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



# *Newsletter*

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Volume XLI, No. 9

May 2014

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Annual Membership Meeting  
&  
Scholarship Awards Ceremony  
Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 PM  
International Center Patio

## Annual Membership Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony

We invite you to share our Annual Membership Dinner with the Friends and our many guests. We are delighted to have our Dean of the International Center, Dr. **Kirk Simmons**, introduce Professor of Political Science **Alan Houston** as our featured speaker this year. Dr. Houston is Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and past Provost of Eleanor Roosevelt College.

The Friends Scholarship Committee truly appreciates all the hours given by our many dedicated volunteers to the Resale Shop, and values all those who continue to support us with donated items. Thank you also to so many who generously give to our scholarship program and also to those who give unrestricted funds. This generosity enables us to receive matching University funds.

The evening will begin at 6 o'clock with wine, punch, and appetizers in the lounge. The meal itself is being catered by **Alma Coles** and an entire cast of fellow volunteers. Alma's dinner theme is "All Things Lemon," including Lemon Chicken, a lemony dessert, and hot Lemon Tea at the end of the meal.

The cost for attending the dinner is just \$20 per person; scholarship recipients are guests of the Friends. If you have dietary restrictions, please note your needs on the reservation form found on p. 11 of this *Newsletter*. The deadline for reservations is Friday, May 16, so we encourage you to complete and return the coupon in this *Newsletter*, along with your payment, as soon as possible.

The dinner will be held outdoors in the central patio so we suggest that you dress warmly.

President **Katya Newmark** will conduct a brief business meeting that will include the election of officers for 2014-15 as proposed by **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, Chair of the Nominating Committee. **Ruth Newmark**, Scholarship Committee Chair, will then introduce the Friends Scholarship Awardees for 2014.

We look forward to seeing our Friends and guests and sharing with you the outstanding scholarship recipients.

—*Vivian Lodes*, Committee Chair



Some members of the planning group. Seated: Alma Coles, Vivian Lodes, Ruth Newmark  
Standing: Marion Spors, Katya Newmark, Karen Davis, Gail Fliesbach.



Work was conducted over an impromptu lunch at the home of Katya Newmark. Pictured in addition to those seen above are: Mary Woo, Georgina Sham, and Eleanor tum Suden.

# President's Message

Through my participation with the Friends of the International Center, I have experienced a lot of firsts this past year: I gave my first professional PowerPoint presentation using borrowed equipment; I used a sewing machine for the first time in my adult life (I don't count my failed attempt when I was nine); I posed for photos wearing a lion's mask; I learned how to felt; I wore an official lab coat and conducted an experiment in a biology lab; I learned how to make rice using a variety of techniques (Iranian: layering over cabbage and Thai: using a sticky rice steamer pot and basket); and, I tried speaking a few words in languages I have never spoken before.

While none of these experiences, in and of themselves, may seem remarkable to you, I have thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of them. More importantly, I remind myself that none of these joyous moments

(except when I stabbed myself because I forgot that you should not make eye contact while conversing and felting) would have been possible without my active involvement with the Friends. I continue to encourage you to participate in our activities as often as possible as I am confident you, too, will find your experience rewarding.

I am delighted to report that our programs are enjoying surges in participation and our wonderful volunteer corps continues to grow as well. Please do not read this to mean that your participation is not needed, because we always need and welcome new volunteers, whether it be in our Resale Shop (stay tuned—exciting news to come), or at our English Conversation Table (participation continues to swell in the best of ways insuring that exciting discussions always await), or at our Cooking Classes (we even have pop-

up classes), or at our many Special Events—if you have not attended a Friends Dinner Social, don't miss out on our May 3rd tropical-themed evening, since the next dinner will not be until fall.

Last month our Scholarship Committee, led by the indomitable **Ruth Newmark**, selected an amazingly talented group of individuals from a highly competitive pool of applicants, as the recipients of Friends and other UCSD scholarships. We look forward to introducing you to these inspirational students at our combined annual general membership meeting/scholarship awards dinner on May 20. Please take this opportunity to introduce yourself if I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting you.

Wishing you all a happy May!

*Katya Newmark*

# Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is pleased to propose the following slate of officers for the year 2014-15:

President:	<b>Katya Newmark</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs:	<b>Jean Selzer</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership:	<b>Renate Schmid-Schoenbein</b>
Recording Secretary:	<b>Tashu Malik</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Karen Davis</b>
Corresponding Secretary:	<b>Elisabeth Marti</b>
Nominating Committee:	<b>Nori Faer, Kristine Kneib, Alice Blake-Stalker</b>

The above slate will be voted on at the Friends Annual Dinner Meeting to be held at the International Center on Tuesday evening, May 20, 2014. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, but must have received the prior approval of the nominee.

To assure the necessary quorum, we ask that you please send in your proxy statement available on the back page of this *Newsletter*, if you can't attend the annual membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Barbara Fitzsimmons**, Nominating Committee Chair

## May Calendar

May 3: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00

May 6: **International Center Volunteer Appreciation Reception**, 2:00-3:30

May 7, 21: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

May 7, 14, 21, 28: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

May 8: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

May 13: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

May 13, 20, 27: **Knit-Along**, 12:00-4:00

May 20: **Annual Membership Dinner**, 6:00

May 26: **Memorial Day**



The triumvirate behind the Friends Dinner Socials: Dagmar Bocakova, Katya Newmark, and Audrey Leriche meet at the International Center to plan the Friends Dinner Social #4 menu and to test the ovens for accuracy before contemplating the making of meringues for the Pavlovas.



Several guests, including a large number of international scholars, are seen at our February Friends Dinner Social.



A postdoc from Poland, a graduate student from Hong Kong, and members of the Friends are in deep conversation over a meal prepared in the International Center kitchen by our talented volunteers.



Brazilian performer Carmen Miranda noted for her outlandish fruit hats

## Chica Chica Boom Chic

—by Audrey Leriche

The fourth Friends Dinner Social is going to be seriously fun!

In celebration of spring, we are going to bring the tropics to us. Dress in your favorite tropical outfit or create your Carmen Miranda inspired fruit-laden hat (there will be a small prize for the best creation!) and wear them to our Chica Chica Boom Chic party.

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: International Center

Tropically-inspired food, umbrella drinks, and music are the focus of this Friends Dinner Social #4. We are going to have a party you will never forget!

Once again, this event will allow Friends of the International Center and visiting scholars and their families to connect as a joyful community. The Friends Dinner Social program is dedicated to bringing into contact people of different cultures, each with a unique inspirational life experience—and we plan to do all this over a relaxed and delicious dinner.

So, please mark your calendar and make your reservation by Tuesday, April 29. Cost is \$15 for Friends

members, \$10 for UCSD scholars and their families, \$20 for everyone else, except children under 5 years who may come free.

You can sign up and pay at the Friends Resale Shop (Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) or, if you find it more convenient, you may meet **Dagmar Bocakova** during the Friends Wednesday Morning Coffee hours (10:00 a.m.-noon). With questions or to volunteer, contact Dagmar at <bocakova@gmail.com>.

Join us for some fun prior to the summer break. We look forward to seeing you.

### Friends Dinner Social #4

#### MENU

- Orange Carrot Soup
- Chicken w. Apricots & Almonds (tofu version for vegetarians)
- Citrus Ginger Couscous
- Tropical Spinach Salad
- Chica Chica Boom Pavlova

Reservations Required.

Form available at

<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends>

# Spring Scholarship Awards

The Friends Scholarship Committee met three days in late March to make scholarship selections, but keep in mind that this does not include the countless hours members spent reading the 130 or so applications beforehand.

As Committee Chair, **Ruth Newmark** extended awards to 24 undergraduates going abroad on diverse study programs (each to receive a \$1,500 scholarship), to 16 graduate students working on advanced degrees in fields ranging from anthropology to writing and conducting research in such geographic areas as Mongolia, Indonesia, and Iran (each to receive \$2,000 fellowships), and to 4 medical students pursuing work in global medicine in faraway places like Kenya and the Himalayas, but also in Eng-

land (each, like the other graduate students, to receive \$2,000).

We hope that all 46 students will be able to accept these merit-based awards—awards that, as we hear from previous recipients, are highly valued contributions to the students' international education and that, more often than not, contribute to transformative experiences.

Representative of such comments are these words from **Claire Maniti**, recipient of a 2013 Friends Scholarship for a summer study in England: "Trying to convey how meaningful the experience of traveling abroad was for me is overwhelming. Going to Cambridge was life changing, and there's no report I could write that could do justice to the experience. I am deeply grateful to the Friends of the International Center for allowing me to have this experience."

Upon the request of **Kelly O'Sullivan** of the International Center's Programs Abroad Office and of **Jennifer Leighton** of the Office of Student Affairs, our Committee made the selection of an additional 30 undergraduates who plan to enroll in study abroad programs.

The Scholarship Committee thanks all—**Friends** and our **University** alike—for their much appreciated financial contributions to the Friends Scholarship Fund that made it possible for the **Friends to offer scholarships valued at \$79,000 for our fiscal year 2013-14!** (In case you are checking the math, we already made two undergraduate awards in the winter.)

Be sure to attend our Annual Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 20, so that you can meet this year's talented scholarship recipients in person.



Top: Gayle Barsamian, Jean Fort, Jeri Abernathy

Bottom: Candace Kohl, Ruth Newmark

Group photo: Same Committee members with the addition of Katya Newmark

## Membership

Please welcome our newest members: **Carla & Bernhard Bereiter**. Some of us have already met Carla at Wednesday Coffee, where she is a participant at the English Conversation Table. Carla is Swiss and has come to UC San Diego with her husband, a postdoctoral fellow engaged in geophysical research. Also new are **Jean & Jeffrey Selzer**, close friends of **Katya Newmark**. Jean is a registered nurse and Jeff a pediatrician. They have attended many of this year's Friends special events, and Jean has agreed to run for the office of Friends 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

We regret to announce the death from pneumonia of **Elaine Watson**, who had been a Friends Life Member from early on. Elaine and **Kenneth Watson** came from UC Berkeley to UC San Diego in the early eighties, when Ken accepted a faculty position at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and became the Director of the Marine Physical Laboratory. We extend our condolences to the Watson family.

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## Resale Shop Profile: Jiangli Li

—by Joe Nichols

Before I came to the International Center, I had never heard of the idea of California being a Pacific Rim Nation. Having lived on the East Coast most of my life, I was Europe centered. Did UC San Diego ever open my eyes! Many, many students and scholars of Asian origins attend the university. Small wonder that Asians have been such loyal volunteers at the Friends Resale Shop.

A relative newcomer is **Jiangli Li**. Jiangli came to UCSD from China with her husband, a postdoctoral fellow in neuroscience. “I got my Ph.D. degree in molecular and cell biology in China. I came to San Diego just after my graduation from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in the summer of 2010. Before my visa changed to H4, I had one-year work experience as a research associate in a UCSD lab. Since then, I have been trying to find a lab to sponsor my H1. Because of the previous professor’s strong recommendation, I did get many chances for interviews, but they eventually didn’t lead to employment because of my visa status. Since there are few research associate positions sponsored as H1, I am stuck for now.”

Because she received much help from others upon her arrival in California, Jiangli enjoys being of service in return. She has been volunteering in the Shop since

last April, and is thus a veteran of one-year service. “I’m a regular volunteer at the Resale Shop on Mondays. I always try my best to make everyone feel warm and welcome. The coordinator, **Alma Coles**, sometimes works with me if there are not enough other volunteers. I like to talk to her. She is energetic and optimistic. I have also worked with **Keiko, Bilan, Gerti, and Mira. Kristina** is my present partner.”

The weather and ambience of San Diego is a real plus for Jiangli. She finds San Diego a real international city that offers her a chance to meet many people from around the world. Our International Center helps her get a good grasp of everyday life in the United States. “This is an eye-opening experience, which I believe will change my thoughts about many things,” she declares.

Jiangli is fascinated by our public services, specifically our English as a Second Language classes and our outstanding public libraries. She ruefully adds though that she is a bit homesick for her family.

Jiangli studied English before coming to the United States; nevertheless, she still feels somewhat



Jiangli enjoys the natural beauty of San Diego

challenged by English and is frustrated by what she considers her slow progress in learning our language. She shouldn’t feel so—how many of us have taken the opportunity to learn Chinese?

Again, we are so grateful for all our Shop volunteers and substitutes. Our thanks go to generous spirits like Jiangli Li!

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## Knit-Along

**Jennie Chin**, Coordinator of the Knit-Along group, reports that they held a farewell party for two of the participants, **Yuka Yamaguchi** and **Tomoko Sato**, both of whom returned to Japan. In Mid-May, one of the other participants, **Miho Aki**, will be leaving to move to Beijing with her husband.

The group fluctuates with number of participants, but continues to be well attended.



Friends Resale Shop

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## Volunteer Appreciation Reception

The International Center will host the annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., in the IC Courtyard. During this celebration the International Center will honor and thank the many volunteers who contribute their time so generously in support of vital programming for students, scholars, and their families. The invitational event will feature musical entertainment and the presentation of the Chancellor’s Awards by **Kirk Simmons**, Dean of the International Center.

Questions may be directed to **Shelly Taskin** at [staskin@ucsd.edu](mailto:staskin@ucsd.edu) or (858) 534-0603.

## What You May Not Know About Candace Kohl

—by Ruth Newmark

Many Friends will have worked with **Candace Kohl** on a multitude of projects, and many will have been fortunate to be invited to her architecturally stunning home that she loves to share with others. Her hospitality is legendary, and many of us have been privileged to receive a guided tour of her astonishing display of carefully labeled meteorites, her wonderful collection of arts and crafts, as well as of her show of orchids and her gorgeously tended garden with its fine view of the Pacific Ocean. Some may know of Candace's love for cats and roses, and, if you have been around long enough, it is likely that you will remember that Candace served as Friends President from 1999-01, and then again, together with **Carol Smith**, from 2007-09, serving almost five years in total.

She has served on the Friends Board in different capacities too numerous to list here; suffice it to say that she is instrumental in many aspects of our organization. If I had to guess, I would say that Candace enjoys most serving on the Friends Scholarship Committee or doing things that will enhance the décor of our events. Let's hope that she doesn't think that we are taking her for granted as we turn to her again and again for special table decorations or flower arrangements. Candace generally stands ready to help where needed; just don't ask her to work in the kitchen or sit on the floor with the many babies in our Wednesday morning Mommy/Daddy & Me class. What you can count on, though, is a contribution of some lovely handmade objects culled from her vast assortment of crafts knowledgeably selected on her extensive travels, prizes to be raffled off at our annual holiday party or at other social gatherings.



Candace Kohl at a meteorite talk at the International Center

Still, what you are less likely to know about Candace is that she grew up in St. Louis, received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Carleton College, and is an alumna of UC San Diego, where she studied cosmochemistry under professor **James R. Arnold**, earning her Ph.D. in 1975. Her experimental work centered on measurements of cosmic-ray-produced radioactivity in lunar material and meteorites. Later research focused on dating terrestrial landforms and has proven to be an important tool for the study of geomorphology and investigations of climate change. It seems safe to say that she is probably the only member of the Friends to have a planet named after her: Minor Asteroid 4899 Candace, discovered at Palomar Observatory.

Active in science outreach, especially as it relates to women, Candace speaks frequently to students of all ages, encouraging them to consider a career in science. At UCSD, she has endowed an undergraduate scholarship in memory of her mother whose dream it had been to become an engineer. In 2011, Candace was the keynote speaker at our campus' graduate student commencement exercise.

As a leader in ARCS Foundation that "advances our nation's competitiveness by strengthening the United States' capacity for scientific and technological innovation," it was no surprise to anyone in the organization other than to Candace when the San Diego chapter recently recognized

her exceptional service by naming her the recipient of ARCS 2014 Light Award.

Presently, Candace is once again involved in planning the upcoming annual **James R. Arnold Lecture**, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, and she is proud to share with us the following information:

The annual **James R. Arnold** public lecture will be held Friday May 9, 2014 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Sanford Institute for Regenerative Medicine, near the glider port.

The speaker this year will be Dr. **Jill Tartar**, Director of the Center for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Research. She is the inspiration for the **Jodi Foster** character in the motion picture *Contact*. The title of Dr. Tartar's talk is 'The Search for ET: An Investment In Our Long Future.' The event is free, but registration is required due to limited seating. For further information contact [physcievents@ucsd.edu](mailto:physcievents@ucsd.edu) or (858) 822-6436.

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## A Celebration of Betty Shor's Life

Betty Shor died in October of 2013 and is sorely missed, not the least in the Friends Resale Shop where she regularly could be found Monday mornings, often bringing with her small pots of succulents to sell—rooted clippings from her garden. Just in time for inclusion in our Newsletter, Betty's son, **Sandy Shor**, submitted this note after dropping off some items at the Shop:

We invite all friends of **Betty Shor** to join her children, grandchildren, colleagues, co-conspirators, spouses, friends and extended family for an informal evening of remembrance of the good times and the good friends she made throughout her life. We want to say thank you to you all for providing us with such a great community in which to grow up, and to share with you our memories of **Betty** and **George**. We will have "heavy pupus" to sustain us, as well as age-appropriate beverages at the open bar. Please bring your favorite stories, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Although an RSVP is not required, if you send an e-mail to Sandy Shor at sandyshor@hawaii.rr.com, it will help ensure that we don't run out of food and drink too early!

- ❖ Location: Martin Johnson House on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- ❖ Date/Time: Friday, May 30, 2014, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- ❖ Dress: Informal



Gus' English Conversation Table

## Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

•May 7: **May Flower Baskets**. By tradition, the first Wednesday in May, we make baskets with fresh flowers. You may give these baskets to friends or as a Mother's Day present, or keep them for yourselves. If you have small baskets, please bring them, and if you have fresh flowers, please bring those, too. However, we will have quite a few baskets and fresh flowers for your use.

•May 14: **Jewelry**. Under the guidance of **Doris Sant'Anna**, we will make beribboned bracelets in many styles and colors.

•May 21: **Cooking**. **Keiko Hirai** et al will lead us in making several spring salads that all participants will be able to sample afterwards. Please help Keiko clean up after this activity!

•May 28: **Fimo Crafts** with **Dagmar Bocakova**.

## Donations

Treasurer **Karen Davis** is pleased to report several recently received donations, beginning with one from **Nori & Stanley Faer**.

**Eleanor tum Suden** made a gift to the *Joyce Rapaport Memorial Scholarship*, and **Barbara & Jerry Fitzsimmons** once again made a generous contribution to our Scholarship Fund in memory of Jerry's mother, **Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons**.

In a somewhat different vein, we received a contribution from the **La Jolla Photo Travelers Club** after they saw **Chris Wills'** PowerPoint presentation on his and **Liz'** visit to New Britain, a remote island with pristine coral reefs and exotic fire dances. Those of us who attended the January Ethnic Dinner saw the photos first! In lieu of an honorarium, Chris suggested that a voluntary donation be made to the Friends of the International Center Scholarship Fund. Thank you Chris, and thank you **Faye Girsh** (a member of the Friends who clearly enjoyed our Chinese banquet with its accompanying lecture on Papua New Guinea) for inviting Chris to speak to the local Photo Travelers!

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Keiko Hirai with daughter Yuki  
Keiko has somehow learned to prepare wonderful dishes with one hand while holding her baby with the other. Here she is seen in the International Center kitchen at Wednesday Coffee's very successful Taiwanese lunch chaired by **Ying-Ju Chen**.

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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Dear Friends of the International Center,

I'm writing to you now nearly three months removed from my experience in Costa Rica. I would like to tell you about how the experience changed me.

As part of EAP Costa Rica, I was able to backpack through the rain forest, camp out on an uninhabited island, and stay with two host families. I had never been backpacking before. That experience and the experience of camping in an uninhabited location made me realize how little I really need to live. I was able to live in the natural beauty of Costa Rica and really appreciate all that it has to offer, and all that I needed to do it were supplies that I could carry on my back. Now that I have returned to California, I am much more critical of the consumerist culture of the industrial capitalist world.

I had done homestays before, but because I had never been to Latin America before fall quarter, staying with host families really gave me the opportunity to experience and understand what life is like for Costa Ricans. This broadened my perspective on the world; I can see that Americans and Costa Ricans are far more alike than they are different, but the differences are what lend cultural richness to the world.

I could not have experienced any of this, or have thereby grown as a person, without the support of the Friends of the International Center. Thank you for enabling me to explore the world.

*Josh Kenchel*

Biochemistry and Cell Biology major, Revelle College

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Dear Friends of the International Center,

From the time I started my scientific journey as a graduate student at UC San Diego, one of the many themes of my life has been to attend as many conferences as I can handle. Many new discoveries and technologies are reported at high-level conferences before they appear in print, and some negative results may only be mentioned orally in a conference presentation or poster session.

In April 2013, when I clicked open the e-mail saying that I was awarded a Friends Scholarship, two ideas flashed through my mind. One was sincere gratitude to the Friends of International Center. The other was to quickly change my flight tickets. For when I learned that the date of the Friends dinner conflicted with the last date of the conference of the American Society of Microbiology in Denver, I decided to change my flight ticket, so that I could make it to the

scholarship awards ceremony.

As required by the biology department, I must go through 4-6 laboratory rotations before settling down in one of the labs for my doctoral thesis project. Because I have a broad research background and every project sounds enticing, that has been a daunting task. Thus, I have tried my hands at neuroscience, genetics, microbiology, quantitative biology, computation biology, and nanoengineering. To truly understand these projects in a broader context, I have spent several thousand dollars on attending relevant conferences and symposiums, such as the 2012 annual meeting of the American Society of Cell Biology (in San Francisco), the 2013 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (in Boston), and the 2013 annual meeting of the American Society of Microbiology (in Denver),

among others.

Since receiving the Friends Scholarship last May, my scientific journey has continued. After I chose Prof. **Ralph Greenspan's** lab [Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind] in which to conduct my thesis research, I attended two more conferences: the 2013 Optics and Photonics meeting of the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (in San Diego), and the 2013 annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (also in San Diego).

Other than conferences, I visited Dr. **Karl Deisseroth's** laboratory at Stanford University to learn the latest neuroscience imaging techniques. Thanks to a friend I met at the microbiology conference in Denver, I was fortunate to visit the headquarters of the Bio-Rad Laboratories in Hercules on the same trip.

All these pursuits would not have happened if it were not for the support of the University and my thesis advisor, Prof. Greenspan, or without the Friends of the International Center scholarship. I hope to show my gratitude by striving for scientific excellence in my future studies.

*Ruichen Sun*

Ph.D. candidate, Biology

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## Scholarship Report

I used the Friends of the International Center **Diane Lin** Scholarship for the 2013 Material Research Society fall meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> in Boston. This is one of most important conferences for material science and engineering in the world.

I participated with two poster presentations and one oral presentation (the latter a special talk for the conference's Graduate Student Awards). I was awarded the "Silver Award for Graduate Students" and "Best Poster Award."

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I learned a lot about new materials and their applications, such as for batteries, solar cells, and optical devices. I also communicated with graduate students and professors, and heard about their interesting research projects. Some research projects enlightened me and gave me some ideas for my own Ph.D. research project.

I deeply appreciate the Friends of the International Center support for this trip. This scholarship is very useful for graduate students; it allows us to participate in conferences and communicate with other scientists.

*Su-Wen Hsu*

Ph.D. candidate, Materials Science  
B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering.

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### Mexico City—UNAM Report

My experience studying abroad at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) was life changing. It is hard to explain to people why I chose Mexico when they ask me where I studied abroad. At moments, I even questioned myself. Especially Mexico City is a place that one needs to experience for oneself.

As soon as I got out of the plane, the colors, the sounds, the smell and the crowd made me realize that the city was alive. It required all my senses to experience it with pleasure and caution. It is a city full of culture. A city that moves with incredible speed, where there is always something to do. I soon discovered that all cultural events—the museums, plays, art galleries, book readings, art workshops, movies, and more—were either very inexpensive or free. Walking the streets around hundreds of people enjoying the pre-Colonial, Colonial, and modern architecture, is not something that you can do everyday in other places of the world.

During my stay I was able to create a friendly relationship with many people. It was nice to know the food vendors in the streets (delicious food), the people at the coffee shop at the

corner of my house, the owners of the bakery on the same corner. It is a great place for human relationships. Everybody had a little time to stop for a second and say hello.

It was also wonderful to share this experience with other UC students that I got to meet during the first month of intensive classes at EAP's Casa de California. Great students who, like me, decided to make the exciting choice of studying in Mexico City.

The university I attended surpassed my expectations. UNAM is large and well respected. Imposing with its amazing architecture and murals, one does not want to leave when classes end. [Its main campus is a World Heritage site.]

Taking courses at UNAM has changed my career perspective. There are subjects, such as masculinity (with masculinity workshops), being studied there that are central to human relationships not studied very much in the United States. Also, the study of images as a historical source is something being developed there. UNAM is a leading university in Latin America, searching for new ways of understanding and interpreting the world. It is innovative, and has contributed immensely to my own education. It is amazing to see the participation of the students in such an important public university.

I do not want to finish without mentioning the importance of Mexico City's transportation system. In spite of its millions of people, one can get anywhere in the city in less than an hour, for less than 25 cents, using the Metro. I mention this, because as a visiting student I felt very welcomed by this. It felt like the city itself was asking me to get to know it. Thanks to the excellent transportation system, I was able to enjoy every part of the city. I was able to experience the culture of the street sellers and their clever ways of selling their products. It gave me that human contact, and it let me enjoy the different worlds that

exist within this amazing place.

Overall, I grew immeasurably as a person. I found great motivation to improve my academic knowledge and personal life. Mexico City and UNAM opened my eyes to many new things and new dreams. I want to go back and live there for a longer period of time. I want to be part of an active community that promotes education and culture. I want to live in a place where human relationships are kind and part of everyday life.

*Luis E. Barco*

Spanish Literature major,  
Eleanor Roosevelt College



Dear Friends of the International Center,

I'm writing to thank you for the generous scholarship you gave me to attend the 2013 International Society of Biomechanics Conference in Natal, Brazil in August. When I found out about the Friends scholarship, I had just about given up on the possibility of going to the conference. My abstract had been accepted and I was invited to give a talk to an international audience of researchers in my field, but no funding opportunities were available to get me to Brazil. I truly appreciate your understanding of the importance of traveling outside the U.S., hearing ideas from around the globe, and getting to know people from many different cultures. The money given to me by the Friends of the International Center was enough to cover my travel and housing, which made the trip possible.

The conference I attended had a strong focus on building student bonds, and I was able to get to know students from across the globe. I spent the week with new friends from France, Sweden, Switzerland, Brazil, Israel, and Canada, as well as many other countries, and I also met students from across the U.S. We were able to spend hours presenting posters and lectures to each other, talking science, and getting training and advice from world renowned researchers. We also got the chance to share cultural events like riding dune buggies in the beach-side dune park, swimming in a pristine inland lake, exploring the city of Natal, and seeing the biggest cashew tree in the world (it was amazing!)

Not only was I able to attend the conference, but your funding allowed me to take the time to see more of Brazil. Because a friend of mine has family in Rio de Janeiro, I was able to spend a week living in that city with them. I got to explore famous buildings, mountains, and monuments and to spend plenty of time just wandering around the city, which is one of my favorite ways to get to know new places. Living with locals meant that I got to see a very different side of the city and visit places I otherwise would not have known about. I learned much about Brazilian history and culture and about the differences between regions of the country (Natal is worlds away from Rio de Janeiro in population, culture, income, and many other factors). Both the scientific and cultural value of this experience was incalculable. Thank you for giving me the chance to have this amazing experience in Brazil!

*Margie Mathewson*

Ph.D. candidate, Bioengineering

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### **28 Days in the Wilderness**

My study trip to Kenya was made possible by your generosity, and I hope that others will have a similar opportunity.—*Rhiannon Schultz*

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### **EAP in Prague**

Last fall I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to study abroad in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. While there I studied political science and acting for the camera. The FAMU international school offered courses in film and acting. These took place in the national theater (Národní Divadlo), which overlooks the river. It is a gorgeous 18<sup>th</sup> century neoclassical building that I loved to explore every week. My political science classes were taught at Vyšehrad, which literally translates to high castle. Our program was housed in the park where Vyšehrad is located. **This was especially exciting** because several Czech fairy tales take place at this site, and several ruins from the stories were on my morning commute to school. The castle is on one of the few hills in Prague, and I loved grabbing lunch with my friends and looking out over the city. Prague is the most beautiful city in Europe, and I miss the red roofs, the architecture, and the castle over the Vltava River.

I can confidently say that Prague is the most beautiful city in Europe, because I was lucky enough to travel to many other cities while I was there. Centrally located in Europe, Prague made it the perfect home base from which to travel around the continent. Prague is a very inexpensive city to live in and this allowed me to go to Munich, Berlin, Budapest, Vienna, Amsterdam, Belgrade, Zagreb, Trieste, Venice, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Krakow, and Istanbul.

It hard to choose, but I think that my favorite city that I visited was Budapest. The Hungarian people are incredibly friendly and the food is absolutely delicious. There is such a great history of cultural exchange in that country, all of which is reflected in the diverse, cosmopolitan nature of the city. My friend and I spent a perfect day in Budapest: we walked across the Chain Bridge, climbed ruins on Margaret Island, relaxed in Heroes' Square, and got dinner at an amazing place called Kashmir, where we talked to the owner for about two hours about life in Hungary.

I am very grateful for my time abroad and want to thank the Friends of the International Center for your support.

*Kaylie Holloway*

International Studies major, Eleanor Roosevelt College

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**RESERVATIONS FOR FRIENDS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY**  
**Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., International Center**

Please complete this form and enclose a check, made payable to the Friends of the International Center. Send to Annual Dinner Chair, Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018.

Reservations must be received by Friday, May 16, and will be accepted in the order in which they are received.  
(Late reservations will be charged an extra \$5.00, or may be refused and seating requests not honored.)

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Please spell out the names of everyone in your party; all will receive nametags at the door.

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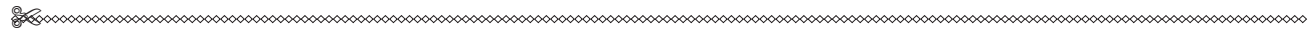
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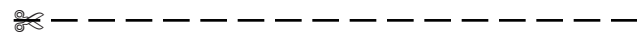
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*May 2014*

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I/We, (please print) \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that I/we am/are members in good standing (our dues are paid), and give Katya Newmark, the current President of the Friends of the International Center, or (print) \_\_\_\_\_, a Friends' member in good standing, permission to vote my/our vote at her/his discretion for the proposed slate of officers at the May 20, 2014 Friends of the International Center Annual Membership Meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Friends of the International Center  
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