and then moved to the UK, and they were able to give me advice on some of the practicalities and licensing logistics of attempting such a move.

Again, I want to thank you for enabling me to have this experience. It wouldn't have been possible without your support.

Victoria Liu

School of Medicine

The following report by Alex Verink appears greatly abridged. —Ed.

A report on Field Work, October 2015 to March 2016

Thanks to the generous funding I have received from the Friends of the International Center and other sources, I was able to conduct field research for my dissertation project spanning six months in three African countries; Benin, Ghana and Tanzania.

My research examines the politics of information and communications technologies (ICTs) across Sub-Saharan Africa. I am studying how the rapid expansion of ICTs over the past two decades has been shaped by political forces, as well as how ICT expansion has, in-turn, affected political competition. I focus on mobile phones in particular, because they are the dominant form of information technology being used in Africa today. Their importance is also increasing, as they are becoming many Africans' sole means of accessing the Internet.

My six months in the field was focused on interviews and data collec-

Dear Friends of the International Center, UCSD,

Thank you for giving me this unique opportunity to travel abroad this summer with Global Seminars. I am three weeks into the program and have already experienced so much. This was my first time away from home by myself. And I think that in itself has taught me most. Figuring out how to get around, where to buy groceries, and learning to communicate in a language of which I know very little, has opened my eyes to the types of experiences my parents went through when they emigrated from Korea. I am still experiencing new things every day, but have also come to cherish everyday things, like the easy public transportation, and croissants for breakfast every morning.

Studying abroad is truly a special opportunity and has really enriched my learning experience. One of my GS courses focuses on mirror neurons in the brain—a recent discovery. This discovery was first published by a group of researchers at the University of Parma, and as a class we were able to visit the lab and talk with the scientists who wrote the paper. To learn about a new discovery and discuss it with my professor was one thing, but to be able to ask my questions to the actual author was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Because of the scholarship, I also have been fortunate enough to be able to travel on the weekends and make the most of my time here. This weekend I will be flying to London to visit a friend who is also studying abroad. It will be my first time there and I can't wait to see Buckingham Palace and go to the London Eye!

Thank you again for helping to make this study abroad possible.

Taeyeon (Jessica) Kim

Sixth College, Human Development major



Phone charging station in Dunkassa, Benin
 tion aimed at understanding the motives and methods of those in charge of regulating and developing mobile networks in Africa as well as the way mobile technologies are being used by citizens and politicians to access and distribute political information.

For the first month of my trip, I was in rural Benin. I was primarily engaged in conducting and evaluating a pilot project to establish a system for paying secondary school fees using

mobile money with an inter-disciplinary team consisting of three UCSD professors.

While not primarily engaged in my dissertation work, from this experience I got an in-depth look at the hopes and limitations that come with Africa's revolution in ICT connectivity for individuals in rural Africa. Though I had traveled in Africa before, I had never spent an extended amount of time beyond major cities. The experience of people living in rural Africa, and the role of mobile technology in their lives looks very different than that in the cities. While I had an academic understanding of this before my trip, it was no match for actually experiencing it.

As a social scientist trained in quantitative methods, I am skeptical of research based on interviews. People often misrepresent the truth, whether intentionally or not. When

a government agent or phone company official sees a researcher from abroad asking questions they may be skeptical of my motives and not want to reveal any information at all. I encountered some of this. I was also surprised at how often I encountered the opposite, people who appreciated my interest and went out of their way to share as much information as they could. I appreciate this level of helpfulness, though I take this information with a certain grain of salt.

I am now in the process of checking any insights I have gained against hard data, some of which I gathered during my trip. I appreciate now the balance between going and talking with people and analyzing the data. Without the experience of going and seeing for myself, I would likely not only be getting the wrong answers, but would also be asking the wrong questions. I appreciate the Friends of the International Center enabling me to go abroad and further inform my research.

Alex Verink

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science
Teclé Kidane-Mariam Scholarship

Scholarship Report

Let me start by sincerely thanking the Friends of the International Center for awarding me a 2015 Friends Fellowship. This fellowship allowed me to spend four months in East Africa over the past summer, conducting exploratory research, and laying the groundwork for a large-scale survey project of refugees and other displaced persons living in the Dadaab Refugee Settlement along the Kenya–Somalia border.

Refugees, of course, are one of the most vulnerable populations on earth. They face constant threats to their physical security, and they often live in squalid conditions, without access to adequate food, water, sanitation, and medical services. Further, their status as refugees means that they are effectively stateless; they therefore do not enjoy the protections, entitlements, and political representation generally accorded to citizens of modern states.

Unfortunately, despite their vulnerability, very little is known about these populations. Social scientists, policy

makers, and public health researchers possess little empirical data on the number of refugees and other displaced individuals that live around the world. We do not know much about the day-to-day challenges these individuals face. We do not understand their political behavior, nor the types of economic and market activities these individuals engage in. And we know next to nothing about their migration and settlement patterns.

Our lack of knowledge is due, in large part, to the logistical and methodological challenges associated with collecting data on these populations. Often, refugee settlements exist in remote and dangerous corners of the earth—places like Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, and Eastern Kenya, which are difficult for researchers to reach and operate in. Additionally, these populations are hesitant to interact with Western scholars. Answering questions and participating in surveys adds to their sense of insecurity, and generates fears that their personal information

may be used against them, either by their host state, or by the corrupt and dangerous regimes in their countries of origin.

One of the central goals of this project, then, is to develop a systematic method of surveying refugee populations, one that maintains the security, privacy, and dignity of the people under study. Our method employs mobile phone technology, along with remote sensing (i.e., satellite data) and face-to-face survey enumeration, to track a panel of refugees over the course of a yearlong period, as they migrate between settlements or repatriate to their home country. The intent is to generate an accurate census of one specific refugee camp—Dadaab—and to map out the migration patterns of individuals that leave the camp. It is our hope that this method may be

replicated in other areas around the world, and perhaps be used to generate the first robust, longitudinal dataset of dyadic (i.e., country-to-country) refugee flows.

The project involves a substantive theoretical component as well—we would like to understand the factors that make refugee populations susceptible to recruitment by rebel and terrorist groups. In other words, what causes refugees to radicalize, and engage in risky or dangerous belligerent action against their host states, home states, or other potential targets? And why is the presence of refugee settlements often associated with the incidence of civil war and other forms of political violence?

We believe that rebel entrepreneurs, or those charismatic political leaders that form and organize radical

political groups, operate in a manner analogous to buyers in a market, offering various types of material incentives to “buy” support from vulnerable populations. Portions of our survey project are therefore designed to test and evaluate this theory, and other competing theories of political radicalization.

Due in large part to the generous funding of the Friends of the International Center, I was able to spend a significant amount of time in East Africa organizing the logistics for this project. The Friends Fellowship was used to fund an extended trip to Kenya, during which time I was able to visit the Dadaab Refugee Settlement, and iron out the technical details of our sampling strategy and survey design. The trip was incredibly fruitful; I was able to develop valuable partnerships with

the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the Danish Refugee Council, both of whom will be helping to implement our project.

Additionally, we were able to secure the necessary permits and permissions to conduct academic research in Kenya, and we retained the services of a local research staff, comprised entirely of refugees, who will physically enumerate our survey over the coming year. My coauthor, **John Porten**, and I plan to initiate the first phase of the project in August 2016.

We look forward to sharing our first set of findings with the Friends of the International Center in the early Winter 2017.

Michael F. Seese

Ph. D. Candidate, Political Science

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LEARNING:
HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL with a gift to the
Friends of the International Center Scholarship Fund**

Birthday ----- In Honor
In Celebration of ----- Anniversary
Congratulations ----- Other ----- In Memory

Name of Honoree _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Message _____

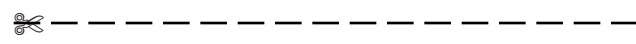
Name of Donor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of Gift Enclosed: \$ _____
No donation is too small.

Please make your gift payable to Friends of the International Center Scholarship Fund and mail to: Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018. Your gift is tax deductible.



IC TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Friends Office (858) 534-0731
Friends Resale Shop (858) 534-1124
International Center Main Office (858) 534-3730

*Friends of the International Center,
UC San Diego*

Website: <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends>
E-mail: icfriends@ucsd.edu

The Friends of the International Center *Newsletter* is published monthly, September through June. All material submitted must be received in writing by the editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Editor: **Ruth Newmark** (editorFIC@ucsd.edu)

Contributors: **Joan Adamo, Jennie Chin, Karen Davis, Nori Faer, Nancy Homeyer, Lynn Jahn, Kristine Kneib, Katya Newmark, Joe Nichols, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Georgina Sham, Marion Spors, Cindy Tozer, Eleanor tum Suden, Mariko Usui, Liz Fong Wills**

Contributing Photographers: **Katya Newmark, Carol Smith, Stuart Smith**

Circulation: **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**

Please report all address changes to Friends of the International Center; the U.S. Postal Service will not forward the *Newsletter*.

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER
University of California, San Diego
International Center
9500 Gilman Drive, #0018
La Jolla, California 92093-0018

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT #1909



Wednesday Coffee crafters hold up their fabric-covered binders

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2016



Friends of the International Center
Friendship • Scholarships • Hospitality
**Supporting international education at UC San Diego
and the International Center for 55 years**

(Please print)

Name _____
Last First

Spouse/Partner _____
Last First

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I wish to make a donation to Friends Scholarships \$ _____

I would like to receive the *Newsletter* in electronic form

I am interested in these volunteer opportunities: _____

MEMBERSHIP*

\$ 35.00 member \$60.00 supporting member

\$100.00 sustaining member

\$ 1,000.00 life member

\$ 500.00 non-profit corporate membership

\$ 1,000.00 corporate membership

**Includes spouse/partner*

Membership and donations are tax-deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of the International Center UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive #0018
La Jolla, CA 92093-0018

E-mail: icfriends@ucsd.edu

Telephone: (858) 534-0731

Website: icfriends.ucsd.edu

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Friends of the International Center is incorporated as a non-profit educational charitable trust by the State of California and is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Thus all donations, including resale items, are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law for those donors who itemize their donations.