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



Newsletter

Volume XL, No. 4

December 2012

President's Message

Peace • Joy • Hope • Merry • Happy • Good Will • Love
You probably use these words every year to express your holiday wishes to friends and relatives. Positive words, coming from the heart, yearning for a more kind and gentle world. Almost every culture celebrates a holiday at some time during the year when similar hopes and wishes are shared. Let's never be "too busy" during our holiday season to reflect on what is important to all humanity, to appreciate our own and one another's gifts, and to reach out to those around us, knowing they share our same hopes and aspirations in their hearts.

Huge thanks to **Liz** and **Chris Wills** for the very successful Sri Lankan Ethnic Dinner in October, which cleared several thousand dollars for scholarships. We reached a new milestone, serving 160 people in the IC lounge and dining room! Special thanks also go to **Jennie Chin** and **Keiko Hirai**, and all the volunteers who cooked, served, and helped in many other ways.

Welcome to the new Dean of the International Center, **Dr. Kirk Simmons**, who arrived on campus in mid-November. We look forward to collaborating with him to promote international education at UCSD.

I hope to see many of you at our annual **Holiday Lunch** on Tuesday, December 11. And don't forget our **Resale Shop Holiday Sale** on Friday, December 7. Please volunteer to help, and definitely plan to shop! We will also sponsor the **International Café** on the same day, so please let me know if you would like to help us serve the Egyptian lunch our chef has planned.

Thank you, Friends, for your year of good work. Thank you for your membership, which supports all our programs, and for your donations to our scholarships. To each of you in this holiday season ~

Peace • Joy • Hope • Merry • Happy • Good Will • Love

Joan Adamo
jadamo@ucsd.edu

Friends and International Center Staff are cordially invited to our annual **Holiday Lunch** Tuesday, December 11, 2012, Noon
Cost: \$10
Reservation Deadline: Friday, Dec. 7

Holiday Lunch

—by *Barbara Fitzsimmons*



Our annual Holiday Lunch is always a special time to visit with our members and enjoy a festive lunch. Friends members and International Center staff will gather in the dining room at noon on Tuesday, December 11 to enjoy a fabulous seasonal meal and lively conversation. This year the menu has been planned and will be executed by the International Center's chef, **Martin Lahtov**, and includes: roasted chicken, celery root, chestnut confit, pearl onions, poached cranberries, and brown butter jus over buckwheat crepes. For dessert we will enjoy dark chocolate mousse with burnt orange cream.

Scholarship recipients will be at the lunch to share some thoughts with us about their experiences. Join us for this festive occasion!

Reserve your space by Friday, December 7 by sending a check payable to "Friends of the International Center," marked "Holiday Lunch." Cost is \$10 per person, and please indicate the name of person(s) for whom you are making the reservation.

For questions contact **Barbara Fitzsimmons** at bfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu or (858) 453-5787.

We Did It! We Survived the Best Dinner Ever!

—by *Liz Fong Wills*



Ethnic Dinner chair Liz Fong Wills



Just a fraction of the crew

At our Sri Lankan Dinner held on Saturday, October 27, **Asoka Mendis**, a Professor Emeritus of Engineering at UCSD, told us that his Sri Lankan mother was a great cook and that she would have approved of our meal. Not only that, but his wife wants four of my Sri Lankan recipes!

To me, the amazing thing is that our volunteer cooks from all over the world were able to turn out this elaborate meal never having experienced any Sri Lankan food before. They are great cooks: **Dee Biller** (formerly the executive chef at Souplantation and head of cooking classes at a now defunct cooking school), **Gail Fliesbach** (a frequent volunteer who often helps Georgina with the computer work), **Keiko Hirai** (a previous sous chef at the Center's Friday Café), **Tuva Hope** (a Ph.D. student from Norway), **Suza Radic** (a volunteer from Croatia), **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** (Friends Vice President in charge of membership), **Frederick Soldau** (my dentist who enjoys cooking as a hobby), **Mira Vendler** and **Miracema Ueyoshi** (both native Brazilians who volunteer regularly at Friends dinners), and **Kathy Wong** and **Mary Woo**

(two ethnic Chinese who commonly help me in the kitchen).

To coordinate the serving of the five curries, pappadums, coconut condiment, rice, dessert and tea to 160 hungry guests, **Jennie Chin** trained and coordinated our inexperienced but enthusiastic wait staff. Jennie grew up in her family's Chinese restaurant in Brooklyn and her professionalism showed!

The volunteer wait staff were also from all over the world: **Ricky Arreola** (grandson of our Mexican handyman), an EMT by profession; **Dagmar Bocakova** from Slovakia; **Mariama Fafana**, a Ph.D. student from Senegal; **Sandra Diaz Garcia** from Spain; **Tuva Hope**, a Ph.D. student from Norway; **Keiko Hirai** and **Keiko Kuwano**, both from Japan; **Robert Kretschmer**, a postdoc in chemistry from Germany; **Pin Shuan Lee** from Taiwan; **Miguel Negrero**, a Ph.D. student from Mexico City; **Celia Garcia Olivencia** from Spain; **Luciana Pednomi** from Brazil; plus two student leaders from the Family Weekend program, **Christina Nilles** and **Philip Singh**.

A bouquet of thanks should be given to **Joan Adamo** who handled

all the reservations, especially those for the 84 guests who were part of the UCSD Family Weekend program. She also took care of all the little details that made the evening flow smoothly.

Kudos to **Georgina Sham** who was responsible for the printed programs, name tags, and seat assignments. I heard several say that they were especially happy with her interspersing the Family Weekend guests with Friends members. This allowed us to spread the word about the various programs at the International Center, such as the education abroad opportunities for undergraduate students.

Candace Kohl's artistry showed in her floral centerpieces and made the rooms look especially inviting.

Special thanks go to **Lanna Cheng Lewin** who came up with the brilliant idea of moving Chris' after-dinner lecture and picture show to Center Hall, using the lecture room where he normally teaches his evolution classes. Her clever thinking allowed us to seat all 160 comfortably for dinner.

As always, thanks to my hubby **Chris Wills** for the slide show, and



Professor Christopher Wills

for providing me with the opportunity to go to exotic places like Sri Lanka, even though I know it is only because he needs me to help carry his camera equipment. Luckily he enjoys tasting and comparing the many recipes as I work on the menu for the fundraisers. His lectures and photo shows are so popular that several people come for that, not for the food!

This was a great team effort. I think that all of the volunteers had a good time, too. This dinner should have raised enough funds for several scholarships!



Liz learns about exotic curries

When asked about the places she and Chris visited, Liz replied:

"All were regular national parks or bird sanctuaries or religious sites or ruins, with the exception of the research station. We stayed mostly in beautiful boutique hotels that were recently built to take advantage of the flood of tourists who will come now that the fighting is over, and that was the reason I got free cooking lessons from the executive chefs. In a hotel with only ten or less guest rooms, the chefs were thrilled when someone asked questions about their food. When I explained about the

fundraising dinner, these chefs were happy to teach me. The owner of one of the hotels even offered to send me cases of snake gourd and a veggie named *muranga tholhi* (aka 'drumsticks'). He wanted to help me introduce Sri Lankan food to you! I had to explain to the generous man that his gift would never make it past the California Ag people for fear that the veggies might harbor pests that would destroy our state's agricultural economy."

Many thanks to Carol Smith for the dinner photographs, and to Chris Wills for the photo of Liz with the Sri Lankan chef. —Ed.

A few comments on the dinner:

- "Last night's event was plain wonderful. I don't know how you pulled it together! The tables with the flowers looked great, the dishes each were delicious (I liked the coconut serving spoon), the food overabundant, the seating arrangements excellent, the photographs of Sri Lanka breathtaking..."
- "Chris and Liz did a beautiful job in sharing the taste and sights of Sri Lanka."
- "One of the best dinners ever. The event ran really smoothly, and I love the new lecture room. Many thanks to all."
- "I particularly liked the photo of a bird picking the ticks off the ear of a black-necked rabbit, because it prompted Chris' wide-ranging discussion of the kind of symbiotic relationship these animals might have with each other."
- "Mindi Summers spoke so enthusiastically about her studies and upcoming research in the waters off Papua, Indonesia that it was easy to see why she was awarded a Friends Scholarship. Georgina's choice of seating this SIO doctoral student at the same table as Ann Bowles, a marine biologist who earned her Ph.D. at SIO, was inspired!"
- "I am full of admiration for Liz for putting on the dinner with all the different courses, and pulling it off grandly—there were so many compliments, I hope Liz's head doesn't get too fat!"
- "If running a restaurant weren't such an onerous job, I would suggest you open one!"
- "The evening was a great success. Kudos to Liz and her team."

Friday International Café

There will only be one Café in December, and that will be sponsored by the **Friends of the International Center**, who chose this date to coincide with the **Friends Resale Shop Holiday Sale**. We invite you to come to both events, and suggest you bring a friend. It is a great opportunity to meet scholars from around the world, interact with staff and faculty, enjoy a delicious reasonably-priced meal, do some holiday shopping, and support international education. Café Hours: Noon - 1:15; Holiday Sale: 10:00 - 2:30.



Dec. 7: The Café will feature food from Egypt. Lunch will consist of *kofta* (Egyptian meat balls) with yogurt sauce, pita bread, *baba ganoush* (eggplant salad), with a slice of cake for dessert. As usual, there is a vegetarian alternative, and drinks are included in the cost of \$5.00.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Dean!

Dear Colleagues,

After an extensive national search, I am pleased to share the good news that **Dr. Kirk Simmons** will be joining the UC San Diego community as the Dean of the International Center in November. Dr. Simmons has built an extensive career in international education, having served on several university campuses, including the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Penn State University, and the University of Arizona, where he spent over 20 years. While at Arizona, Kirk established the first set of student exchange programs, which grew to encompass 135 partner institutions on five continents. He developed a Sponsored Student Programs service unit, which substantially increased auxiliary revenue streams and staffing levels. He also initiated a capital redesign/build project for Arizona's first global center.

Dr. Simmons comes to us with a BS in Psychology and General

Science and an MBA, both from the University of Oregon. He earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education and Business Administration at the University of Missouri's School of Education and the Bloch School of Business and Public Administration where he focused his research on the perceived benefits of technology exchange among industrialized, newly industrialized, and developing countries.

Dr. Simmons' first day will be Tuesday, November 13, as our campus-wide committee launches its Eighth Annual International Education Week. As we welcome Kirk to campus, I'd like to thank **Dulce Dorado** for serving as interim director of the International Center and **Lynn Anderson** for her continued service to the Center while we completed the search.

Sincerely,
Penny Rue
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

❖ December 5: **Cookie Baking**. In preparation for following week's Cookie Exchange, several of the Wednesday Coffee hostesses will teach us how to bake their favorite cookies. Please meet us in the kitchen at 9:30; we will make several kinds of cookies and then sample them.

❖ December 12: **Cookie Exchange, Santa's Visit, and Holiday Lunch**. Please bring 4 dozen (48) homemade cookies. From this collective variety, you will be able to choose and take back home 3 dozen (36) cookies. The rest will be served later that day at our program's holiday lunch, which by tradition consists of soup and ends with our homebaked cookies for dessert, and is free to all Coffee participants. At 11:20, Santa Claus (**Jim Chase**) will arrive and hand each child a stuffed animal. Now everyone can see why we have been working on this project for months! Lunch at 12 noon.

❖ December 19 and 26: **NO WEDNESDAY COFFEE**. The *Mommy/Daddy & Me* and Tuesday *Knit-Along* groups will take a similar two-week break. Have a great holiday, and take some time to see the United States. If you go home, have a wonderful trip. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

December Calendar

Dec. 4, 11: **Knit-Along**, 1:00-3:30

Dec. 5, 19: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Dec. 5, 12: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 7: **Resale Shop Holiday Sale**, 10:00-2:30

Dec. 7: **International Café**, Noon-1:15

Dec. 11: **Executive Board Meeting**, 10:00

Dec. 11: **Holiday Lunch**, Noon

Dec. 12: **Cookie Exchange and Lunch**, Noon

Dec. 13: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Dec. 15: **Fall Quarter ends**

Dec. 15: **Resale Shop** closes; reopens Wed., Jan. 2, 2013

Dec. 24: **Campus** will be closed through Jan. 1. The **I-Center Main Office** will remain open through Friday, December 21 with limited staffing.



Just two of the nearly 40 animals made; these cats were crocheted by Mari Usui

A Salute to Barbara Starkey!

—by Ruth Newmark



Barbara Starkey with one of her scrumptious creations

As many of you know, our longtime coordinator of the Friends Cooking in America classes resigned her position at the beginning of this academic year. There was much sadness. There also was much praise for a job well done.

Reminiscing about **Barbara Starkey's** Cooking in America courses, **Keiko Hirai** from Japan (honored in 2010 for her own exceptional contributions to the International Center by being named International Visitor of the Year), said this: "I had been taking this class more than two years and it was really fun and I never got bored. Every student, including me, is grateful to Barbara and other teachers for teaching. So sad, Barbara resigned. Like Wednesday Coffee, it was a good gateway to make a new life fun, especially for the new arrivals. I know we learned a lot about cooking, got tips for enjoying San Diego life, and made friends there. Cooking is a common activity, so people are able to get acquainted easily, even if there's a high language barrier. I hope we will have an opportunity to have this kind of class for the future."

Lamented our Wednesday Coffee Coordinator, no doubt expressing the sentiments of many: "Oh dear, oh dear! I'm really sorry to see a great program end. Barbara, you have done a fantastic job with it, but I totally understand if you're burned out. Love, **Georgina Sham.**"

And I wrote: "While I have never taught a cooking class, I have popped in often enough to admire your skill in making this one of the Friends most meaningful programs. I need not tell

you how important a sense of belonging is to our newcomers and how nice it is for them, especially for those who speak English haltingly, to find a group of people who will gladly help them adjust to their new culture. Cooking is simply one of the means—sharing the prepared food and talking about our different (and similar) ways is yet another. Letting class participants in on the many things available to them both on campus and in the larger San Diego area always seemed like a nice plus to me. That you call it quits after twenty years of dedicated leadership is a sad day for the Friends and the newcomers arriving this year. Let's hope that we will find another visionary who will continue to lead the program, but I fear you will be a hard act to follow. Thanks for all that you have done."

Best of all, though, was the response from **Jennie Chin** and **Mary Woo**. Not wanting to let a good program die, they talked it over and volunteered to continue the cooking classes that have a long history on our campus.

The classes originated at Uni-



versity House, where, early in **Herbert York's** second term as Chancellor (1970-72), the Yorks' housekeeper, **Avis Johnson**, began—with the encouragement of first lady **Sybil York**—to teach *American Cooking* to the spouses of UCSD's international scholars. Once the International Center was built and fully functioning, the classes were moved to the International Center, where, under the auspices of the Friends, Avis continued to teach them until 1990, when illness forced her to stop.

After an interim period of short-lived coordinators, **Barbara Starkey** took charge in 1992. Not only the coordinators, but also times, had changed. To better reflect the increasing acceptance of ethnic food eaten in the average American home, the program was renamed *Cooking in America*. Under Barbara's guidance, a multitude of cooks—Barbara among them—demonstrated how to prepare hundreds of meals, using readily available ingredients, whose recipes she systematically assembled. They range the gamut from Jewish matzo ball soup and Italian minestrone to Chinese chicken lettuce wraps, through curried spinach and a Thanksgiving menu with Cornish game hens, to such regional specialties as South-west Indian piñon cookies.

Every coordinator has put her own stamp on the program. As is to be expected, Jennie Chin and Mary Woo, recently joined by Keiko Hirai, will do the same. So far, they have made it clear that they will continue to focus their efforts on teaching our international visitors about the diversity of food we Americans put on our table,

emphasizing America's ever growing openness to incorporating an enormous variety of international dishes into our daily menu. To stress this focus, they have renamed the program: *International Cooking Experience*. No matter the name, the emphasis will continue to be on making this a hands-on experience that will not only allow—but promote—interaction among participants, interaction that with any luck will lead to friendship beyond the cooking experience.

To acknowledge Barbara's two decades of leadership, the Friends Board voted to honor her at our upcoming Holiday Lunch, where she will be feted and presented with a fitting memento. There will be a speech or two, but I doubt that anyone will express it better than did **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, writing to Barbara Starkey on behalf of the Friends Board:

"We send you our many thanks for all your years of service to the International Center. The Cooking in America classes have been such a popular series, and we know that the participants have learned way more than just cooking. Your years of effort are so appreciated, and if you are able to do so later on, we will welcome your return. We are, indeed, grateful to you... very much."

Not mentioned so far is that Barbara Starkey continued to coordinate the Cooking in America classes during the two years (1994-96) that she served as Friends President.

The International Center has reason to be grateful, indeed!

Save the Date
ArtPower! Dance Performance
Compagnie Marie Chouinard
Pre-performance Supper
January 17, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
International Center

EIA Alumnae Meet in Beijing

—by *Ellen Scott*



Cizhen Wu and Ellen Scott in Beijing

On a recent trip to Beijing, I reconnected with my first English in Action tutee, **Cizhen Wu**. Here we are in the Forbidden City. Cizhen proved to be a superb cultural ambassador showing me the historic sites of her city. Her husband, a former UCSD post-doc, and her little daughter, joined us.

Cizhen and I met weekly for about two years during which we discussed the presidential elections in the USA and the Beijing Olympics. Her daughter **Anya** was born in San Diego and returned to China in early 2009 as a U.S. citizen. Now

she's a cheery 4-year-old, who greeted me in English upon my arrival in Beijing.

I am currently working with my fourth tutee, **Akbanu Tleubayeva**, from Kazakhstan.

Tutoring: When the Tables Are Turned

—by *Barbara Baehr*

After many months of tutoring a fascinating, cosmopolitan Korean orthopedist, Dr. **Sae Hoon Kim** invited me to join him and his neuroscientist wife and young son for a typical Korean home-style dinner (no barbecue).

They picked me up in their car and we drove to Friend's House, one of the 27+ Korean restaurants on Convoy Street. The Kims all went into the restaurant, ahead of me; I tripped, and down I went on both knees!

With much help, we stopped the bleeding and went in to have dumpling soup, rice, an egg-veggie dish I call "Korean frittata," a spicy beef stew, and at least ten small, cold kimchee-like dishes. The young son had fried rice.

When they brought me home, the tables were turned. Dr. Kim dressed both knees. Now it was his turn to help me.

Lesson: If you are going to fall, it is very convenient to have an orthopedist with you.

The Saudi radiologist and the Brazilian radiologist are waiting for me to return to our usual weekly meetings. I hope to start again by the end of October.

As of this writing, yet another of my tutees, a Korean woman in genetics research, is back in Korea for *Chuseok*, their Thanksgiving holiday, which falls on September 30 this year. As described by the Korean Tourism site: "Chuseok is by far the biggest and most important holiday in Korea. It is a time when family members from near and far come together to share food and stories and to give thanks to their ancestors for the abundant harvest."



Hermione Gaw, Yisi Li, Kwan So,
Neha Sekhar at 2012 Awards Ceremony

Endowed International Scholarships

For some years, the Friends Scholarship Committee has been privileged to select undergraduate students who qualify for UC San Diego Foundation international scholarships. That the donors of these endowed scholarships also happen to be members of the Friends of the International Center makes the task ever so much more rewarding. Both student and sponsor are invited to the Friends Annual Dinner, where they are recognized.

- In the winter of 2011-12, **Heidi Dixon** was awarded a **Fliesbach Scholarship** to pursue her interests in art and culture in Italy; in the spring, **Elizabeth Cooper** was selected for a Global Seminar program called "Jazz in Paris."

- The **So Family Scholarship for Study Abroad** went to four students studying in the Far East: **Hermione Gaw** (China), **Megan Kwok** (Singapore), **Yisi Li** (Hong Kong), and **Neha Sekhar** (Singapore).

- The recipients of the **Ernest Mort International Scholarship for Revelle** were: **Andrea Gardner**, a bioengineering major for study in England; **Megan Ouyang**, a biology student for study in Australia; **Marcella Pinchevskaya**, whose interests in economics took her to the UK; and **Pauline Tai**, to pursue her international studies in Egypt.

Resale Shop

—by Jeri Abernathy

The Resale Shop is still running on short hours, as we are having a shortage of volunteers for three of the days. Volunteering at the Shop requires a commitment to a specific time period, usually about 3 1/2 hours per week on a regular schedule. If you are interested in participating in our continual effort to raise funds for international scholarships, please contact me (jalaw@sbcglobal.net) or stop by the Resale Shop to find out more about the jobs available. I am sure you will find working in the Shop rewarding. As **Dottie Keffala** says: "I love working at the Shop, love meeting all the different and interesting people that come in, and when the opportunity arises, always try to give some of the history and purpose."

Our annual **Holiday Sale** is on Friday, December 7, 10:00-2:30. We still need a few more morning and afternoon volunteers. AND, this year, the Wednesday Coffee craft group is going to have a table for some of their handmade goods. I think it will bring a special flair to the event. Plan to stop and shop for the holidays.

The Shop will be closed from December 15 through January 1, 2013.

Resale Shop Profile

—by Joe Nichols

Renate Schmid-Schoenbein has been a steady Resale Shop volunteer since 2000. She has been a real gem in doing not only her volunteer stint at the Shop, but also in taking on many administrative jobs for the Friends, most importantly serving as Vice President in charge of membership and mailing out the organization's monthly *Newsletter*. A graduate of the University of Saarbrücken in Germany, Renate taught German in Scotland in the 1970s.

In 1976, she married **Geert Schmid-Schoenbein**, a UCSD graduate student, and followed him to New York City, where Geert spent his post-doc years at Columbia University and Renate did editorial work at the German Goethe Institute. In 1979, they returned to our campus where Geert is now a distinguished professor of bioengineering with an adjunct appointment in the School of Medicine.

Once their three boys were old enough for Renate to leave the house, **Alma Coles** asked her to be on the Friends Board, and that led to her interest in the Resale Shop. After her longtime work partner, **Hilda Wynans**, retired from the Resale Shop, Renate began to work together with **Josie Foulks** on Thursday morning. Says Renate: "Knowing I support the Friends gives me great satisfaction. The Resale Shop continues to be an amazing place."



Geert and Renate Schmid-Schoenbein with
Ruth Newmark at the International Center's
50th Anniversary Celebration, May 2011

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends of the International Center,

This summer I was privileged to spend five weeks studying Public Health in Amman, Jordan. This study-abroad experience has been far more impactful than my other travels; there is a world of difference between visiting a place as a tourist and living, studying, and especially volunteering there. I feel very connected to the city of Amman and the people in Jordan.

As part of the UCSD Global Seminar class, I spent two days a week volunteering in the healthcare clinics in a Palestinian refugee camp. The opportunity to shadow doctors and do research in United Nations Relief and Works Agency clinics was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have never shadowed in a clinical setting in America, but even my untrained eyes could see the huge regional disparity in resources and healthcare. As an American, I take sterile, high-tech hospitals for granted, but in a Jordanian refugee clinic, the staff struggled against shortages of water, electricity, medicine, and funding. It was heartbreaking, but ultimately inspiring, to see how the doctors never gave up. They found alternate methods or just re-

lied on their patience. I think this lesson in resourcefulness and flexibility will someday make me a better doctor, regardless of the region I practice in.

It was a huge culture shock to notice that no one used the restroom in the clinic, drank water, or even washed his hands. In time, I realized that these were all symptoms of the clinic's water shortage. Once I realized this, I stopped washing my hands and used hand sanitizer instead, as the doctors did. Initially, the staff must have thought I didn't care about conserving water! I learned the importance of keeping lines of communication open when visiting different cultures, because, albeit unintentionally, I could easily have come across as the stereotypical wasteful, arrogant American.

Working with Palestinian refugees put a personal face on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a subject that has never seemed particularly relevant to my life. It's hard for a sheltered U.S. citizen to understand the impact of a conflict half a world away, but meeting families who have been forced from their homes made the issue all too real. Not only the pa-

tients in the clinic, but many of the doctors and nurses were Palestinian as well. The staff was extremely hospitable, generous, and welcoming, bringing home-cooked food for the students to try.

My favorite excursion while in Jordan was to the Wadi Rum desert in the south. The desert landscape was so beautiful, in a different way than anywhere else I've been. I got to ride a camel! We experienced Bedouin-style camping and the desert nomad culture, learning traditional dances under the stars. It was a day I will never forget.

I have lived, traveled, or studied in fourteen countries, but before visiting Jordan I never understood the term "culture shock." The Middle East is a region with customs different enough from my own to really shake me to my core, and made me re-evaluate the cultural norms that I took for granted. I am so glad that I chose this challenging program in a region that pushed me to my limit—it was truly an once-in-a-lifetime experience that I never would have gotten at home. By spending this summer abroad, I have become less narrowly science-focused and more interested in politics, current events, and human rights.

I am so grateful for the Friends of the International Center Scholarship that helped me include this experience in my education.

With many thanks,
Roxana Wiswell



Wadi Rum: Roxana Wiswell in the center

I was so impressed by the maturity of Roxana Wiswell's assessment of her experience in Jordan that I shared her report with Global Seminars Director Jim Galvin, who shared it with Professor Wael Al-Delaimy, who kindly shares his reflections with us. — Scholarship Committee Chair

Reflections on a Young Global Seminar Student in Amman

The Public Health Global Seminar in Amman (<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/start-your-journey/program-options/global-seminars/amman/index.html>) is one of the more popular seminars for students aspiring to be medical students or public health graduates. It is also known to be the most difficult given that I teach it in a manner similar to medical and graduate level courses, and in a rather challenging setting in Amman, Jordan. The students must multi-task with book readings, assignments, weekly exams, do clinical shadowing, and collect, analyze, and interpret data and present it orally and in a written report. All in five weeks, with limited opportunity to do anything else that is non-academic, except for one or two weekend excursions. That is why I decided from the first seminar in 2010 that all applicants must be interviewed to make sure that they are up to this challenge and to avoid any misunderstandings or disappointments afterwards.

For an outsider sitting in at the interview, it might seem as if **Jim Galvin**, the Director of the Global Seminars program, and I are trying to persuade students not to go on the program. Even so, despite being warned about the challenges of the course and accepting them, there still are a few students who complain when their grades suffer. But with few exceptions, virtually all the students who have taken the course think it is a life-changing and once-in-a-lifetime experience, and highly recommend it to others.

So when **Roxana Wiswell** came to the interview, seeking to be admitted to the 2012 Global Seminar, I asked her: "How long have you been at UCSD?" She replied less than three months and that she just came from high school. My first concern was that she was too young to be taken on this rough rollercoaster ride that requires strong resilience, determination, hard work, and a cultural maturity. I was afraid of her being new to a university setting, let alone to a

graduate-level course, and that being away from home and family might leave her with a negative experience, one that could affect her grades. We would be doing her a disservice if we admitted her, I thought. Her determination and clearly focused responses, as well as the feedback Jim Galvin got from her in prior meetings, and the positive feedback from an outside reference made us decide to take a chance and give her the benefit of the doubt as the youngest student to ever go on this Global Seminar, and probably on any other Global Seminar. So we accepted her.

It did not take Roxana long during the program to prove how my doubts were baseless and how she was more than prepared to take this challenge. She became a leader of her research subgroup, her responses in class discussion were on target, she was more than adapting to the new culture and surroundings and difficulties, and she outperformed on all fronts the majority in her class, including those much more experienced than her. Unlike some students, she did not focus on either the negatives or difficulties, and wasted no time in working harder and doing better.

To read her letter to the Friends of the International Center really makes worthwhile all the hard work, sleepless nights, and time I take away from my family to conduct this Global Seminar. It is gratifying to help the program achieve its goal of changing the lives of young promising students such as Roxana. I have no doubt that she will continue to excel and make us as her faculty, the Friends of the International Center, the International Center, and UCSD very proud of her.

Wael Al-Delaimy, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor

Chief, Division of Global Health

School of Medicine

<http://fpmglobalhealth.ucsd.edu/>

Berlin Seminar

With the great support of a Friends of the International Center Scholarship, I was able to study in Berlin this summer. The Berlin Global Seminar program is unique in that I did not attend a [German] university, but rather joined Professor **Patrick Patterson** and twenty other students from UCSD.

By concentrating on just two courses of European History, I felt almost like an expert in the history of East Germany by the end of the five-weeks' course. While these courses are also offered on the UCSD campus, the most valuable part of taking them abroad is being physically immersed in the subject. Professor Patterson combined readings from a broad range of perspectives with discussions and excursions to museums and historical sites to build a deep knowledge of Berlin's history. On one day, we were assigned a movie about East Germany's secret police, and on the next day, we were able to tour the exact locations of the secret police prisons and see files that we had learned about.

My international experience was an intense look at the politics and history that shape our world today. The events that occurred in Germany from the first World War to the Cold War still affect our American view on Communism



and Democracy. Not only was the Global Seminar an incredible academic experience, but it was also a cultural experience. During my free time, I explored the city in an attempt to get closer to being a local Berliner. Because of the knowledge and friendships I gained, Berlin has come to be one of my favorite cities.

Emily Deng

Eleanor Roosevelt College
International Studies/Economics

August 14, 2012

Dear Friends,

I am back in Rome after a month in Namibia. My time there was far better than anticipated. The country is, as they say, a land of contrasts. It has the highest income inequality in the world. It is also amazingly beautiful.

I spent my time there working as a consultant for the UN World Food Program to the Namibia Ministry of Education advising the Government on the cost and efficiency of their school-feeding program. This program has been nationally run and funded [i.e. independent of international financial support] for almost the past 20 years—an impressive achievement. They are currently looking to scale up the program to reach more orphans and vulnerable children, although the operations are really bare bone and could use some rethinking and renewed investment. I

did some school visits and am attaching a picture.

The country itself is beautiful—amazing sand dunes and wildlife. The people are also incredibly friendly and were very helpful in my attempts to collect data. Despite the low population density, there is a great diversity of people, some people speaking clicking languages and living in the most harsh and undeveloped arid conditions, others living in the highly urbanized and westernized centers.

I want to thank you for your support for my mission to Namibia and Italy. I definitely see it as a first step towards my research here at UCSD, as I explore and define my dissertation research interests. I hope to meet you and the other International Center staff/volunteers for lunch in fall!

Maya Oren

Ph.D. Student
Department of Political Science

The Friends Scholarship Committee selected Maya Oren to receive our 2012 Tecle Kidane-Mariam Scholarship.

Originally from Eritrea, Tec, as we called him, had served at UCSD as an international student advisor from 1989-2000. He was greatly loved by all who knew him, and it was Carol Robertson who was the primary force behind resurrecting a scholarship in Tec's honor, and subsequently arranging for several IC staffers and Friends to meet Maya over lunch at a Friday Café. Evidently

Maya enjoyed her lunch and is ready for a repeat.

Commented Jane Kalionzes from San Diego State University, like Carol a former colleague of Tec's and a contributor to the scholarship: "I am so happy that Tec's legacy can live on through students like Maya."



Athens, Greece

Visiting Greece has been a dream of mine since the sixth grade. I remember learning about the different gods and goddesses of Greek mythology, with the goddess Athena standing out. Seeing Athens on Global Seminar was an incredible experience. I had never left the country before, and being able to meet new people, learn a new language, and absorb a new culture are a few of the reasons why I am so grateful that I was chosen as one of the recipients of a Friends Scholarship.

Perhaps the most memorable moment of the trip was our class visit to the Acropolis. After a quick ride on the metro, we embarked on our excursion to Greece's most popular tourist spot. The site of the Acropolis has been excavated down to bedrock, with the current appearance of the Acropolis hardly representing what it looked like 100 years ago. Walking up the pathway leading to the Acropolis, I mistook the first entrance as the entrance to the Parthenon. I was quickly corrected, as it was explained that I had passed the gateway, known as the Propylaea, that serves as the entrance to the Acropolis.

Before my eyes was the vast area of the Acropolis. Though Athens had been experiencing a heat wave days before, this day was quite cool, even windy at times. Thousands of other tourists were walking on the Acropolis as our group stopped to take pictures and learn a little history from **Professor Gallant**. We learned that after many earthquakes and a cannonball that caused an explosion, the Parthenon collapsed, and that the building was now being stabilized to prevent further damage. Only a few friezes were left, and we tried hard to imagine the beauty of the Parthenon during its prime.

We then went to the lookout tower where the Greek flag waved in the cool breeze, and continued on to the Erechtheum. As we neared the exit, one temple stood out as an



embodiment of everything I imagined of ancient Greece: the Temple of Athena Nike.

Staring in awe at the beautiful friezes depicting the goddess Athena, I finally realized that I was no longer in the United States, but in Greece. It was as if the first two weeks of the trip were a dream.

Leaving the Acropolis, I knew that I had to come back to visit this extraordinary site, as well as other parts of this amazing country that I had the opportunity to call home for five weeks.

Aaron Tumamao

History, Eleanor Roosevelt College

Scholarship Gifts

Donations to the Friends Scholarship Program are always welcome, but are doubly welcome when we get to hear from people we don't often see anymore. Our heartfelt thanks to **Jane Reeder** (former coordinator of the International Café and later of the English in Action program, as well as a valued volunteer in the Friends Resale Shop) and to **Doraine Offerman**, who made her donation in honor of **Theresa Tanalski**, in whose company she regularly attended Ethnic Dinners. Doraine—who is approaching 90—accompanied her check with a note of explanation. "My dear friend, Theresa Tanalski, invited me to join the Friends. Back then, my employer was a matching-gift donor and continued the program for retirees. After two years, the corporate headquarters decided to withdraw matching gifts for retirees. This decision did not deter me from making my annual contributions!"

Additional thanks go to **Georgina & Lu Sham** (who earmarked their contribution for the **Gayle Barsamian Scholarship**), as well as to **Alice B. McCauley** and **Nancy & Bill Homeyer**.

And a very big thank-you to our many **Resale Shop** volunteers, and to the **Ethnic Dinner** team headed by **Liz Fong Wills**, for using their talents to raise money for Friends Scholarships. We appreciate you all!



**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

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

*Friends of the International Center,
UC San Diego*

<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends>
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** (rnewmark@san.rr.com)

Contributors: **Jeri Abernathy, Joan Adamo, Barbara Baehr, Jennie Chin, Nori Faer, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Nancy Homeyer, Joe Nichols, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Georgina Sham, Carol Smith, Eleanor tum Suden, Liz Fong Wills**

Contributing Photographers: **Lou Adamo, Madeleine Rast, Carol Smith, Chris Wills**

Computer Consultant: **Leonard Newmark**

Circulation: **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**

Please report all address changes to the 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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2012



Friends of the International Center
Hospitality • Scholarships • International Community
**Supporting international education at UC San Diego and
the International Center for more than 50 years**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/We wish to join the Friends of the International Center:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership* | \$ 35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership* | \$ 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership | \$ 500.00 |

**Includes spouse/partner*

Membership and donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to:

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

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.

(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: _____

Friends E-mail: icfriends@ucsd.edu Telephone: (858) 534-0731