



Friends of the International Center,  
at UC San Diego

# Newsletter

Volume XLIV, No.5

December 2016

## From the President



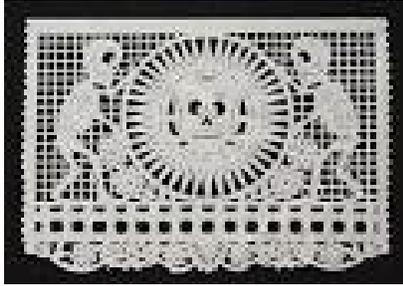
Day of the Dead altar with perforated paper banner, marigolds, referred to as *flowers of the dead*, and a large variety of offerings

Recent travel to Mexico to observe regional differences in the celebration of Day of the Dead (*Día de Muertos* in Spanish, without the American inclusion of “los”), leads me to continue my ruminations about the clash of tradition with societal changes and the ongoing efforts needed to both preserve and adapt traditions to insure their continuation for generations to come.

While the present-day *Día de Muertos* holiday can trace its origins back @ 3,000 years (Mesoamerican ritual honoring the goddess of the underworld), it is the response to the Spanish *conquistadores* celebration of All Soul’s Day in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (itself a fusion with Samhain, an ancient, pre-Christian Celtic festival of fire), that has allowed the holiday to survive.

Fundamental changes that one would expect to have precluded the tradition from carrying forward included such things as moving the ancient holiday from summer to November and replacing the honoree from a single goddess to honoring all ancestors. The Spaniards incorporated practices of the *tribos indígenas* (Otomi and Aztec), including the use of

(continued on p.2)



Typical example of *papel picados*

decorated bark (*amatl*) and the use of skeletons and skulls in their creation of *Dia de Muertos*.

It would be hard to imagine *Dia de Muertos* devoid of the colorful *papel picado* (perforated paper) hangings; yet this tradition, too, is a blending of multiple cultures, not just an outgrowth of the indigenous *amatl*.

Spanish trade routes during the 16<sup>th</sup> century brought goods from the Philippines to Puebla, Mexico, including colored silk paper from China: this *papel de China* was cut to make patterned lamps and ornaments and adapted by craftsmen from neighboring San Salvador de Seco to create paper flags that by the 1970s rendered *papel picado* ubiquitous worldwide for every manner of Mexican fiestas. Today, *papel picado* can be made not only of traditional paper, but also of plastic and mylar, and the traditional rectangular flag shape is but one of the myriad of shapes displayed.

While I remain enchanted by the aging craftsmen who still pound up to thirty sheets of tissue paper by hand to make their traditional patterns, I recognize that the *papel* is as ephemeral as the occasion; as a pragmatist, I am also drawn to the mass-produced intricate designs created in mylar that solve many logistical challenges and allow for longer enjoyment of the colorful designs. That both can co-exist for now is lovely, but I know the time will come when the true craftsman will be a



Masked Spirit Dancer: Present-day indigenous tribes have retained portions of their ancient rituals, such as prayers, clothing, dances, and food.

treasured memory of the past.

By now you may find yourself wondering why I would devote an entire column to discussing details of a holiday that has passed? The answers are many: to draw the parallel between the clash between the Friends fifty-five years of tradition and the changes brought about by the evolving needs of the University; to impress upon us all the need to adapt while holding fast to the essential core of our mission; and to provide the assurance that fusion of practices and a willingness to adapt will allow the Friends mission to survive.

I also hope that you are reminded of the importance of studying abroad and will choose

to make a donation to the Friends scholarship program, so that we might broaden the minds of eager UCSD students.

Whether you choose to decorate your house with blue, white, multi-color, or no lights, I wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday season.

*Katya*

Katya Newmark  
presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

### December Calendar

Dec. 1, 8, 15: **Intermediate English**, 10:00-11:30

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 2: **Holiday Party**, I-House, 3:30-5:00

Dec. 6, 13, 20: **Gus' Table, English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 6, 13, 20: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30

Dec. 7: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Dec. 7, 14: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 10: **Fall Quarter ends**

Dec. 10: **Resale Shop closed until start of Winter Quarter**

Dec. 13: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

Dec. 26 - Jan. 3: **Winter Break, campus closed**

*Because a number of our programs are changing locations from week to week, please check where meetings will take place. By the end of December, we must vacate all International Center pavilions, necessitating further changes.*

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## Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by Georgina Sham



In last month's *Newsletter* we wrote about planning a multiple baby shower for three moms-to-be, a lunch that included presenting them each with a diaper cake that Wednesday Coffee participants had made for them under the tutelage of **Yuko Heath**. A heartwarming aside: one of the honorees, **Lexi Jiang**, had learned that her husband must return to China for a month shortly after the baby is born. But not to worry—her friend, **Pearl Tangri** from India, will stay with

Lexi and help with the newborn baby. For a month! That's what friendships developed at the International Center are all about.

Here follows our December schedule of special activities:

- DECEMBER 7: *Santa Visit and Cookie Exchange*. Santa will come and distribute the fun animal toys we have been sewing for the Mommy/Daddy & Me kids. For our Cookie Exchange, we ask that you bring four dozen cookies, preferably home-baked. You will take home three dozen of a wonderful variety—we will eat the rest!
- DECEMBER 14: *Holiday Ornaments*. **Lynn Jahn** will show us how to make beautiful ornaments with which to decorate our home. All materials will be provided. This is the last session before our annual break, and the last session in the International Center Pavilion.
- DECEMBER 21 AND 28: *No Meetings*.

We will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. All of our programs will have to vacate the International Center Pavilions by the end of December. As of this writing, our new location is up in the air; with the help of the university, we are exploring different campus possibilities.



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## Great Resale Shop News

—by Marion Spors

It's the season to be jolly...the holidays are approaching and we have great news regarding the Friends Resale Shop. We will be moving to our new location after the fall quarter ends in December. Come January 2017, you will find us right across Library Walk in one of the bungalows in the Chancellor's Complex, in the Academic Senate Building 214. We are very excited about this very centrally located spot, and we hope that you will all come and see us after the holiday break in the New Year.

But even before we move, we have lots of great fashions and home goods, including many decorative items, so make the Resale Shop your first destination when shopping for the holidays. Come and check us out. We are open Tuesday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cheers and happy holidays!

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## Craft Circle

—by Jennie Chin

Our Craft Circle is doing well as participants continue to work on their own projects, such as a sewn alphabet baby blanket, a crocheted top, knitted cotton baby sweaters, shawls, and more.

We continue to get interest from new participants who drop in and are encouraged to meet and greet, and to make new friends.



Friends officers: Lynn Jahn, Katya Newmark, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein

In her brief profile below, **Lynn Jahn** leaves out that she currently serves as Recording Secretary of the Friends. This may well be explained, because it is a position she only reluctantly accepted, feeling much more comfortable working directly with our international visitors than taking notes as an elected administrative officer. Nevertheless, she agreed to become Recording Secretary in the knowledge that this was an important position that needs to be filled to maintain our organization as a registered California corporation and an accredited support group of UC San Diego. It goes without saying that Lynn is doing a great job in this, as well as in all the other jobs, she takes upon herself. —Ed.

## Lynn Jahn: Crafter Extraordinaire

My name is **Lynn Jahn**. I am a happily married, retired, crafty person. I was born in and have lived my entire life in San Diego. I was involved in crafts already at a young age, since my entire family (I am one of six children and I have four step siblings) were very involved in crafts. My mother knitted, sewed, made paper flowers, did decoupage, refinished furniture, to mention some of her major skills. My father was a builder and ended up owning an antique store, and my brothers were all involved in building and woodworking.

My sisters are all very talented: my older sister has a master's degree in fiber arts, my younger sister designs cookbooks, and my other sister is great at decorating; together we have canned peaches, pears, applesauce, pie filling, various jams and jellies, pickles, salsa, caramel and fudge sauce. (*Some of the left-over Mason jars came in handy for the creative flower arrangements Lynn designed for the Friends 2016 Annual Dinner.* —Ed.)

I attended UC San Diego for a year, before realizing that I needed to go to San Diego State to further my studies. I graduated with a degree in Botany from SDSU, although my husband did graduate from UCSD with a major in Visual Arts. Afterwards, he worked in

bookstores and as a free-lance technical illustrator, but now he is happily retired.

I worked for San Diego Gas & Electric Co. for 20 years before returning to my family's business, **Adelaide's Flowers** in downtown La Jolla. After the death of my stepfather and the sale of the store, my next stop was to be a caregiver for my mother, one of the best jobs you could ever want—full of joy, love, and friendship.

After my mother passed away in 2014, I needed something to do and was not sure what I wanted to get involved with until I read an article in the *La Jolla Light* asking for volunteers to help sew stuffed animals. Wow! I love to sew... what

did I have to lose?

So, I have been volunteering with the Friends of the International Center now for two years and meeting so many fabulous people and starting wonderful friendships with other volunteers and participants. Like minds think alike!

I love the challenge of finding new and interesting crafts to teach the participants in Wednesday Coffee. I look for projects that will be fun and easy to execute in two hours.

A successful project came about when **Georgina Sham** mentioned that she had many unused ring binders—so that's how we ended up covering them with pretty fabrics.



Wednesday Coffee participants hold up the binders they covered with colorful fabric

My contribution to the Craft Circle is more about teaching participants how to knit or crochet, so they can learn to make anything they want. They are so creative! Because I also love sewing, I show participants how to use a sewing machine, how to use a pattern, how to mend clothes, etc. It was so satisfying to see the participants from the Craft Circle make such beautiful gifts at a recent baby shower!



Two of the many stuffed toys Lynn has made

Holiday projects are among my favorites. Besides helping to make stuffed animals in our Wednesday Coffee group to be given by Santa to the children of the Mommy/Daddy & Me class, I am crocheting Christmas tree decorations. I belong to another organization and am busy making an ornament for everyone—about 80 ladies—attending our upcoming Holiday luncheon.

I have come to realize that the volunteers at the International Cen-

ter make such a difference in the lives of our international community. The participants are so happy to have some place to go, something to do, and many opportunities to make new friends. It is not so much what we volunteers do, but that we do it. Without Friends programs, life would be more challenging for the new internationals that come here, especially for those that come as spouses.

## Friday Chat Group

—by *Cynthia Tozer*

Regular meetings: Friday Chats, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Because the size of our group has grown too big (one recent Friday we had 29 attendees!) for the type of conversation we enjoy, we have broken into two groups that meet at the same time, but in different areas. The division is informally arranged.

At our meetings, participants are encouraged to introduce topics they want to discuss or to tell a joke. Unsolicited comments from our internationals show that they very much like the smaller groups—everyone feels as if they can comment at any time without formality. They also state that in smaller groups, they develop closer relationships.

In addition to our regular Friday Chats, we are offering hikes/walks as we chat on varying days. On Thursday, November 3, for instance, there were 11 of us who hiked in the Torrey Pines State Park Extension, on the other side of the lagoon.

On the following Friday—our regular day—**Michelle Brown** facilitated a group in the Pavilion, at the same time as I led a walk around campus.

Other hikes/walks/chats planned in the near future include such mini adventures as exploring five “hidden” pedestrian bridges around Balboa Park and Bankers Hill, going on a Tijuana walking tour, and traversing the more challenging Slot Canyon in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve.

## Membership

We regret to announce the death in October of **Bernie Sisco**, widow of former Vice Chancellor for administration **Bud Sisco**. We will miss a longtime member of the Friends.

Congratulations to **Marion and Kwan So**, who were honored at this year’s Founders Celebration with the presentation of a Chancellor’s Medal, one of the highest honors given by UC San Diego for exceptional service in support of the university’s mission.

Also honored at the same event was Professor Emeritus **Yuan-Cheng (Bert) Fung**, founder of UCSD’s Department of Bioengineering, who received a Revelle Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the Chancellor on a current or former faculty member for sustained, distinguished, and extraordinary service to UC San Diego.



Marion and Kwan So



Bert Fung



**October  
Friends Volunteer  
Hours  
766 = 4.35 FTEs**

# Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by Mariko Usui

The month of October was filled with festivity and creativity for Mommy/Daddy & Me participants and volunteers. We also added five new families to our participants list.

Our international leadership team was very excited throughout the month of October about Wednesday Coffee's offer of treats for our children. This resulted in many Halloween-themed songs, decorations, stories, and craft projects being incorporated in our class program.

Our "fun and spooky craft" sessions began on October 5, when **Cathy Lin** taught us how to make a ghost mobile with paper plates and strips of plastic grocery bags. Parents were impressed by this easy and almost costless home decoration idea!

What delighted us was that our **Grandma Alice (Alice Blake-Stalker)** returned safely from her trip to Buffalo, NY and rejoined our classes. We love how Alice's presence, her humor, esprit, and bright smiles always liven up the atmosphere.

On October 12, **Bree Chunharas** read a story about *Jack O'Lantern*. Children got to experience Fall colors and the texture and weight of five little decorative pumpkins that she had brought to the classroom. This sensory fun was followed by Alice's talk about American Halloween traditions, Jack O'Lanterns, and costumes.

Since most of our participants are from non-English-speaking countries, Mommy/Daddy & Me often becomes their first interactive English experience, especially for their young, under-age school children. So, whenever new songs are introduced, the leadership team tries to have them better understood and arouse the children's imagination by using handmade posters, props, and pictures, so the children will be able to pick up new words with visual help.

On October 19, Bree presented a performance of the traditional nursery rhyme *Five Green and Speckled Frogs*, using her origami art frog family on a felt board. Children could not take their eyes off the adorable frogs that really could leap due to a springy structure of their legs!

On October 26, we had our annual Halloween Parade, followed by children's Trick-or-Treat organized by **Georgina Sham** and **Wednesday Coffee** members. As said, each of us had

been as excited as the children in anticipation of our Halloween celebration and prepared in ways we could best contribute. **Yuko Takehara** created a lovely event flyer that was attached to our weekly class newsletters. I, **Mariko Usui**, made a paper puppet theater for the presentation of our Halloween songs, and came early to set up the International Center patio in a festive way.

Early that morning, we welcomed about twenty Mommy/Daddy & Me families and started our sing-along session. This was our first experience of holding both the class for the youngest as well as for the slightly older children outside on the patio, and I would like to thank everyone for being extremely attentive so that everything went smoothly and without accident.

We then set off for a parade throughout the campus with **Grandma Alice** in the lead. **Yuko Takehara** took many, many pictures, and later contributed almost 400 images to our class event album. Once the parade came back to the International Center, the children were greeted by Wednesday Coffee members and invited to three Trick-or-Treat stations—starting from the patio, they marched to the Oceanids Pavilion, and ended at the West Pavilion. Our children had such fun in experiencing this Halloween tradition. Thank you Friends!

We are also very thankful to our two Chinese moms, **Huanwei Cui** and **Wenjing Den**, for leading the second class in songs and dances, to wrap up the festive morning in a great mood.

We will continue our Fall session with Thanksgiving-themed activities through November, and with Christmas and other Holiday celebrations in December.

Meanwhile, we are exploring where we will hold our meetings come January.



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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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## Mission in the Philippines

As I imagine you hear from many of your scholarship recipients, I am incredibly grateful for the adventure you allowed me to have in the Philippines this Summer. My purpose was to help the people of the Philippines by finding adults and children in need of surgery for cataracts, crossed eyes, clubfoot, and cleft lip/palate, and to teach them about each of these conditions in order to empower them to understand and care for their medical problems. In the end, the only guarantee I can make is that my experience impacted me far more than I ever could have helped them.

I spent four weeks working with the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation, which provides free surgeries to those in need from every corner of the Philippines. Most of my time was spent with patients in the Foundation's recovery home in Manila, where I was able to help organize medical supplies, care for post-surgical patients, and entertain children who were staying in the home for continued treatment or recovery. The home was run by only a handful of selfless locals, but was organized in such a

way that each patient was accompanied by an adult family member who was given specific responsibilities to help cook, clean, and help the home in whatever way was needed. In this way everyone worked together to make this work possible.

One experience had an especially powerful impact on my family. My wife and two young daughters accompanied me on the trip and were able to come with me to the recovery home towards the end of our time. My 3-year-old walked into the recovery home excited to pass out cookies that she had helped make for the patients. The first child she saw was a 5-year-old, about her same size, who was receiving chemotherapy for a tumor found in her eye. Several weeks before then, her eye had been removed and she had since lost all of the hair on her head. My daughter was hesitant at first, but after several seconds ran up to her and began an excited, initially shy, back-and-forth attempt to talk and play despite speaking different languages. They soon became inseparable, and their friendship taught me how blind children are

to differences in language, culture, and appearance. If only adults, in all our "wisdom," could do the same.

I was also blessed to spend time traveling to small provinces to work with local leaders to determine which children and adults were in need of surgery in those areas. We screened hundreds of people in multiple places, and in doing so I was able to come closer to understanding what life is really like for people in the Philippines, many of whom find happiness despite having nothing but their family and a crudely patched hut to live in.

After this experience I am convinced that I'll never be able to ignore the need that I know exists in the world. I'll be pursuing a career as an ophthalmologist, and I hope that this experience is only the beginning of efforts to serve people all over the world.

I again give my thanks to all those that contribute to the Friends of the International Center, and I wish you the best in the support of future students!

*Matt Haynie*  
School of Medicine



Dear Friends of the International Center,

I have been having a glorious time here in Taiwan on my study abroad trip. I have had the opportunity to work both in the lab and out in the field, which I have never experienced before.

My lab work took me to Chilan Mountain, a tropical, montane cloud forest. Trekking through the forest was challenging, but it was one of the most beautiful places I've ever been. I have learned a lot about research and myself on this trip, and am staying an extra week to work more with my lab. None of this would have been

possible without your help, so thank you for your support. I hope you have been having a summer just as amazing.

*Stella Yuan*

UCEAP Lab Research, Engineering & Science Program, National Taiwan University  
Marshall College, Psychology and Environmental Systems majors

## Research in Chile

Thanks to grant money I received, I was able to conduct two-and-a-half-months of very productive fieldwork in Chile that has given me new directions for my research and theoretical models. I specifically look forward to being able to address what I now perceive as a gap in research on political participation and social movements. Based on what I observed in marches, public events, and individual interviews, my focus was drawn to the family as an important factor in the political decision-making of young adults.

Throughout the course of the summer, my project goals changed slightly. Originally I intended to interview student organizers and spend time observing families to understand how they talked about politics together, but neither of these turned out to be as fruitful as I had hoped. I shifted gears and instead attempted to familiarize myself with various spheres of political activity in which young adults participated. I was able to conduct several valuable interviews, and attend various meaningful events with subjects whom I will hopefully be able to revisit in the future.

The first month of my fieldwork in Chile was spent in a small town in the South. I lived with a host family with whom I was already close, and they were eager to hear about my project and give helpful suggestions. In my few weeks there, I caught up with former students and family friends to get an understanding of the current climate and who might be interested in participating in my research.

Unfortunately, because there are no university campuses there and I was still waiting on IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval to approach minors, I could not conduct many student interviews during this period. Instead I reviewed my literature and prepared for Santiago.

I was also able to take two short trips to Concepción with my host brother, who is a medical student

there. Concepción is the largest city south of the capital, with many university campuses and some of the best higher education programs in the country. My first visit coincided with ongoing student strikes, and I was able to attend an assembly meeting of medical students on strike, and meet some of the student leaders from the engineering program and the campus-wide student center. Though I could not conduct formal interviews, they were very helpful in giving me suggestions for my research methods and putting me in contact with other potential subjects. During this first month I was able to attend a family march for pension reform in town, and a student march for education reform in Concepción.

In Santiago, I divided my time between working for the UCSD Global Health Field School and conducting my own research. Here, in the national hub for social movement activity, there was no shortage of meetings, marches, and events for me to attend. I participated in training sessions for an NGO which trains university students to give civic formation sessions to local high school students, and also for a militant student group associated with one of Chile's new political parties. Both were very promising spaces for future research, and I look forward to resuming a working relationship with them when I am able to return to Chile.

I participated in another family march for pension reform, which drew around 400,000 people together on Santiago's main avenue, as well as a march for indebted students, and a nighttime *cacerolazo* protest for pension reform (this is a specific protest form which began in the '70s, in which women and families throughout the city bang pots and pans throughout the night to keep people awake). Here in Santiago I was able to conduct several interviews and observe many significant public opinion trends.

In addition, my timing was fortunate in that I was able to attend two town hall meetings for Chile's new constitution, in which citizens were encouraged to come and brainstorm the values, rights, and responsibilities which they most want enshrined in the new document. It was a remarkable opportunity for me to see what people value about Chilean democracy today.

Throughout my time in Chile I was struck by how often people referenced their families as the source of their social consciousness. Individuals explained that their understanding (and opinion) of the education, pension, or healthcare systems changed when they observed a loved one or family member struggle with institutions and processes in those systems.

I heard many such anecdotes given as the reason people decided to get involved in social movements. Many signs at the marches referenced this as well, saying such things as, "*Mi papa lleva esperando mas de un mes a la junta medica de las AFP/ BASTA/ No + AFP ahora*" (My father has been waiting over a month for medical insurance approval/ ENOUGH/ No more AFP [the pension system currently in place]), "*Mas tiempo con los tatas... No + AFP*" (More time with the grandparents... No more AFP), or "*Los abuelos apoyamos a nuestros nietos*" (We the grandparents support our grandchildren).

Student activists often explained to me that their parents had been involved in anti-authoritarian protests in the '80s, and I suspect that this connection has a motivating influence in their own decision to participate in movements. This will be a very interesting avenue for my own theoretical model, as there have not been many anthropological works that address this specific source of political motivation.

Though my theoretical model

and methodological approach shifted in the field, it was an invaluable experience that will point my research in new and productive directions. I will be able to incorporate these observations and interviews into my Master's thesis and future fieldwork plans.

*Madelyn Boots*

Sociocultural Anthropology

*In an accompanying note, Maddie wrote on October 12, 2016: "I have been back from Chile for a few weeks now, and wanted to share my brief field report with you. Please let me know if there are any other ways I can support the International Center, particularly as you are working things out with the administration over the future of the IC. I am in the GSA this year and I look forward to being able to support the International Center in whatever capacity available."*

*Friends President, Katya Newmark, has been working closely with the Graduate Student Association in providing them with accurate information, so the GSA might come up with meaningful solutions to some of the problems facing Friends upon having to leave the International Center.*

*Also among those currently serving on the GSA is 2014 Friends Scholarship recipient Martin Boston.—*



Dear Friends,

I am just returning home after a very productive and always interesting round of fieldwork in Guatemala. I was working with the same maternal health NGO in the Western highlands of Guatemala that I worked with last summer, also with support from the Friends.

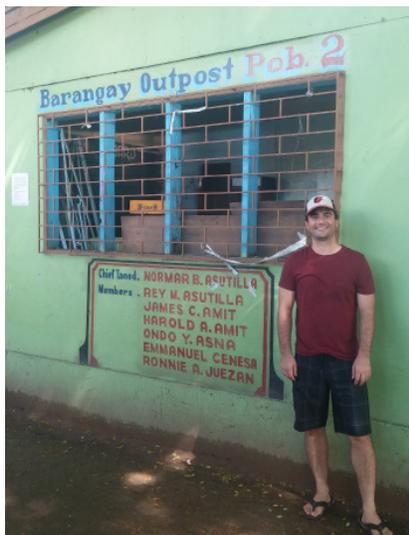
It was extremely rewarding for me to return to the same communities, as I was able to really expand on the work I had started. For example, I spent a great deal of time last summer developing training materials for the "Kangaroo Mother Care" method of skin-to-skin newborn care to decrease neonatal mortality. This summer, I was able to put the training materials to use by training over 40 community health workers in this method, knowledge that they will take back to their rural communities to train the mothers there.

In addition to these outreach projects, I was also collecting data for my research on cultural variation in breastfeeding behavior and mother-infant physical contact. I collected surveys with over 200 mothers regarding their beliefs about infant care practices. I am currently analyzing the data, and I will keep you updated!

Thank you again for your support of international research, which is so important. I will forever be grateful for the Friends!

*Emily E. Little*

Ph.D. candidate, Department of Psychology



Dear Mrs. Newmark,

Having recently returned from the Philippines, I wanted to once again extend my gratitude to you and the Friends of the International Center for providing this amazing opportunity to forward my research on family networks and local policing in the Philippines.

My time abroad over the summer allowed me to begin collecting data on the "embeddedness" of local police officers in their community using officer names like the ones posted behind me in the attached picture, along with family network data derived from recent voter registration lists.

My time in the Philippines also allowed me to develop the project to the point where I was able to find grant funding that will support additional fieldwork during the Winter, including funding for a "crime victimization" survey that will go into the field in January.

All the best!

*Dotan Haim*

Ph.D. candidate, Department of Political Science

Ruth Newmark Scholarship

Dear Friends of the International Center,

I am writing this letter from the airport at the end of my study abroad program, and I cannot believe how incredibly quickly five weeks went by. It seems like yesterday that I was packing for my flight to Athens and attending orientation. In just a few short days, Athens had started to feel like a comfortable home.

I have learned so much from this program, not just about Greek history, but also about life and about myself. The chance to explore a foreign city, one with an incomprehensible amount of history, culture, and tradition was incredible.

In class one day, we were walking through the city of Athens when our professor noted that the street we were on, the house we were about to enter, existed in 500 BCE. I was standing on something that existed 2,500 years ago and my brain simply couldn't grasp it.

I cannot explain how much I will miss being able to look up and see the Acropolis from pretty much anywhere in the city. I will miss having a bakery on every corner and eating a gyro almost every day. I will miss being constantly surprised, by everything from the breathtaking scenery, to the enticing food, even to the copious amounts of inspiring graffiti on the walls.

However, the most compelling elements of my time abroad were the supportive friendships that were forged amongst my fellow students and me, along with the fun. Together, we encountered a lot. Trying to stave off the jet-lag, getting lost in Athens and struggling to find our way back home, adapting to the local culture by napping every day, and falling in love with the cuisine, culture, and character of Greece.

I can't wait to share my experiences with my friends and family, and to encourage other students like me to go abroad! As a bioengineering student, it can be difficult to find the time or opportunity to study abroad. However, it is such a useful, invaluable encounter that it is worth every bit of effort.

This summer was full of interesting and formative experiences. Thank you so much for helping to make these possible!

*Niranjanaa Jeeva*

Global Seminar: Modern Greece

Eleanor Roosevelt College

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Dear Ms. Newmark and Friends,

This summer, I had the privilege of attending the Global Seminar in South Korea for five weeks. I came into the program with very few expectations; but with the intent to make the best use of my time in Seoul. I am proud and excited to announce that I was able to accomplish my goals of touring the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), eating an array of Korean delicacies, learning more about Korean

colonial history by visiting various historical sites, making connections with locals who are obsessed with the K-POP industry, and practicing proper Korean etiquette when speaking with locals.

I sincerely believe that this study abroad trip has been an unforgettable experience. There are other adjectives I could use to describe this journey, but I believe that "unforgettable" summarizes the trip.

For me, the most meaningful experience of being in Seoul was going on food adventures with my classmates and bonding with them over our common interests in Korean drama and music, and discussing the state of racial relations in the United States.

Touring the DMZ was a nerve-racking but enlightening experience, as I got to tour the Joint-Security Area and see the tense relations within the area. When we toured the JSA, our tour group saw the divide between the North and South Korean soldiers. The North Koreans stood proudly, but looked lean and petite, even looking emaciated. On the North Korean side, tourists stood atop the building, taking pictures of the South Korean side, as our group did the same, taking pictures of the tourists and the North Koreans. For two measly minutes, both tourist groups from each side took pictures of the surrounding area and each other.

I felt uneasy because of the strong military presence there, knowing that conflict could arise any minute. The DMZ tour reminded me of the dark history the nation of Korea has faced, and the result of the devastating war: a divided nation with conflicting ideologies, cultures, and dialects. Everything about the tour felt serious. There were so many rules we had to adhere to and numerous liability forms we needed to sign. I felt extremely apprehensive at the fact that the tour company could not guarantee our safety in the case of a hostile attack. Nevertheless, I was glad to go and tour one of the most heavily militarized borders in the world.

I sincerely want to thank the Friends of the International Center for your generosity and patronage. Without your help, I probably would not have raised enough funds to travel to South Korea this summer.

I am appreciative of all the Friends has done for me and the other scholarship recipients. I want to thank you and the scholarship committee for choosing me as a recipient for this scholarship. This opportunity has inspired me to encourage other students to study abroad, and apply for scholarships in order to alleviate their burdens of having to pay extraneous amounts to study abroad in the country of their dreams.

*Joey Uy*

Chancellor's Associates Scholar

Gates Millennium Scholar

Muir College, Political Science major

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