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



# *Newsletter*

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## **President's Message**

*¡Hola, amigos y amigas!* I had the good fortune to travel to Cuba in April with a small group that included several other members of the Friends. (Yes, it is legal now for Americans to go there, and there are many charter flights every day between Miami and Havana.) We realized how very little we knew about this small country so close to our shores, so it was wonderful to learn by seeing the cities and the countryside, and hearing about Cuban life past and present. The people we met were warm and open, helping us to understand how things work there, including the hardships, but also to appreciate some their achievements, notably in education, healthcare, and support for the arts. Our experience provides another testament to the value of people-to-people contact—which is, of course, one of the pillars of our work at the International Center.

The Friends have had a busy and successful year: two wonderful Ethnic Dinners; the ever-growing Wednesday Coffee and Mommy/Daddy and Me programs, thanks in part to regular introductions from our Family Orientation program; the new Knit-Along group; the continuing success of our Resale Shop. And a record \$59,000 was

awarded in scholarships this year for study abroad and international students at UC San Diego, whom we celebrated at our annual Scholarship Awards Dinner on May 22.

I was very pleased and honored to receive the International Center's Chancellor's Award for Friends Member of the Year at the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in May. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the successes we have achieved—together.



Dean Lynn Anderson, Joan Adamo, and Assistant Vice Chancellor Andy Ceperley at the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Looking ahead, on June 12, the board will meet for a retreat at the home of **Candace Kohl** to

consider our goals for 2012-13. We have several open positions on the board and would really welcome "new blood." Whether new or a longtime member, please let me know if you would like to join us. (Perhaps we can tempt you with a Mexican fiesta lunch and a fantastic ocean view!)

I hope your summer adventures will be safe and rewarding.

*Joan Adamo*

[jadamo@ucsd.edu](mailto:jadamo@ucsd.edu)

### **June Calendar**

June 1: **International Café**, Noon-1:15

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

June 6, 20: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

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

June 12: **Board Retreat**

June 15: **Spring Quarter ends. Resale Shop** closes until July 10. Summer schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Hours not yet fixed.

June 20: **International Kitchen Potluck**, Noon

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## Center's Growth Creates Need for More Space

—by Lynn C. Anderson

There is no doubt that the International Center, as originally conceived of and supported by the Friends, continues to provide outstanding programs, services, advice, and support to international students, international scholars, students going abroad, and the general campus. This year at UC San Diego we have approximately 2,375 international scholars, 3,212 international students, will send 1,200 students abroad, and serve hundreds of other UC San Diego students and community members through our joint outreach with the Friends. We currently have 39 staff (plus 2 positions for which searches are underway) and a few more hires to come.

Our continued growth meant that we needed to look for “surge” space, which was allocated to us by Student Affairs in March. During spring break, the International Scholar Office (ISO) moved across Mandeville Lane to the lower level of Student Center B—we consider this an expansion of the International Center. ISO had a wonderful Open House on May 8 attended by approximately 100 people.



Student Center B

ISO's move across Mandeville opened up space at the International Center for staff in the International Students and Programs Office (ISPO), who had been sharing offices and working in other small and crowded spaces. In mid-April ISPO staff moved into spaces vacated by ISO staff. In addition, **Sarah Ross** and **Jon Schmidt** also changed offices. Lots of work has gone into making the current IC as workable as possible for our ever-expanding mission and number of staff members.

I am thrilled to tell you that UC San Diego has pledged its support for the new International Center project by committing a very generous matching fund in addition to generous funds allocated by Student Affairs. As we continue to identify our naming gift prospects and donors, we believe this generous gesture from the Chancellor and senior leadership will assist us greatly in raising the funds necessary to begin the project.



Rendering of the proposed International Center, as seen from Library Walk.  
Design by the architectural firm Bluemotif

# Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

In honor of one of the program's most faithful hosts, the Wednesday Coffee, on April 11, threw a *Merci Marie* party for departing **Marie Perroud**. Said Marie: "I am temporarily going back to France to take care of my mother who is 88 and not recovering very well from my father's passing last November. It's not a 'farewell,' just an 'au revoir.' I am leaving most of my belongings here in San Diego, and I will come back as soon as possible."

Highlight of the party was the raffling off of a lovely granny square blanket. Over the past two years the squares were made by different Wednesday Coffee participants, but it was Marie who stitched them all together into a beautiful blanket. **Dagmar Bocakova** was the lucky winner. Those who did not contribute squares paid \$1/raffle ticket with proceeds going to future craft projects.

The upcoming Coffee schedule includes these special activities and events:

- June 6: **Needle Felting**. We have so much fun with this activity that we must have a session at least once a quarter, and **Yuko Kanda** and **Yoko Hosogi** have again agreed to lead us in pursuing our projects. Please bring your own boards and needles, if you have them; alternately, you may purchase needles from Y&Y for \$1 each.

First Wednesday of the month potluck with Mommy / Daddy & Me.

- June 13: **Knitting**. **Mary Woo** will show us how to knit baby hats to go with those cute booties we knitted under her guidance in February.

- June 20: **End of the Year Potluck**. Traditionally, we end the academic year with a potluck. Please bring a dish representative of your native country large enough to share with 6-8 persons. It's always wonderful to see and taste food from all the different countries of our participants. Lunch will be served at noon.

- June 27: **Plastic canvas crafts** with patriotic themes. We will provide all the materials to make a pin, coaster, or something to decorate your house for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

- July and August: Wednesday Morning Coffee, including **Gus Lestick's** English Conversation Table and **Keiko Bott-Suzuki's** Mommy/Daddy & Me classes, will continue to meet over the summer.

- Knit-Along**. An offshoot of Wednesday Coffee, the Tuesday afternoon Knit-Along, under the direction of **Jennie Chen** and **Judy Bavasi**, also will continue its customary weekly activities. One appreciative participant said: "You know, now I'm practicing knitting again, because I'd like to help **Mira [Vendler]** make some hats after I get used to basic stitches. I'm so happy to do it. I'm a stay-at-home mom and not working outside, and



Marie Perroud holding granny square blanket



Serving themselves at an elaborate potluck honoring Marie Perroud were: Mami Kosuga, Eunjeong Kim, Yoko Hosogi, Aurora Preud'Homme with baby, and Yumiko Dejima

can't even speak English well. I never dreamed that I could help someone else in such a way while I stay in this country. I'm very glad to have found the Knit-Along that offers us such opportunities."

- Independence Day Celebration**. No Wednesday Morning Coffee on July 4. Instead, Friends and Oceanids will host a joint Independence Day party in the afternoon, culminating in going down to the beach to see the fireworks.

For up-to-date information, please check the bulletin board in the International Center's dining room or the Wednesday Coffee website (<http://sites.google.com/site/ucsdwednesdaycoffee/>). If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact **Georgina Sham** ([gbsham@gmail.com](mailto:gbsham@gmail.com)).

## Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Sponsored for the second year by the International Center, the International Center Volunteer Appreciation Lunch was held on Thursday, May 10, under the direction of Programs Coordinator **Shelly Taskin**. Volunteers and International Center staff mingled readily over a delicious menu of California cuisine, and enjoyed a lively performance of songs by the **Daughters of Triton**, an all-female a capella ensemble.

After thanking the volunteers for their warmth and care extended to the international community, the Center's Director, **Lynn Anderson**, introduced **Andy Ceperley**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Experiential Learning and Director of the Career Services Center, who proceeded to present the 2012 Chancellor's Awards by citing the recipients' contributions. Among those honored were:

### *Friends Volunteer of the Year: Joan Adamo*

Joan Adamo has made many contributions to the Friends, and to the programs of the International Center. These have enabled the Friends to energize, innovate, and "get down to do the work." Joan has initiated new programs, pulled Friends into 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, and made needed organizational changes. All this in a collaborative, positive manner.

Her service to the Friends includes membership since 2005, Corresponding Secretary for 2007-08 and 2008-09, Co-First Vice President for 2009-10 and 2010-11, and President for 2011-12. An outstanding contribution has been her consistent and thoughtful ap-



Lynn Anderson, Alice Blake-Stalker, Jimmy Chen, Liz Fong Wills, Dagmar Bocakova, Andrew Yeung, Carolyn Passeneau, and Joan Adamo

proach to a new program—the International Families Orientation Program. This has reached out to partners and dependents of international scholars and students to help them feel welcome and to adjust to life in the United States and on campus. In turn, many of these visitors have returned to the Center to participate in other programs, such as our Wednesday Coffee and our Resale Shop. While attending to details for this new program, Joan tackled gaps in the Friends overall communication. She worked with others to improve our website, improve notices sent to our List Serve, and examined *Newsletter* distribution. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Joan's "secret weapon," her husband, **Lou Adamo**, particularly in the area of technology upgrades.

Joan has been associated with the International Center for many years, with 18 years of service in several roles in the Programs Abroad Office, including student adviser. She retired in 2006.

Joan's leadership for the Friends fosters the Friends contributions to programs that help the International Center meet its needs in serving our increasing numbers of international scholars and students, as well as their families.

### *New Volunteer of the Year: Alice Blake-Stalker*

Though Alice Blake-Stalker has been here just a little over a year, she has jumped into the Friends organization with both feet. She volunteers at Wednesday Coffee, welcoming newcomers and helping them fill out our questionnaire. She has led several discussion groups, and she helps out when we have luncheons. At our July 4th picnic, she was in charge of games. Additionally, Alice has interviewed several internationals for articles in our *Friends Newsletter*. She has chaired the Holiday Party, and will assist at the Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner. She has served on the Board as member-at-large, was appointed by the Board to the

Friends Nominating Committee... and she even talked her husband, **John Stalker**, into being on the Friends Scholarship Committee!

### *International Visitor of the Year: Dagmar Bocakova*

Dagmar Bocakova has been helping out since her arrival in San Diego a year and a half ago. She quickly began to volunteer at Friday Café, help out at Wednesday Coffee's International Kitchen, and volunteer at the Friends Resale Shop, most notably during its important Holiday Sale. Given her artistic talents, she was tapped to do face painting at our July 4th picnic, and some months later to carve fanciful vegetables for the Thai Ethnic Dinner. Additionally, she has taught jewelry making at Wednesday Coffee. Dagmar is always available to help out—you just need to ask her and she's there!


### *Organization of the Year: Chinese Ethnic Dinner Program*

Each Chinese New Year, the Friends Ethnic Dinner has a wonderful Chinese banquet prepared by a team of enthusiastic volunteers. Other than being friends of Ethnic Dinner Chair, **Liz Fong Wills**, they have no connection with either the International Center or with UC San Diego, but have provided us with elaborate many-coursed dinners for eight years in a row. They are: realtor **Peggy Cheong**, mortgage broker **Theresa Song**, professional chef and caterer **Jimmy Chen**, his wife and sous-chef **Rita Hsia**, and community college cooking instructor **Clara Wang**.

Following each dinner, Professor **Chris Wills** gives an eagerly awaited slide talk that is informative and fascinating.

By any definition, this group is an organization that together

has driven enthusiasm for the Ethnic Dinner program to a new peak. Proceeds from the dinners have contributed several scholarships each year for international education.

 Others recognized for their outstanding contributions to the International Center and honored with a Chancellor's Award were: **Carolyn Passeneau**, English in Action Tutor of the Year; **Heejung Lim**, International Club Volunteer of the Year; and **Andrew**

**Yeung**, Study Abroad Returnee of the Year. (Andrew, who can't get enough of study abroad, will head to Hong Kong in the fall with the aid of a 2012 Friends Scholarship.)

As signs of appreciation, volunteers went home with attractive little pots of lucky bamboo, causing **Betty Shor**, a bamboo expert, to comment that while the cuttings may look like bamboo—a Chinese symbol of good fortune—they technically are a species of dracaena. May they bring good luck anyway!

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## Friends Resale Shop

—by *Joe Nichols*

Summer is a cumin' in! The last day of the Resale Shop's regular academic year schedule is June 15; the tentative plan is to reopen on July 10 with a curtailed summer schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Hours and exact schedule will depend on available volunteers. We are badly IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS. Please spread the word. As to donations, jewelry and summer ware are welcome.

I hate to use the term old timers, as I feel we are all young at heart, but I would like to tell you about two longtime Shop volunteers. An almost 30-year veteran is **Tzu-Mei Yip**. A native of Taiwan, Tzu-Mei exemplifies how women multi-task. After her daughter and son finished their education, Tzu-Mei went to San Diego State University to obtain her own college degree in 1980. She loves to dote on her grandkids, three boys and a girl. Knowing of the good work Friends do, volunteering gives her satisfaction. She enjoys interacting with both the students and patrons of the Shop. Certainly this helps us all keep young.

Another longtime veteran of campus life is **Georgia Crowne**. A ten-year volunteer of the Shop, Georgia knows the campus like a book. She started working in various offices at SIO in 1965. After taking time off to raise her family, earning a 1999 degree in Women's Studies at UCSD, she returned to SIO and then switched to the upper campus, working in the Engineering School and serving for many years as MSO in the Literature Department. Working at the Shop, says Georgia, has the added benefit of keeping her involved in university life.

By contrast, **Theresa Nguyen** is a short timer with us. Theresa and her family left Vietnam when she was 4 years old. Sadly for us, she will be leaving the Resale Shop upon graduation this spring—her élan and enthusiasm have been a welcome addition to the volunteer staff. As a member of Eleanor Roosevelt College, Theresa majored in the study of religion. She is not sure of what the future holds for her, and has decided to take a year off before she opts for either graduate study or a working career. Theresa says that she loves the interaction with the Resale staff and getting a hands-on view of the diversity of UCSD's student population. We wish her all the best as she graduates.

## From the Editor:

In April 2012, I featured two photographs taken by **Carol Smith** in the 1990s with the explanation that I simply could not toss these, and eight others, without first sharing some information about some of the people depicted. This month's photo depicts (from left to right) **Tec Kidane-Mariam, Pat Kampmann, Eleanor tum Suden, and Mary Dashen**, all four seen in festive red attire, enjoying themselves at a Friends holiday party. Another photo shows a dessert table laden with two gigantic trifles, quintessential British delicacies for which **Alma Coles** is known; an additional photo, clearly from the same event, shows Alma as speaker, which makes Alma and me think that these particular snapshots were taken either in December 1991 or 1992, during Alma's second reign as Friends President.

I hope that **Pat Kampmann** (Friends President from 1993-94 and once more, with **JoAnn Wirth**, in 1996-97) and **Eleanor tum Suden** (President from 2009-11), each still active in our organization, will forgive me if I concentrate here on Tec and Mary, both deceased.

• Tec Kidane-Mariam was one of the most approachable staff members with whom Friends have had the occasion to work. Even though I worked with Tec on the Friends Scholarship Committee and we enjoyed talking together, and occasionally eating Ethiopian food together, I have turned for particulars to his colleague **Carol Robertson**, who knew him much better and worked closely with him when she was the International Center's Associate Director. Carol shares this information with us:

"Tecele Kidane-Mariam served as international student advisor at UC San Diego from 1989 to 2000,



when he was unable to continue advising students due to a debilitating disease. Tec himself had come to the U.S. as an international student from Eritrea. As the sole international student advisor to a growing population at UCSD, Tec would encourage students to drop by his office to talk about problems relating to cultural adjustment, applying for visas, travel concerns, academic challenges, or anything else. His open-door policy was appreciated by busy students who came to value his expertise in international student matters. Tec organized orientations and tax workshops, and was a liaison to the campus community on international student issues. He was also in a leadership position in NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Upon his marriage [in Ethiopia], the Friends generously threw a wedding reception for him and his new bride at our International Center, and several Friends, including **Alma Coles** and **Georgina Sham**, provided extensive valuable support during his serious illness. Tec passed away on April 6, 2003 and is greatly missed by his UCSD family and the Eritrean community of San Diego."

A Friends Scholarship was established in Tec's memory. For four years, the Scholarship Committee carefully selected as recipient a graduate student whom we believed Tec himself would have encouraged in his/her international endeavors. My records show that in 2003, **Suzanne Burg** did fieldwork in Ethiopia investigating the complicated connections between the dissemination of famine information and politics; in 2004, **Ted Su** engaged in a medical outreach program in Sierra Leone (from where he brought back a thank-you gift of a lovely African batik that Friends hung in the Center's entrance window); in 2005, a deaf Kuwaiti student, **Kinda Al-Fityani**, made a comparative study of Arabic sign languages; and in 2006—by which time the fund was being depleted—**Naomi Haynes** conducted an anthropological study of Pentecostalism in Zambia.

It has been Carol Robertson's dream to resurrect a Friends Scholarship, even if for just one year, in Tec's name. "Seeing the snapshot and writing about him," she said, "so flooded my memories of him. It is so hard to believe that it has been nine years since he passed

away." Carol contacted several of Tec's former colleagues and friends, and soon generous contributions (see both the May and June Friends *Newsletter*) arrived just in time for the Friends Scholarship Committee spring meetings. It was with considerable emotion that we selected **Maya Oren** as the 2012 Tecle Kidane-Mariam Scholar. Maya will travel to Namibia for her doctoral research in political science, and is working with the UN World Food Program in an attempt to find a solution for how the international community can support local leaders' ability to manage farm risk and hunger. Thank you Carol and all who remember Tec fondly!

• Mary Dashen, too, had a faithful following at the International Center. Mary came to UC San Diego in 1986 when her husband, **Roger Dashen**, left the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton to accept a faculty position in the Physics Department. She joined the Friends, enjoying especially the conviviality of Wednesday Coffee, and began to take an active part by teaching a series of popular craft classes. As **Georgina Sham** remembers: "Mary Dashen never met a craft she didn't like, and she got engrossed in each one in turn. When I first met her, she did tole painting—I didn't even know what that was! And she made some beautiful objects. She taught a class at Wednesday Coffee ironing images onto t-shirts, then using fabric paints to tamp down the fraying edges. For months, she taught us to work with FIMO, a polymer clay. Every week, she also had a group of mostly Japanese ladies over to her house to do crafts and teach them English. She was a most generous person who donated her time, energy, and materials to our projects."

Our campus soon acknowledged Mary's many contributions to the UC San Diego international

community; in 1994, she received the Chancellor's New Volunteer of the Year Award, and only a few years later, in 1997, the Tutor of the Year Award.

In 1995, after her husband unexpectedly died, at the age of 57, of a heart attack, Mary took several extensive cruises, stopping in each case in Japan, where she was able to reconnect with several of her tutees with whom she had formed a close, often almost a motherly, relationship.

**Alma Coles** puts it well: "Mary's tutees and their friends were her extended family." Thus, when they learned of Mary's death in 2007, several sent contributions from Japan to a special scholarship fund that had been set up in Mary's memory. Twice Friends were able to award a scholarship that commemorated Mary: in 2008, it went to **Tomoko Tsuchiya**, a Japanese graduate student in Ethnic Studies, who used the award to travel to Tokyo to delve into military records dealing with interracial marriages between American GIs and Japanese war brides. The following year, Friends contributed funds to **Samantha Wong**, an undergraduate majoring in bioengineering and minoring in Japanese Studies, who went to Japan on EAP saying: "I have never flown on an airplane, never traveled as far as a car ride to Arizona." Such a confession stood in sharp contrast to Mary, who had been a world traveler most of her adult life; nonetheless, the Scholarship Committee was convinced that Mary would have been pleased to see Samantha embark on her own global discoveries.

In the early part of 2012, one of Mary's former Japanese tutees contacted the International Center with an unusual request, asking whether someone could tell him where Mary Dashen was buried. While no one knew the exact site, by asking around, it was determined

that Mary's grave was in El Camino Memorial Park; **Danny Adams**, (the Center's Building Mechanic) who had often helped Mary with small home repairs, even knew the approximate location. The devotion of Mary's tutees is extraordinary, indeed.

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## International Café

As the academic year comes to a close, so does this year's International Café. There is just one lunch scheduled for June, and that is for Friday, June 1, from noon to 1:15. The menu will highlight recipes from the *Silver Palate* cookbook. Featured will be Chicken Marbella, rice, oven-roasted vegetables, green salad, with toffee bars for dessert. Cost is \$5. If you haven't already done so, come meet the new Café Coordinator, **Martin Lahtov**.

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## Donations

Our treasurer, **Jeri Abernathy**, is pleased to report two more contributions to the **Tecle Kidane-Mariam Memorial Scholarship**, bringing the total to \$1,220. Many thanks to **Mary Dhooge** and **Molly Ann McCarren**, and to all of Tec's former colleagues and friends who contributed so generously.

Thank you, also, to **Denise & Hamish Redford** for their continued support of international education.

A very special thank you to all who have contributed through the year—be it with time or money—making it possible for Friends to award 45 international scholarships this year. More than at any time before!

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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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## Reflections on Taiwan

A semester has flown by quickly, and though my time in Taiwan is slowly coming to a close as I begin my second and last semester here, it has been a worthwhile trip. It was my first time studying in another country, and I must admit, although I was really excited, I was also afraid. I worried about things big and small, such as if I would get along with my roommate, if I would have problems choosing the courses I wanted, and much, much more.

However, once I arrived at the National Taiwan University (NTU), I put my worries aside. The staff here is extremely nice and helpful. The teachers were also very approachable, and encouraged students to voice their own opinions. I chose classes that introduced various aspects of Taiwan, such as its music, art, and biodiversity, and they were very enjoyable. The course-selection process is surprisingly lenient towards international students, who are able to choose graduate classes or classes limited to seniors despite not being either. Therefore, there were more than enough options for international students, and a gigantic list of classes offered in English. I had a fun time browsing through all the class offerings.

I was a bit sad that UC San Diego was not able to renew its contract with the National Taiwan University for the ICLP program, which would have been a very intense program for learning Chinese. However, I was able to take the Chinese Language Division program, which, though less intense, still provided me with new learning material. The textbook was based on topics you were likely to come across on a daily basis or on Taiwan's culture.

Besides improving my Mandarin, it was also through my CLD class that I met most of my friends. I was the only one from the United States, so it was a great chance to meet people from all around the world, like France, Germany, or Japan. While learning about Taiwanese culture, we were also able to compare differences between all our various countries, and this has definitely broadened my mind globally. I have made really close friends that I hope I will not lose contact with once I return to the States.

The locals are also really nice. They are very patient and willing to take the time to explain things, so that the international students fully understand what is going on. In addition, they are quite friendly and also want to get to know more about you and life in a foreign country. I have made quite a few local Taiwanese friends, both students and store clerks, and getting to know them was a definite plus to the trip.

Beyond academics, I have tried to travel and to taste authentic Taiwanese food. There are lots of trips planned by NTU clubs or the Office of International Affairs, and this is really convenient since you don't have to worry about transportation or food. Besides joining a few of these trips, I have also done my own research and visited quite a few places, such as the lovely lantern-filled Jiufen that inspired the movie, *Spirited Away*, the National Palace Museum that houses historical artifacts like the famous jadeite cabbage, the beautiful gardens of the Taipei Biological Gardens, and much more. I also took part in cultural events, such as the Lantern Festival and the Winter Solstice.

The nightlife in Taiwan is vibrant and exciting, especially at popular hotspots like the night markets. Besides cheap deals on clothing and accessories, the night markets are the places to try delicious traditional Taiwanese food like stinky tofu, oyster omelets, and pig blood cake.

Studying abroad in Taiwan was one of the best decisions I have ever made, and I am sure that all my experiences here will help me in the future. I am truly thankful for the Friends Scholarship. It has allowed this trip to transform from a dream to reality.

*Moony Lee*

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## A Semester in Peru

It has been exactly a month and nine days since leaving the U.S. for Peru. My family and I arrived in Cusco around noon, on February 21, and after acclimating for a few days and enjoying the beautiful Spanish colonial architecture amid Incan stone walls and walkways, made our way to Aguas Calientes, the town at the base of Machu Picchu.

The morning of our visit to Machu Picchu, we woke up at 4:30am, ate a quick breakfast, and took one of the first buses up the mountain. The clouds hung low, preventing us from seeing the sunrise, which is said to be incredible, but also adding to the mystical feel of walking around the Incan city.

The following day, we took the train to Ollantaytambo and made our way by car to Chichubamba. This car was not built to handle five passengers, as was made clear to us within a minute of settling in when our driver asked us to get back out, so the car could make it over the lip of the parking lot. Every speed bump the driver went over, he had to do one wheel at a time, and every one of us stopped breathing as if this would make the car lighter and help us over the mound.

Chichubamba is a beautiful countryside village of 400 families. As part of our stay, five families opened their homes to us to teach us their





Coastline as seen from the Miraflores district near where I live

trades. We learned about ceramic shaping and decorating, how to make chicha [a ceremonial corn beer of the Incan and Quechuan people], raise cuy [guinea pigs—a traditional plate in Peru], bee keeping/honey making, and the making of chocolate. If ever you are in Peru and near the city of Chichubamba, I highly recommend stopping by. It is not the typical tourist experience, but worth visiting.

After staying two nights in Chichubamba, we flew into Lima, and that night went to my host family's house for dinner. In the company of my biological family, that was the only time my host family has allowed themselves to speak in English in front of me. Jason, my host dad, is British. He works for international schools and so every few years my host family moves. My host sisters, Cathy [18] and Marcia [17], were born in Lima, but have also lived in England and Georgia. When Cathy speaks in English she sounds undeniably British, but when Marcia speaks in English, there are times when she sounds completely American, using "like" multiple times in a sentence. My host mom, Patty, is very caring. Every morning before school, she has packed me a snack and made sure I have water before leaving the house. When we go someplace new, the first time, she shows me the way. The second time, she pretends she does not know where we are and has

me lead her—sometimes walking left when I say I think we should go right, just to test my confidence.

As far as the other students in the IFSA-Butler group, I could not be more pleased. Everyone smiles readily and [although we sometimes cheat] makes an effort to speak in Spanish. Everyday, I feel as though I can understand more of what is being said around me. Where when I arrived, I had estimated that I could only catch about 60% of what was being said, I now estimate my percentage to be closer to 80%.

La Católica (full name: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) has many concrete and industrial buildings and reminds me of UCSD but for one minor detail: the campus has a large deer population naturally roaming about. In the metropolitan city of Lima, this is a very strange sight!

The natural beauty of this country, rich history, busy city, warm and helpful people, professors enthusiastic to teach international students, and great friends—I have everything I could have asked for in a study-abroad experience and more, and it is only the beginning of my second month! I look forward to all there is to come.

Thank you, Friends of the International Center, for supporting me in my desire to study in Peru.

*Kaylie Fernald*

B.A. Linguistics candidate

## An Unforgettable Winter Experience

I have wanted to study in Korea ever since a friend introduced me to Korean culture four years ago, and thanks to UCEAP I was able to do so. Fall 2011 marked my first semester at Yonsei University, and I would like to share one of its highlights with you.

At Yonsei, the first and second weeks of school are when all of the clubs set up booths and recruit new members. Compared to the clubs at UCSD, the Yonsei clubs are somewhat different. They require active participation from its members, and some clubs even hold interviews. After learning about the various clubs on campus, I decided to join PANTAZI, Yonsei's snowboarding club. Of course, one of the reasons I chose to join was that I wanted to learn how to snowboard. However, an equally important reason was that I wanted to gain an authentic Korean university life experience. Since I was the only non-Korean in PANTAZI, I only used Korean when I hung out with the group, and thus was able to greatly improve my language skills.

Through PANTAZI, I was able to experience my first MT (Membership Training). An MT is what every Korean university student experiences. Each university major holds its own MT, as does each club. So, what exactly happens at an MT? Basically, it's an event that allows people to bond with each other. A small pension house is rented for a night, and students stay up all night playing games, talking, eating, drinking, and bonding.

By attending PANTAZI's MT, I was able to gain a first-hand experience of this unique cultural practice. I even gained insight into Korea's drinking culture. I could write a whole post describing the drinking culture, but to put it simply, it's a means of bonding. The goal of drinking, rather than just getting drunk, is to build relationships with one another through talking and playing drinking games.

I was able to build close relationships with PANTAZIans. We would go

out every Friday to eat and just hang out. However, it was after the semester ended and snowboarding season began that I was able to build even closer relationships with PANTAZIans.

PANTAZI has a cabin at Phoenix Ski Resort in Gangwon-do, so during the snowboard season, I went there almost every weekend, spent a few nights there, and then came back. Since I lived in the dorms, the cabin truly felt like home to me. There, we would all live, sleep, eat, and go snowboarding together. I was able to enjoy delicious home-cooked food and learn much about Korean culture.

Thanks to PANTAZI, my snowboarding skills greatly improved, and I learned how to do an S-turn. Thanks to PANTAZI, I snowboarded for the first time while it was snowing, and saw my first snowflake. Thanks to PANTAZI, I gained a truly unforgettable winter experience.

*Neda Shenavai*

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Hi Ruth and the Friends of the International Center!

Even though I am dying to go to the Himalayas, I decided instead to go to Costa Rica, because I thought learning Spanish would really help me to connect with Spanish-speaking patients and their families during residency.

I'm having a great time in Costa Rica and learning a lot. I go to clinic in the mornings, from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Spanish class in the afternoons. The clinic is the first level of care for patients; the doctors treat most of the patients and refer some to specialists when necessary. There is a huge shortage of specialists in Costa Rica, and procedures like gastroscopies can take five years before a patient can get an appointment. The basic primary care is pretty good, though pretty liberal with antibiotics and light on the physical exam. It is completely free, including all the drugs.

I am in a rural town called San Vito. It is absolutely beautiful—lots of trees, really green, with lovely farms



Here is a picture of the house where I'm staying.

up in the mountains. I am staying with Dr. Pablo Ortiz, his partner, four Costa Rican interns, and assorted others in an awesome house, which is really more like a tree house: completely open to the surrounding trees, made out of wood, outdoor bathrooms.

Dr. Ortiz is amazing: he is a hero in public health. Among his many projects, he was able to get gastroenterologists to do 250 gastroscopies over the weekend. They found seven stomach cancers and tons of other problems. For unknown reasons, stomach cancer is extremely common in Costa Rica and especially in this town.

Dr. Ortiz took a few of us down to the Panama border, which is only a short drive, to show us some of the problems that exist there—primarily prostitution and alcoholism amongst the migrant workers who come from Panama to work the coffee farms. It was really sad. There were young indigenous people, completely wasted, fighting each other in the streets. He explained that many of them lack alcohol dehydrogenase and get wasted on even small amounts of alcohol. He also said that each week there were

7 sex workers for about 300 people.

Dr. Ortiz also showed us the camps where the migrant workers live: tiny cement rooms for 5 people. The women and children do not get paid, only the men who often spend the money on alcohol. Because the workers are illegal, when the government surveys the area to determine how much money to give to schools (which they do in March, when there are hardly any people, as it is not coffee-picking season), the schools are grossly underfunded.

I am looking forward to working at one of the clinics that deals directly with the indigenous population. So far, I have been going mainly to the clinic near the main town, so that I can get to my Spanish class on time. My Spanish has been a little slow to start, but I am beginning to understand more and am definitely able to speak more. I'm looking forward to improving more and using my Spanish with patients.

I am so grateful for this experience, and want to thank you for sponsoring it! I hope all is going well with you, and that you all know that I think of you often with gratitude.

*Lindsey Charo, SOM*

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## **An Unforgettable Journey: Barcelona and Beyond**

I was the lucky recipient of a Friends of the International Center scholarship. It is nearly impossible to sum up my experience abroad. It is a complex body of feelings, of knowledge, growth, insight, adventure, and of challenging myself to see things in a new way.

During my time in Barcelona, I lived with a host family: a mother and her teenage daughter. My host mom works with Alzheimer's patients in a local hospital, and my host sister is in nursing school. We usually ate dinner together, at which time the television news would be on in the background. Often we would discuss the events of the day, discussions that might branch out into the political and economic state of Spain.

I consider myself lucky to have been in Europe at a critical point in its history. Spain, as well as most of the European Union, is in an economic recession. While I was there, considerable federal funding was cut to social services, meaning lower wages and higher costs in the health and education sectors. This directly affected my host family. Protests occurred in Plaza Catalonia, a central area of Barcelona. Many apartment balconies had a sheet draped with the statement "Indignada" written upon it. It goes without saying I received invaluable insight on the current happenings in Spain and the sentiments of many Catalonians.

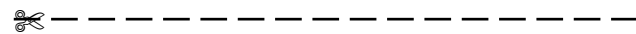
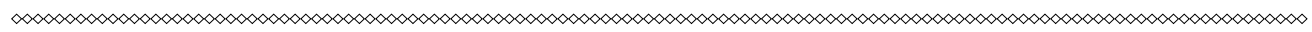
Most definitely my favorite trip outside of Spain was the week I spent in Marrakech, Morocco. It was my first time in Africa, and the city completely blew my expectations out of the water. I loved shopping in the souks and learning to haggle over the beautiful items for sale. Outside of the occasional heckling, people were kind and helpful. The food was an experience in and of itself: *cous-cous*, *tajines*, *bastila*, and even learning how to brew Moroccan mint tea. Yet,

the most amazing experience has to have been my visit with the kind women of my hostel to a *hammam*, or public bath with the wonderfully kind women who worked in my hostel.

However, nothing could compare to my home city, Barcelona. I loved getting to know the different *barrios*, with their own culture and personality, and finding my own hole-in-the-wall spots. From the crowded metro rides to getting lost on small windy streets, I loved every moment of it. I can't imagine an experience that would even come close to showing and teaching me so much.

Thank you for your work and dedication to education abroad.

*Neda Saïd*



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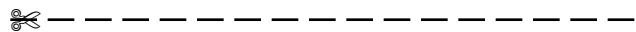
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