



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

Newsletter

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July-August 2016



Alice Blake-Stalker, Katya Newmark, and Elisabeth Marti
at the Friends Board retreat on June 14 at the home of
Candace Kohl

President's Message

Thank you to the many of you who mobilized in one effort or another to help preserve the International Center. I thought you would appreciate knowing the outcome of my June 29, 2016 meeting with Vice Chancellor Student Affairs **Juan González**, other members of the administration and faculty, student representatives, and the Oceanids President (see p. 7):

- ❖ Executive Vice Chancellor **Suresh Subramani** recommended that the International Center building be left standing until January 1, 2017, providing time for a committee representing interested groups (faculty, students, Friends, Oceanids, and administrators) to further discuss the options of demolishing or making repairs to the existing building.
- ❖ The International Center Staff will move, as planned, to their new designated spaces on campus and the IC building will remain vacant and

unusable due to safety concerns stemming from the lack of fire sprinklers in the building.

- ❖ The Friends will be allowed continued use of the three unattached pavilions in the International Center complex:
 - The Resale Shop will operate out of its current pavilion.
 - Those programs able to utilize the remaining two pavilions will be able to do so.
- ❖ Efforts will continue with Vice Chancellor **Gary Matthews** to build a commercial kitchen at I-House with an anticipated completion date of fall 2016.
- ❖ I believe that Friends will have use of I-House's Great Hall for evening events.
- ❖ The Kitchen Exchange will be provided a free-standing, large storage container out of which to operate that may be placed near the IC pavilions.
- ❖ The Friends will similarly be provided a free-standing, large storage container for Resale Shop/ Friends storage.

I do not wish to paint too rosy a picture, many verbal assurances were made again about the importance of the International Center and all of the services, but despite requests by different stakeholders, the administration has yet to provide a clear plan for the future of the International Center.

Many questions remained unanswered and you can imagine that a one-hour meeting with about twenty people in attendance does not provide sufficient time to get complete resolution.

I ask that you remain stalwart and willing to continue advocating for those we serve.

To keep you abreast about current developments, we decided to publish an extra summer issue of the *Friends Newsletter*.

Katya Newmark

presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu



“Despite the underlying reason for the party and the sadness felt by all in attendance, true to the Friends spirit, there was a wonderful sense of camaraderie and hope for the future.”—Katya Newmark

Farewell to the International Center

Photos by Carol Smith, Katya Newmark & Mark Newmark



Photos, scrapbooks, and other historical memorabilia grace the tables

Ode to the Friends of the International Center

I think that I shall never see
An amazing group of Friends as thee;
Sharing, caring, giving, feeding,
Looking out for anyone needing
Friends or pots or English or directions;
Scholarships or jobs or classes or connections,
Books or bangles or lunches or a hug,
Crafts or an understanding ear or coffee in a mug.

How many lives have you touched? How many marriages have you saved?
How many babies have you calmed? How many meals have you made?
Countless. Bountiful. Hundreds, thousands, millions, Bazillions.
But numbers aren't what matters (except to university administrators).
You are life changers, matchmakers, ambassador creators.
We honor you, we are inspired by you, and we share with you
The devastation of losing a home and not having a clue
How this will all work out. We look forward to many more years
of families and scholars and students shedding joyful tears,
As they pursue their personal and professional goals
under the confident guidance of your dedicated souls.

I think that I shall never see
An amazing group of Friends as thee;
You are an inspiration to us all.

Carol Robertson



Three of the speakers at the June 10, 2016 farewell to the International Center: Robert (Gus) Thorburn, IC architect; Prof. Walter Munk whose wife, Judith Munk, was instrumental in founding and designing the Center; and Ruth Newmark, also one of the founders and member of the IC architectural committee



Carol Robertson,
International Student Advisor



Mark Newmark (here from Qatar) and Danya Costello check in the ±135 guests



Mira Vendler brings Brazilian empanadas



Carol Smith (second from left) labels food as instructed by Ginny Young, Mary Woo, and Emma Forin, some of the Friends and internationals who help in the kitchen



Friends VP and longtime Resale Shop volunteer, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, and her husband, Prof. Geert Schmid-Schoenbein, once (circa 1973) a German graduate student resident at the International Center and, as far as he recalls, the first President of the International Club



Farewell Party Chair and Master of Ceremonies, Katya Newmark, reads a message from Lynn Anderson, past Director of the International Center



True to the Friends reputation, the potluck features an abundance of delicious international food



The central patio proves the perfect spot for seating our many guests



The writing on the cake expresses everyone's sentiments: "You served us well for 45 years!"



Katya, Elisabeth Marti, and one of the young guests conduct a raffle of international crafts donated by Candace Kohl



Mary Dhooge speaks warmly about her 27 years as Director of the International Center, about the importance of the complex and the Friends, and regales guests with anecdotes



Dean Kirk Simmons thanks IC staff and volunteers, and stresses his intent to continue to provide all necessary services to our international community



Daniela Schmitt, Katya Newmark, Georgia Crowne, Fati Zandi, and Marion Spors pose in front of the Friends Resale Shop

Many concerned about the closure of the International Center wrote administrators, as well as Prof. Kit Pogliano, chair of UCSD's IdeaWave (a crowdsourcing platform), who was requested by Chancellor Khosla to review the Center's relocation issue. Below are just three of such impassioned letters (because of its length, the Resale Shop letter appears slightly edited and abridged). —Ed.

Dear Kit Pogliano,
I'd like to bring to your attention my concerns regarding the "relocation" of the International Center and all the programs of the Friends of the International Center.

It saddens me deeply to conclude that the spaces that have been allocated to various programs of the Friends are simply inadequate, or have not even been provided thus far. For instance, our Friday Conversation group has nowhere to meet anymore. The room that has been appointed for our group is too small to hold our group and no other alternatives have been provided. We are all deeply concerned with where to meet next, but also sad that the existence of this program does not seem to be taken seriously by UCSD.

It might be difficult to understand why any of these groups or programs that the Friends of the International Center offer are so incredibly invaluable to the international society of UCSD. But in plain words, they provide a place to meet people that have all come to UCSD under similar circumstances. Being a dependent of a UCSD graduate student or staff member means, in most cases, that you are responsible for the well being of your spouse, so that they can achieve the best results possible during the duration of their academic stay at UCSD.

In real life this means that upon arrival you have to set up a household and network of friends without knowing anyone or anything. Again, this may seem easy, but if you come from outside of the United States it can be a tremendous culture shock and you may simply not know where to go, or how to set up your life, and

need a fair bit of help from people that have already gone through this process. This is where the Friends of the International Center with all its programs becomes absolutely INVALUABLE.

Meeting people with common life situations in the various programs of the Friends literally saved me from becoming depressed and lonely. Having an 8-week-old infant [when we moved here from the Netherlands] proved a huge challenge to setting up a social network. But with "Mommy/Daddy and Me," the "Arts and Crafts Circle," and "Friday Conversation," I was able to make many friends that help out all the time.

Now, WHY should the proper continuation of all these programs in adequate places that can be reached easily be of the utmost importance to UCSD? Because if you provide a social network for the dependents, their spouses will be able to focus on their work and achieve better academic results. Like any other highly ranked university, I'd imagine UCSD would like to continue being at the top and would provide whatever it takes to maintain their academic ranking.

Well, it will mean that UCSD will have to provide REAL PROPER spaces for all the programs of the Friends of the International Center if UCSD wants to continue being a healthy and diverse, internationally attractive university. Because without support of the Friends of the International Center to the spouses, I am saddened to say that this university will become a lot less attractive for international scholars, graduate students, postdocs and



Many hands help pack up Friends belongings

academic staff with families than it used to be with a place where we, the spouses, could all meet!

Kind regards,
Dr. Andrea Schreij

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Dear Professor Kit Pogliano,
I am a visiting scholar at UCSD's Department of History. I arrived in San Diego with my wife last September and we will return to Brazil this upcoming September.

Since the first moment, the activities held at the International Center were important to me and to my wife. Not only we found opportunities to improve our English and make friends, but also, more important, found a place where we felt that we belonged.

This is especially true when it comes to my wife. We experienced some serious problems concerning adaptation, and if it weren't for the conversations and other activities held by the Friends of the International Center, for the opportunities to get people together, I am quite sure we would have gone back to our country within the first two months. I know the same holds true for many other scholars, who themselves or whose spouses would have found the new life in San Diego unbearable, if there weren't the activities held by the Friends of International Center.

Therefore, I found both absurd and depressing to see the International Center be shut down. We've

been displaced without an adequate alternative space being provided for the activities. This is very bad for the people already engaged, as well as I'm sure it will make harder for the persons arriving to UCSD. Now it is difficult even to know what is going on and where things are happening. This will have a bad impact on many people's lives, and it's sad that an institution such as UCSD—a university—has not been able to care about people. There's no adequate space for the conversation tables, as well as for the cooking classes.

Cooking classes, for instance, are not only about making food—they're about getting together, sharing, belonging. They can be even be healing. They may not appear on spreadsheets, reports, and balances, but they have a relevant and good impact on people—real people.

Besides, the Resale Shop, a cool place to buy stuff and to hang around, has been shut without further notice. We bought stuff there once we arrived—and it was important, because we were in a tight budget—and we are planning to donate some of our stuff to the shop before heading back to Brazil, as a way to thank what the Friends of the International Center have done to us, and also to help other people arriving in a situation similar to the one we had. But with the shop closed, who will benefit from buying cheap the stuff we will donate?

The closing of the IC will impact the activities held at it—by the Friends, IC itself, and also UCSD. I would not be surprised if there are more scholars, students, and postdocs from abroad giving up their positions in the following months due to the lack of a place where you can hang out and meet people willing to welcome you and help you through the very difficult first months of living in a different country and society. It is so hard to establish a routine when you are abroad, especially for spouses, and the activities at the IC are very, very important to get people going.

Sometimes, it was both the best and the only thing we had to do (besides working, in my case) in a given week. My wife goes to the IC four days a week, and, even though I don't go as often as her, I can testify that the IC was key for us making it here and having a good life during this 12-month period.

Therefore, it is urgent and very, very important that UCSD provides the IC and the Friends of the International Center with adequate structure to develop all of its regular activities before it shuts down the actual International Center.

It will be a shame if it does not, and the impacts—which are already being felt—will be immense. Maybe not in spreadsheets, reports or balances, but on real people's lives.

Sincerely yours,

Rafael Fortes Soares

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Dear Dr. Pogliano,
I am writing to you on behalf of The Friends of the International Center Resale Shop team. The Resale Shop is an integral part of the Friends of the International Center programs that service and aid local and international students, scholars, faculty, and their dependents. The Shop is a donation-based resale store with a current staff of 18 local and international volunteers and the Shop's profits help fund scholarships for our UCSD study abroad programs. This year the Friends gave out scholarships in the amount of [more than] \$100,000.

Due to the rather rushed evacuation of the International Center, the Resale Shop and many other programs are being forced to close and interrupt their services; more importantly, the Resale Shop is currently homeless.

Our team of 18 volunteers and the numerous campus customers, supporters, donors, and visitors are heartbroken by the rushed closing of the International Center and the Shop after 35 years of dedicated service. We strongly believe that this crisis could still be prevented by remaining at the International Center until proper solutions for everyone at the International Center, and in particular the Shop and the many programs, have been secured.

The Friends Resale Shop opened its doors in 1981 and the building was to our knowledge funded by the Friends. It has been welcoming and serving students, staff, faculty, and visitors for the past 35 years, and it has even more importantly been a platform for international students, scholars, and spouses to meet, interact and work together with a team of local volunteers. The Shop helps the newcomers practice English language and customs, and build skills necessary to interact with American businesses. Many of our volunteers have moved on to find jobs (after receiving work permits) and we have written numerous letters of recommendation. Our UCSD student helpers receive community service hours for their volunteer work.

More importantly, the Shop has functioned as a safe haven that provides a welcoming and low stress environment for our international newcomers, and it is a place where we foster and promote cross-cultural and long-lasting relationships and friendships. It is and has been for many a home away from home.

Many of our international volunteers call the Shop a miniature United Nations lab. At times we have volunteers from more than five countries in the same room, working side by side, while sharing and exchanging stories, ideas, memories, and dreams, thus promoting and enhancing cross-cultural learning and understanding.

Furthermore, the Resale Shop's concept of recycling and sustainabil-

ity is more relevant than ever. The Shop was updated and remodeled in 2014 and has been well received by the wider UCSD community. We have great donors in the La Jolla community who love what we do and like to visit frequently.

The Shop fills a specific niche on campus, as it offers items needed for daily living at a fraction of the cost compared to shops at the Price Center or the wider La Jolla community. In fact many of our students, scholars, staff, and faculty, both international and local alike, have expressed their concern over the loss of this valuable resource. As we all know students are facing increased tuition cost and, as a result, they often have to make hard choices. Many of our long-term customers, consisting of students, scholars, staff, faculty, and La Jolla donors have signed petitions and have written to VC **Gonzalez** in an attempt to save the Shop and the IC in its current form.

Overall effective communication and attempts to find positive solutions with the IC leadership has been

very difficult. Since we had a deadline to vacate the shop by June 17th (yesterday), we had to empty out and vacate the premises without the prospect of a new home. I would like to point out that this has been a painful and very emotional, even traumatic, process for many of our volunteers and donors who cannot believe that the International Center is closing without offering adequate alternatives. Many of our volunteers come to the Center on a daily basis, and all of us have tried very hard to maintain a hopeful outlook and a positive and cheerful attitude. Yet hope has been fading and tears have been shed over the loss of a resource that has been cherished by many.

Once again I would like to stress that the Shop and its programs have existed for 35 years. According to our customers and volunteers it would be a shame to close this unique model of a student centered, service oriented, cross-cultural "experimental learning center."

Based on its unique history, it is only fair to request an adequate and

equivalent replacement in regard to the building and space. Since the Shop has operated as an independent unit for the past 35 years, it is also only fair to ask for a space that would allow us to operate with the same necessary freedom and independence that has been proven to ensure our ability to continue our mission: to serve the local and international UCSD community. In the absence of alternatives, we all believe that remaining at the IC until better solutions are found would be best and most cost effective for all.

Sincerely,

Marion Spors, Lexi Noemi Aguirre, Jim Chase, Georgia Crowne, Dexter Davis, Fran Doolittle, Louise Keeling, Cynthia Leal, Charissa Lim, Daniela Schmitt Marshall, Joe Nichols, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Diana Saunders, Miki Suefuji, Pearl Tangri, Mike Wolber, Vesta Yazdani, Fatimah Zandi



Troubled by the hasty decision to close the International Center, within a few days hundreds signed a petition put forth by the UC San Diego Graduate



Student Association that stated: "The UCSD administration has plans to permanently demolish the UCSD International Center on July 8, 2016. Currently, there are no confirmed plans to reinstate the International Center. All offices historically housed in the International Center have been split to different locations on campus. We demand that the administration recognize our call to delay demolition of the I-Center until a plan to reinstate the International Center is proposed and agreed upon."

Representative of the multitude of comments posted is this one by **Mikael Fauvelle**, recipient of a 2015 Friends of the International Center scholarship for archeological research in Mexico:

"The International Center is a critical space for the

UCSD community. It is the go-to center for the international community, which constitutes a very large portion of the students and researchers that make UCSD a top ranking institution. It is also one of the the primary areas of community building at UCSD, fostering important connections that make this university a livable and human space. In addition to this, the International Center hosts countless cultural events, and organizes scholarships that are critical for both undergraduate and graduate student research. Demolishing the International Center is unthinkable. UCSD would be destroying one of its most valuable resources."

Prof. Emeritus Asoka Mendis lamented: "Closing and razing the Center would be a terrible loss to all. The International Center has been an important part of my life since I came to UCSD, in 1969."

An interesting perspective came from Chelsey Davis in San Jose, CA: "Growing up in a small town with little diversity, the International Center was a transformative place for me during my time at UCSD. When I became a volunteer at the International Center's thrift store. I became a part of a small yet incredibly diverse community. This community helped foster within me a lifelong appreciation for other cultures and it was inspiring for me to help others achieve this same

appreciation through study abroad scholarships. By tearing down the International Center, UCSD is tearing down this vibrant, active community—a shameful decision on the part of the university. Grow this community and UCSD will benefit for years to come.”

Words of support came from many places in the United States and as far away as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, the UK, and even from a ger in the middle of Mongolia. Quite a few people asked: “How can they tear down the International Center building before they have a new one?”

Opined Mark Newmark, a college administrator in Qatar: “The International Center is an integral part of the UCSD and San Diego communities. It has brought joy, comfort, and opportunities to generations. The Chancellor has committed to the uninterrupted continuation of all the current programs in the International Center. To ensure such commitment, UCSD needs to develop a comprehensive and realistic plan for how and where the various staff, organizations, programs will be housed if the International Center is to be demolished. Simpler, cheaper, and more advisable would be for the university to upgrade the existing facilities. Demolishing the building before the construction of the planned Gateway structure is shortsighted. Further, it undermines the university’s attempts to build bridges with the community, to internationalize the campus, and to help the under-served.”

Many international spouses revealed their unique feelings. Wrote Macarena Galaz: “I want to continue being part of the International Center. It helped me a lot in my culture shock and the transition of moving to another country.” Maria Trujillo from Colombia posted: “Sometimes the impact of important things might be under estimated. But this is an institution of happiness and wellness.”

Cecilia Yguerabide Jamous expressed these views: “My parents and I moved here in the early 70s, even



Mary Woo with Macarena Galaz from Chile and Alicia Boutonnet from France

then, I remember the International Center as a place of cultural diversity. Throughout the years of growing up here and eventually working at UCSD, the International Center, tucked away in the groves, has been a hub for international visitors. I have hosted many international visitors touring the university and SIO who marveled at such a beautiful and historic structure, I was proud of the International Center and its significance. It would be a loss to the community, the visitors and myself if this gem was taken away from us. Please leave it where it belongs.”

Brevity is powerful. A loyal supporter of the Friends of the International Center, Laurette Verbinski, succinctly stated: “No facility can be as wonderful as the one we have.”

The petition went live on June 25; by June 27 it had reached 500 signatures, and by July 6th, there were 1,235.

By June 29, a meeting called by VC Student Affairs, Juan González, and attended by, among others, Executive VC for Academic Affairs, Suresh Subramani; Chair of the Academic Senate, Prof. Bob Continetti; Incoming Chair of the Academic Senate, Prof. Kaustav Roy; AVC Student Affairs, Jeff Orgera; VC of Resource Management, Gary Matthews; Director of Physical and Community Planning, Robert Clossin; Chair of the Committee on International Education, Prof. Julian Schroeder; Provost Emeritus, Eleanor Roosevelt College, Prof. Ann Craig; Friends President, Katya Newmark; and Oceanids President, Kim Signoret-Paar, had already come up with

alternative solutions to the limited ones originally proposed, prompting Katya Newmark to disseminate the outcome of that meeting, highlights of which may be found on the front page of this Newsletter, and to thank all who had helped plead our cause to save the International Center.

A special note of thanks goes to President Katya Newmark for the massive amount of time spent explaining—not only at the June 29 meeting but also at many others and in numerous documents—the different Friends programs with their distinct space requirements, and for her perseverance in advocating our needs and for a cohesive International Center.

While the proposed solutions are temporary, and as yet provide no adequate kitchen, they allow us to continue to offer most of our services until a plan for a cohesive International Center is formulated. With many of our things in storage and much of the Resale Shop’s merchandise disposed of, much work, demanding considerable ingenuity, lies ahead.

Meanwhile, we thank Resale Shop Coordinator Marion Spors for the vigor with which she made sure that the Friends Resale Shop would be able to reopen, and we support her sentiments: “Let’s thank the Committee on International Education, the Graduate Student Association, Bob Continetti, and Kaustav Roy for taking on the many causes of the IC, and for their time and tremendous efforts on everyone’s behalf...lots more work to come.”

Thank You

To learn when and where Friends activities are currently taking place, please check with the program’s chair.



Volunteer50 Celebration

On Friday, June 3, the International Café played host to the campus 2016 Volunteer50 Celebration. Upon the invitation of Chancellor **Pradeep Khosla**, "Volunteer50 supports UC San Diego's mission of engaging in public service by connecting our campus community with volunteer opportunities and showcasing the collective impact of our volunteers. Established in 2010 as part of UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Volunteer50 has become a signature campus tradition."

Following **Jennie Chin's** suggestion that Friends record our number of volunteer hours, **Nancy Homeyer** brought our volunteerism to the attention of the University through the Volunteer50 program by registering the Friends of the International Center. You may have noticed that monthly volunteer hours are now printed in our *Newsletter* and that they far exceed the suggested 50 hours of annual volunteer work. As a matter of fact, Friends combined annual volunteer hours amount to the equivalent of about 5-6 staff members.

A number of Friends members attended this year's event at the International Center that recognized the volunteers' "service and outstanding contributions to the UC San Diego community."

It was sad that this was to be the final Friday Café to be held at our cherished International Center. The weekly Café is planning to reopen in October at I-House.



Ginny Young, Mary Woo, Justin Costello (holding a Save the Resale Shop petition that was being circulated), Ruth Newmark, Katya Newmark, Gayle Barsamian, and Georgia Crowne, while Marion Spors was busying herself in the Resale Shop

July 4th Picnic

Since the customary Independence Day celebration could no longer be held at the International Center, it was held this year at the Martin Johnson House on the Scripps Oceanography campus. Although the lack of a fully-equipped



kitchen made preparations difficult, resourcefulness prevailed, and we could hardly complain about the setting with its panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean, soaring hang gliders, and an opportunity to enjoy fireworks set off at multiple sites. As **Katya Newmark** noted: "Thanks to the valiant efforts of **Georgina Sham, Ginny Young, Lynn Jahn, Jennie Chin, Lanna Cheng** (who procured the space), and a few other volunteer gems (my family included, who helped prepare corn—cooked in a cooler!), a fabulous 4th of July was held for I think a record crowd. We had about 90 adults and 14 children. I am quite certain that all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event."



Upon receiving Katya's photos of the event,

May-June Friends
Volunteer Hours
2,023 = 5.74 FTEs
per month



Richard Chim & his mom, Gladys Wong

Richard Chim from Hong Kong, who over the years has helped with an endless number of IC kitchen activities, commented: "The photos will be a fun memory of my and my mom's first time spending time with you all on Independence Day at the beautiful coast. What a warm way to have the holiday—working on a party, chatting, and then watching fireworks together. Hopefully we will meet at future events." Richard will receive his Ph.D. in Physics this summer. We wish him well.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Exciting Discovery

The generous support of the *Friends of the International Center Carol and Stuart Smith Fellowship* helped in a very successful expedition to Western Australia. The data and samples gathered during this trip are important final steps towards completion of two of my Ph.D. projects and provide observations on the enigmatic Ruby Seadragon, which will result in a separate publication.

The seadragon team (my advisors **Greg Rous** and **Nerida Wilson** and myself) together with several helping hands, started the trip in Esperance, Western Australia. Here, we spent several days scuba diving for Common and Leafy Seadragons. With the help of experienced eyes of the local dive club, we managed to find 15 Leafy and 8 Common Seadragons. This may not sound like impressive numbers for five days of diving, but seadragons are exceptionally hard to find. Unsuccessful dives are common.

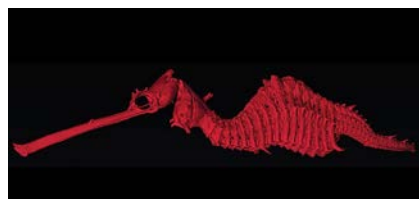
We take photographs of the fish, which we analyze in the lab. We also take a little bit of tissue (it doesn't hurt the fish), and then release them. I use the tissue to do genetic analyses of each individual. These samples will be the last pieces of data for two of my dissertation projects, which aim at genetically characterizing Leafy and Common Seadragons throughout their range. This kind of data is basic biological information that is currently lacking, and is important for making management decisions, for example about the protection of these species in the wild.

The next part of the trip was what we called, "The Hunt for Red Dragon." Our team discovered a third new species of seadragon in 2014. This seadragon species appeared ruby red, unlike the other two species, and we therefore started calling it the Ruby Seadragon. The discovery was solely based on dead specimens housed in

museums. No one had seen a ruby seadragon alive. With this we were missing important information on its biology. This part of the trip was aiming to find the ruby seadragon in the wild and get us the first observations. The team was aware that our chances of finding the fish were slim, but still higher than sitting in our offices.

Our only hint of where to go was information from a trawl that caught a male Ruby in 2007. I remember standing on deck of our ship, in close vicinity of the area we suspected the fish in, and I felt my heart sink. The area where the initial catch was made was just vast, and we were looking for a small, camouflaged fish with an ROV (remotely operated underwater vehicle) with a few meters of a field of view. To complicate things, the weather was not behaving as expected for the season. The first days were too rough to go to the area of interest. It was just not safe to lower the ROV into these waves. So we explored sheltered areas, but no sea dragons. We knew we had only one day, which was also the last day before we had to head back to port, for which the swell was predicted to be moderate. We did a couple of unsuccessful ROV dives. Then there it was! We spotted a ruby red female on one of our screens. She was just drifting among the sponges. There was yelling, hugging, and lot of excitement, to say the least.

On that dive, we found a total of two Ruby Seadragons in 54 meters in depth. We attempted another two dives before we ran out of daylight to find more, in the same locality. But the Rubies were not spotted again. The two



Josefin Stiller discussing her research at the Friends February Ethnic Dinner

females we saw were a very lucky find. These first observations have given us some exciting information on the species' habitat, morphology, and behavior.

I am greatly indebted to **Carol** and **Stuart Smith** and the Friends of the International Center for my fellowship. Your support made an important contribution to the success of the expedition, and the data will be crucial in finishing the projects for the Ph.D. to enhance our knowledge about seadragons.

I also greatly enjoyed the community of the IC and the Friends at the (2015) awards dinner and the fundraiser this year. I greatly value the diversity the IC brings to campus, which truly enhances student and academic life. It is wonderful and important that such an institution exists at UCSD.

Josefin Stiller

Ph.D. candidate from Germany
Marine Biology, SIO

Fieldwork in Ecuador

I would like to thank the Friends of the International Center for funding my research in the summer of 2015. I had the unique opportunity of traveling to Quito, Ecuador in order to carry out my first archival research project. My trip was fruitful, and my research

findings will serve as the foundation for my dissertation prospectus.

The aim of my trip was to explore multiple collections at both the Archivo Nacional del Ecuador and the Archivo Metropolitano de la Historia de Quito in Ecuador. My larger research project seeks to trace the expansion of the capital city of Quito towards the north, beginning in the second half of the 20th century. More specifically, I examine the ways in which a cosmopolitan city such as Quito creates queer-friendly spaces within its limits, while at the same time creating class-based, racial, and gendered stratifications in the advent of its expansion.

During my summer archival research trip, I wanted to study the maps of the city to trace its topographical changes, as well as the archives of legal reforms that pertained to the changes of certain streets and infrastructure. While my current research interest is on the neighborhood of “La Mariscal” in Quito, mainly because it is now lauded as the only queer-friendly neighborhood in the city. My interests are also on other demarcations of cosmopolitanism, development, and modernization in the city. Hence, my project this summer was more exploratory and expansive, seeking to examine and trace broader changes across the city landscapes and limits.

While I had an idea of the archival collections I wanted to investigate, I was not prepared for the bureaucratic hoops I was going to have to jump through. While both the Archivo Nacional and Metropolitano are open to the public and welcome researchers and students worldwide, not all collections are easily available. For example, I was interested in the Fondo Comision de la Verdad, which houses the testimonies of victims of torture and abuse from State and Police officials during **Leon Febres Cordero**'s presidency in the late 80s onward. While many of the people unjustly imprisoned and tortured were anti-State leaders of *Alfaro Vive Carajo*,

I had read that queer and trans folk were also unjustly imprisoned. All testimonies that are in the archive are sealed and researchers need permission from the Fiscalia General del Estado in order to access them. It took me a week to have access to the catalog and then the official report. I was not given access to the testimonies themselves.

Other research days were much more fruitful. In the Archivo Metropolitano I had access to all the city and municipal records, meeting notes, and memorandums, which recorded State acquisition of private properties and subsequent disputes, expansions of city streets, and information on loans from the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) and World Bank for street repairs, expansions, and infrastructure construction. Sifting through these documents, I am interested in the increasing international and supra-national debt that Ecuador accumulated in order to develop and expand its city limits.

Maria Celleri

Ph.D. Candidate, Ethnic Studies

Since Maria Celleri received an additional 2016 Friends fellowship, we anticipate hearing more from Maria about her research.

Dear Friends,
Although the length of my study abroad program was only four months, it provided me with a much deeper understanding of Middle Eastern society and culture than I expected to realize in such a short time. Throughout my time in Jordan, I volunteered, once a week, by helping to run a program for Syrian refugee children at a local church. Weekly, 80-120 children would squeeze into a single room to sing, color, and take their mind off the difficulties of their situation. During these sessions, the depth of my Arabic and understanding of how to interact with Middle Eastern children would be tested. I

would have to explain directions, organize the children, and discipline the rascals, all in Arabic. Beyond that, I would talk to the mothers, listen to their stories, and try to see if I had any means to help at all in their situation.

My most inspiring moments in Jordan came from these children who through immense difficulties, still could find joy by playing and joking around with friends, and from the mothers who had lost everything in war, but still had the strength to hold on for the sake of their children.

I experienced love in many ways in Jordan. But the strongest example is in the love that my host grandma, **Teta**, showed me during the four months that I lived with her.

I arrived in Jordan filled with much fear and anxiety. However, those fears quickly disappeared as I was greeted at the airport with a bouquet of flowers and hugs, kisses, and smiles from my host uncle and two of his daughters. Then, we drove to my Jordanian home where I met my sweet, tiny Jordanian grandma, and the first words out her mouth were “you are *now* my daughter.” From that day on until the end of my time abroad, she continued to shower me with unconditional love. Every afternoon, when I would come home from school, she would be waiting to serve me lunch. Every night, I would make tea or coffee for the both of us, and we would sip and relax as we watched the nightly news. Fridays were special as together we would make the cultural breakfast bread, *mana'ish*, and fill the morning with simple rest: eating, sipping, and listening to the city wake up.

Thank you Friends again and again for making my study abroad a reality. I cannot express my gratitude enough. Your support has opened my eyes to the treasures of Jordan and emboldened my feet to help refugees!

Alexandra Pryor

Global Health major,

Eleanor Roosevelt College

Donations

—by Ruth Newmark

Donations to the Friends often come with interesting stories. **Brenda Fung** flew in from Boston to attend the Friends Annual Dinner in May and enjoyed meeting this year's two recipients of the scholarship named in honor of her mother. In making her dinner reservations, Brenda included a contribution to the *Luna Fung Scholarship*.

Alma Coles' very generous donation came with a fun card expressing Thank You in 14 different languages! To this Alma, writing from Sydney, Australia, added these words: "Sorry I have not been any help, but you have done a terrific job. Please use the \$\$ for anything you need. **Bill** said I could come to the June 10th gathering, so I said perhaps, but then realized I'd fret about him, so this is instead of two extra long flights. I love you guys."

Gratitude too comes in interesting ways. In June, I received an unexpected e-mail from a 2015 scholarship recipient from which I quote: "I loved studying abroad in Sweden so much that I am happy to say that I have been accepted to Lund University this fall for a Masters in Molecular Biology with a specialization in Medical Biology. I'm really thankful that you and the Friends of the International Center have been a part of this. Kind regards, **Megg Garcia.**"

August Calendar
*Please verify dates, times,
and check on locations*

- Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30
- Aug. 3, 17: **Family Orientation**, 9:15
- Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon
- Aug. dates, times, and location of **Mommy/Daddy & Me** meetings may change from week to week
- Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon
- Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Intermediate English**, 10:00-11:30
- Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

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UC San Diego*

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View of Scripps Pier, July 4, 2016
Photo by Katya Newmark

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