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



Newsletter

Volume XLI, No. 7

March 2014

President's Message

I am sometimes asked: "Why should I become a Friends member?" or, more bluntly "What's in it for me?" Please forgive me as I attempt to answer this question conceding that I lack any supporting evidence other than my personal empirical observations.

Each month, in one form or another, you, our reader, is asked to reassess your relationship with the Friends: when holding your membership renewal you must decide whether or not to renew; when you receive our request for donations you must decide whether or not you will donate; and when you receive our invitations to attend Friends programs and events you must decide whether or not you, and often friends, will attend.

As your leader, it is my goal to provide you assurances that your unequivocal affirmative answer to these questions (calendar conflicts notwithstanding) is justified.

For some, membership in the Friends is an opportunity to support an organization that shares your values yet otherwise requires nothing specific of you (similar to membership in National Public Radio, the Audubon, the Smithsonian). Your membership is motivated by your desire to offer

financial support for a worthy cause. To these members I thank you and assure you that your membership and donations provide vital support enabling us to continue the work we do promoting our shared values. I am confident that *Newsletter* articles demonstrate that your support is well placed.

For some, membership in the Friends is a social vehicle to meeting like-minded people (similar to membership in special interest clubs: sports, theater, alumni). Your membership is motivated by your desire to connect with people, foods, and ideas from around the world. To these members I thank you and assure you that your membership and participation is vital to our ability to fulfill our mission of providing a venue for cross-cultural exchange, cooperation, and friendship. Judging by the many friendships rooted in the Friends and the new friendships formed every week, I am confident that you too believe you can always make room for one more friend.

For some, membership in the



Just a few of the 129 guests at our recent Chinese New Year's celebration

Friends provides a wealth of enjoyable volunteer and educational opportunities, not to mention the sense of satisfaction that comes with being a valuable team player. To these members I thank you and assure you that without you, we simply could not do what we do week in, week out, year in, year out. Your presence provides the foundation of our Friends community and I trust that, like me, you often leave feeling how much more you have received back than what you feel you have given.

Of course, there is no right answer or one reason to become a Friends member and, whatever your reason for being a member, I hope that we will continue to give you reason to be proud of your association with the Friends of the International Center.

Katya Newmark

Meet Friends Treasurer Karen Davis



New to the Friends and UCSD, but not new to San Diego! I am **Karen Davis**, Friends new Treasurer. My friend **Katya Newmark** recruited me to join her on the board of the Friends.

I am a San Diego native, as is my husband, **Tom**. We have never left beautiful San Diego! That said, we do like to travel. Although for the last several years Tom has been traveling a lot without me. But now that our youngest child is in college, I have been able to go to Spain as well as Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with him, so I'm learning how to pack a suitcase once again.

And although neither of us attended UC San Diego—I am an alumna of San Diego State University and Tom graduated from University of San Diego—we have both over the years attended extension classes on the UCSD campus.

When I was at SDSU the perception was that SDSU was a party school and that UCSD wasn't very social. However, I was on the SDSU women's swim team and we had two meets at UCSD, where I still remember being impressed with how friendly the students were... maybe it wasn't considered a "so-

cial" (is that code for "party"?) campus, but it was definitely a welcoming campus!

Growing up in San Diego, we often took day trips to Tijuana, and I was always intrigued by the difference that this imaginary line between our two countries made.

Later, six blonde California girls got on the train to travel to Guadalajara to take classes and experience life in Mexico. On the weekend, we were also able to see other parts of the country. I have to admit, it was a wild adventure!

After graduating from San Diego State University, I went to work at one of "The Big Eight" international CPA firms, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., now KPMG. During my time there, I saw numerous companies, and eventually left to work at Ocean Garden Products, a company I had audited for several years. OGP, as we called it, was owned by the Mexican government, which dovetailed nicely with my summer school abroad in Guadalajara.

The company imported shrimp, lobster, and abalone, mainly from Mexico, but also from elsewhere around the world. And we purchased wild-caught products as well as aquaculture. It was always fascinating and truly never dull. I was responsible for Finance and Budget, and was able to interact with our bankers as well as the managers of our sales offices in the United States and procurement offices in Mexico. And in fact, the company was involved, for a short time, with the Institute of the Americas on the UCSD campus.

I was a working mother until my son went to middle school, at which time I started being able to volunteer at school. It was there that I met Katya and we bonded over the Muirlands Foundation, a love for travel, and scrapbooking. OK, Katya scrapbooks; I am more into card making—cards are a lot smaller than a scrapbook page!

I am enjoying the Friends. I enjoy meeting the amazing people, primarily women, who started and nurtured the organization, as well as the other numerous volunteers and participants. The international dinners have been delicious and the company interesting. A great experience all the way around!

March Calendar

Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Knit-Along**, 12:00-4:00

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

Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Mar. 11: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

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

Mar. 17: **St. Patrick's Day**

Mar. 19: **International Kitchen**, Noon

Mar. 28: **César Chávez Holiday**

Welcome!

In alphabetical order, we list here the names of our newest members; some are people with whom we have worked off and on for many years; others just now learned about our organization and activities. A warm welcome to: **Farooq Azam, Susan & John Burke** (friends of **Nori Faer**), **Janet & Maarten Chrispeels, Dolores Donovan, Marty Hambright, Tashu Malik, Kelly O'Sullivan, Letty Ponomareff** (a longtime volunteer leader at Wednesday Coffee's English conversation table), **Flossie & Tony Riesner, Edith & Gabor Rubanyi, Cindy Tozer, Susanne Wild & Andreas Fluetsch.**

Nikki Waters (a friend of **Karen Davis** and UCSD alum), who attended one of our Hospitality-at-Home events, and her husband **Larry**, signed on as Life Members.

Farooq Azam was among the early proponents of building an International Center on the UC San Diego campus. He came to Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1969 with B.S. and M.S. degrees from Punjab University, Pakistan and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Forging a distinguished career as Professor of Marine Biology, he has remained at SIO ever since.

You can see Farooq in the above picture—likely dating from early 1971—taken from the Friends publication: *Celebrating 50 Years of the International Center at UC San Diego: 1961-2011* (p. 20, reprinted from an article titled "International Building Planned for UCSD Foreign Community," regretfully lacking an identifiable source).

Many will already know Kelly O'Sullivan, who has been on staff at UCSD for almost 20 years and in the International Center since 2004. An alumna of both UC San Diego (B.A., Literature with an emphasis



A new International Center is being designed to replace this student center at the University of California at San Diego. Examining the old marine barracks structure are, from left, Paul Pupier of France, Farooq Azam of Pakistan, Dr. Solon Palmer Jr., chairman of the center's planning group, and Ward Beecher, dean of international education.

in Russian) and San Diego State University (M.A., Educational Leadership), Kelly is currently Director of the Programs Abroad Office and Associate Director of the International Center. Friends work closely with her office when it comes to the preparation of undergraduate study-abroad scholarship applications and subsequent selection of Friends scholarship recipients. You will find a picture of Kelly taken at our recent Chinese New Year's celebration on p. 4.

Recruited only recently by **Kristine Kneib**, Marty Hambright, Tashu Malik, and Cindy Tozer already have found their way to our Wednesday Morning Coffee (see p.8), as has Susanne Wild from Switzerland.

We look forward to getting to know these and all our new members!

Vice President **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** reports: "Membership has increased to 237 (as compared to 224 at the last report). Yeah! This

is fantastic."

Continuing her account, Renate explains: "As most of you know, I put together a welcome packet for each new member that consists of a welcome letter, a *Membership Directory*, and a copy of our 50th Anniversary book. If possible, I find ways to hand deliver the packet, and if necessary, I send it by mail. Postage has been creeping up gradually, and since the latest increase in January it has reached \$4.21."

Friends have many loyal members, among them **Horst Hoffmann**, once on staff at the International Center, now residing in his native Germany. As we reported in an earlier *Newsletter*, Horst made an end-of-the-year donation to our scholarship fund. In late January, he wrote:

"I still keep myself occupied. Did I tell you that I teach an orientation/conversation course for German students in preparation for their semester abroad in the United States? I had introduced myself to the staff of the International Center at the University in Hannover and they found what I had to offer quite helpful. My course takes place only twice a year, but we are talking about expanding my advising and consultation activities this coming spring.

I'll be back in San Diego/California in June for my other daughter's (Gabi's twin sister's) Ph.D. graduation at UC Riverside. I hope that during my visit I'll be able to see many of my good Friends at the Center as well."

Some may already know that **Lynn Anderson** (**Kirk Simmons'** predecessor as Director of the International Center), will be in town to attend the annual NAFSA conference that will be held this year in San Diego, from May 25 to May 30. Lynn, too, is planning a visit to the Center with a chance to meet with some of us.



The tables are set



Eleanor tum Suden, Georgia Crowne and Lanna Cheng Lewin welcome guests



Kelly O'Sullivan and daughter Saoirse Wong in Chinese finery, flanked by fiancé Treacy Sommer (left) and Jerry Fitzsimmons (right)



Chef Jimmy Chen with wife Rita Hsia

Chinese New Year 2014: the Year of the Horse
—by *Liz Fong Willis*



Duck wrapped in horse-shaped tortilla



Asparagus and filet mignon



Our international scholars take a break from serving to eat their own dinner

It took a village...

Chef **Jimmy Chen**, **Theresa Song**, **Peggy Cheong**, **Rita Hsia**, **Clara Wen** and husband **George Foo** pulled off another spectacular Chinese New Year banquet for us, making ten in a row!

Each year, Jimmy creates a special dish involving the animal of the year on the Chinese calendar. Because this is the Year of the Horse, Jimmy fashioned a "Peking duck" horse. Rather than serving the duck with a more customary Mandarin pancake, he placed duck, with the traditional shreds of scallion and hoisin sauce, inside a flour tortilla cut in the shape of a horse (see photo). We were also treated to prawns the size of small lobster tails, and a filet mignon dish with a special sauce that should be bottled and marketed! In addition, we had an eggplant dish that everyone loved. Theresa used a little of this, a little of that, and *voila!* another fabulous dish for 129 paid guests plus kitchen staff!

Clara and her husband worked over 11 hours straight, and she was so enthusiastic about the experience that she sent a thank-you note for the opportunity to volunteer to help us raise money for scholar-

ships! **Dee Biller**, a Revelle College grad who went on to become executive chef at Souplantation and a cooking instructor at several cooking schools, also sent a thank-you note, saying that she and Dr. **Soldau** (Chris and my dentist) really enjoyed the experience of helping us for the second time. They were part of a cheerful crowd of kitchen helpers who made up Jimmy's hard-working crew: **Dee Biller**, **Dagmar Bocakova**, **Lanna Cheng Lewin**, **Richard Chim**, **Diane He**, **Keiko Hirai**, **Elisabeth Marti**, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**, **Doug Shriner**, **Dr. Frederick Soldau**, **Miracema Ueyoshi**, **Mira Vendler**, **Susan Wu**, and **Ginny Young**.

The wait staff, who came from all over the world, was made up of postdocs and one medical doctor: **Lucia Borruso**, M.D., **Eileen Collyer**, **Laurent Fattet**, **Wolfgang Moens**, **Davide Povero**, and **Lauren Ray**.

Reservations and nametags were expertly done by **Gail Fliesbach**. **Georgina Sham** took care of the printed programs and seating arrangements. **Eleanor tum Suden** and **Georgia Crowne** handled the check-in of guests. The many colorful floral arrangements were cre-



Guests were seated both in the International Center's dining and living room



Chef Jimmy and his team calmly prepare a six-course meal



Ginny Young demonstrates exceptional agility

ated by **Candace Kohl**.

Ruth Newmark arranged for one of the Friends scholarship recipients to speak to the importance of the award. **Carolyn Chen**, who will soon receive her Ph.D. in composition, also delighted us with a short performance on the guqin.

Our parking attendant was **Justin Costello**. The drink dispensers before dinner were **Jerry Fitzsimmons** and **Danya Costello**. The photographers were **Stu and Carol Smith** and **Katya Newmark**.

Chris Wills provided the after-dinner program with his photos of New Britain, Papua New Guinea.

Thanks again to everybody for one of our most successful fundraisers yet! The next stop on our world tour, in the fall, will be Japan!



Ethnic Dinner Chair,
Liz Fong Wills



Clara Wen, Peggy Cheong, Susan Wu,
Diane He, Rita Hsia, Theresa Song

Some Comments:

•*Indeed I believe it truly does take a village to pull off events such as the one we held tonight as part of our Ethnic Dinner Program. Thank you for another wonderful evening and for your singular and collective roles in making the evening such a success. The food was delicious. Thank you **Chris** for your generosity of time and willingness to provide educational forays to distant lands. Gung Hay Fat Choy. — **Katya Newmark***

•*Another fab Chinese New Year celebration and scholarship fundraiser. I am so happy to belong to such a generous and hardworking organization. The real glory comes when we allocate the funds to our scholarship winners to enable them to follow their dreams. That is the best part of all! — **Kristine Kneib***

•*We all enjoyed the "work." I am so glad that I can do something for the program. — **Theresa Song***

•*Our thanks to all — including our many guests — who contributed to making this a beautiful evening, but above all thanks to our Ethnic Dinner Chair, **Liz Fong Wills**. The January 2014 dinner marked the 110th in a long-running series of Friends Ethnic Dinners, inaugurated in 1973 by **Lily Lin** and **Luna Fung**. Kudos to all responsible for such a remarkable feat! — **Ed**.*



Initiation rite costume, New Britain,
Papua New Guinea



Prof. Christopher Wills shows some
of the amazing photos he took in
Papua New Guinea



A rapt audience listens to Chris discuss
and illustrate, among other things, the
beauty of Kimbe Bay's coral reefs

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The Friends *Newsletter* goes to print so early in the month prior to publication that we are often considerably behind in acknowledging contributions that were made weeks before. This is certainly the case with some of the following.

It is with delight that we now report a handsome donation from **JoAnn Wirth** that came with this explanatory note, dated January 10, 2014: "As a current life member of the Friends, a past member of the scholarship committee, and a former member of the International Center staff, I am pleased to make a donation to the Friends Scholarship Fund. I proudly make this donation in the name of my twin granddaughters, who graduate from university in 2013: **Xenia Wirth**, Georgia Institute of Technology, and **Bianca Wirth**, University of Georgia. With highest regards, JoAnn Wirth."

To this we can add that JoAnn served as Coordinator of the English-in-Action tutor program from 1985-1994, was very active in the Friends, including serving, together with **Pat Kampmann**, as Co-President for the year 1996-97. Upon the retirement of her husband, **David Wirth**, a scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the couple moved to northern California, but whenever JoAnn and David come to La Jolla, and the visit happens to coincide with one of the Friends special events, they attend the festivity.

Also in January, we received a most generous donation from **Alma** and **Bill Coles** (Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering), who designated their gift in memory of **Betty Shor** and **Patti Alskne**. Since Alma is still actively engaged in Friends activities, not the least as coordinator of the Friends Resale Shop, she hardly needs an introduction; however, for those new to our organization, we would like

to point out that Alma was responsible for raising much of the money required for the considerable 1984 expansion of the International Center, and that she served as Friends President numerous times (six years in all).

In 1998, Alma was named Friends Member of the Year, and, in 2000, her work was recognized nationally by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, being among a group of 30 volunteers to receive the Millennium International Award for outstanding achievements in international volunteerism.

Our thanks also go to **Louise Keeling, Janet & Martin Chrispeels, and Phyllis M. Levy** (who made her kind contribution in memory of **Bob Passin**), while Scholarship Committee Chair **Ruth Newmark** and her husband **Leonard Newmark** (Professor Emeritus of Linguistics), made their donation in celebration of their grandchildren, **Danya** and **Justin Costello**, and designated it for the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship*.

A very special thank-you to **Liz** and **Chris Wills** for their exceptional contributions to the Ethnic Dinners that help Friends raise significant sums of scholarship funds.

As if this were not enough, we just learned from the UC San Diego Foundation of two wonderful gifts earmarked for the Friends of the International Center.

One is a very generous **anonymous gift** designated for Friends of the International Center scholarships. The other gift came at the direction of the **Betty and J. Robert Beyster Family Fund** and is similarly intended for international scholarships. It was made in memory of **Patti Alskne**.

Betty Beyster is a Life Member of the Friends, and longtime area residents may know that her husband,



Resale Shop volunteers Renate Schmid-Schoenbein and Kristina Noolandi from Canada

Robert Beyster, is the founder of Science Applications International Corporation, a large information technology and engineering company, once headquartered in San Diego. Their friend and one-time neighbor, **Patti Alskne**, died last November. That the Beysters would choose to fund a scholarship in her honor does not come as a surprise, as for years Patti enriched the Friends scholarship program by contributing high quality merchandise to our Resale Shop. As the owner of Second Act West, a La Jolla consignment shop, Patti sent wonderful things, mainly clothing, our way. If the goods didn't sell quickly in her shop, she wanted the Friends to have them, thereby allowing us to earn money for international scholarships. This symbiotic relationship has continued even after Patti's death, and **Josie Foulks** makes regular runs to Second Act West on Fay Avenue to pick up goods to sell in the Friends Resale Shop.

This seems an appropriate time and place to acknowledge, once again, the work of our many **Resale Shop volunteers**. We thank each of you, as well as all those who bring the Shop their gently used clothes, books, and household items that fund scholarships that further international education.

THANK YOU!

Resale Shop Volunteer: Arti Sharma

—by Joe Nichols



The Friends Resale Shop is fortunate to have many volunteers, new and old, with greatly diverse backgrounds. A recent volunteer with a very rich background is **Arti Sharma**, our only volunteer from India. She is from Bhopal, the capital of the state of Madhya Pradesh, known as the City of Lakes, but probably better known in the United States as the site of a 1984 disaster caused by a chemical explosion at a fertilizer plant owned by Union Carbide.

Arti's résumé is most impressive. She has an M.A. in economics, has worked as a textile designer, but prior to her coming to the United States, she was doing social service work for AIWC (All India Women's Conference), an organization dedicated to the upliftment and betterment of Indian women and children. Even more, she has worked with the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, showcasing Indian culture to the Arab world. Now you can see why I said her background was so rich.

Her husband is working on a master's degree at UCSD's School of

International Relations and Pacific Studies. They have two sons: one in high school in Bhopal, and a younger son here in elementary school. Arti is an active participant in Wednesday Coffee and gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on India at the January Indian-themed luncheon.

Arti loves helping in the Resale Shop, and is motivated by the fact that we are providing money for international scholarships. The family plans on returning to India next year. Meanwhile, come meet Arti on Tuesday mornings, when she generally can be found at the Shop.

Wednesday Coffee Schedule

—by Georgina Sham

We meet Wednesday mornings from 10:00 until noon.

March 5: *Visit to the Fallen Star Exhibit* with docent **Gayle Barsamian**. We will leave the I-Center to walk to the exhibit at 10 a.m. sharp!

March 12: *Sewing handbags*. As those of you who made stuffed animals will remember, we have a lot of furry fabrics. **Dagmar Bocakova** will teach us how to use these fabrics to make funky bags.

March 19: *Irish Lunch*. As part of our International Kitchen, we'll celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a lunch featuring such Irish specialties as corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes and carrots, soda bread, and apple barley pudding. Cost: \$5.

March 27: *Needle Felting*. This popular activity returns under the guidance of **Dagmar Bocakova**.

Gus' English Conversation Table and Mommy/Daddy & Me will continue to meet as usual, as will the Tuesday afternoon Knit-Along sessions that combine knitting and/or crocheting with the opportunity to practice English conversation.

Our Mommy/Daddy & Me program, designed for children not yet in school, has two sections, with a class from 10:00 - 10:40 for those 24 months and under, and from 10:45 - 11:30 for those above 24 months. Classes are run by **Aehyang Park** from Korea and overseen by **Alice Blake-Stalker**, representing the Friends. These two have recently been joined by **Gwénaëlle Demangel** from France, who not only comes with enthusiasm, but also with the experience of having worked with children. Together with moms and dads, they lead the kids in singing, games, reading, and other age-appropriate activities. Aehyang is a great communicator, who posts the lyrics to be sung, and always includes a welcoming message in the Wednesday Coffee e-mails I send out every Monday. For the February 12 class, for instance, she wrote: "We are going to have fun activities with COLORS. I would like all of you to bring your favorite color. For example, you can put on pants in your favorite color. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday." Mommy/Daddy & Me has become very popular and we see over 30 mommies and daddies with their children every week!



Part of UCSD's Stuart Collection of commissioned sculptures, **Do Ho Suh's** *Fallen Star* exemplifies the artist's on-going exploration of themes around the idea of home and cultural displacement, reflecting Suh's own feelings of displacement when he arrived in the U.S. from Seoul, Korea in 1991 to study.

A Terrific Trio

—by Kristine Kneib

Please let me introduce you to some of our newest Friends members—Tashu, Cindy, and Marty—who joined us in the 2014 new year. As you will read, they are talented and energetic ladies, who have already and will continue to bring their time, talent, and treasure to good service for our organization. We welcome them!

☞ **Tashu Malik** came to the USA from Delhi, India with her husband, **Sarabjeet Singh**, who works for Qualcomm. They first lived for two years in San Jose, CA and have been in San Diego since 2008. Tashu has a diploma in catering and nutrition, and worked in India in sales and marketing for banquets in 5-star hotels, and later for private Indian educational institutions in computing and technologies. For two years before she left India, she was self-employed in publicity for social events for educational institutions.

Self-trained in vegetarian nutritive cooking, Tashu loves to cook. As a brand new Friends member, she led the Indian vegan lunch for our January Wednesday Coffee International Kitchen. Tashu proved that she is a whiz with the chemistry of exotic spices! Her sidekick was **Doris Sant'Anna**, who is a dear friend



Some of the International Kitchen January Indian lunch team: Doris Sant'Anna, Tashu Malik (head chef), and Nimisha Acharya

of mine, a recent and very active member, and Tashu's neighbor.

Tashu volunteers for READ/San Diego, an adult literacy program, and for the California Center for Sustainable Energy, a non-profit that promotes green energy. She is also taking nutrition classes at a local community college. She has added French and Spanish to her language repertoire, and loves to read and take walks in nature. Tashu was attracted to the International Center upon seeing how comfortable a place it is to gather for people from all nations and cultures.

☞ **Cindy Tozer** is from the suburbs of Philadelphia, where she grew up, raised her own family, and worked as a hospital speech therapist since graduating from college. In 2006, she moved to San Diego to be close to her two children and two grandchildren. Cindy continues in her career here and is a keen volunteer. She volunteers in preparation and cleanup for the healthy cooking classes at UCSD Moores Cancer Center, ushers at ArtPower! events at UCSD, and helps out at her grandchildren's school. She also enjoys biking and tennis.

Since she loves to cook—and is good at it—she also looks forward to helping out in our International Center kitchen at lunches and other events. On her first day as a member, she worked steadfastly with Tashu and the team on the Indian vegan lunch. Indian, Thai, and Mediterranean dishes



Kristine Kneib with new members: Tashu Malik, Cindy Tozer, and Marty Hambricht

are her favorites. Cindy is most interested in volunteering in our various programs in English conversation with foreign speakers/learners.

☞ **Marty Hambricht** was formerly from Chicago but has been in San Diego since 1968. She taught elementary school for 41 years—spending 30 of those years at Curie Elementary in University City. Marty is a born teacher, who still visits her old school and takes the first-graders for walks in Rose Canyon. She volunteers at discovery labs and tide pools at Birch Aquarium, and prepares elementary school students for concerts at San Diego Symphony and at Classics 4 Kids.

Marty has a 40-year track record of singing soprano in the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus. She likes to stay fit through gym and outdoor workouts. On a constant search for good health and living practices, she leads Sierra Club bike rides, and hikes and line dances with a group that puts on performances at the San Diego County Fair.

Marty has been attending our Tuesday Knit Along group, a natural extension of her participation in a creative yarn group that knits for charity. She says that she looks forward to the many opportunities afforded by the Friends of the International Center to interact with different cultures.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends of the International Center,



Daniella at
Friends October
2013
Andean Dinner

Your generous Scholarship has allowed me to purchase a state-of-the-art computer, which has made a tremendous difference in the everyday efficiency of my computationally-intensive research. I am at the middle of the road in terms of the Ph.D. and about to publish my first lead-author paper.

As part of my work, I acquire and analyze images and spectra from professional telescopes. I observe brown dwarfs, which are objects intermediate between stars and planets, in terms of mass. Also known as “failed stars,” they lack enough mass (and thus temperature) to ignite the process of hydrogen fusion, which provides the energy for regular stars to shine. As a result, these objects dim and cool down as they age and look brightest in infrared wavelengths.

In particular, I am interested in finding systems of two or more brown dwarfs orbiting around each other. By performing demographics on these objects, and studying the

occurrence of binary systems as compared to individual brown dwarfs, I can begin to understand their formation mechanisms.

My role as a scientist does not stop there. As a Hispanic woman in science, I have the opportunity to inspire underrepresented students to become scientists themselves. This summer, I volunteered as a lab assistant in a two-week science boot camp for Latin-American students, Camp Ciencia, organized by the Institute of the Americas at UCSD. The experience was incredibly fruitful and enriching for both the students and myself, and we created long-lasting international friendships. I still keep up with a few students who tell me about their accomplishments back in their countries, and I am honored to have helped, even a little bit, in their formation.

I honestly believe in the importance of your overall support to international students and am extremely grateful for your kindness. I am motivated to give back to the community just as you have given to me.

Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi

Ph.D. candidate, Department of Physics

B.S., MIT, international transfer student from Peru

Dear Friends of the International Center,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping me achieve one of my greatest goals in life: studying abroad.

Living in Paris for four months was an incredible experience, one that I could not have achieved so early on in life without the help of UCSD, UCEAP, PAO, and the Friends of the International Center, who were kind enough in helping me fund my trip. As a self-supported student, I thought studying abroad in Paris would likely be an unattainable goal, but with the help of advising from the Programs Abroad Office and scholarships such as yours, I was able to fulfill this dream.

On many occasions while abroad, it was difficult to understand that what I was living was in fact real and that I wasn't just dreaming. Yet, upon arriving in Paris, I was skeptical of my decision to remain in such a foreign place

for so long. I felt alienated from the language, customs, and people. However, the more I got to know Paris, the more I realized that people are more or less the same anywhere you go, and there is a certain comfort in that.

Because of my study-abroad trip, I was lucky to be able to experience and discover many wonderful cities and cultures, as well as make what I hope to be long-lasting friendships with people I now cherish as much as Paris itself. I will not soon forget the beautiful sunny days and rainy evenings in Paris, nor the delicious croissants. I was nostalgic for Paris even before I left it.

Merci beaucoup,

Sandra Duran

EAP, UC Center in Paris

Communications major,

Sociology minor, Muir College

Dear Ruth and Friends of the International Center,

I am writing to say thank you for providing me with the opportunity to travel to Brazil last August. With your help I was able to attend and speak at the 24th Congress of the International Society of Biomechanics, which was held August 4th to 9th, 2013 in Natal, Brazil. Attending this conference gave me the opportunity to speak with world-renowned experts about my research and its implications in clinical treatments for my thesis work on muscle fibrosis, as well as to learn about other factors that can affect muscle function.

I left for my journey on August 1st from Los Angeles on a flight to Rio de Janeiro. I was able to sightsee in Rio for the day on August 2nd, where I hiked up Sugar Loaf Mountain and walked along Copacabana beach. After my day of exploring Rio, I boarded a flight to Natal, a small city in

the North of Brazil, on August 3rd. I arrived in Natal and made my way to the apartment I would be staying in for the week. The city of Natal is very beautiful with miles of sand beaches and warm turquoise water. Before the conference began, I was able to walk for miles on the beach while enjoying the sun and the warm waters of the Atlantic.

The conference began on August 4th with an exciting opening ceremony complete with professional soccer dribblers. Following the opening ceremony there was a fascinating keynote lecture entitled Brain Machine Interfaces to Restore Mobility that gave an exciting glimpse of the future of brain-machine interfaces.

The next morning I had the opportunity to attend a round-table mentoring workshop. During the workshop we discussed four different topics to help us become successful in scientific careers. The workshop provided me with a great opportunity to interact with prominent members of the biomechanics community, as well as with biomechanics students from all over the world! During the rest of the conference I was able to attend very interesting talks and poster sessions on biomechanics related to skeletal muscle.

On August 8th, I had the pleasure of speaking at the young investigator award podium session. Five abstracts were selected as finalists for this podium session, so it was a

great honor to be chosen to speak during this session. It was exciting to present my work to such a global audience and the feedback I got was very helpful to my research.

I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to travel to Brazil to present my work and learn about biomechanics research happening all over the world. This trip would not have been possible without the generous contribution of the Friends of the International Center, and for that I am extremely grateful. I hope this program will continue to positively influence the academic experience for students for years to come.

Mark Chapman

Ph.D. candidate, Department of Bioengineering

Friends of the International Center: Carol and Stuart Smith Scholarship Report

I am writing to share my experiences abroad and to thank you again for the support that you gave me. I am currently in Taipei, Taiwan at the end of the trip that started nearly two months ago when I left for Colombo, Sri Lanka. It has been quite an experience.

I left for Colombo in mid-December. I was lucky enough to travel around Sri Lanka for a couple days before boarding my cruise. Sri Lanka was an amazing country, with so much variety and so many things to visit and do. The highlight of the trip was travelling in the so-called "cultural triangle" of Sri Lanka, where I got to see Kandy (where Buddha's tooth relic is housed), Sigiriya (an ancient rock fortress), Polonnaruwa (Sri Lanka's capital in the 12th century), and Dambulla (beautiful cave paintings). I hope that I can return to Sri Lanka soon—I don't think I saw half of what I wanted to see!

I joined the rest of the scientists for the research cruise on December 26th, at which time we boarded the R/V Roger Revelle. The

science party was made up of a combination of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) graduate students and researchers, students, and technicians from the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS). The diversity of backgrounds and countries that were represented on this cruise was spectacular (among the science party, for instance, there were students from the United States, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, France, Poland and India), and was a great way to get to know other researchers (and perhaps future colleagues and collaborators!) that I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet otherwise.

Although we experienced a few initial setbacks, I'm happy to report that the science mission of the MIST research cruise was a success. At the beginning of the cruise, we were informed that there were problems with our permits to work in Indonesian waters, despite the fact that we had applied to do the work over



Alan Foreman in SIO paleoceanography lab

a year before. As a result, we were forced to go to a backup plan that the student Principal Investigators (myself and a few others) had been working on for a couple weeks. Luckily, the plan went off almost without a hitch, and we were able to recover 6 sediment cores and more than 100 water samples over the course of our work. These samples, when analyzed, should tangibly aid our understanding of how Indian Ocean circulation may have changed since the Last Glacial Maximum and how this variability is related to changes in global climate.

In addition to accomplishing our scientific objectives, this cruise was immensely helpful for me on

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