



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

Newsletter

Volume XLIII, No.8

April 2016

President's Message

The following is neither a trick nor a rhetorical question: What does a fruit fly have to do with an alpheid shrimp? The answer is that both of these organisms are the subjects of current doctoral work being conducted at UCSD with the ultimate goal of developing pharmaceuticals to help treat well-known diseases (neurologic and cancer respectively), through an improved understanding of each of these organism's physiology. Who would have thought that either of these tiny, and admittedly, not-so-attractive creatures could hold answers to such important health issues? Certainly not me.

What brings a German post-doc from the Netherlands to UCSD to study, among other things, self-driving cars in the department of Cognitive Sciences? The answer is UCSD's recent establishment of

the Design Lab, seeking to combine knowledge of people with technological innovation. What makes the Design Lab especially attractive is its multi-disciplinary approach to transforming imaginative ideas into executable products and services in a wide variety of applications from healthcare to business to entertainment. The future challenges our many presuppositions.

And, what does any of the above have to do with the Friends? The answer is simple: it is through my attendance at Friends-sponsored events that I have learned about each of these subjects and have had the opportunity to meet the talented young minds behind this research. While we may vary in which pastime floats our boat, I am confident that we all agree that cutting edge knowledge is exciting and that academic research

Mark Your
Calendar!

Friends Membership Dinner
and Scholarship Awards
Ceremony

Tuesday, May 17, 6 p.m.
International Center

provides a positive path towards advancing man's humanity in this ever-changing complex world.

The Friends Scholarship Committee will soon embark on its selection process of academic scholarship recipients, and I could not be happier knowing that the Friends, including each of you, will play a small role in the development of an amazing young person's life. Who knows what subject will capture their intellectual curiosity or how they might harness that curiosity for the betterment of mankind? Please continue to attend our programs and events so that you too can share in the joy of learning, minus the exams!

Happy Spring,
Katya Newmark
presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

Liz Fong Wills,
Ruth Newmark,
Katya Newmark
with scholarship
recipients:
Josefin Stiller,
Nancy Zhang,
and Ruichen Sun
at our February
fundraiser for
Friends
scholarships



Photo by Carol Smith



MONKEY BUSINESS!

—by *Liz Fong Wills* with photographs by *Katya Newmark*

Many of us were disappointed that our wonderful Chinese Chef **Jimmy** moved permanently to San Francisco with his wife **Rita** to babysit their first grandchild. Jimmy was the one who thought outside the box and each year came up with the very imaginative dishes portraying the zodiac animal of the year. Luckily for us, our very talented President, **Katya Newmark**, thought of making cookies in the shape of a monkey, and she and **Lynn Jahn** fashioned the cookies that brought smiles to the faces of everyone who saw them. With tropical fruit salad over a little banana gelatin, it worked as a theme-setting dessert!

For the eleventh year, **Peggy Cheong** and **Clara Wang** produced a fabulous Chinese banquet for us, and brought their cooking buddies with them. We missed **Theresa Song**, who is in Japan babysitting her grandchild, but **George Foo**, **Alice Gu**, **Diane He**, **Roxana Ou**, and **Susan Wu** turned out a meal that everyone loved. We also had help from a multi-cultural group of cooks: **Alice Blake-Stalker**, **Jim Chase**, **Lanna Cheng**, **Richard Chim**, who brought his mother, **Yim Fun Wong** (Gladys) here from Hong

Kong to visit her graduate student son, **Belinda Hermosisimo**, **Lexi Jiang**, **Parvaneh Kamyab**, **Elisabeth Marti**, **Alicia Meneses**, **Jorge Meneses**, **Mira Vendler**, **Ginny Young**, and **Fatimah Zandi**.

Joan Adamo handled the reservations and check-in, aided by **Barbara Fitzsimmons**.

The lovely floral centerpieces and table settings were done by **Lynn Jahn** with help from **Jim Chase**, **Jennie Chin**, **Marion Spors**, and **Ginny Young**. Marion brought many of the special displays from her seemingly unlimited personal collection, and **Katya Newmark** provided several New Year related pieces gathered on her recent trip to Southeast Asia.

Gail Fliesbach and **Georgina Sham** did the printed program and nametags, with Georgina also being responsible for the seating arrangements. Publicity was handled by **Kristine Kneib**. The photographer was **Katya Newmark** with **Carol** and **Stuart Smith** taking additional pictures (see p.1).

Premium wines were offered by **Elisabeth** and **Kurt Marti**, while **Jim Chase** and **Danya Costello** served the house wine.

Except for **Danya**, all of our waitstaff were international



Barbara Fitzsimmons and Joan Adamo



Our international waitstaff with Liz

postdocs or medical doctors: **Lucia Borruso** (Italian), **Eileen Collyer** (Chilean), **Laurent Fattet** (French), **Katrin Hochrath** (German), **Asma Khan** (Pakistani), **Daive Provera** (Italian), **Malte Risto** (German), **Marcelo Sepulveda** (Chilean) and **Björn Tackmann** (German).

Danya also expertly handled the handicap parking. We were lucky that she was able to cover for her brother, **Justin**, who had come down with the flu.

The wonderful scholarship

speakers, **Ruichen Sun** (Chinese Ph.D. candidate, Biological Sciences), **Nancy Zhang** (American medical student), and **Josefin Stiller** (German Ph.D. candidate, SIO) were brought together to give talks about their work by **Ruth Newmark**, who always manages to find the most charming Friends scholarship recipients for us to meet.

Many thanks go to my husband, **Chris Wills**, who, after dinner, showed beautiful underwater pictures (such as depicted here) taken around the Indonesian is-



lands of Raja Ampat. He will be taking an underwater video course in the Philippines and hopes to show off what he learns at a future Ethnic Dinner.

We are grateful for the support of the 115 people who

attended this year's Chinese New Year celebration. Thanks to most welcome donations from **Lynn Jahn**, who donated the cost of flowers, and additional generous donations by Friends members **Janet & Maarten Chrispeels**, **Elisabeth & Kurt Marti**, **Priscilla Moxley**, and visiting South Korean professor, **Il Chong Nam**, and his wife, **Yoonhan Kim**, the profit from the dinner was over \$4,000, earmarked for scholarships.

*A big thank-you to **Liz Fong Wills** for chairing the event!*

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by *Georgina Sham*

Wednesday morning's Mommy/Daddy & Me is a vibrant, lively, well-attended activity at the International Center.

The program was started as a 45-minute class by **Keiko Bott-Suzuki** with the help of **Lois Le Brazidec** in March 2009. By May 2011, the class had grown so large that it was split into two half-hour segments; then, by June 2012, it was permanently split into two 45-minute classes—one for children under 24 months in age, and the other for children aged 24 months to 5 years. Although Lois had moved to China, and Keiko's children were in preschool by September, Keiko continued the classes for us until the end of 2012, when we had to scramble to find someone to take over. Luckily, **Coco Li** and **C.J. Chen** volunteered. While they did not have children, they had preschool training, and with assistance from **Alice Blake-Stalker** (serving as Friends overseer), they carried on the classes.

We then went through a succession of volunteer leaders, including **Maryam Alkhalifah**,

Uhood Al-Ali and **Fatema Raja**, all of whom returned to Saudi Arabia, and **Ying Ju Chen** who subsequently had a baby boy, so that the weekly chore fell on Alice, who thought that having a grandmother at the helm was less desirable than having a mom.

For about a year, we were fortunate to have **Aehyang Park** from Korea take charge, until she had a second baby and left. Once again, Alice put out an all points bulletin, to which she received favorable responses from **Tomoe Nakashima**, **Midori Iwamiya**, and **Naoko Nakanishi**, all of Japan. Being shy and perfectionists, they said they'd try leading for three weeks; however, they were so well prepared and did such a wonderful job, that the classes thrived. Soon other mothers volunteered.

Currently, we have eight different volunteers that take turns, and **Naoko** has taken it upon herself to provide a weekly schedule for them. We now have a Facebook page created by **Mariko Usui** for the volunteers, so that they can exchange ideas and song lyrics.

There is also a newsletter written by Mariko and Naoko, which comes attached to the weekly message sent to Moms and Dads. This features among other things the songs the classes will use that week as well as the descriptions of craft projects for the older children, so that parents can be prepared.

Furthermore, Mariko has created a Google Drive cloud-storage and photo-sharing site, which all the Moms and Dads, and other interested persons, may access.

These wonderful mothers have become completely immersed in the activities of the group. Midori's son is now in preschool, but she still continues to lead classes. **Yuko Takahara**, who arrived as an expectant mother, has joined the list of volunteers. At present, there are four Japanese, two Chinese, one Thai, and one Chilean mother leading the classes, and that's not counting our American Grandma Alice, who generally can be found sitting on the floor with the children!

"Georgina neglected to mention the importance of her own passion for the program." —Alice Blake-Stalker

Starting in the early 1960s, *Friends of the International Center* operated a nursery school that offered innovative, part-time childcare to families drawn from both the UCSD campus and the greater local community that were attracted to the **International Cooperative Nursery School (ICNS)** by its multicultural environment. ICNS thrived for 45 years, until Spring 2009, when it was forced to close because space needs prompted the University to ask ICNS to leave the International Center. To ease the exodus, a Transition Work Group was formed consisting of representatives of the different stakeholders: ICNS, Friends, and UCSD, including campus early childhood education experts. After months of deliberation, the group accepted the University's offer to integrate ICNS families with UCSD affiliation into its **Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC)**. Although this left non-UCSD families to fend for themselves, ECEC's Reggio Emilia Approach that follows a program that incorporates diversity, is child-driven, and has a role for parent involvement, seemed to us to come as close as possible to ICNS' philosophy.

Curious how UCSD's international families are faring in this different environment, I asked **Kathryn Owen**, with whom I had served on the Transition Work Group, to tell us a little about what has happened in these last seven years. Included in her and **Matthew Proctor's** report are testimonies from two international families that are greatly reassuring and may well explain the success and growth of the **Mesa Child Development Center**. — **Ruth Newmark**

Campus Childcare for International Families

—by **Matthew Proctor**, Lead Teacher, Mesa Child Development Center and
Kathryn Owen, Director, Early Care and Education

In 2008, a task force was formed to pursue the option of expanding childcare on East Campus, which would embrace the unique needs of international families. The Reggio Emilia approach was identified as a good fit for the new center, as it promotes hands on, child driven learning experiences, where children are initiators of their own discovery, parents are collaborators, and teachers are facilitators.

The first phase of the **Mesa Child Development Center (MCDC)** opened on March 2 (Dr. Seuss Day), 2009, in response to the closing of the **International Cooperative Nursery School**. Until the opening of MCDC, the Early Care and Education Department operated one fulltime program at the Early Childhood Education Center. This expansion project opened the opportunity to offer part-time care and quality learning experiences for a variety of diverse family needs at UC San Diego, within the Mesa Student Housing complex.

Many families from the International Cooperative Nursery School (ICNS) enrolled at MCDC when we first opened, because of their need for part-time care. In the beginning, there were some wrin-

kles to work out, as the flexibility of the program at the International Center and the new center were inevitably different. However, the Reggio philosophy focuses on working together with families and community for the best interest of each child. Slowly, as we built relationships, we worked together and began to create a wonderful school community for all involved.

Many of our first families who came to us from the ICNS stayed for multiple years, and eventually brought siblings and friends to the program. In addition to this, they created a strong community together, and through word of mouth, brought many more families to MCDC. One example of how they stayed connected was that every Friday, many families gathered on one of the lawns near our school, and to this day they continue to have picnics together, sharing experiences and strengthening our school community.

Now, after seven years, MCDC continues to grow and offer even more flexible schedules to choose from, and we are very excited to be expanding our child development program. MCDC phase II is due to be completed this spring, with

the addition of three new fulltime classrooms, and a Reggio-inspired naturalistic outdoor environment.

MCDC enrolls families from all around the world, who share the unique experience of a school community that embraces all people and cultures. It has been both exciting and a great honor to be a part of creating this invaluable diverse experience for everyone at MCDC and the greater UC San Diego community.

Details about MCDC are available at: <http://child.ucsd.edu/>.

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One of the best decisions we ever made was sending my daughter, **Anna**, to the MCDC. We picked the MCDC because I am a full-time UCSD employee and its convenience location and quiet environment in the center of the UCSD Mesa Housing complex.

When Anna was turning to two and half years old, we have her enrolled in MCDC. At beginning, we thought Anna can't jump in this new environment, but with the help of the teachers (Mr. Matty, Ms. Natalie, and Ms. Patsy), she adjusted very quickly to her school schedules and was excited to see her classmates and teachers.

My wife and I both were born and grown in China. As other international family, one of the major concerns is the English language skill. But after few months, her language communication skill was greatly improved, because the teachers take care of each child following individual directions.

I should say the best part in the classroom is the Creative Music. Anna loves Mr. Matty's singing and playing guitar. Music helps Anna became more active listener and helps creative thinking and motor skills. The teachers make sure to expose the kids to different sensory and developmental activities each week. Every day after school, Anna chats about her friends and activities and even her teachers.

The class also holds family-friendly events frequently, such as open house breakfast, summer so-

cial night, and family potluck, which make you feel like you are a part of the school community.

In fact, Anna's younger sister, **Lina**, already turned to two and half years and we will be sending her to same class as her elder sister in March. I highly recommend MCDC and its teachers to others in the community.

—Yingchun Li and Shunnu Jin



My family and I came to San Diego from Japan for my research in September 2013. We were a little nervous, because this was our first time living outside of our home country. My first mission here was to find a preschool for my son. **Haruto** was 3 years old at that time. In San Diego, there are several pre-school that provide Japanese education and it would be easier on him because he

could only speak Japanese. However, I hoped he would be able to speak English well. Thus, I decided to find a preschool that provided English education, and I found MCDC.

Now I can say that I made the right choice. The teachers at MCDC were so kind and they had a lot of experience taking care of kids who were non-native English speakers. The class was very educational and full of fun. They had a lot of music and arts in the class, which made a relaxing atmosphere. Because there were many international students, my son could adapt to the new environment easily and make many friends.

Currently Haruto is a 6 years old and he is in a kindergarten. He can speak English very well now and is enjoying his school life. My daughter, **Sara**, goes to MCDC now as well. She is really enjoying MCDC with her good teachers and friends. I would like to say thanks to the great teachers, classmates, and parents

—Sensuke and Yuko Shoji!

Membership News

—by Renate Schmid-Schoenbein

We have 224 members. Two new members joined in February: **Julia Blake** and **Ann Heinemann**, both of La Jolla. **Suzuko Tokuyasu**, who used to work in the Resale Shop along with **Luna Fung**, **Joyce Dunn**, and many others, has converted her regular membership to life membership. For decades, Suzuko has been a faithful Friends member, together with her husband, **Kiyoteru Tokuyasu**, an early and distinguished member of the Biology Department faculty, who passed away in July 2015.

Cooking Class

—by Tashu Malik

On March 10, we had an *Around the World* Cooking Experience led by **Keiko Hirai**, featuring food from across five continents. We enjoyed a three-course meal with dishes from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Spain, and Thailand. Sadly, this was Keiko's last cooking class before she returns to Japan. We will miss her enormously.

In April, **June Allen** has agreed to lead the class. Her theme—*Tuscan Times*—will bring to life the rustic flavors of Tuscany along with a chance to make handmade pasta.

April Calendar

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

April 5, 12, 19, 26: **English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

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

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

April 7, 14, 21, 28: **Intermediate English**, 10:00-11:30

April 12: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

April 12, 19, 26: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30

April 14: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

April 20: **International Kitchen**, Indian lunch, Noon

Meet Miki Suefuji

—by Joe Nichols

It is becoming more and more common for the Resale Shop to get volunteers from different countries. Dr. **Miki Suefuji**, is one of our new volunteers from Japan.

At Gus' Conversation Table, Miki was introduced to the program's coordinator, **Nori Faer**. Responding to her query about volunteering, Nori steered her to the Friends Resale Shop. There Miki met **Marion Spors**, who heartily welcomed her.

Miki has been a resident of the United States for about a year, living first in New York and now in La Jolla. Born in Japan, she comes to us from the Chiba Prefecture, in the Greater

Tokyo Area. In her home country, she attended medical school and works as a respiratory physician.

Miki says that she loves volunteering at the Shop. It is her first experience working in something other than her chosen profession. When asked if she had acquired a taste for American food, her facial expression revealed that she didn't like it all that much, but with a sort of *c'est la vie* comment, she replied: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." She dearly misses the differently seasoned ingredients of Japanese cuisine. But, there is one exception: In-N-Out Burgers—"they are the greatest!"

**February
Friends
Volunteer Hours
1,352 = 7.68 FTEs**

Miki is married and has no children. Asked what brought her to our area, she said: "I came to San Diego with my husband, who is studying international affairs in School of Global Policy & Strategy in UCSD. I will go back to Japan this June after my husband completes his program. My life in San Diego is a limited vacation, so to speak, and I will work again as a physician in Japan."

We are joyful to have such a talented volunteer among us.

Resale Shop

—by Ruth Newmark



You may enjoy seeing a sample of the glamorous material Friends Resale Shop's Coordinator, **Marion Spors**, is using to promote the Shop that does so much to help integrate our international volunteers into the UCSD campus community and that, through the sale of donated treasures, fashion, and a variety of odds and ends provides a significant portion of the

Friends scholarship fund.

It may be difficult to identify the depicted jewelry, but if you look closely you will see that the bracelet is made from a tin can, while the necklace consists of a series of metal lids in assorted sizes.

Merchandise varies with the season. Come see what's on display: **Tuesday-Friday, 10:00-3:30** during the academic year. The friendly volunteers will be glad to help with purchases, but they also enjoy to chat.

Thrilled about the write-up in *The UCSD Guardian* (Feb. 18, 2016), Marion shares the following article

about our Shop, written by the student newspaper's Lifestyle Senior Staff Writer, **Shelby Newallis**. Some Friends may recall that Shelby received both the 2014 *Gail Fliesbach Scholarship for Study Abroad* and a *UCEAP Duttonhaver Scholarship* to further her education in Italy. Wrote Shelby:

"It's easy to get lost in a sea of midterms, papers and final exams and forget that UCSD is actually kind of cool. There are many unique on-campus resources and stores that students easily forget about: one of which is Friends Resale Shop.

"Located right off Library Walk at the UCSD International Center, Friends Resale Shop is one of UCSD's hidden gems that is actually not-so-hidden at all. Run by Friends of the International Center, Friends Resale Shop is an on-campus thrift store, offering a wide range of gently used clothes (contemporary, designer and vintage), household items and books. Proceeds from the sales fund scholarships and activities related to international education

"There is a wide array of reasonably priced items, making it perfect for students looking to do a bit of shopping, without feeling bad about it. There's no need to feel guilty about engaging in a little retail therapy when you are helping by recycling the old into new opportunity for your peers to study abroad—it takes upcycling to a whole new level!

"If thrifting isn't really your thing, but you'd still like to be a part of Friends Resale Shop family, you can volunteer and/or donate gently used items."

The Value of Scholarships

—by Ruth Newmark

For a number of years, colleagues and friends of **Tec Kidane-Mariam**, a member of the International Center staff from 1989 to 2000, who died prematurely in 2003, have made contributions in his memory to be used for scholarships. In February, **Carol Robertson** had the brilliant idea that some of us who remembered Tec might get together at the Friday Café that was to feature Ethiopian food, giving us a chance to reminisce about Tec (a native son of Eritrea with close connections to Ethiopia) and to tell his scholarship recipients a little about a man truly beloved by the students he counseled.

As Scholarship Committee Chair, I was charged with inviting the most recent recipients (2012-2015) of a Tec Scholarship, all advanced graduate students likely still to be on campus. Looking at my records, I contacted **Maya Oren**, **Erin Connors**, **Nathan Combes**, and **Alex Verink**. Erin sent her regrets, explaining that she had a dental appointment at that time, while Alex, engaged in fieldwork either in Benin or Ghana, seemed to be incommunicado.

Joan Adamo, **Kim Burton**, **Mary Dhooge**, **Kathy Hodges**, **Jerry Linkon**, **Carol Robertson**, **Carol Smith**, and I were joined



Tec Kidane-Mariam

by **Maya** (now using her married name: **Duru**) and **Nathan**, who filled us in on their research and future plans. Both **Maya** and **Nathan** are completing their Ph.D. studies in political science, with dissertations on Ethiopia and Kenya, respectively. **Maya** will be moving to Washington, D.C., where she (and her husband, a Navy man) already have positions lined up. **Nathan** has feelers out, but, if necessary, will have funding for another year at UCSD.

In response to the lunch, we heard back from **Nathan**, who wrote: "Thank you all (especially **Carol**) for such a wonderful conversation and lunch! Receiving the award was so helpful to my studies, and it was an honor to have received an award named after someone who was so beloved by colleagues and students at UCSD." Shortly thereafter, **Maya** sent this e-mail: "Thanks indeed! Sorry for rushing off, but it was really nice to speak with everyone and enjoy the Ethiopian food and music. I'm excited to be part of this community and to hear about the future Tec scholarship recipients!"

Once more, Friends received a generous donation from **Gail Fliesbach**, this time earmarked for the *Tec Kidane-Mariam Scholarship* fund. Others who made recent contributions to Tec's scholarship are: **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Alma & Bill Coles**, **Mary & Vic Dhooge**, **Kathy Hodges & Peter Thomas**, **Jane Kalionzes**, **Carol Robertson & Mihir Bellar**, and **Carol & Stuart Smith**. I am happy to report that Friends have sufficient funding for yet another Tec Scholarship for the coming year.

We also received a number of wonderful contributions towards the *Betty Burton Scholarship* to be awarded in Betty's memory this Spring. We are grateful to: **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Gayle Barsamian &**

David Clapp, **Alma & Bill Coles**, **Mary & Vic Dhooge**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Kathy Hodges & Peter Thomas**, **Michelle Mazzoni**, **Tonia Pizer & Jun Ye**, and **Carol Robertson & Mihir Bellare**.

Much thanks also to **Barbara & Jerry Fitzsimmons** who continue to make generous donations in memory of their respective mothers, and to **Janet & Martin Chrispeels** who in the last month made an unrestricted scholarship donation.

With everyone's help, not the least those who contribute to raising money in our **Resale Shop** (volunteers and donors alike), and through other fundraisers—such as our **Ethnic Dinners** and **Friends Dinner Socials**—we hope to once again make awards totaling \$100,000 this academic year. A special note of thanks to our **University** for partnering with us in this endeavor.

Friends scholarships play an important role in students' lives. Wrote **Natalya Gallo**, a Ph.D. candidate in Biological Oceanography doing research in Chile:

"I want to thank the **Friends of the International Center** for supporting my international research and outreach efforts. I believe that international experiences are crucial for a young scientist because the problems we work on are global. Therefore, we must learn to work across national, language, and disciplinary barriers in order to be truly effective scientists and leaders. However, most Ph.D. experiences do not provide opportunities for international engagement. The international experiences I have had allow me to see the world (and our interconnectedness) in a new light, and allow me to understand global problems like climate change and environmental management with empathy for all parties involved. For these experiences and impressions, I am very grateful for the support of the Friends of the International Center."

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Dear Friends of the International Center,

My name is **Holly Vo** and I am currently a fourth year medical student and plan to specialize in the field of pediatrics.

Growing up as the daughter of Vietnamese refugees struggling to make it in a new country, I knew from an early age that I wanted to give back and work with others in need. My parents wanted me to grow up in America so that I would have access to more educational opportunities; however, they also wanted me to develop an understanding of our roots and the great needs that exist in many areas of the world. During our family trips to Vietnam and other parts of Indochina, I was exposed to impoverished communities with the inability to voice their concerns due to fear of reprisal from the government. As an adult, I have been fortunate to work in various healthcare clinics, both domestically and abroad. These experiences have strongly shaped my views on medicine for the underserved, and have inspired me to dedicate my career to addressing health inequities. My main area of interest is promoting health education and prevention, while creating sustainable health resources for vulnerable populations.

Through the generous scholarship provided to me through the Friends of the International Center, I had the opportunity to do a clinical rotation in one of the largest and busiest pediatric hospitals in Vietnam, where I worked in the Infectious Disease and Neonatology Department. Given the geographical location of Vietnam, its population is exposed to tropical diseases that are rarely encountered in the United States. I had the opportunity to observe and work with patients that had severe and often fatal illnesses that I had previously only seen in textbooks. I learned about the devastating effects of vari-

ous tropical diseases that were triaged at late stages due to the lack of access to healthcare professionals. My experiences in the neonatology department were equally as, if not more, memorable.

Over the past three months, I have been interviewing at multiple pediatric residency programs and touring world-class pediatric facilities. During the tours, all of these programs took great pride in their state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) and the various treatment modalities offered to their patients in the NICU. These tours highlighted the stark contrast to the NICU department that I worked at in Vietnam. The department had decades-old equipment that was scarce and often defective. Even devices as simple as vitals monitoring machines, that are available to all patients hospitalized at UCSD, were often shared there by 5-10 patients at a time. Although I knew going into this clinical rotation that the hospital was under-resourced, the extent of insufficient patient rooms, equipment, treatment options, and medications was shocking.

The pediatric hospital I worked at was close to where my parents grew up during the Vietnam War, and was the hospital in which my brother had surgery when he was just a few months old. My parents chose to visit me in Vietnam during my clinical rotation. They never imagined that over the course of 30 years, they would have fled to America with little more than the clothes on their back, and then have the opportunity to return to their old neighborhood in Vietnam with their daughter working as a student doctor in the pediatric hospital that successfully operated on their son decades before. It was truly a feeling of “coming full circle”

for my parents. This clinical rotation was meaningful to both my medical education and to the understanding of my roots.

Thank you again for your generous support. This scholarship has been invaluable for my education and global health experience. I look forward to continuing my work with vulnerable populations by working to promote health education and prevention in areas of high need.

Holly Vo, M.P.H., M.S.

Oct. 31, 2015

Dear **Georgia Crowne** and Friends of the International Center, Greetings from Puerto Natales, Patagonia! I have just returned from a week of backpacking in Torres del Paine National Park. It is the most astoundingly gorgeous place I have ever seen. We began with a hike up to the famous Torres in the dark of 5 a.m. to watch the sun dawn pink upon the granite spires and glacial lake. The next several days were spent hiking alongside a lake that is so bright turquoise from minerals that it looks like tropical waters, then up to a dark mountain covered in hanging glaciers that collapsed in miniature avalanches every fifteen minutes. The finale of the week was a wide view of the Grey Glacier and the park's share of the Southern Ice Field.

I could not get enough of the place. Every park employee I met was submitted to strict interrogation—“How do I get hired here? How'd you get so lucky as to live here?” I am already dreaming of working a season in the park after college.

So, I want to thank you for the scholarship you generously gave, as it has helped me see such wonders as amazing as this week's. And this has been only one week of several months worth of wonders! In August

I flew into Lima, Peru and bussed and backpacked 2,000 miles to get to Santiago, Chile, where I am now studying. Along the way I saw Machu Picchu and bussed through the Atacama Desert. Since then I have seen the island of Chiloé and the poetic port Valparaíso, then all the way down to the Strait of Magellan to get to Torres del Paine. I have come to love traveling alone or with friends from my program.

I am also enjoying living in Santiago, which is a world away from the majestic emptiness of Patagonia. Every day I commute an hour to school by bus and metro, crammed in with thousands of Santiaguinos. In contrast to the rush and bustle of the city, my almost daily conversations with people I meet on my commute have proved to me that Chileans are wonderfully warm and always happy to oblige me with Spanish practice.

I have never lived in the heart of a real city before, but have found that it is a perfect environment for study abroad. There are always dozens of people in close proximity to approach with conversation, or simply to watch their habits and try to sketch their story.

My classes here are held within my program's close community of about fifty students and faculty. I am taking three literature classes and one politics class. I love learning Spanish in such an intimate setting. My Spanish novela class consists of only me and another student! The books and poems we read are excellent, and I have so much time to do homework on my commute that I have plenty of free time. I take two Latin dance classes in the week and spend many afternoons exploring the world of street food and sidewalk vendors.

So yes, I have come to love Chile

and being a foreign traveler. Four months is not enough time—my Spanish is much improved but I am still self-conscious; I still cannot tell military time nor understand Celsius, kilometers, or conversion rates; I am still trying to figure out which direction is North; and I am never sure exactly what mystery meat I am ordering. But such are the wonderful challenges of living abroad! They are such fun problems to have.

Thank you so much for helping me live and travel here; these have been some of the best months of my life. I hope you are all well; contrary to the rest of my letter, I do truly miss San Diego and the people I left behind. I look forward to a January in Southern California.

Hasta entonces,
Sara Alura Rupp
Eleanor Roosevelt College,
Literature/Writing major
David Crowne Memorial Scholarship

OAP Study in Ecuador

On the same day classes commenced at UCSD for Fall Quarter 2015, I embarked on the trip of a lifetime. Throughout our six weeks in Ecuador, my classmates and I traveled from the capital of Quito to the frigid highlands of the Andes, the humid jungles of the Andean foothills, the misty rainforests of the western Amazon, the sunny shores of the Galapagos Islands, and finally to the winding rivers of Ecuador's last remaining mangrove forests. In each of these sites we resided at scientific research stations, often in extremely remote locations.

One of the highlights of the program was the opportunity to design and conduct a scientific research study in small groups during our time in the Amazon. I worked with a classmate to study the effects of hunting on primate communities in two different rainforest sites. Spending 4 hours a day, hiking through the humid rainforest looking for monkeys was not easy, but it was incredibly rewarding. Being able to observe spider monkeys, howler monkeys, and pygmy marmosets in their natural habitat was an experience I will never forget.

In addition to our research projects, we learned various research methods used to collect data in the field, such as measuring carbon storage in trees, collecting insects, and creating line transects. All of these experiences will be beneficial as I hope to conduct further behavioral research on wild South American primates in the future.



Additionally, I was able to exercise my Spanish language skills to communicate with local experts on a variety of conservation issues.

Further highlights of the trip include frolicking among wild sea lions and spotting hammerhead sharks and blue-footed boobies in the Galapagos Islands.

Overall, I had an amazing experience that was not only personally rewarding but also practically applicable towards my future academic goals. Thank you so much for your contribution to my study abroad experience! Without your funding, this wonderful experience would have been much more difficult to make a reality.

Shannon Subers
Eleanor Roosevelt College, Anthropology major

Two Medical Worlds

The University of California at San Diego and Maputo Central Hospital in Mozambique have collaborated for the past several years through the Medical Education and Partnership Initiative. Through this program, these two institutions exchange resident physicians every couple months; these doctors travel to the other site for research or clinical rotations. They thereby experience the practice of medicine in a vastly different environment from that with which they are familiar.

The practice of medicine in the nation of Mozambique is simultaneously identical yet vastly different from that in the United States. In both nations, selfless individuals strive to provide compassionate care to the ill and unfortunate, working tirelessly to save lives. However, a stark contrast exists in the availability of medical tests and treatments, and physicians in Mozambique are forced to use their brilliance and ingenuity as critical tools in their daily practice.

While rotating there for one month, I worked on the Internal Medicine wards with residents and physicians, observing them as they cared for patients. My rather basic Portuguese and complete lack of understanding of any local African languages limited my direct patient encounters, but I was fortunately matched with several residents who kindly allowed me to shadow them. These residents were often ones who had participated in the exchange and therefore completed a rotation in the United States or South Africa, experiencing medicine in settings with access to greater resources and technology.

Physical exam skills and patient history are often the primary tools used in making a diagnosis. This is supplemented by epidemiologic data, in which physicians consider the prevalence of certain diseases in the population in order to decide which diagnosis would be most likely.

Another critical factor in diagnosing various causes of diseases in Mozambique lies in its high HIV burden. Often, when patients arrive at the hospital, they are assumed to be HIV positive until proven otherwise. In fact, I only saw two patients during my entire month there that did not carry this virus. This affects medical decision-making significantly.

Other diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, are also rampant in this nation, and play a major role in the course of treatments. Many patients automatically are tested for HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis immediately upon admission to the hospital. Doctors wear masks at all times in case a patient has tuberculosis, and are especially cautious when handling blood or other bodily fluids.

The dominating force that determines the differences in the practice of medicine in Mozambique and in the United States lies in the availability of resources. This is true with regards to the number of doctors available to care for the nations' populations, the different tools that exist with which diagnoses can be made, and the different medical treatments that are offered in each country. Changes are gradually occurring in Mozambique and other parts of the world; through programs such as the collaboration with UCSD, information and knowledge are being exchanged, and allow resource-limited nations to grow and find solutions to their concerns over tools and availability. However, this change is occurring at a glacial pace, and many of the problems that plagued Mozambique in the past persist today. With time, one can only hope that this gap between developed and developing countries can narrow, and that countries like Mozambique are no longer forced to struggle to patch up the problems caused by their limited resources.

Vishnu Prathap

M.D. Candidate

Athens, Greece

This summer I visited Greece through the Global Seminar program, taking courses on the Ottoman Empire and the Development of Modern Greece with Professor **Thomas Gallant**. I really appreciate that Professor Gallant took us students on excursions that correlated with matters we discussed in lectures. He also showed us local spots to dine and visit, which helped make the experience extra special. Greece is filled with beautiful sites, along with a rich history. Santorini's sunset was absolutely breathtaking, while Paros was surrounded by clear blue water (and had the best gelato I have ever had!)

While I was there, Greece was going through economic struggles, causing banks to shut down. Early in the morning, I would see people lining up in front of the ATM to withdraw 60 Euros a day. There even were times when banks did not have enough Euros for the local citizens.

The number of homeless people had significantly increased due to the economic crisis. I felt heartbroken while walking through the streets of Athens passing by people sitting in the over 100-degree weather begging for money.

Studying abroad was one of the best decisions I have made. Although Greece was an amazing experience, I am very thankful that I live in America, in which I am blessed with a lot of things they do not have in Greece. Thank you Friends of the International Center for my scholarship. I am truly grateful.

Hoa Bui

Marshall College, History major

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