



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

Newsletter

Volume XLIII, No. 1

September 2015

President's Message

I am delighted to welcome you to the first issue of the Friends 2015-16 *Newsletter* and begin the year by thanking our members, board members, volunteers, and donors, for your loyal support and service. Our programs and activities continue to be both well attended and well received, and I encourage you to visit our website, icfriends.ucsd.edu, throughout the year, paying special attention to the master calendar and special events so that you may optimize your participation in Friends activities (indeed, it is not too early to mark **October 17 Ethnic Dinner** and **November 7 Friends Dinner Social** on your calendars). And please do not forget to shop at and/or donate to our ever-changing **Friends Resale Shop**.

One of the Friends missions is to bring people together in a congenial atmosphere that fosters the creation of cross-cultural relationships. Our international visitors repeatedly tell us how special the Friends of the International Center is to them and how much they value the relationships formed through the Friends. Needless to say our visitors find great comfort meeting others like themselves, but are you aware that our visitors express equal gratitude for the opportunity to meet people like you? Our visitors, like me, express amazement at the interesting and diverse people comprising our Friends community. Even if you have only a few minutes to share, please consider: "the happiness of life is made up of minute fractions—the little, soon forgotten charities of a kiss or a smile, a kind look or heartfelt compliment" (**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**). I

**June + July 2015
Friends Volunteer Hours
1,491 = 8.47 FTEs**

can assure you that whatever you give you will receive much more back.

What could be easier than to partici-

pate in our global community through our **Visit an American Home** (formerly known as Hospitality at Home)? And, it would be wonderful to have as close to 100% membership participation in this program as is possible. Please reflect that you enjoy at least one glass of something to drink every day and note that your hosting duty need not be anything grander than sharing this experience with another at a time of your choosing. Please help us nurture our reputation as a gracious welcoming community by contacting coordinator **Elisabeth Marti** at kurtmarti@sbcglobal.net.



Participation with the Friends comes in many forms and I ask that you please join me in welcoming our newly-elected 2015-2016 Friends board members, including newcomer **Susan Graceman** who joins continuing officers: **Joan Adamo, Karen Davis, Tashu Malik, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, and Carol Smith**. Our board also includes appointed members-at-large: **Alma Coles, Lynn Jahn, and Candace Kohl** with room for one more. It is my hope that someone who has not previously been active on the Friends board will let me know of his/her interest in this position that asks little of you beyond attending 10 monthly board meetings, while offering you the opportunity to learn more about our dynamic community. Please do not be shy and know that if we have more interest than the one open position we will find you a space!

If you prefer to participate through financial support, please know that your donations are always greatly appreciated, and we hope very much to raise enough money to match the \$100,000 in scholarships we awarded last year. Of course, we can only achieve this goal through your generosity, so please help us realize our communal goal of supporting international education.

Katya Newmark
presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

Join Us for an Adventure in Peru

—by Liz and Chris Wills

The tiny village of Paucartambo in the high Andes east of Cusco is inundated every year by thousands of people for the Festival of the Virgin of Mount Carmel (*Fiesta de la Virgen del Carmen*). The village has no hotels and only a few hostels. Our guide explained that because their guests had complained about the filth and the noise in the hostels, we were going to camp in a farmyard. We had envisioned open fields outside of the village, so it was a surprise to be dropped off at the bottom of a steep dirt street in the village. We walked 100 meters uphill and ducked through a tiny doorway set in a large wooden gate to find a long courtyard surrounded by the many living quarters of a farmer, his four grown sons, and their families. At the end of the courtyard was a huge black pig, loosely tied to a stake, guarding the entry to the fields beyond.

Another solid wooden door on our left led into the main compound, which would soon be occupied by 19 Israeli tourists and their guide. Beyond this was the upper half of the “garden” with a tent for **Chris** and me, one for our guide, a “dining” tent, and a “toilet” tent. During our stay the farmer’s family made us welcome and showed us how they lived and how they cooked their meals. Even the guardian pig, suspicious at first, quickly grew accustomed to us and snoozed through our arrivals and departures.

When the Israeli group arrived that night, we discovered that their guide had taken a class from our friend, **Yoram Bilu**, who was head of Anthropology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and who taught summer school here

at UC San Diego for many years. Small world!

The three days of the festival at Paucartambo culminated in a parade of a statue of the Virgin through the town square, where she was besieged by demons. The festival was a highlight of our latest trip to Peru.

Over the years we have had two ethnic fundraising dinners (November 1997 and May 2010, not counting the High Andean dinner in October 2013) centered on Peru’s world-class cuisine and its astonishing natural and cultural worlds. You might think that we are surely running out of things to feed you and things to tell you about this astonishing country. You would be wrong. Save Saturday, October 17 for the most amazing culinary and travel adventures yet!

We will take you north of Lima, to the recently discovered ruins of Caral, an agricultural civilization that thrived 4,500 years ago—at a time long before the Incas and when the earliest pyramids were being built in Egypt. We will visit the vibrant Inca capital of Cusco, with its fabulous food and ancient architecture. There we will be swept up by the crowd of thousands celebrating Corpus Christi, and join a re-enactment of the great Inca Festival of the Sun. We will see the great Inca himself, as he stands bathed in a beam of the sun in the center of the vast plaza of Saqsaywaman, just as his ancestors did half a millennium ago.

Then, starting from Cusco, we will journey over the crest of the



Hoatzin birds

Andes. We will follow a winding dirt road down the eastern slopes of the mountains, from 14,000 feet to almost sea level. With every thousand feet that we descend we will encounter a whole new living world—brilliant birds like the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, rarely seen mammals, and a host of unique plants and insects. There is no more diverse set of terrestrial ecosystems on the planet.

When we reach the rainforest far below we will encounter tamarins, howlers, and many other New World monkeys, along with the raffish hoatzin birds, giant capybaras, dangerous snakes, and talented insects. We will watch as parrots and macaws swoop down on riverbanks and feast on mineral-rich clay. We will surprise a superb jaguar as it dozes on the banks of the upper Manu River, and we will meet Vanessa, the endearing tapir.

At the end of our trip we will show you the Paucartambo festival with its cheerful clowns, gorgeous costumes, dazzling and dangerous fireworks, and menagerie of assorted demons. We will see how the many dancers re-enact the complexities of Peruvian history since the Conquest. And

finally we will bid a reluctant farewell to the pig that had so faithfully guarded our campsite.

Everywhere we went, even at remote rainforest camps, the food we were served was Peruvian cuisine at its best. (Menu details will follow in the October *Newsletter*)

This most recent trip to Peru was our richest and most varied yet. We hope you can join us, share in our adventures, and dine on the best that Peru has to offer.

Please help us by making your reservation promptly. Relevant information may be found on p. 11.

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Saturday
October 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Peruvian Dinner
 with illustrated talk by
Prof. Christopher Wills

A Fundraiser for
Friends Scholarships

ENGLISH CONVERSATION TABLES

Before returning to her native country, **Mahoko Imamura** wrote this e-mail to her fellow English conversationalists:

"Thank you for sending a photo taken on last Wednesday and giving me a great message card from everyone. I will cherish them.

I am going to be back to Tokyo on the next Monday. I want to focus on seeing how the topic on Tokyo Olympic (stadium) has been discussed by you. It was so difficult for me to tell my opinion in front of you with English, even in Japanese! But Wednesday conversation table was one of comfortable places for me in San Diego. I appreciate kind and energetic volunteers and wonderful conversationalists from different countries.

I look forward to seeing you again anywhere in the world!"

Both Wednesday's and Friday's English conversation tables met throughout the summer and the topics of conversation continually amaze for their originality. In June, for instance, **Letty Ponomareff** sent out this notice:

*"Since long before **Nostradamus** and up to today's **Punxsutawney Phil** (you can look these up on Wikipedia), people have wanted to know what the future has in store for them. They have consulted fortunetellers, used tarot cards, Ouija boards, crystal balls, and much more to see what lies ahead. What kind of fortune telling has occurred in your country over the ages? Were there any famous fortunetellers? And what about the future? Can you make any predictions about what will happen in your area of study or line of work or in your personal life? Let's be prognosticators."*

But before examining such a portentous subject, discussion centered on the news of the day.

Resale Shop Hours: The Friends Resale Shop summer hours will continue to be in effect through September 11: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Shop will be closed the following week, and will reopen, in accordance with the beginning of the new Fall Quarter, Monday, September 21, when the Shop will resume its regular academic schedule: Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Donations

Over the summer Friends received a number of donations that we hasten to acknowledge here. **Alma & Bill Coles** made two very generous scholarship gifts: one in memory of Bill's former UCSD colleague, **Victor H. Rumsey**, Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering, who died this Spring; the other in memory of **Tecle Kidane-Mariam**, a past international student advisor at our International Center.

Nadine & Oliver Wilson and **Dorothy & David Parker** also earmarked their donations for scholarships.

Ruth & Leonard Newmark made a contribution towards the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* in memory of their longtime friend, **Barbara Saltman**, a life member and founder of the Friends of the International Center, who died this April.

We thank you!

September Calendar

Sept. 2, 16 (for IFSO at I-Center), and 23 (for ISPO at Center Hall): **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Sept. 2, 9, 16 (at Doyle Park), 23, 30: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Sept. 2, 9, 16 (check location), 23, 30: **Gus' Table**, 10:00-Noon

Sept. 4, 11, 18 (check location), 25: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

Sept. 8: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

Sept. 8, 15, 29: **Knit-Along**, Noon-4:00

Sept. 10, 24 (confirm date): **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Sept. 21: **Fall Quarter begins**



The tables are set



Karen Davis, Joan Adamo, Elisabeth Marti



Guests mingle in the lounge

Friends Annual Membership Dinner

—by Ruth Newmark with photos by Stuart Smith, Carol Smith & Katya Newmark

On Tuesday, May 19, 2015 about 135 guests gathered at the International Center to celebrate the Friends of the International Center Annual Membership Meeting and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.



Katya Newmark, Jean Selzer, Ruth Newmark



Audrey Leriche, Jennie Chin, Mary Woo, Tashu Malik



Danny Adams and Barbara Fitzsimmons

Because the event has grown sufficiently large that we need to hold the dinner outdoors, there always is a certain amount of concern about the weather. Although much needed rains were not part of the forecast, cool temperatures were. To our delight, the sun had come out in the afternoon and the evening was pleasant.

By the time guests arrived, everything had been tended to carefully under the expert, hands-on oversight of the event's co-chairs: **Jean Selzer and Katya Newmark.**

Joan Adamo, Karen Davis, and Elisabeth Marti checked in the arriving guests and handed them their nametag that not only indicated the guest's assigned table number but also indicated, because tags were color-coded, whether the guest was underage, germane to wine service.

Tables were festively set by **Barbara Fitzsimmons, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Jennie Chin, and Mary Woo**, and were graced by flameless candles and fresh bouquets of flowers arranged by **Candace Kohl**, who once again was able to reap some of the showiest of tea roses compliments of the **Del Mar Rose Society.**

Jennie Chin, Mary Woo, Audrey Leriche, and Tashu Malik

took charge of plating food.

Hummus with pita chips and crudités were served in the Zonta Lounge, as were white wine and raspberry lemonade ably dispensed by **Danya Costello, Jean Selzer,** and Katya's husband, **Matthew Costello.**

By 6:30 sharp, guests were invited to move outdoors to enjoy a 3-course meal that began with vegetable soup. This was followed by an entrée featuring tangy lemon chicken and roasted potatoes (or a similar vegetarian option) served with rolls and a refreshing spinach, pecan, gorgonzola, and date salad. Both of these courses were prepared for us by **Bekker's Catering**, the company that provides the food for the International Center's weekly Friday Café and is thus familiar with our kitchen set-up.

Food was brought to the tables by a smiling team of servers, recruited mainly from among members of the Center's staff who had volunteered to help in this way, thereby allowing more Friends members to remain seated. Kudos to our I-Center table hosts: **Kim Burton, Graciela Casas-Silva, Kevin DelMastro, Jim Galvin, Courtney Giordano, Sheri Liebovich, Kelly O'Sullivan, Jo Peters, Tonia Pizer, Carol**



Table hosts and servers

Robertson, Kirk Simmons, Jan Tuomainen, Kelli Wise, and Paul Yunouye, who were joined by Friends members Justin Costello, Danya Costello, Barbara Fitzsimmons, and Kristine Kneib, in bringing out plates and replenishing wine and water to their assigned table.

Some of the students seemed quite surprised that even our Dean of the International Center would engage in such a task, but it was a perfect way for them to experience personally the cooperative spirit that exists between Friends and staff.

Our delicious desserts were prepared by Alma Coles, well known for her culinary skills. For this event, Alma made individual portions of chocolate mousse and baked shortbread cookies, making sure that there would be enough for each seated guest as well as for those working in the kitchen, including Danny Adams and his



Alma Coles and Katya Newmark

res crew. Quipped Katya: "Thank you Alma for taking on the desert course and for providing us two delicious desserts—we know that it is the last bite that leaves the longest impression and we can be confident that people will have a positive impression of the Friends."

The event's co-chairs seemed to be everywhere, with Jean primarily overlooking food service and Katya taking on the role of master of ceremonies (although she could still be seen snapping pictures, a role that has become second nature to her).

Kirk Simmons spoke powerfully about the importance of the Friends, both for the International Center and the larger UCSD community. Observed our President: "Kirk's expressions of appreciation are matched in day-to-day words and deeds. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that allows us to work together."

Dean Simmons introduced our guest speaker, Vice Chancellor Juan González, still new to many of us, despite having reigned over Student Affairs since his September 2014 appointment to this important UCSD post.

Addressing the value of international study and travel (to which he regretted coming late as the son of immigrants), Dr. González delighted the audience with his easy



Katya Newmark and Kirk Simmons



Vice Chancellor Juan González

manner and off-the-cuff remarks. He spoke eloquently about the meaning of getting to know a country through its culture, and told anecdotes about his trip to Turkey. More meaningful than anything else, he said, was an invitation to someone's home, where he enjoyed breaking bread with his hosts and relished the delicious olives.

Although Vice Chancellor González had to leave early to attend another event, he e-mailed our President these kind words: "Katya, Just a quick note to thank you for last night's fabulous event. Friends of the International Center is a wonderful, passionate, and dedicated group. You truly make a huge difference to our students. What starts with FIC changes the world. I wish I could have stayed for the entire program. The highlight must have been the scholarship awards."

Revealing a bit of disarming self-mockery, the note continued: "Best part of my remarks is that they were brief—I constantly strive to higher levels of brevity. Once again, thanks and congratulations on a successful evening. Please

pass along my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Friends of the International Center.”

The Friends annual dinner serves multiple functions, of which the election of the coming year’s officers is an important part.

Speaking on behalf of the Nominating Committee—composed of **Alice Blake-Stalker**, **Nori Faer**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Kristine Kneib**, and **Judith Muñoz** (chair)—Kristine presented the proposed slate of officers for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Since there were no additional nominations from the floor and the Parliamentarian, **Carol Smith**, verified that there was a due quorum of Friends members present, Kristine called for a vote and the above slate of officers was duly elected by acclamation and to loud cheers.

The evening ended with a personal account of the rewards of study abroad by **Emily Wolfsohn**, a 2013 Friends scholarship recipient, and the presentation of this year’s scholarship recipients, about both of which we will report in subsequent issues of the *Friends Newsletter*.

Our annual dinner represents the culmination of a year devoted to furthering international education and offering friendship to UC San Diego’s international community.

In her closing remarks, Katya touched on some of the programs that Friends offers. These reach far beyond providing international scholarships, even though we are extremely proud that by partnering with the University, we were able to make awards totaling \$100,000 for the academic year 2014-2015. Yet, we are no less proud when we hear from some of our international visitors, especially from the spouses of our international scholars, that for many the Friends provide a home away from home.

Those who took the time to peruse the evening’s printed program hopefully enjoyed reading a brief description that bears out this

Slate of Officers for the Year 2015-2016

President:	Katya Newmark
Vice President, Membership:	Renate Schmid-Schoenbein
Recording Secretary:	Tashu Malik
Treasurer:	Karen Davis
Corresponding Secretary:	Susan Graceman



Karen Davis, Tashu Malik, Katya Newmark,
Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Susan Graceman

sentiment. Wrote **Audrey Leriche**, the spouse of a postdoc and a chemist in her own right: “I am from France and ... came to look upon the International Center as a place to lead a real life with activities and social connections. I met fantastic people, learned a lot of things about different cultures and the world at large, and, most and foremost, I developed real friendships. I wish for all newcomers to have an equally satisfying experience in San Diego, and I thank the Friends for making all this possible. I hope that through these lines you will feel the good you all do, the difference in people’s lives you made—make—and will make in the future. The Friends of the International Center is truly a unique organization that has achieved the success that it deserves.” (For similar expressions of appreciation, you may want to read **Arti Sharma’s** article on the following pages.)

Kristine Kneib summed up the

evening well:

“I may seem like a stuck record. Every year I say this was the best Annual Meeting/Scholarship Awards Dinner ever...and I am going to say it again! What happiness and inspiration flowed through the evening with the cooperative efforts of IC staff and Friends to fete these young, keen, bright, and adventurous scholarship winners and our future! Everything was first class and given so freely from the heart. The table settings were magnificent, the menu delicious, the interactions between and with the scholarship recipients were very engaging, the program to the point and delivered with a great flow. The spirit of giving and receiving by all was so alive all through the evening. The printed program, prepared by **Ruth Newmark**, is a real keepsake to be treasured.”

This is the first article of a three-part series on the Annual Dinner.



On May 12, 2015, at the International Center's Volunteer Appreciation Reception, **Arti Sharma** surprised guests with a touching speech. The always-elegantly-clad Arti (a skilled textile designer), came to UC San Diego two years ago to accompany her husband, **Manish Sharma**, a senior career civil servant of the Government of India, who had accepted a fellowship at IR/PS (recently renamed School of Global Policy and Strategy). They brought with them their younger son, leaving their older one, now in college, behind in India. Such transition can be difficult, especially for the scholar's spouse, as it must have been for Arti who had to put her own career on hold.

To give up her pursuits could not have been easy for Arti, who has an M.A. in economics and was deeply engaged at an NGO working to improve conditions for Indian woman and children. But used to being uprooted (she has lived in the former Yugoslavia and in Dubai, among other places), Arti soon became active in the Friends Wednesday Morning Coffee program, made a PowerPoint presentation on India, and started to volunteer in our Resale Shop. Within the larger, local community, she took on a leadership role at her son's school by serving as Chair of the English Learner Advisory Committee at Doyle Elementary, advancing to representation on the San Diego Unified School District Committee.

Sadly for us, Arti and Manish have returned to India. Remarkd Friends President, **Katya Newmark**, "The hardest part of our organization is having to say good bye to so many wonderful international visitors. I remind myself that the best part of our organization is getting to know so many wonderful international visitors." Arti's Resale Shop colleague, **Joe Nichols**, was prompted to write: "She loves nature and our National Parks, and invites us all to visit India to see its wonders. Arti ends her journey here filled with our friendship. Adieu and bon voyage!"

Here follows Arti's speech in a slightly edited form. Commented **Mary Woo**: "It is so nice that our volunteer work is so appreciated." This view was echoed by **Jennie Chin**, who added: "Makes us want to do more."—Ed.

Gracias, Namaste, Arigato, Merci, Shukran, Thank You!

—by Arti Sharma

"Oh dear, to where have I come?" "What am I going to do?" "Where do I go?" These are just a few questions and apprehensions a spouse of a new international student feels as she lands in a foreign land—away from friends, family, and her country. A transition like this means leaving the life you have built with people you love.

Many of us come from places which have an ancient and great culture, and when we come here, where the culture is not as old but definitely unique in its ways, we are filled with questions as to how to act, what to say, where to go for groceries, and thousands of other uncertainties.

But voilà, there comes the welcoming face of **Nancy**, orienting us spouses, guiding us in discovering activities at the International Center and the larger San Diego community. On Wednesdays, we see **Georgina** encouraging us to try our hand at various crafts from across

the world. Often we see expecting mothers learning from **Mary** and **Lynn** the intricacies of knitting and crocheting, and on many Thursdays we get together to learn about cooking, preparing recipes from different countries under the supervision of **Jennie**.

If you don't know English, no problem: there is Gus' English conversation table led by **Nori** and her team, or there is the English-in-Action program.

And if you need some clothes, but are on a tight budget, there is my Resale Shop, where you can wind your way to bargains. I say *my* Resale Shop, because I have been volunteering there for the past two years, ever since I came to San Diego. The bargains you find there are very special, especially now that with the joint effort of **Marion** and **Josie** the Shop has turned into a boutique.

Then there are the Ethnic Dinners, the Social Dinners, and the

Friday Cafés, where one gets to meet so many new people and make friends, on top of trying cuisines from around the world. If you need household items for the short duration you are in San Diego, **Liz** will help you find them at the Kitchen Exchange. New moms and their children seem to be relaxing and singing under the watchful eye of **Alice** in the Mommy/Daddy & Me class, and often you will find **Katya** taking photographs and making us all pose and smile.

While I was working in the Resale Shop, I came across a book by **Ruth** that gives an insight into the history of the International Center, relating how it came into being. Today I take the opportunity to remember these women who started and nurtured the organization. I thank Mrs. **Ellen Revelle** and the ladies of the **La Jolla Zonta Club**, whose ideas and perseverance brought this organization to its present

form. I thank all who for so many decades have been expanding the organization and in so doing have made a meaningful difference in the lives of international students, scholars, and their families.

The organization makes us spouses feel so comfortable that I see some of my friends come to the International Center almost daily. It's become their second home in San Diego.

God has been kind to me and I have been fortunate to travel to 35-40 different countries. I have had the opportunity to live on three continents, but it is here at the International Center that I see an amalgam of the world and observe how diverse countries truly blend into each other.

Friends of International Center, volunteers, and IC staff, you

people truly fulfill the Center's mission as a place that brings together people from different countries to promote social and intercultural participation. I can say without hesitation: Friends of the International Center and I-Center are not only a great asset to UCSD but to all of San Diego.

So, my dear friends, today, on behalf of International Center spouses, I say *gracias, namaste, arigato, merci, shukran, thank you!*

I conclude by quoting a past United States President, **John Quincy Adams**, who said: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." In all humility, I say that **Friends of the International Center** has emerged as a leader in the San Diego community. God Bless You!



The Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, does hereby acknowledge **FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER** to be an Officially Recognized Campus Support Group entitled to all benefits therein for the fiscal year 2015-1016

Wednesday Mornings

Making use of the wealth of talent found among Friends and international visitors, Wednesday morning programs present a diverse selection of activities, including our twice-monthly *Family Orientation*; our weekly *Mommy/Daddy & Me* (no meeting on September 16), two separate age-appropriate sessions for parents and their children aged 1 month to 5 years; and our weekly *Wednesday Morning Coffee* hours.



Painting on glass, July 2015

Some Wednesday Coffee highlights:

- Sept. 2: *Embroidery* with **Georgina Sham**
- Sept. 9: *Crochet beaded bracelets* with **Lynn Jahn**
- Sept. 16: *Folk dancing* in **Doyle Park** (I-Center not available)
- Sept. 23: *Mahjong and Uno tile games*
- Sept. 30: *Welcome potluck*

Membership

In June, Vice President **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** reported that our membership now stood at 227.

Also in June, we learned of the death of **Mary Watson**, aged 75. Mary came to UCSD in 1966, when her husband, **Joseph Watson**, accepted a faculty position in the Chemistry Department. Joe soon rose to become Provost of Third (now known as Thurgood Marshall) College, and ultimately to Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, a post he held from 1981 until his retirement in 2006. Mary was an active member of the University community, and a number of us fondly remember working with her at the International Center's International Cooperative Nursery School (for 47 years, one of the Friends oldest and most successful programs, housed for its last 37 years at the International Center, until ICNS's closing in February 2009), a school which Mary's and Joe's children attended. Mary continued her interest in the Friends and came to many of our functions, if not with Joe, then with her friend, **Ann Heinemann**. We extend our condolences to the Watson family.

Among our newest members, we count **Armin Afsahi**. Some will remember him as a Revelle College undergraduate, when Armin lived at the International Center in 1989-90, at a time that the Center still had student residents. More will know him as Associate Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Chief Alumni Officer, a position that he left at the end of June 2015 to accept leadership for the University of Denver's philanthropy programs.

Wrote Armin: "As I prepare for my departure, I want to take the opportunity and thank you for your collegiality and friendship over the years." We wish Armin well in his new endeavors.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

With his fascinating fellowship report, **Ian Parker** included this message: “I arrived back to San Diego on February 28, 2015, after being medically evacuated from Indonesia. It seems I had an encounter with malaria in Papua, and require some additional recovery time here in the U.S. But I plan to return sometime soon!”

Anthropological Research in West Papua

Since July 2014, I have been living on a series of islands off the far northwestern coast of West Papua, Indonesia. With support from the Friends of the International Center, I have been pursuing a yearlong ethnographic study of peoples’ interactions with the sea, the forests, and with each other in a watery realm known as Raja Ampat—the Four Kings. On the jungle and karst islands of Waigeo, Kri, Mansuar, Gam, I have lived among communities of the Beteo people and the Ma’ya—Papuan peoples who for centuries have traded with spice merchants and Moluccan sultans. More recently, locals are collaborating with new strangers, especially environmental NGOs, in protecting fishing grounds and forests. But people here still face pressures from illegal fishing, cor-

ruption, State repression, and food insecurity. What promise does the future hold for the region and its people?

Over the last eight months, I have learned how to fish with handlines, dive for sea cucumber, build a handmade outrigger canoe, and follow the winds past the equator. I have become familiar with mosquitos, waves, crocodiles, and bush houses. I have run aground on a coral reef at the Ayau atoll near Palau, eaten palolo worms, and been invited to an all-night wedding feast. Throughout, I have learned about how people depend on the sea, and how protecting the environment here is not just important for ensuring enough to eat, or for the animals’ sake, but as a means to demonstrate to each other how to live right.



I am here primarily to pursue an ethnographic inquiry into the parallels, overlaps and differences between traditional and newly introduced environmental conservation practices in the world’s richest coral reef environment. The Raja Ampat archipelago, lying between the Moluccas and Papua, is home to a greater diversity of marine species than any other site in the world. The sea around the islands of Misool, Salawati, Batanta, Waigeo, and Kofiau is a refuge for coral larvae, marine turtles, and migratory pelagic fishes. The archipelago is also home to a diversity of human communities whose lives have been little documented by scholars, despite their long histories of mobility, trade, and political articulation with outsiders from across Indonesia. In recent years, international environmental organizations including Conservation International (CI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have worked together with Indonesian government agencies to establish five large Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for safeguarding whole ecosystems and specific endangered species.



The Raja Ampat MPA ventures are at the heart of a larger trans-Pacific intergovernmental *Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security* that promotes the twin goals of economic development and conservation through dive tourism. Yet fishing-dependent communities in the Raja Ampat have also for centuries practiced their own ways of managing and conserving valuable marine species, through seasonal closures and gear restrictions known as *sasi*. Variations on this institution are widely encountered in other locations in the adjacent Moluccan islands (*sasi laut*), as well as in Sulawesi (*seke* and *romping*), Lombok (*awig-awig*) and Western Aceh (*panglima laut*).

My research is investigating how local people in the Raja Ampat area understand and engage with the new conservation initiatives against the background of their established understandings of natural resource management, how scientists and NGO workers perceive local peoples' existing practices of resource exploitation and environmental understanding, and how the exogenous institution

of MPA-based conservation and the endogenous institution of *sasi* harmonize with each other or otherwise intersect.

The question of the relation between MPAs and *sasi* is a specific lens through which I am investigating broader issues of how natural resource management is a context in which people define society, and define the ethical contours of relations across human difference. My study will contribute to scientific understanding of complex interactions between humans and their natural environments, at a time when conservation is an increasing political priority worldwide but also faces many practical challenges. I hope that my project will also contribute to anthropological understandings of social relations generally by looking carefully at ways those relations to natural resources work as a site of the creation and reshaping of social bonds across cultural and institutional difference.

By studying how scientists work to protect coral, fish, and mangroves for their intrinsic species value, how government agencies seek to accomplish economic

development through tourism, or how fishermen observe a system of site-specific seasonal prohibitions on harvest overseen by local Christian Churches or hereditary clans, I am assessing how activities carried out in particular geographic locations facilitate different or overlapping goals. Because conservation initiatives similar to the ones unfolding in the Raja Ampat islands are also shaping the lives of marine-dependent peoples across maritime Southeast Asia and the Pacific, I believe that my study's findings will be relevant to understanding current affairs in many other countries where marine protection is increasingly seen as a way to improve local lives.

I intend to return in September and complete my dissertation research by December 2015. I am very grateful for the support that the Friends of the International Center scholarship has provided me. It has given me an opportunity to work in this remote but important place. I hope that my project can benefit the people living there in the near future.

Ian Parker

Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology

My Academic and Cultural Experience in Singapore

My time spent at National University of Singapore participating in the 2014 Biodiversity Summer Program was an extraordinary and life-changing experience. Through this program, I not only had my first experience in conducting field research, but, by taking a Bahasa Indonesian language class, I also immersed myself in Indonesian culture and developed friendships with local students and participants from all around the world.

The field trips to the natural reserves in Singapore were inspiring, and I was impressed by the remarkable richness of flora and fauna found in this small country. Even more impressive, however, was the experience of conducting our group project on Tioman Island, Malaysia. Our objective was to investigate how human disturbance affects the amphibians on the island by surveying the vegetation and frog species on plantations and in undisturbed forests. By working in real research sites, I finally had the

opportunity to gather meaningful data and apply what I have learned in lectures. The experience has given me insight into the ways urban development negatively impacts local species, and has strengthened my interest in the conservation of biodiversity. This has led me to decide to minor in Environmental Studies.

I feel fortunate and thankful to have had the opportunity to study abroad in Singapore. I have developed new skills that are crucial to my future study of biology and the environment. Moreover, I have learned a new language and made new friends. In my research project group, there were students from the local area, the United States, and Costa Rica. While we were learning and helping each other, our relationship grew closer and we are still friends after the program ended.

Kaiyue Deng

Warren College, Molecular Biology major



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