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



# *Newsletter*

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Volume XL, No. 6

February 2013

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## President's Message

In this column I like to praise our many volunteers and our successful programs, but this month I want you to know about a number of critical challenges facing the Friends as an organization in 2013: the Resale Shop, Leadership, Membership Outreach and Development.

As you know from articles published every month in this *Newsletter*, our Resale Shop not only is a hub for friendly, often international, interchange, but also provides crucial funds for our scholarship program. Without this cornerstone, fewer and/or smaller scholarship awards would be given. In the fall, because there were not enough volunteers, the Shop had to cut back on the number of hours it was open, with the result that less income than usual was accrued for scholarships.

**Challenge #1: More Resale Shop volunteers and shared leadership needed!** Shifts are usually three hours, with a partner, once a week, training provided—and FUN! Other skills are needed too, specifically for such things as campus publicity, or making flyers and signs. Those who work in the Shop find it extremely rewarding and stress how much they enjoy the interaction with students and others on campus.

**Challenge #2:** Many Friends activities have been managed for many years by the same people, and a viable succession plan is essential if we are to remain a lively organization. **Why not offer your talents for leadership, on the Friends Board and for other behind-the-scenes jobs?** New ideas and new energies are needed, as well as organization skills, computer skills, publicity skills. We may need to think “outside the box” about a new model for the Friends, because what has worked for ~50 years won't necessarily allow continued success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Challenge #3: Membership outreach and development** is critical for #1 and #2 above, in fact for all the Friends programs. We have many, many ideas on what we *could* do, but need one or more people to make those ideas happen, and to follow through with prospective members, helping them feel engaged and welcome.

Please think about these three challenges we face, and let me know how you can help! I look forward to hearing from you.

*Joan Adamo*  
jadamo@ucsd.edu

## Ethnic Dinner



A fundraiser for  
Friends Scholarships



February 2, 2012  
International Center, 6:30



A celebration of  
Chinese New Year with  
delectable Chinese food,  
followed by an illustrated  
talk on Ethiopia by  
Prof. Christopher Wills



female gelada baboon

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## Dear Friends of the International Center,

I am delighted to have this opportunity for my first communication to the full membership of the Friends, a remarkable organization with such a rich history. The commitment of the local community in supporting the international engagement of the University remains unparalleled. It is a benchmark to which other university communities aspire. I am eager to foster an ever richer interface between the community and the University into the future. The opportunities to enhance this unique partnership in new ways are limitless, and I stand ready to support the future of the Friends on every level.



Kirk Simmons and Joan Adamo

For me it is a privilege to have landed in such a rich intellectual environment as UC San Diego (UCSD). I believe public education is a core foundation of any society, and UCSD speaks to the very best that public education has to offer. I grew up in a mountain valley in Southern Oregon, only a few miles from California. My father spent his childhood on the sea off Mendocino County, and my paternal grandparents are laid to rest at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma. Therefore, in some sense, this is a coming home for me. Of course, I must admit that my familiarity with La Jolla was more with the kelp beds in the Cove and less so with the University. For several years, I participated in the La Jolla Rough Water Swim, and I can offer expert direction to the end of Scripps Pier, by land or sea.

It is an exciting time to be at UCSD. Under the leadership of Chancellor **Pradeep Khosla**, the University has initiated a strategic planning pro-

cess that will result in the formulation of the first, comprehensive strategic plan in the history of the University. Opportunities abound for input to the plan by the campus and the community. I strongly encourage members of the Friends to be active participants in the strategic planning process. This may be done formally through participation in one or more of a series of town hall events, or informally through conversations with the leadership and decision-makers of the University. Collectively, we must put forward the importance of clearly articulating the global agenda of the University to ensure a future of continued academic excellence and engagement in the world community.

In closing, I want to extend special thanks to the many Friends who so warmly and graciously welcomed me upon my arrival at UCSD in November. I shall never forget your kindness.

Sincerely,

*Kirk Simmons, Ph.D.*

Dean, International Center

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## International Center Updates

—by *Dulce Dorado and Kirk Simmons*

- 1) **International Scholar Office (ISO)**: The office is working on implementing eScholar, an online system that departments and scholars can use to request J-1 visa sponsorship and that should achieve greater efficiencies.
- 2) **International Students and Programs Office (ISPO)**: The number of international students enrolled at UCSD during the Fall 2012 quarter grew by 24% from last year to more than 3,300. The largest growth was in the international freshmen population, which nearly doubled to more than 700 students. In January, we oriented 90 new EAP Reciprocity students.
- 3) **Programs Abroad Office (PAO)**: There is some concern about the slight decline in the number of students participating in education abroad programs. The economy is playing a big role in the ability of students to go abroad. Because of this, the Friends work and continued support in providing scholarships will be more important than ever. It will ensure that our students continue to have access to these transformative experiences abroad. We sincerely appreciate your efforts.
- 4) **International Education Office (IEO)**: International Education Week was a big success; nearly 40 different events were offered during IEW. Thank you again to the Friends for your collaboration during the Partners in International Education (PIE) awards, and for serving such delicious apple and pumpkin pies during the reception.

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### February Calendar

Feb. 2: **Ethnic Dinner**, 6:30

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

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

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

Feb 12: **Executive Board Meeting**, 9:30

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

Feb. 18: **Presidents' Day**

Feb.27: **International Kitchen**, Noon

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## Farewell

—by Lynn C. Anderson

As I write this farewell to the Friends of the International Center, I'm positively overwhelmed by a cascade of wonderful memories and a deep and abiding sense of appreciation. You are individually and collectively amazing! As many of you know, my international engagement started as an AFS student to Germany, back in 1970-71. The American Field Service's motto was "peace one person at a time," and for the last 42 years I have taken that very much to heart, both personally and

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### Christmas in Minnesota



Seen here surrounded by her daughters, **Stephanie** and **Jessica**, **Lynn** wrote: "I had a wonderful Christmas—spread out over several days of celebrations with the whole family (we number over 30), and then smaller groups (my daughters' and their families), and also friends. **Jim Galvin** was here earlier this week and that was fun, too.

*It's been cold here, nice snow, good roads--the real winter holidays. Two bald eagles visit my property on the river every day, and now the trumpeter swans are here (having migrated 'south' from Canada to this part of the Mississippi River for the winter)--lots of other bird life."*

professionally. Each of you has made a tremendous difference in the lives of so many of our international students, international scholars, education abroad participants, the family members of our international students and scholars, the IC staff, and in the lives of the other Friends.

Whether you tutor, help someone learn to knit, volunteer in the Resale Shop, read scholarship essays, volunteer in the kitchen, provide flowers for wonderful events, organize an ArtPower! Supper or Ethnic Dinner, make name badges, track membership, contribute to this amazing *Newsletter* (or edit it, **Ruth!**), chronicle the activities and accomplishments of the Friends in scrapbooks, welcome family members of our internationals, add plants to our landscape, organize a cooking class, assist with Wednesday Coffee, are a board member, take minutes, serve pie at the PIE awards, maintain the Friends support group status and do taxes, write the history of the Friends, are president of the Friends, or so much more—you and your contributions matter! You've seen the smiles on the faces of the people you work with, sensed the budding friendships, and the sense of relief when they understand a bit more about U.S. culture and feel that they have found a place to be and become a part of at UC San Diego. And it's not just a few hours here and there. Every month the Friends donate the equivalent amount of hours of 3 to 8 full time employees—that's 522 to 1,400 hours a month! So, both personally and officially, as outgoing Dean of International Education, allow me to thank each of you one last time for all that you do as Friends of the International Center.

In the month of January I will have been finishing up several

projects—more on those perhaps in the March *Newsletter*—but I want to underscore that the International Center, with the ongoing amazing professional staff and under Dr. **Kirk Simmons'** expert leadership, is in excellent hands. Together (Friends, IC staff, and partners all across campus), I know you will continue to make international education a reality for UCSD students and scholars. It is an integral part of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education and a UCSD education, and it's simply the right thing to do.

As most of you know, my primary reason for my phased retirement and leaving my dream job, dream IC colleagues, a dream institution, and a dream location is to be back with my family and Minnesota friends. I am delighted to report that we are enjoying our time together, treasuring all of the big and little moments in our lives, and that I'm even reveling in Minnesota winters again. It's wonderful to be home.

One of the treasures I have had the privilege of enjoying these last six years are the friendships with many of you. I miss seeing you on a regular basis, but I look forward to continuing those friendships through e-mails, Skype, letters, phone calls, and visits. I am proud to be a member of the Friends of the International Center. Wishing each one of you health, happiness, and a great sense of accomplishment—you are amazing!



*Amazing* is also the word that can be applied to **Lynn**, who not only has been a great support to the Friends as Dean of International Education and Director of the International Center, but also as a valued member of the Friends. Amazingly, even upon her campus retirement, Lynn made a generous contribution to our scholarship fund (see. p.7).—Ed.

## Friends of the International Center Profile: Nori Faer



As winter approaches I grow nostalgic for the gray and snowy days of January and February in New York City. My husband, **Stanley**, and I moved to San Diego from Manhattan nine years ago when he retired from his directorship role at CBS Television. I came kicking and screaming, sad to leave our wonderful apartment and my familiar life of 30 years in the city. We bought a house in Valley Center. No doorman. No porter. We have to haul the garbage cans down the hill every Tuesday night. Coyotes. Rabbits. Rattlesnakes. Nature. Ugh!

Luckily my traumatic transition was made easier by my New York employer who was eager to have me continue to run the office in New York. I flew “home” every eight weeks to resolve disputes between employees and to rework policies that were no longer effective. We were a boutique-sized staffing agency with a 30-year history. Five years after moving here, the company, no longer able

to sustain itself in the brutal recession, closed. I became a full time San Diegan.

Stanley had become very involved in running the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC San Diego Extension, so I became a student again—taking courses in art history, music appreciation, science, politics, and medicine. We also became Chancellor’s Associates and attend their interesting presentations every month. While I enjoyed these lectures, I felt something missing in my activities. That’s when I found the Friends group at the International Center.

I joined Gus’ Table, and have been participating and sometimes leading the discussions every week. My background in theater arts (an MFA in acting from Rutgers Mason Gross School of Fine and Performing Arts), along with my years as an adjunct teacher in the theater departments at Fairleigh Dickenson University and Middlesex County College, helped me adapt to this new role as a teacher of conversational English.

Prior to my work in the staffing industry, I spent several years working for a New York casting director. As a staff member, I was responsible for assisting with the selection process of bringing in actors to audition for principle roles in major motion pictures. I also hired the extras each day the film was shooting in New York locations. It was an extremely demanding job with some glamorous aspects, but mostly it meant very long days. You can see some

of my handiwork in *Ghostbusters* and *The Chosen*, among many others.

These nine years of West Coast living have mellowed me, and I find myself spending a lot of time walking my pal, Osaka, an adorable Lhasapoo, who is my constant companion. Stanley and I have traveled quite a bit in the last few years: China, Tibet, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Galapagos, Peru...the list goes on. I suppose we should check out some U.S. sites. Maybe next year. When at home I’m passionate about cooking, reading, and watching foreign films on Netflix. I joined a book group and a “Wise Women” group this year, so I’ve developed some meaningful friendships.

But I look forward to February 14, when I return to my lover, New York City, for a week of theater, friends, and fabulous food that I don’t have to make.

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*What Nori failed to mention is that more than merely playing a role in our Wednesday Coffee program by serving as an English conversation leader, she also serves on the Friends Board of Directors as Corresponding Secretary.*

*With similar modesty—and humor—her husband has been heard to say: “I was fortunate to get into a successful career by starting at the bottom: I delivered mail to **Edward R. Murrow**, moved into production, and retired as a director after 44 years at CBS.” —Ed.*

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Keiko Hirai and Dagmar Bocakova



“Standing” (1998), a fountain by artist Kiki Smith, situated among the medical school campus’ eucalyptus trees

## Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

Every Wednesday morning, Friends welcome international visitors for coffee, conversation, and friendship, from 10:00a.m. to 12 noon.

A special feature of our Wednesday Morning Coffee program, the *Mommy/Daddy & Me* class, is being coordinated since January 2 by **Coco Li** and **Alice Blake-Stalker**. Its present schedule is: children under 24 months meet from 10:00–10:35, children above 24 months meet from 10:40–11:20.

Another aspect of the Wednesday Coffee program is *Gus’ Table*. We meet at a special table for conversation led by several volunteers, principally **Nori Faer** and **Letty Ponomareff**, but others, **Kristine Kneib** and **Madeleine Rast** among them, often take part. Conversations can be about what we’ve done that week, what new word we’ve learned and want to know more about, where we can go on vacation that would be fun, what we do in our native country that others may be interested in, and more.

Our first Coffee of the year 2013 began with an informal *Kaffeeklatsch*, at which we discussed what we did during the holidays. In subsequent weeks, we planned a campus art walk led by **Bob Starkey**, a Finnish lunch prepared under the guidance of **John Helola**, and, on January 23, we hoped to learn from **Oona Tikaoja** how to make traditional Finnish Himmeli ornaments. That day, we also planned a baby shower for **Daniela Zubcekova**, who is expecting her baby boy in early March. January will conclude with a cooking activity: making different types of yeast breads.

On this month’s schedule are the following special activities:

- Feb. 6: **Campus Art Walk**. **Bob Starkey** will direct us to and discuss the meaning of two Stuart installations: **Jackie Ferrara’s** “Terrace” and **Kiki Smith’s** “Standing.”
- Feb. 13: **Valentine’s Day Crafts**. **Mariko Usui** will show us how to make amigurumi animals.
- Feb. 20: **Creating with Fimo clay** with **Dagmar Bocakova**.
- Feb. 27: **International Kitchen**. Please come at 9:30 when **Keiko Hirai** will guide us in the preparation of a Japanese lunch. Traditionally the *International Kitchen* is held on the third Wednesday of the month, but because Keiko will be out of the country then, it has been rescheduled. Lunch will be served at 12 noon at \$5/person.



Bob and Barbara Starkey at the Friends December Holiday Lunch, at which Barbara was honored for her twenty-plus years of chairing the Cooking in America class

## International Cooking Class

—by Jennie Chín

After **Barbara Starkey** announced her retirement, **Mary Woo**, **Keiko Hirai**, and I put our heads together to start up a new series of cooking classes. Our involvement is still new, but I can report that for the two cooking classes we had last year, we had about 15 students per session. People are interested and excited about attending class, and they are telling their friends about the class and encouraging others to attend. The downside is that 15 (not including ourselves) is pushing the limit, so we will revisit this as we go along.

Our menus for the winter quarter are not yet firmly fixed, but for certain are meatloaf and roasted vegetables for January. For February, we’re thinking about pot roast, and March will be appetizers.

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# Resale Shop News

—by Jeri Abernathy



Since this summer, we have been trying to sort out the Resale Shop storage area. I have made a significant dent in the mountain of goods we have, but there always seems to be more stuff coming in than is going out. The work in the storage area is about lifting and sorting, tagging items and taking them to the Shop, removing old merchandise and

taking it to the Salvation Army. I have been able to do most of this in one really long day per week. To my regular schedule, I added other tasks, like taking charge of the Holiday Sale and helping out in the Shop itself.

Although it has been an enlightening experience to work in the storage area, I am not able to continue with this work. I know how difficult it is for the Friends organization to find volunteers to do this work; however, I am hoping that other members will step up and participate in the storage area sorting and marking.

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## Resale Shop Profile: Joe Nichols

—by Louise Keeling, Joe's Shop partner

It may be just an illusion, but if you are near the Resale Shop on a Thursday afternoon, it may seem like a lot of male customers are heading that way.

That might be because one of our volunteers then is **Joe Nichols** (born Michael Joseph Nichols, on August 1, 1931, in South Gate, California), father of three sons and grandfather to four grandchildren. Joe is a calm, interesting conversationalist on topics ranging from politics, baseball, history, or European travel. We have “regulars” that day who seem to like to chat (and usually buy things as well).

Joe and his wife **Maureen** (a volunteer English tutor at the International Center) came to La Jolla from Washington, DC, where, among various jobs, Joe ran an elevator in the U.S. House of Representatives and worked in the personnel office of the U.S. National Park Service. More significantly, for 25 years Joe worked for the city of Washington as a rehabilitation counselor for persons with disabilities, getting,

as he says proudly, employment for literally 200 people or more. He had gone to Whittier College, majoring in sociology and education (he later earned an M.A. from the Catholic University of America), and knew California was the place to retire. He began to audit several classes at UCSD, which is another reason he can converse easily with the younger generation.

Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1953, Joe soon found himself stationed in England and, upon his discharge in 1955, able to travel in Europe. He is an ardent member of Veterans For Peace. You may even see him on TV marching in Balboa Park for that organization, or any other civil rights group. He is also an enthusiastic supporter of the Democratic Party, delighted to have been at the 1960 Democratic Convention when **John F. Kennedy** was nominated for the presidency. He took an active part in the presidential campaign, and then attended Kennedy's inauguration, taking to heart the newly-sworn-in President's famous

Every month, the *Newsletter* has requested people to jump in and become active participants. Again, I request that you consider becoming a Resale Shop volunteer. The Shop is the backbone of our organization and the primary funding for all our projects.

I am still Friends Treasurer and am trying to keep up with all that this work entails. Moreover, I am still on campus on Tuesdays and ready to assist in volunteer training or talking to people about the type of work that goes on in the Resale Shop and in its storage unit, and remain available by phone to answer questions that may come up. And once a month, I can still take a vanload of unsold items to the Salvation Army.

My last day of actual storage area work will be February 5. I will work with **Alma Coles** when she returns to hand off the program.

Being part of the Friends efforts to raise funds for international scholarships has been an honor, and I have tried to do my best to keep the Resale Shop running and fully stocked with a wide variety of quality merchandise.

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words: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Joe seems to enjoy talking to the great variety of students who come into the Shop, as well as to the many UCSD staff members. (**Jim Chase**, another very welcome male volunteer who substitutes at the Shop seems to enjoy this too.)

If you'd like spending some time in this kind of environment, think about volunteering at the Shop a few hours each week. It's never boring, always enlightening, and at the end of your day, you'll feel virtuous that you've helped to pay for scholarships for students going abroad or internationals pursuing their degrees here at UCSD.

## Donations

Treasurer **Jeri Abernathy** has been busy making deposits to the Friends Scholarship Fund, whereas Corresponding Secretary **Nori Faer** has been kept equally busy acknowledging these valued gifts.

The **Gayle Barsamian** Scholarship fund received contributions from several Resale Shop volunteers: **Georgia Crowne**, **Joe Nichols**, and **Josie Foulks**, as well as from **K.C. & Chu Chien** and **Sandra & Chapin Day**.

The **Ruth Newmark** Scholarship fund grew with donations from **Lynn Anderson** and **Carol & Stu Smith**, while **Lousie Arnold** made a most generous gift "in honor of Ruth for her steadfast contribution to the Friends of the International Center."

The Smiths made a handsome additional contribution to the Friends that will allow the Scholarship Committee to select a student to be awarded the 2013 **Carol & Stuart Smith Scholarship**, acknowledging the work of Carol, a strong champion of international exchange and valued member of our Scholarship Committee. For many a year she has served on the Friends Board, including as President from 2001-03 and then as Co-President from 2007-09. (As the *Newsletter's* primary photographer, Carol also snapped the photos on this page, in addition to most of those on pages 2, 4, and 5.)

Other end-of-the-year contributions to the Friends Scholarship fund came from **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Donna & Thomas Golich**, **Christa McReynolds**, **Dorraine Offerman**, **David & Dorothy Parker**, **Heidrun Faulconer**, **Glenda & Richard Rosenblatt**, **Mitchell Furumoto** (our Salk Institute liaison), **Mira Vendler**, and **Estelle Shabetai** "in the name of **Ralph Shabetai**."



Sam Dunscombe, Kaylie Fernald,  
Maya Oren



Gayle Barsamian holds the certificate of appreciation citing her years of devoted service as Coordinator of the Friends Resale Shop, which was presented to her at the Friends Holiday Lunch on December 11, 2012

Welcome unrestricted gifts came from **Barbara Baehr**, **Jean Fort**, **Edith & Ken Smargon**, and **Carole Ziegler**.

And, once again, **Shao-Chi & Lily Lin** made a substantial donation to the **Diane Lin Scholarship** fund in memory of Diane, their niece.

We thank these donors and the many who continue to support Friends projects that further international understanding.

At the Friends Holiday Lunch, guests enjoyed meeting and hearing in person from three of our recent scholarship recipients: **Sam Dunscombe**, an Australian pursuing a doctorate degree in the Department of Music and the recipient of the Friends 2012 **Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons Scholarship**; **Kaylie Fernald**, an undergraduate who received a Friends Scholarship in the winter of 2011 to study abroad in Peru; and **Maya Oren**, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science and our 2012 **Teclé Kidané-Mariam Scholar**, who spoke briefly about her research in Namibia.

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## Newsletter Online:

If you still get the printed version of the *Newsletter*, you may want to consider opting for the online version with its faster delivery, color photos, and other attractive color elements. You will receive a message each month from [icfriends@ucsd.edu](mailto:icfriends@ucsd.edu) notifying you when the *Newsletter* has been posted on the Friends website. Simply go to: <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends>—no password necessary—and select the *Newsletter* issue of choice.

Printing costs make up a considerable amount of Friends expenses, and mailing costs, including those for bulk mail, are rising. For some months, the Friends Board has been considering whether the time is nearing for us to stop printing hard copies of the *Newsletter*. This would be a gradual process, since to qualify for the reduced postal bulk rate, as we do now, we still need to mail a critical number of 200 pieces. Perhaps by the end of June 2013, we will go to online by default. Naturally, Friends members who don't have ready access to the Internet will continue to receive a hard copy, but they may well have to specifically ask for one.

Please consider opting out of receiving the Friends *Newsletter* via the U.S. Postal Service. To do so, notify Vice President **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** at [renateschs@yaho.com](mailto:renateschs@yaho.com) or you may phone her at (858) 481-2756.

# What Has Happened to Our Scholarship Recipients?

—by Ruth Newmark

Over the years, Leslie R. Lewis (Friends Scholarship 2003) has shared with us some prescient insights into the life of the women in her Egyptian husband's family. We learned from her about their changing religious values that increasingly led to a more conservative lifestyle. While often critical of Leslie's American mores, the family always showed itself as loving and hospitable.

Being a cultural anthropologist, Leslie has an open mind, and so she will on occasion cover herself in the way of her Arab "sisters"—in Cairo to try to put herself into their place, or at Mira Costa College, where she currently teaches, to demonstrate something to her students. Explained Leslie: "If you see someone walking around in a long, black *izdell* (wide gown) with full *hijab* and *niqab* (eye covering), that'll probably be me." She gives these reasons: "It packs a visual punch. I use it as a way to push students to think about their knee-jerk reactions to cultural difference, and as a tool for looking at both the origins and effects of our ingrained beliefs."

Leslie earned her Ph.D. in anthropology, published her *Cairo Chronicles* (available on Amazon)—some of which first appeared in the *Friends Newsletter*—is an associate faculty member of MiraCosta's Anthropology Department, lectures at UC San Diego on issues and policies related to healthcare (she also has an M.P.H.), and last spring, through UCSD's Program for the Study of Religion, taught a course on Religion and Women's Activisms ("that was fun!" declared Leslie), and continues to be passionate about bringing about cultural change.

Thus, in 2011, Leslie started a non-profit organization called Community Hope Project that "aims to foster health, opportunity, and well-being in communities across the globe by facilitating cross-cultural connections, funding training and education projects, and building community infrastructure. The first effort of the organization involves trying to get a project off the ground in a beleaguered neighborhood in one of the poorest countries in the world: Sierra Leone."

In September 2012, Leslie sent around a recap of her team's accomplishments in Sierra Leone, which she summarized as follows: "Our activities in Hill Cut are a nice example of small-scale, community-centered, sustainable development that taps into, and builds on, local expertise and leadership. ... Our largest source of income was a The Green Initiative Fund grant through the UCSD Student Sustainability Center, which enabled us to build a community center that would house a school, adult literacy classes, training sessions, a small computer center, and a tiny corner health 'clinic' for mild illnesses and injuries."

Leslie's four children, who because of their enormous energy often seemed like four thousand to her, are now 11, 9, 6, and 4. "They are all in school and doing well, involved in music, art, sports, literature, science, etc.; they are great kids: strong, smart, confident girls with warm hearts—I am fortunate indeed," to quote their mother.

When asked what her relatives in Egypt think of



Leslie Lewis in full hijab

the current political situation in their country and whether they are pleased that the President is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, she answered: "Hani's family is doing well; thanks for thinking of them. They were never really caught up much with the revolution, and I think they like some of what the new president brings (though they probably think that he doesn't take a strong enough stand on some issues). In general, I think they are happy just to have some order."

While Leslie unquestionably would like an academic tenure track position with benefits, she writes that her present work, "which brings together anthropology, public health, development work, even peace and conflict studies, challenges my mind and feeds my soul."

In December Leslie wrote: "I was named a Rotary International



Leslie with her husband Hani and their daughters



Peace Fellow (I'll be one of 25 in the group from around the world) and will be in Bangkok, Thailand for a three-month program this summer (the whole family will go!). I am really looking forward to it, because it will give me a chance to work with many wonderful, knowledgeable people on building a network of peace, all through different routes (health equity, sustainable community development and education, like me, or through environmental justice, human trafficking concerns, and other strategies)—each related and aiming for the same end goal: peace, justice, opportunity and dignity for all."



The recipient of a 2010 Friends Scholarship and a subsequent 2012 scholarship named in my honor, **Kyung Hee Ha** and I exchanged New Year's greetings at which time she wrote:

"I am sending you the newsletter that the fund I am involved with issued earlier this month. Our annual newsletter (<http://relief.jpnr.org/newsletter-2012.php>) is intended to inform people in the U.S. of the current state of earthquake and tsunami survivors in Tohoku region, and how their generous support has again helped the continued effort of reconstruction. I truly appreciate your love and support for the otherwise silenced and forgotten peoples in Japan. Your thoughts have crossed the Pacific and empowered many of us in the community this year!"

Kyung Hee is a native of Japan of Korean ancestry. Although she is the second generation of her family to be born in Japan, Japanese nationality law restricts her Japanese citizenship, which is determined by bloodline rather than by place of birth. Not surprisingly, Kyung Hee's concerns and her research focus on people in a similar position.

Hence, in the aftermath of the devastating March 2011 earthquake,

tsunami, and related nuclear disasters, Kyung Hee became quickly involved with bringing help to the disenfranchised people of the affected Tohoku region. Through the Japan Multicultural Relief Fund (a U.S. grant-making program, <http://relief.jpnr.org/>), many people living in the disaster-struck area who are marginalized, silenced, and made invisible because of their nationality/legal status, sexual orientation, and disabilities, are being offered financial and emotional support. Counted among the estimated 75,000 "invisible" survivors are ethnic Koreans, Chinese and Filipino immigrant workers, as well as lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

Kyung Hee was awarded the 2012 **Ruth Newmark Scholarship** to further her doctoral research in ethnic studies, which she describes in this way: "I am interested in the ways in which the identity and subjectivity of people who experience multiple displacement and different racialization processes are shaped. I ask how statelessness, which is a by-product of multiple imperial projects, affects the material and discursive conditions of these displaced individuals. How do they negotiate with their stateless status and the system of nation-state? How do they (re)imagine and (re)construct their home(land) here in the United States and/or transnationally?"

That I, too, was stateless for a period of seven years, from 1939 until 1946, when I became a naturalized citizen of the United States, no doubt contributes to my identifying with Kyung Hee Ha.



A native of Greece, **Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri** received a Friends Scholarship in 2007, and her Ph.D. in composition from UCSD's Music Department in 2008. From time to time, she sends me links to performances of her compositions, most recently to a musical piece for altered recorders. Described as *atemlos*, breathless in English, the piece is both a composition and installation work that consists of four prepared recorders (19 parts) with one end open and the other closed with an elastic silicone membrane.



*Atemlos* already has seen several performances: the first in Germany, Marianthi's current residence, followed by its American premiere in New York City, at which time it was reviewed in *The New York Times* of April 19, 2012, and pronounced "compelling."

In January, it was my turn to send Marianthi a link to a performance. This article (<http://ntdtv.org/en/news/world/south-america/2013-01-03/children-s-orchestra-play-instruments-made-from-trash.html>) described the formation of a children's orchestra in Paraguay that uses instruments made from trash: guitars constructed from cans, cellos from metal drums, and a saxophone made from house gutters and other discarded objects. Replied Marianthi: "So lovely to hear from you and thank you for sharing this link. I'm aware of this orchestra, and indeed it's remarkable what these kids can do with just recycled materials from the dump. It's a project full of hope, creativity, pure love for music. We need more projects like that to keep the children out of trouble."

In case you wonder why I would call this particular article to her attention, I must remind you that while at UC San Diego, Marianthi was a frequent visitor to our Resale Shop, and had offered to stage a site-specific musical performance using whatever material she would find at hand. Sadly, it did not come to pass—we could never find the appropriate time.

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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Nov. 13, 2012

Dear Mrs. Newmark,  
I want to again thank you, as well as all the other Friends of International Center, for awarding me with a scholarship to help make my study abroad program possible.



For the past two-and-a-half months, I have been traveling around the Atlantic on board the MV Explorer with Semester at Sea. My experience has been truly amazing. In Europe, I explored the rolling green hills of Ireland, toured around Big Ben and English Parliament, met with a representative from the European Union in Brussels, watched the sun rise over a sea of red roofs in Portugal, and discovered the influences of Islam and Christianity in Spain's religious centers. While in Africa, I had the opportunity to work with a clinic in a remote Ghanaian village, where I learned how a small NGO is using entrepreneurial spirit to make its organization self-sustainable, and in South Africa, I had a chance to observe the lasting influence of apartheid and its effects on the community of Cape Town.

Now, I am on the last leg of my journey through South America. I have already had wonderful experiences in Argentina and Uruguay, such as working with a community to build a greenhouse, and trekking through the sand dunes while learning about marine conservation. In just a day, I will be in Brazil, and then shortly after I will be headed to the city of Manaus, before finally returning to the United States.

Throughout my study-abroad experiences, I have been learning constantly and growing as a person. Classes have taught me about global issues that I have been able to experience first hand while in port. I cannot imagine how incomplete my college experience would have felt without these opportunities, and I am extremely grateful to the Friends of International Center for helping me make this dream a reality.

*Brett Rasmussen*  
Biology, Warren College

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## **Pacific Partnership: An Experience of a Lifetime**

I have always dreamt of participating in a humanitarian mission, where I can visit developing countries and perform surgery on children who were born with congenital defects or on people who acquired defects because of a mishap. This dream became a reality in the summer of 2012.

First came the partnership between the UC San Diego School of Medicine, the school's Pre-Dental Society, and the U.S. Navy, allowing a medical student such as myself to take part in a medical mission as one of our fourth-year required medical clerkships. Then came my Friends Scholarship with its joint financial support from the Friends of the International Center and UCSD's School of Medicine. All of my problems were now solved. I was going to take part in



the 2012 Pacific Partnership Mission and was as excited as a five-year-old waiting for her birthday to come.

In mid-July, I joined the U.S. Navy hospital ship Mercy while it was docked in Vietnam. As expected, I was assigned to the Department of Surgery Service (DSS), both as a translator and medical student. After the initial orientation and a tour of the ship, we adjourned to our berthing area to unpack our personal belongings and to get ready for the journey.

There really was no fooling around on this well-oiled operation. From day one, I joined other medical and undergraduate students, primarily from UC San Diego, in helping to run the department. Each day, we were assigned to different parts of the surgical areas. Because I have a unique combination of language and medical skills, I was generally assigned either to the pre-op area or the operating room itself. I took part in being a linguistic and cultural bridge between the non-Vietnamese-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking healthcare providers and the Vietnamese patients. On alternate days, I served as the first assistant to various surgeons. At these times, I actually was permitted to perform several simple surgeries under direct instruction of the surgeon. It was an amazing experience! In the U.S. medical system, it would be very rare that a fourth-year medical student would be allowed to perform surgery, since interns and residents take precedence over us.

Besides helping out on the hospital ship, I traveled for one week to the North of Vietnam. Although I was born and raised in Vietnam, I had never visited primitive places that had homes with mud floors and leafy roofs or were without running water.

The journey to Sapa is about a 9-hour train ride from the Vietnam capital, Hanoi. It is a small mountain

town with a population of about 35,000 people, and is comprised of eight ethnic minorities and one majority group. The people are very hardworking and have maintained distinct cultures and traditions.

I attended a dance performance given by the different tribes. I learned about the marriage tradition in which the men have to be excellent wooden flute players to impress their female counterparts. And I was able to visit the home of several ethnic groups and learned about their handicrafts skills. One tribe that caught my particular attention was the Dao, whose women have to shave half their head and both eyebrows after marriage. Even though I already knew something about these ethnic minority groups and their tradi-

tions through television and the Internet, nothing replaces real life experiences.

I could not have asked for a better summer. I send my sincere thanks to all who made my dream a reality. Without the support of your organization, it would have been virtually impossible for me to go to Vietnam. I hope scholarships such as mine will be available to future students who seek



a similar experience. I cannot wait for my next opportunity to go on another humanitarian mission.

*Milan Dang-Vu*



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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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

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