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



# *Newsletter*

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Volume XLI, No. 3

November 2013

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## President's Message

We tend to think of Thanksgiving as being a holiday unique to the United States (and Canada), but expressing gratitude while celebrating the season's abundance occurs worldwide: Argentina (*Fiesta de la Vendimia*), Austria/Germany (*Erntedankfest*), Cambodia (*Bun Da Lean*), Ghana (*Homowo*), India (*Makar Sankranti*), Iran (*Mehregan*), Israel (*Sukkot*), Japan (*Kinro Kansha no Hi*), Korea (*Chu-Sok*) ...

Happily, Friends programs provide opportunities to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving year round as we gather with friends and family sharing delicious meals, engaging in interesting conversations, and strengthening the bonds that bind us. With each event, we reflect on our good fortune to be part of the UCSD and San Diego community and the concomitant opportunity to engage in vibrant cultural exchanges with like-minded people committed to making the world a better place.

I hope that you have experienced, first-hand, the spirit of Thanksgiving that permeates Friends programs and that you will help promote our organization, as fresh faces are always a welcome addition to our mix. If you have not been a recent par-

ticipant, then I strongly encourage you to give yourself the feel-good gift that stems from your involvement. Please consider sharing your version of a traditional Thanksgiving meal with members from our international community.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it" (William Arthur Ward). Please allow me to bestow the following gifts.

- Thank you to our many Resale Shop volunteers for your stalwart service and commitment to raising funds for scholarships. Thank you to all who support the Shop either through your donations or your purchases.

- Thank you to our many program volunteers, including Family Orientation, Hospitality-at-Home, International Cooking Experience, Sports Night, Tuesday Knit Along, and Wednesday Coffee for your tireless energy and service providing rich social opportunities for everyone who participates.

- Thank you to our many Friends Dinner Social and Ethnic Scholarship Fundraising Dinner volunteers for your ever-present willingness to do more. Our events continue to earn us accolades from our attendees, and our ever-



growing number of guests is testament to our expertise in creating a welcoming, enriching environment.

- Thank you to our committee chairs and board members who have embraced change with grace, and who continue to give their time in so many thankless ways. Your time is greatly appreciated and enables the Friends to fulfill its mission to support international education, to foster friendship, understanding, and cooperation within the international community, and to create a meeting place on the UC San Diego campus for people who share these aims.

- And, a final thank you to the many university staff who provide the Friends with countless hours of support. We do not take you for granted. On behalf of the organization and the people whose lives are enhanced through the Friends volunteer efforts, I extend my gratitude to one and all and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

*Katya Newmark*

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# Friends of the International Center Board of Directors, 2013-2014

\* designates Executive Committee

**OFFICERS**

President  
 1st VP, Programs  
 2nd VP, Membership  
 Recording Secretary  
 Corresponding Secretary  
 Treasurer  
     Asst. Treasurer (appt. no vote)  
 Financial Advisor (appointed)  
 Chancellor's Designate—IC Dean  
 Past President  
 Parliamentarian (appointed)  
 Members at large (appointed)

\* Katya Newmark  
 \* Judith Muñoz  
 \* Renate Schmid-Schoenbein  
 \* Nori Faer  
 \* Elisabeth Marti  
 \* Karen Davis  
 Joan Adamo  
 \* Eleanor tum Suden  
 Kirk Simmons  
 \* Joan Adamo  
 Carol Smith  
 Dagmar Bocakova  
 Barbara Fitzsimmons  
 Candace Kohl

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 etumsude@san.rr.com  
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 jadamo@ucsd.edu  
 cvsmith@ucsd.edu  
 bocakova@gmail.com  
 bfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu  
 ckohl@ucsd.edu

**STANDING COMMITTEES** (each committee chair gets one vote, unless otherwise noted)

Communications  
 Development  
 Hospitality (interim)  
 Nominations

Kristine Kneib  
 Judith Muñoz  
 Katya Newmark  
 Barbara Fitzsimmons (elected), chair  
 Alma Coles (elected)  
 Kristine Kneib (elected)  
 Mira Vendler (appointed)  
 Nadine Wilson (appointed)  
 Ruth Newmark

knkneib@pacbell.net  
 Computers (no vote)  
 jtm722@gmail.com  
 katya@san.rr.com  
 bfitzsimmons@mail.ucsd.edu  
 acoles@ucsd.edu  
 knkneib@pacbell.net  
 mira\_vendler@yahoo.com  
 nbwilson@ucsd.edu  
 rnewmark@san.rr.com

## Scholarships

**PROGRAMS**

Family Orientation  
 International Cooking Experience

Nancy Homeyer  
 Jennie Chin  
 Mary Woo  
 Alma Coles  
 Josie Foulks  
 Georgina Sham  
 Dagmar Bocakova  
 Nori Faer  
 Georgina Sham  
 Jennie Chin  
 Alice Blake-Stalker

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 jfoulks@ucsd.edu  
 gbsham@gmail.com  
 bocakova@gmail.com  
 nfaerweathr@gmail.com  
 gbsham@gmail.com  
 enjien1@hotmail.com  
 blakestalker@hotmail.com

## Resale Shop

## Wednesday Coffee

Crafts  
 Gus' English Conversation Table  
 International Kitchen  
 Knit-Along  
 Mommy/Daddy & Me

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Annual Membership Dinner  
     Meal  
     Scholarship Awards  
 Audit Committee  
 Computer  
 Document Retention  
 Ethnic Dinners  
 Friends Dinner Social  
 Fundraising  
 Historian  
 Holiday Party  
 Hospitality-at-Home  
 Membership Development  
 Newsletter  
 Publicity  
 Website

Vivian Lodes  
 Alma Coles  
 Ruth Newmark  
 Carol Smith  
 Lou Adamo  
 Eleanor tum Suden  
 Liz Fong Wills  
 Dagmar Bocakova  
 Judith Muñoz  
 Betty Burton  
 Candace Kohl  
 Katya Newmark  
 Katya Newmark  
 Ruth Newmark  
 Kristine Kneib  
 Katya Newmark

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 ladamo@ucsd.edu  
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 katya@san.rr.com  
 katya@san.rr.com  
 rnewmark@san.rr.com  
 knkneib@pacbell.net  
 katya@san.rr.com

**LIAISONS** (no vote)

Global Engagement  
 Int'l Faculty & Scholar Office (IFSO)  
 Int'l Students & Programs Office (ISPO)  
 Programs Abroad Office (PAO)  
 Oceanids  
 Campus Support Group Advisor

Sarah Ross  
 Roark Miller  
 Dulce Dorado  
 Kelly O'Sullivan  
 Eleanor tum Suden  
 Corinne Cramer

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 rtmiller@ucsd.edu  
 ddorado@ucsd.edu  
 kosullivan@ucsd.edu  
 etumsude@san.rr.com  
 ccramer@ucsd.edu



Attendance at Gus' Table spills over into a double row of participants

## Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

Wednesday Morning Coffee meets every Wednesday, from 10:00 – 12:00 in the International Center lounge.

❖ *Gus' Conversation Table*, led by **Nori Faer** and other Americans, enjoys popular participation. This round table offers our international visitors an opportunity to converse in English on topics that may center on customs, travels, politics, or just about anything of interest to the group.

❖ *Mommy/Dady & Me* class continues under the direction of **Alice Blake-Stalker** with the assistance of our wonderful new volunteer, **Aehyang Park**.

❖ *Special Activities*:

- Nov. 6: *Découpage* with leaves to create beautiful fall designs.
- Nov. 13: *Needlepoint* led by **Keiko Hirai**. Materials provided.
- Nov. 20: *Thanksgiving Lunch* consisting of roasted turkey with stuffing and other traditional dishes. Meet us in the kitchen at 9:30 to help prepare the meal. Lunch (available to the first 70 to come) will be served at 12 noon for \$5/person.
- Nov. 27: *Potato Stamping*; make bags as holiday presents.

❖ *Knit-Along* is a Coffee spinoff that meets every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 – 3:30, in the IC dining room under the leadership of **Jennie Chin**. Great opportunity to learn knitting and enjoy English conversation.

**Membership:** Writes **Kristine Kneib**: "The picture (above right) is of my dear friend and one of our newest Friends members and Wednesday Coffee volunteers, **Doris Sant'Anna**. She will be a great asset to all our works at the International Center. On October 2, she used one of her many talents to help with the floral arrangements for the following Saturday's Friends Dinner Social party, and looks forward to helping out with other Wednesday Coffee activities, especially crafts and cooking. Doris is German by birth and lived there till mid-teens, when her family moved to Brazil. She has spent one-half of her adult life in Brazil and this half in USA. Lucky us to have her here!"

### November Calendar

Nov. 4: **Scholarship Committee Meeting**, 9:30

Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Knit-Along**, 1:00-3:30

Nov. 6, 20: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Nov. 11: **Veteran's Day Holiday**

Nov. 12: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

Nov. 12-15: **International Education Week**

Nov. 14: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Nov. 20: **Int'l Kitchen**, Noon

Nov. 28-29: **Thanksgiving Holiday**



Doris Sant'Anna, Kristine Kneib, and Julita Dowdy at Wednesday Coffee

Adds 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Chair, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**: "Welcome Doris! And welcome **Douglas Shriner**, who has assumed the Monday morning shift in the Resale Shop; **Claudia & Carl Lowenstein**; **Susan & Barry Graceman**; Vice Chancellor **Alan Houston**; and **Vivian Lodes** (a colleague of **Judith Muñoz**), who has already agreed to chair our Annual Dinner in May!"



## From the Editor's Desk: International Hospitality in Our Homes

It is rare that I reprint an article previously published in the *Friends Newsletter*. Only one comes to mind, a speech given by **Judith Munk** at the groundbreaking of the addition to the International Center that dealt with the Center's early history (published April 1986, reprinted May 2006). However, for some time we have talked about Friends offering more home hospitality, and an article by **Katya Newmark** described the rewards of such a program so well that I can't resist reprinting it. I came across the article by chance, when, after my sister's death, I went through her papers and found a much-faded copy of our *Friends Newsletter* dated March 1988.

I am greatly indebted to **Betty Shor** for indexing the *Friends Newsletter* and bringing the index up to date annually. The index was of great help in locating the dates of Judith Munk's articles.

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> [1988], the **Newmarks** hosted a bimonthly International Home Potluck. The weather could not have been more cooperative (a very pleasant and windless evening), as more than fifty-five persons gathered together (outdoors on the patio in February!) to share a meal, and experience another American household. It is hard for me to imagine that the Newmark house in La Jolla, my childhood house, exemplifies a stereotypical home; but then again, America is considered to be a melting pot and the Newmark house certainly reflects a diverse range of "foreign" influences. And by the end of the evening the Newmark house did not seem all that strange, since one of the purposes behind the International Center is to provide a forum for the exchange of cultures, which thereby enriches each of our lives.

The potluck brought together people from all over the world: China,

Colombia, Greece, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, and, of course, the United States. The "Americans" (natives and a number of foreign born and raised), including host families, volunteers, and tutors alike, took great pride in showing off their adopted children and the progress their students were making in mastering the English language. Overall the students' speaking ability was indeed remarkably high; for instance, two cardiologists from China, who had arrived just a couple of weeks ago, were able to joke that their favorite activity was shopping at the local Vons grocery store located in the Golden Triangle by UCSD.

Most of the foreign "students" are here studying one physical science discipline or another: three Greeks (all have the Ph.D.) are working respectively in the fields of fluid mechanics, physics, and civil engineering; one Chinese is studying bio-engineering, one Pole is pursuing an undergraduate degree in mathematics and computer sciences; and one Italian is working on his master's degree (he will be able to complete only one year of the program) in computer science. The social scientists were also represented and should not be overlooked: a Polish professor is doing research in electronic communications, and two Chinese scholars (one of whom teaches Chinese at a university in Shanghai, while his wife teaches freshman English at Shanghai University; the other who is helping **Leonard Newmark** prepare a dictionary of Albanian) are here studying linguistics.

Some of the interesting comments made by our guests about life in the United States include a remark made by a Japanese couple that they were amazed at the high cost of living here, and more specifically at the high rents. The three Greek scholars uniformly agreed that the U.S. in general, and San Diego in particular, did not offer

as plentiful a nightlife as did Greece. However, all our visitors seemed to be enjoying both their stay and their new learning experiences.

A brief postscript from the editor: Leonard and I truly enjoyed hosting such a marvelous party. I urge all of you who have the space to offer your hospitality by contacting **Dorothy Edwards**, the coordinator of the Friends home potlucks. She not only knows how to invite a wonderful mix of people, but also thinks of asking a group of volunteers to help with the serving (in our case, **Ginny** and **Terry Engebretson**, **Monika** and **Pat Hseu**, and **Sylvia Rath**) and has the foresight to bring large trash bags along with the paper goods!

The accompanying picture of Sylvia Rath and Dorothy Edwards with one of the international guests is of such poor quality that I do not reprint it here. It was captioned: "The food, like the guests, was equally representative of the diverse cultures and cuisines gathered for the Sunday meal."

**Dorothy Edwards** was a magnificent coordinator of this hospitality program and had a firm grip on who was new to the UCSD international community. Admittedly, the university was smaller in 1988 and availing oneself of such information may be harder now, but this is not an insurmountable task. And while it may be too much to ask people to host parties for 55, the program can be easily scaled to smaller groups. Nor do the events have to be potlucks, but may be geared to the interests and abilities of the host.

On September 3, 2013, Leonard and I once again hosted a hospitality dinner at our home. It was as enjoyable as the one held twenty-five years ago. However, instead of a potluck, three of us—**Karen Davis**, **Katya Newmark**, and I—joined forces to serve as co-hosts, inviting guests for "an evening of conversation, friendship, and dinner."

Karen invited her friend **Nikki Waters**, thinking that she might enjoy learning about the Friends. Replied Nikki, who is a UC San Diego graduate, originally from Sacramento: "I really like this concept of an 'at home' social event. One of the most memorable events for me was orientation day, when I met a gal who was a local and her parents invited me to their home for dinner, knowing I was from Northern California. So, hopefully some international scholars will come and have the same wonderful experience!"

Our featured guests came from Canada, Germany, Slovakia, Taiwan, and the U.S., with backgrounds in fields as varied as the biological sciences, landscape design, medical research, physical therapy, mechanical engineering, cognitive science, and marine biology. Conversations were lively and stimulating.

Several members of the Friends have already expressed their willingness to open their homes, and we know that our international visitors are eager to see how we live. However, do not be influenced by what has been done so far. Feel free to dream up your own way of showing



16 of the 20 people at the September Hospitality at Home party  
 Front row: Ying-Ju Chen and husband Chien-Wei Lee, Tara Whitty, Ruth Newmark, Dagmar Bocakova, Nancy Homeyer, Carol Smith  
 Back row: Leo Trottier, Tom Davis, Bill Homeyer, Matthew Costello, Katya Newmark, Marian Hruska-Plochan, Sascha Duttke, Karen Davis, Stuart Smith

hospitality, be it an invitation to one or two internationals for a cup of tea or to any number that fits your entertainment style.

The International Center through **Shelly Taskin** already arranges for international students to join American families for Thanksgiving, but by inviting our international visitors into our homes on other occasions, we, the Friends, can do much to make them feel welcome in our community. That we will learn much from them is belaboring the point.

If you are interested in participating in our Hospitality-at-Home program in any way, please contact President **Katya Newmark**, ([katya@san.rr.com](mailto:katya@san.rr.com)).

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## Friends vs. International Center Programs

Confusion abounds, even among our members, about the different programs operated by the International Center (IC) and the Friends of the International Center (Friends). It is easy to understand the reason for the confusion, but it is worth taking a few moments to clarify the most common mistakes:

- *English Conversation* (Friends) and *English-in-Action* (IC) — Every Wednesday, the Friends operates English conversation tables (called "Gus' Table"). This activity is open to the public and is led by Friends volunteers. The English-in-Action program is operated by the IC with many of our Friends serving as volunteer tutors.

- *International Kitchen* (Friends) and *Friday International Café* (IC) — The International Kitchen is part of the activities of the Friends' Wednesday Coffee program: typically the 3rd Wednesday / month, Friends and members from the local and international community collaborate on preparing a lunch for about 70 people. Friday International Café are lunches for several hundred, open to the public, operated by the IC with many different organizations, including the Friends, providing sponsorship and volunteers.

- *Family Orientation* (Friends) and *Orientation* (IC) — On the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, the Friends holds orientations for the newly arrived dependents of international scholars. The IC runs numerous orientation programs for international scholars and students.

- *Hospitality-at-Home* (Friends) and *Thanksgiving Exchange Program* (IC) — Hospitality-at-Home is a new year-round program run by the Friends offering international scholars an opportunity to enjoy local hospitality outside the campus. The Thanksgiving Exchange Program is run by the IC offering international students an opportunity to share a Thanksgiving holiday meal with local families.



Presenters Robert Brown and Tony Williams



## An Evening of Sports

—by *Judith Muñoz*, Friends 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

The evening of October 3 found the lounge of the International Center full of international students, scholars, and their families, who attended American Football 101. Also in attendance were several Friends, including Board President, **Katya Newmark**.

The program was a crowd pleaser, as the attendees learned the culture, basic rules, and how to watch American football. The “Most Valuable Players” (MVPs) of the evening were presenters and former college and NFL players **Robert Brown** and **Tony Williams**. It was a fun evening and the fans left asking for more.

I hosted the event and spoke about the important role that football holds in U.S. life. Friend **Nadine Wilson** donated San Diego Chargers key chains as souvenirs for the attendees. Friends **Sue** and **Terry Freistroffer** and **Judith** and **Dan Muñoz** provided refreshments and football-themed decorations, and Dan Muñoz and Katya Newmark served as photographers.

### Save the Date



#### HOLIDAY LUNCH

FOR FRIENDS,  
I-CENTER STAFF,  
VOLUNTEERS,  
AND THEIR GUESTS

**Tuesday, December 10, Noon**  
**International Center**

### FRIENDS RESALE SHOP: DONATIONS DESIRED

We welcome donations to the Resale Shop. Your donations not only support the Friends of the International Center scholarship program, but also help the global green cause by recycling and repurposing. Please consider donating:

- Seasonal Holiday items
- Gently used clothes
- Lightly used household items

Feel free to drop off donations, Monday through Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Call (858) 543-1124 (Resale Shop) if you require assistance with your donations.

Many thanks to **Josie Foulks** for keeping the Shop humming despite injuries.

## Contributions

to our programs, be they in the form of volunteer work, goods to sell in our Resale Shop, or monetary funds, are all essential and greatly appreciated. We especially thank this month **Alma & Bill Coles**, who once again made generous donations: one earmarked for the *David Crowne Scholarship*; the second, for the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship*, in memory of Alma’s beloved aunt **Mavis McNaughton Bjørkman**. Much thanks also go to **Joan Bowes & Larry Davis** and **Danièle Rodé** for their donations, and to **Laurette Verbinski**, who added these kind words: “to help with your good works.” Thanks, too, to **John & Rosalina Velasco** for their gift to the *David Crowne Scholarship*.



## 2013 Friends Scholarship Awards

—by Ruth Newmark

Over the past 38 years, Friends have seen our scholarship program blossom to assume a rightful place alongside our invaluable hospitality and membership programs, and we can be proud to have awarded 57 international scholarships this year, for a total value of \$75,000. We are grateful to everyone who helps support our scholarship program, and are especially appreciative of our partnership with the University, which contributes handsomely to the Friends Scholarship Fund.

Of these 57 scholarships, 14 went to graduate students pursuing a doctorate in fields as diverse as anthropology and oceanography; 4 went to medical students; and the remaining 39 to undergraduates enrolled in a variety of programs abroad.

Graduate students receive \$2,000 awards; undergraduates \$1,000. Of course, these awards fund only a small fraction of the cost of an international education, but we have been told over and over that Friends Scholarships fill a void and are greatly appreciated financially and otherwise. To quote one student, **Soracha Kun Thamphiwatana**, “By awarding me the Friends

### *International Graduate Students at UCSD*



Amrita Kurian, Su-Wen Hsu, Sascha Duttke, Ruichen Sun, and Soracha Thamphiwatana

- **Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi**, Peru, Physics
- **Sascha Duttke**, Germany, Biological Sciences  
*Ruth Newmark Scholarship*
- **Su-Wen Hsu**, Taiwan, Materials Science  
*Diane Lin Memorial Scholarship*
- **Amrita Kurian**, India, Anthropology
- **Ruichen Sun**, China, Biological Sciences
- **Soracha Thamphiwatana**, Thailand, Nanoengineering

Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on my research. Your generosity has inspired me to help students achieve their goal just as you have helped me.”

While in past years, it has been practice to tell a little about each of our scholarship recipients in a succinct paragraph or two, numbers are so great this year that we must limit ourselves here to the bare essentials: (1) name, (2) country of origin or destination, and (3) field, school, or college. You will be able to learn more about the students by reading their scholarship reports as they appear in our *Newsletter*.

All photos were taken by **Stuart Smith** at the Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, held at the International Center, on May 21, 2013. Nearly all recipients attended the ceremony; only a few sent their regrets because they were out-of-town, even out of the country, or in class.

### *Graduate Students Studying Abroad*



Margie Mathewson, Mark Chapman, Erin Conners, Diego Cortes, Elaine Denny, Alborz Ghandehari, and Amy Kennemore

- **Mark Chapman**, Brazil, Bioengineering
- **Erin Conners**, Ethiopia, Public Health  
*Teclé Kidane-Mariam Memorial Scholarship*
- **Diego Cortes**, Colombia, Communication
- **Elaine Denny**, El Salvador, Political Science
- **Alan Foreman**, Sri Lanka, SIO  
*Carol and Stuart Smith Scholarship*
- **Alborz Ghandehari**, Turkey, Ethnic Studies  
*Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons Scholarship*
- **Amy Kennemore**, Bolivia, Anthropology  
*Gayle Barsamian Scholarship*
- **Margie Mathewson**, Brazil, Bioengineering

### *Medical Students Studying Abroad*



Sandra Ogletree, Sarah Gylyard, Karen Law, and Matthew Capiello

- **Matthew Capiello**, Bangladesh, SOM  
*Joyce C. Rapaport Memorial Scholarship*
- **Karen Law**, Ecuador, SOM  
*Joyce C. Rapaport Memorial Scholarship*
- **Sarah Gylyard Matrisciano**, Ecuador, SOM
- **Sandra Ogletree**, China, SOM

### *Undergraduates Studying Abroad on Opportunitites Abroad Program (OAP)*

The Opportunities Abroad Program links UCSD students with unlimited worldwide options sponsored by organizations and universities other than the University of California. Through our OAP partners, students may participate in a variety of study abroad programs, enroll directly at a foreign institution, study in locations not available through EAP, and transfer academic credit to UCSD to satisfy general education, major, and minor requirements.



• **Rhiannon Schultz**, Kenya, John Muir

While all colleges are represented, the majority of our undergraduate scholarship recipients are in Eleanor Roosevelt and Muir College, and while most of the undergraduates studying abroad are female, an increasing number are male—some are even engineering majors, a category until recently quite resistant to what they considered taking time off to study abroad. Nevertheless, there is a trend for all students to enroll in short-term study abroad programs rather than in yearlong ones.

### *Undergraduates Studying Abroad on Global Seminars (GS)*

Global Seminars are led by UCSD faculty. This summer, students could choose from among these five-week-long programs: *Public Health in Amman*; *Drugs, Behavior, and the History of Neuroscience in Athens*; *Modern Greece in Athens*; *20th Century World History in Berlin*; *Latin American Society and Politics in Buenos Aires*; *Flamenco and Spanish Dialects in Cadiz*; *City of Law, History, and Culture in London*; *Literature, Art, and Film in Paris*; *Jazz in Paris*; *Mathematical Beauty in Rome*; *Renaissance in Rome*; and *Crusaders and Conquistadors in Spain in Toledo*. All courses are taught in English, but several programs provide some basic language instruction to help students navigate the local community.



- **Akul Aggarwal**, Germany, Eleanor Roosevelt
- **Kaylan Agnew**, Jordan, John Muir
- **Andromeda Bradley**, Spain, Sixth
- **Kevin Courtney**, Argentina, Thurgood Marshall
- **Dana Edwards**, Italy, John Muir
- **Hermione Gaw**, Jordan, John Muir
- **Diana Li**, France, Sixth
- **Aaron Longworth**, Germany, Eleanor Roosevelt
- **Shelly Lui**, Greece, Thurgood Marshall
- **Megan Meyer**, Spain, John Muir
- **Samuel Tracy**, Italy, Thurgood Marshall
- **Nina Venuti**, France, Eleanor Roosevelt



### *Undergraduates Studying Abroad on Education Abroad Program (EAP)*

The UC Education Abroad Program offers University of California students access to strong academic programs overseas that complement UC campus curricula. Participants stay registered at UC while abroad, continue to earn credit, and make the usual progress towards their degrees. With over 285 program options in 39 countries, EAP offers full-year and short-term

programs in a wide range of academic disciplines open to sophomore through graduate students.

Since its inception in 1962, roughly 86,000 UC students have participated in UCEAP, and over 27,000 international students have completed non-degree study at a UC campus through UCEAP's reciprocal exchange agreements.



- Luis Barco, Mexico, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Xinye Chen, Korea, Sixth
- Christina Ching, Thailand, John Muir
- Brian Chow, Sweden, Thurgood Marshall
- David Dannecker, Costa Rica, Earl Warren
- Lindsay DeRight, Australia, Sixth
- Sandra Duran, France, John Muir
- Sarah Forbes, India, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Cole Gevurtz, Italy, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Emily Goldenberg, Morocco, Thurgood Marshall
- Matthew Guevara, United Kingdom, John Muir
- Kylie Halloway, Czech Republic, E. Roosevelt
- Joshua Kenchel, Costa Rica, Revelle

- Eun Kim, Korea, John Muir
- William Kim, United Kingdom, Earl Warren
- Rebecca Korff, Spain, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Daniela Leal, Chile, Thurgood Marshall
- Adrienne Lee, Australia, Sixth
- Yulin Liu, United Kingdom, Thurgood Marshall
- Claire Maniti, United Kingdom, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Penelope Oseguera, France, Revelle
- Philip Singh, Ireland, John Muir
- Michael Tang, Japan, Earl Warren
- Annie Vasishta, UK, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Emily Wolfsohn, Chile, Eleanor Roosevelt
- Juliana Wong, Japan, John Muir

### *Endowed Scholarships for Undergraduates Studying Abroad, Selection by the Friends*



Donors Kwan So (third from left) and Ernest Mort (fourth from right) with scholarship recipients

- Bethany Swanson, Gail Fliesbach Scholarship
- Joshua Kenchel, Ernest Mort Scholarship for Revelle
- Brianna Macnider, E. Mort Scholarship for Revelle
- Michael Ng, Ernest Mort Scholarship for Revelle
- Victoria Walton, Ernest Mort Scholarship for Revelle
- Joyce Choi, Marion & Kwan So Scholarship
- Herman Chon, Marion & Kwan So Scholarship
- Emily Deng, Marion & Kwan So Scholarship
- Christina Luu, Marion & Kwan So Scholarship
- Vivian Sun, Marion & Kwan So Scholarship

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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## My Study Abroad Experience in Costa Rica

This spring I had the amazing opportunity to spend the quarter studying abroad in Costa Rica. I set my sights on the Tropical Ecology program in Costa Rica during my first year of college. As an ecology major at UC San Diego, Costa Rica promised to be the perfect spot for me to learn about tropical ecosystems first-hand and hone my skills as a biologist and researcher. Costa Rica had been on the top of my list of countries I'd love to visit and I couldn't wait for my third year of school when I would finally get to go.

Central America is an amazing place when it comes to biodiversity. It represents only 0.1% of the world's landmass, but is home to 7% of the world's described species. Costa Rica, in particular, hosts an impressive array of species diversity—over 500,000 species can be found there. I had visited the tropics before, but I was excited to see such natural richness, in a country with such a strong reputation as a responsible caretaker of its natural resources. I recognized that visiting Costa Rica would also provide a prime opportunity to check out some of the other countries in the region, so for about a year before my trip, I worked on an itinerary that would take me to Nicaragua, Belize, and the Yucatan after my program in Costa Rica was finished. Having the opportunity to see the different species in each of these nations, and compare the ecology across a couple thousand miles of the tropics was too great a notion to pass up.

When in Costa Rica, I spent time in a few regions within the country: the coastal rain forests of the Osa Peninsula; the tropical dry forests of Guanacaste; the incredible cloud forests of Monteverde, where most of the program was based; and, of

course, the bustling capital of San José. The program afforded so many terrific opportunities: the chance to meet leading researchers in the fields of climate science, entomology, wildlife conservation; the chance to work and learn alongside students from throughout the UC system; the chance to work hands-on with the amazing plant and animal life of the tropics; and the chance to be educated about the phenomena of the natural world in situ, right where it's all happening.

I've almost lost track of the number of adventures I was able to have in Costa Rica: horseback riding through the cloud forest, zip lining over the forest canopy, walking on canopy bridges high over the forest floor, climbing to the top of a 75-foot strangler fig tree, snorkeling for the first time, rappelling down waterfalls more than a hundred feet tall. I climbed most of the way up the second tallest volcano in Nicaragua. I went whitewater rafting on one of the highest ranked rivers in the world, the Rio Pacuare. In Belize, I rode an inner tube through an underground cave system, and scaled the top of ancient Mayan ruins. The adventures were around every corner. Central America has something to offer for everyone.

The most valuable and meaningful part of the program was certainly the chance to test my skills as a researcher. As part of the course, each student had to design and execute his own independent research project, with the advice and tutelage of the program faculty. I experienced what it is like to come up with a compelling research question and figure out how to approach the question. I designed new tools to meet the specific needs of the experiment, and figured out how to quickly build the tools I would need with what was available in a small



David Dannecker in a strangler fig tree

town in the mountains of a foreign country. Then came data analysis, writing a paper on the project, and giving a presentation to a full room. The challenges were many, but the experience was rewarding, and the sense of accomplishment when it was over was fulfilling. Research could very well be a part of my professional future, so having the chance on this program to try it out and see how it went was invaluable.

My program in Costa Rica was everything I wanted it to be and more. The chances to plan my own international travel, and to design my own independent research project were exactly what I was hoping to get out of a study abroad program in biology. It was a learning experience and a rugged adventure, a chance for me to see what the future might hold, and I know that the experiences I had will stay with me for the rest of my life.

I thank the Friends of the International Center for helping to make this adventure possible for me.

*David Dannecker*

*Interestingly, when notified of his Friends Scholarship, David reminded us that he and his mother had attended our Thai Ethnic Dinner during UCSD's 2011 Family Weekend.*

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Hello,

My study abroad was in Berlin through Global Seminars. For me, the city itself was marked by Brandenburg Gate, Kurfürstendamm, the Soviet Memorial, and most of all Kreuzburg. I fell in love with the city, and couldn't help but stare sadly at the Reichstag one last time from Berlin Central train station. If I could spend a year there, I would.

The experience was particularly amazing because of the tours that were part of the program, led by some great guides, and helped along by a German UCSD professor. My favorite excursion by far was to the Topography of Terror, the place where the Nazi perpetrators of WWII are put on display. The guide opened my eyes to a new way of thinking and understanding what happened.

I want to once again thank the Friends for the scholarship; it really helped relieve the financial burden of studying abroad. This experience has been priceless for me. In fact, I loved Berlin so much that once I graduate, I will likely be looking for job opportunities in Berlin (or in Germany in general).

*Akul Aggarwal*

*When I sent students a copy of their group photo taken by Stuart Smith at our Annual Dinner in May, I received some lovely replies. Below follows one that I particularly want to share. — Scholarship Committee Chair*

It's great to hear from you. I'm the one with the red scarf, third from the right (see p.7). Looking forward to sending you a travel update soon!

Meanwhile, you'll be happy to know that I've been telling many people about Friends of the International Center and all its work. 57 scholarships this year is so impressive, and I keep thinking about how many students' global perspectives will forever be changed by these opportunities.

*Elaine Denny*

Joint Doctoral Candidate, Political Science and International Relations/Pacific Studies

*After reading the September Newsletter, Paula Levin, one of the International Center's faculty directors, wrote:*

I was happy to be present at the scholarship dinner. What a hardworking group the Friends are!



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