



Friends of the International Center,  
at UC San Diego

# Newsletter

Volume XLIII, No. 4

December 2015

## President's Message

For most Americans, the winter holidays conjure up an association with presents and I thought it would be interesting to reflect on the tradition of gift giving. The practice of gift giving has given anthropologists, economists, marketers, sociologists, and psychologists plenty of fodder for research, with an amazing number of theories posited about a topic that all disciplines agree is a complex and important universal behavior. The disciplines do not agree on the reason that gift giving has evolved, though most quote French sociologist **Marcel Mauss'** seminal essay, *The Gift* (1924), with its emphasis on the role of morality, as their springboard. Anthropologists favor theories about societal cultural motivation, while evolutionary psychologists favor theories of individual motivation. Economists favor theories that focus on economic exchange (gift giving plays a critical role for GDPs worldwide, and in the U.S. alone, three trillion dollars was spent during the 2013 holiday season (Statista.com)).

Within the many theories are further inquiries into the role of religion, compliance vs. domination, self-interest, gender, symbolism, courtship, marketing,

consumerism, etc. While I have a great appreciation for the intellectual allure of better understanding "the act of gift giving [as] a universal phenomenon with its specific rules and rituals varying across cultures," as posited by behavioral psychologists and marketing experts (*Psychology & Marketing*, Sept. 2003), I am content to see gift giving as a voluntary, altruistic act of generosity, starting and stopping with simplistic dictionary definitions for both *gift* as a noun and a verb: the act of giving something willingly to someone without payment.

The giving of gifts is at the core of all that our organization does, whether the gifts be in the form of financial academic scholarships or in the form of services offered free to our international community participants.

Friends volunteers bestow a gift of time and self each time they volunteer, whether it be for the board, a program, or specific activity, and I take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all of our volunteers. The International Center staff members bestow a gift of space and support for which I express our deep appreciation and add an additional thank you to Dean **Kirk Simmons**

## Resale Shop Holiday Sale

December, 2, 3, 4:  
10:00-3:30

Join us for holiday shopping,  
traditional refreshments, and help us  
raise money for scholarships!

for underwriting the Friends/IC Staff Holiday Party (December 8 at noon, rsvp by Dec. 2). Friends and community members bestow a gift to our broader community each time they attend our events, read our communications, donate to or buy goods at the Resale Shop, and/or donate money to the Friends, and for each of these acts I thank you.

Whatever your personal motivations are to give, on behalf of the Friends of the International Center, I thank you and encourage you to keep your gifts coming (our goal is to equal the \$100,000 in scholarships we awarded last year).

Wishing you and yours happy holidays and a happy new year.

*Katya Newmark*  
presFIC@ucsd.edu



September 24 cooking class taught by our guest chef, Macarena Galaz Paineicura, who showed everyone how to prepare a traditional meal from her native country, Chile.



The October cooking class: An Apple Affair

## International Cooking Experience

—by *Tashu Malik*

International Cooking Experience celebrated the arrival of Fall with an apple-themed cooking class on October 8, 2015. **Tashu Malik** and **Keiko Hirai** created a menu that used different kinds of apples in various dishes including Apple and Butternut Squash Soup, Waldorf Salad, Honey Mustard Chicken with Apples, Cinnamon Rice with Apples, and Caramel Apple Cheesecake Bars.

The group had a wonderful time working on different recipes and enjoyed the lunch together later. **Akiko Ebi**, a regular participant of the cooking classes, was our photographer, as she has been for the past so many classes. She returned to Japan in early November, so this was also her last class.

The cooking classes, held on the second Thursday of every month (with occasional additional classes taught by our international participants), continue to be a great place to meet people and create new friendships, while enjoying the process of learning about food from all over the world.

The November 12 class will feature a Brazilian menu based on the popular *Feijoada* platter comprised of black beans, rice, a selection of smoked and fresh meats, most often served with greens, such as kale.

### December Calendar

Dec. 1, 8, 15: **Gus' English Conversation Table**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 2, 16: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Dec. 2, 9, 16: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 2, 3, 4: **Resale Shop Holiday Sale**, 10:00-3:30

Dec. 4, 11, 18: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

Dec. 4: **Friends sponsor International Café**, Noon-1:15

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

Dec. 8: **Holiday Lunch**, Noon

Dec. 10: **Int'l Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00

Dec. 12: **Fall Quarter ends**

Dec. 15, 22: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30

Dec. 21-Jan. 4: **Resale Shop closed**; reopens, Jan. 5, 2016

Dec. 24-Jan. 1: **International Center closed**

October  
Friends Volunteer Hours  
1,241.8 = 7.06 FTEs

### International Café

Please join us on December 4 for Friends sponsorship of the Friday Café featuring food from Kazakhstan that will be served by **Alma Coles, Elisabeth Marti, Katya Newmark, Ruth Newmark,** and **Marion Spors**. Be sure to follow your lunch with a visit to the Friends Resale Shop for some browsing and holiday shopping.

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## PROFILE OF A NEW VOLUNTEER: DIANA SAUNDERS

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I have recently started teaching a new English class for the Friends of the International Center to help members of the international community learn English whilst having fun in an informal class setting. I am an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher from England, who has been living in San Diego for the past two months.

I moved here with my husband, a post-doc researcher at UC San Diego's Shiley Eye Institute, and we plan to stay here for about two years. Luke's field is ophthalmology, specifically glaucoma research. He is a statistician looking at different progression rates of patients with glaucoma.

I attended a Family Orientation shortly after I arrived and was very impressed by all the International Center has to offer. I was pleasantly surprised by the many social and volunteering opportunities that were available. Since then, I have greatly enjoyed getting involved in a variety of volunteering programs, including the EIA (English in Action) program, the Resale Shop, Wednesday and Friday conversation tables, and the International Café (serving food and hosting conversation tables). All of these opportunities have enabled me to have fun, make new friends, and feel that I am able to give back in some small way to the running



Diana and Luke Saunders help serve at the October Peruvian Dinner

of this fantastic organization that makes a difference in so many people's lives.

I noticed that there were a number of international people who came to the programs at the International Center who struggled to communicate because of the language barrier. I therefore thought it would be a good idea to start a new English class to help them develop their language skills. My lessons focus around learning new vocabulary and grammar, as well as the development of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through pair and group work. I mainly try to encourage the participants to talk as much as possible, so that they develop their confidence in speaking to others in English, especially to native speakers.

As I write this (October 21), tomorrow will be the third class, and so far it seems to be going well. The participants come from various countries and all seem to be having fun while learning together and developing new friendships. I look forward to future lessons and seeing how each member of the group develops over time.

The class runs every Thursday morning, from 10:00-11:30, at the International Center. If you would like to get involved, please do contact me by e-mail, [diana.saunders514@gmail.com](mailto:diana.saunders514@gmail.com), and I will be happy to give you further details.

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## Membership

In September, we sadly lost our Life Member, **Marion Dixon** (1919-2015). Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, where she received her early education, Marion earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature in the U.S., at the University of Minnesota, where she also met her future husband. Work as a writer for a series of newspapers, magazines, and professional journals followed.

In 1961, Marion moved from Pittsburgh to La Jolla with her husband, Dr. **Frank Dixon** (1920-2008), an eminent biomedical researcher and founder of The Scripps Research Institute. After caring for her three children, Marion decided to continue her academic training, earning an MA in English from San Diego State, whereupon, in 1971, she joined the staff of the International Center as Coordinator of its American English in Action volunteer tutor program, a history of which she traced in a long, informative article in the May 2008 *Friends Newsletter*. Upon her retirement in 1985, a plaque was placed in the International Center Tutor Garden honoring her 14 years of service as tutor coordinator, and deservedly, in 1995, Marion was named Tutor of the Year. We extend our condolences to the Dixon family.

Please welcome our newest members: **John Shannon**, a local realtor, and his wife, Dr. **Niloofer Behzadi-Shannon**, a dentist. You may already have met our two young members from England: **Diana Saunders** and her husband, **Luke Saunders**, currently a postdoc in UCSD's Ophthalmology Department. To learn more about Diana read her profile above.





Santa (Jim Chase) and Mrs. Claus (Alice Blake-Stalker) pose with Wednesday Coffee participants, 2014



Samples of the stuffed animals made by Lynn Jahn and others at Wednesday Coffee to be presented by Santa as gifts



Cookie Exchange, 2014

## Wednesday Coffee Holiday Activities

—by Georgina Sham

- December 2: *Baking Cookies*—demonstrations to get ready for our cookie exchange.
- December 9: *Holiday Party*  
\**Santa's Visit* with handmade gifts for the children of our Mommy / Daddy & Me classes.  
\**Cookie Exchange and Soup Lunch.*
- December 16: *Making Holiday Decorations*—paper and ribbon stars and more.
- December 23 and 30: *NO Wednesday Coffee Meetings.*

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## Visiting an American Home

—by Elisabeth Marti

The feedback I get from families who have hosted new internationals is very positive. Wrote **June** and **Dan Allen**: "Here is a photo of our visit with **Tingting** and **Shantong**. They are a lovely couple, and we enjoyed meeting them."

But I need more hosts! Even though I often try to send more than one visitor to a host, there is still a shortage of names that I can call, especially of those willing to include children. Please help me out by volunteering (hostFIC@ucsd.edu). For some of our foreign visitors to visit an American home is an unforgettable experience. It is just as rewarding to the hosts knowing that they are able to make that experience possible.

Your guests are so thankful for the opportunity. We know from our own experience that having visited a local home in any foreign country makes a big difference to our experience abroad.



Tingting, June and Dan Allen

## Holiday Shopping at the Friends Resale Shop

December is a festive month filled with holiday celebrations, gatherings of family and friends, gift giving, and feasting. The Shop's coordinator, **Marion Spors**, confesses that Christmas takes her back to her German roots, in particular to her native Göttingen with its famous *Weihnachtsmarkt*. "I try to bring some of that same holiday spirit to the Friends Resale Shop."

Inspired by the *Weihnachtsmarkt*'s different stalls that offer traditional foods and handicrafts, Marion and her team of talented, international volunteers will once again turn our Shop into a mini Christmas market. A special Holiday Sale is planned for December 2, 3, and 4. Come celebrate the holidays with cookies and warm cider and shop for unique gifts from around the world.

The Resale Shop is open Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., but note that the Shop will be closed from December 21, 2015 through January 4, 2016, and reopen on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

## Gifts

—by Ruth Newmark

Friends gratefully acknowledge contributions to our scholarship fund from the following donors: **Susan Morris** (a friend of our President **Katya Newmark**), **Georgia Crowne**, **Heli & Alan Hoffman**, **Tashu Malik & Sarabjeet Singh**, **Elisabeth & Kurt Marti**, **Janine & Asoka Mendis**, **David Jordan**, **Loreen & Roland Wilhelmy**, **Louise Engleman**, and **Sena Blömel** (a new postdoc from Germany).

A special donation was made to the *Luna Fung Scholarship* by **Victoria Wu** and family and came to us via Luna's friend, **K.C. Chien**, who kindly forwarded Victoria's letter, from which we quote: "Dear Dr. and Mrs. Chien, During this time of every year, I always think about your family and Dr. Fung's family, as his birthday nears. This year is particularly special to me: my first in medical school here at UCSD. It has meant so much to me to be a student at UCSD, pursuing a field that I love. So, as a tribute to Dr. Fung and his wife, as well as a token of my pride as a UCSD medical student, I would like to make another donation to the Friends of the International Center on behalf of Dr. and Mrs. Fung."

In addition, we received several gifts towards the Friends Community Relations Fund. We thank **Tashu Malik & Sarabjeet Singh**, **Marion & Kwan So**, **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Katya Newmark & Matthew Costello**, and **Elisabeth & Kurt Marti**, who personally augmented the Friends contribution towards the education fund set up for **Paul Yunouye**'s children.

We would be remiss if we didn't also thank all, but especially **Liz & Chris Wills**, who helped to raise scholarship money by mounting yet one more Ethnic Dinner (read all about it on pp. 6-8!).

We hope that you will respond favorably to our President's end-of-the-year request for scholarship donations. From reading the students' scholarship reports, you must know that your donations are far reaching.

Graduate students tell us how essential Friends awards are to their research, as our fellowships are among the very few unrestricted funds available to them. Undergraduates often write about their life-changing

Friends Volunteers and International Center Staff are cordially invited to a festive Holiday Lunch Tuesday, December 8, Noon



Seated: Katya Newmark, Jennie Chin  
Standing: Mary Woo, Dulce Dorado, Kevin DelMastro  
Holiday Lunch, 2014

Come join the fun.  
Chat with colleagues  
and hear from Friends  
scholarship recipients.  
Take a chance on winning  
great raffle prizes.  
Reservation deadline:  
Wednesday, December 2  
[icfriends@ucsd.edu](mailto:icfriends@ucsd.edu)

experiences while studying abroad. But it is not only students, but also UCSD administrators, who voice their gratitude.

To quote **Jim Galvin**, Director of Global Seminars:

"WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE ONGOING SUPPORT FROM THE FRIENDS. YOU ARE HELPING TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE FOR THE STUDENTS, AND TO BUILD ENDURING INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS THAT WILL PROMOTE SCHOLARSHIP, UNDERSTANDING, AND PEACE."





Head chefs Liz Fong Wills and Alicia Meneses consult their menu



Danya Costello and Marie Perroud do prep work in the IC kitchen



Jorge Meneses and Lou Adamo grill the anticuchos out in the parking lot



Ginny Young shapes the *Causa de Atun*



*Causa de Atun*



Friends would be hard put to do without the regular help of Richard Chim, a grad student in physics from Hong Kong

## To salt or not to salt ... that is the question!

—by Liz Fong Wills

The only complaint that I heard about the October 17 Peruvian fundraising dinner was that the meal needed salt. I must confess that ever since my pregnancy 42 years ago, I have cooked with a minimum of salt. I figure that it is a healthy habit worth continuing. (At dinner parties at our house, I usually ask a guest to taste the dishes and help me adjust the salt. I don't ask my husband, because, when I first met **Chris**, he automatically doused his meals with salt BEFORE tasting them, a result of growing up on his mother's English cooking.) **Alicia Meneses**, our Peruvian chef, also uses salt sparingly. In a discussion with **Christa McReynolds**, we arrived at a solution—saltshakers on the table! Last year, I was stunned when someone asked for a saltshaker at the Chinese New Year's dinner. Chinese food has so many salty sauces (soy, hoisin, oyster, black bean, etc.) that saltshakers are never on the table. However, from now on they'll be available for the asking!

The Ethnic Dinner Dream Team gained some new members and lost some old members. **Alicia Meneses**, a Peruvian architect and Spanish teacher, was our master chef. The *anticuchos* were BBQ-ed to perfection by **Lou Adamo** and

**Jorge Meneses**. The many assistant chefs were: **Alice Blake-Stalker**, **Jim Chase**, **Richard Chim**, **Danya Costello**, **Belinda Hermosisimo**, **Jorge Meneses**, **Katya Newmark**, **Marie Perroud** (back from France after a three-year absence), **Renate Schmidt-Schoenbein**, **Mira Vendler**, and **Ginny Young**.

The wait staff consisted of **Danya Costello**, **Justin Costello**, **Davide Povero**, **Lauren Ray**, **Diana & Luke Saunders**, and **Bjorn Tackmann**.

**Matthew Costello** was aided by **Davide Povero** in whipping up the *Pisco Sours*, using Pisco



Alice Blake-Stalker stirs big pots of *Seco de Pollo*, a traditional chicken stew





Our photographers: Stuart Smith, Carol Smith, and Katya Newmark are busy all night snapping pictures



Georgina Sham and Joan Adamo are ready to welcome guests



Davide Povero, a post doc in the Department of Pediatrics, shakes up a delicious Pisco Sour, claimed by Peru as its national drink



Alstroemeria, also known as Peruvian lilies, center the tables



Mariette Kobrak and Sally Ledden, two of our loyal Ethnic Dinner guests



Rod and Joanne Stark, the mother of 2014 Friends scholarship recipient Chris McCarthy who has been doing research in Mongolia



Rosa Oscco with her daughter Arrietta Antonio, both originally from Peru

donated by **Carol & Stuart Smith**. **Danya Costello** was in charge of serving the *Chicha Morada*, a non-alcoholic beverage made from purple corn. **Elisabeth & Kurt Marti** sold premium wines by the glass to augment the Friends Scholarship Fund.

The tables looked beautiful, thanks to the centerpieces arranged by **Lynn Jahn** and **Mary Woo** and to the artistic flair of **Marion Spors**.

Our parking attendant was **Justin Costello**.

The reservations and check-in were taken care of by **Joan Adamo**, a real trick since the Adamos were in Spain for much of September. The programs and nametags were ably prepared by **Gail Fliesbach**

and **Georgina Sham**. Publicity was handled by **Kristine Kneib** and **Katya Newmark**. The photographers were **Carol & Stuart Smith** and **Katya Newmark**.

**Ruth Newmark** arranged for us to hear **Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi**, a most charming Peruvian who received a Friends Scholarship to aid her in her work towards a Ph.D. in astrophysics. **Chris Wills** gave a PowerPoint presentation on his fourth and most recent trip to remote parts of Peru.

We received a blizzard of complimentary e-mails the next day (for a sampling see p. 8). We learned that guests, as well as vol-

unteers, had a good time and, as intended, we raised money for the Friends Scholarship Fund. Please be sure to come to the next Ethnic Dinner and tell your friends all about it.

**Mark the Date!**  
Saturday, February 27, 2016  
A celebration of  
Chinese New Year



Justin Costello shows the way to the cultural program



Civic parade in Cusco



An engrossed audience



Daniella Bardalez Gagliuffi speaks to the importance of her Friends scholarship



Chris Wills offers an amazing pictorial glimpse into life in Peru

## Some comments from our Ethnic Dinner team and guests:

- ❖ Dear 2015 Peruvian Dinner Team: Before I call it a night, I write to thank our many dedicated volunteers whose individual and collective talents have enabled the Friends of the International Center to sustain its tradition of hosting ethnic-themed meals with the added achievement of raising money for our academic scholarship program. THANK YOU! To our tireless duo Liz and Chris, a heartfelt thank you for continued support! To our energetic Ethnic Dinner chair, thank you for your research, for the many pre-event tastings and testings of recipes, for your recruitment of volunteers, and for your lovely leadership throughout the process. I trust you know I'm a groupie!—**Katya Newmark**
- ❖ We did it!!!! Judging by all the happy sounds last night, we made a lot of people happy in the process of making a lot of new scholarship money. Hearing Daniella speak about the importance of Friends scholarships, especially for international graduate students, makes all the trauma and drama well worth it.—**Liz Fong Wills**
- ❖ Thank you for letting us share our culture and cook Peruvian food with your team of volunteers. It's an honor for us to participate in this organization, and we will continue volunteering in your next events.—**Alicia and Jorge Meneses**
- ❖ Thank you Katya and everybody who worked so hard at making this fundraiser such a successful event. You have a great family, and Professor Wills' lecture and images were as fantastic as the food. I met many wonderful people.—**Ellis van den Boogaard**
- ❖ It has been my pleasure to resume volunteering in the kitchen. Liz, Alicia, and Jorge did a wonderful job creating this delicious Peruvian dinner, and I was honored to be part of the team.—**Marie Perroud**
- ❖ It was a joy giving my time to help, and I am most grateful for the privilege of being allowed to do so because it has allowed me to meet interesting personalities, as well as learn new recipes.—**Belinda Hermosisima**
- ❖ Thank you all for another fabulous and unforgettable event. Bravo to the chefs de cuisine, Liz and Alicia, and to their awesome teammates. And thank you, Chris, for opening my eyes to the beauty of Peru.—**Marion Spors**
- ❖ Congratulations! I'd say you all started the year off with a smashing success.—**Karen Davis**, Friends Treasurer



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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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Dear Friends of the International Center,

I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me a Friends of the International Center Scholarship. My participation in the UCEAP Spring semester at the University of Barcelona has enhanced my knowledge of the world and given me experiences that I would not have acquired otherwise.

I studied abroad at the University of Barcelona during the Spring Semester of 2015. My program began in early January and concluded in July. The first two weeks of my program were spent in an Intensive Language Program created by the UC Study Center that also organized a temporary living situation with a host family from Barcelona. The Intensive Language Program was four hours a day for two weeks. It helped me review Spanish grammar, acquire useful Catalan phrases, and learn about Spain's culture and politics. My host family helped me learn about the culture, food, and history of Barcelona.

After class, I spent time touring the city with a guide provided by the UC Study Center. I was also looking for the next apartment that would become my home.

Following the Intensive Language Program, I chose to study three political science classes that focused on Europe and Spain. My first class was Law, Order, and Communication; my second, Political Economy of Spain; and my third class was Social Structure of Spain. These classes were exclusively taught in Spanish.

Acclimating to the classroom culture in Spain was a challenge at first. Students often talk during class, even while the teacher is lecturing. At times, it was difficult to focus through the chatter, but fortunately the professors made themselves available for questions after class. My Spanish improved greatly, and it stretched my

ability to express myself more profoundly.

The classes were an hour-and-a-half each. I commuted from my neighborhood in L'Exaïmple to the University Plaza twice a week, and to the Palau Real District four times a week. I embraced public transportation to reach my destinations, frequently taking the metro and the bus to get to class.

In addition to my classes, I also had an internship with an independent music label. The UC Study Center helped me find this internship. I spent several hours a week working as a community manager, working with the founder and manager of the label, **Javi Zarco**. I did graphic design work, did research regarding funding for Catalan artists, and gathered information about World Music Venues and events. This was a great opportunity to gain professional experience in the international music business.

During my vacation time, I had opportunity to travel. I travelled to Paris, London, Leeds, Berlin, Rome, Milan, Amsterdam, Seville, Girona, and even to Casablanca. These trips helped me to truly experience the vastly different cultures and ways of living. Customs, languages, and culture change with every city.

My time studying abroad in Barcelona was unforgettable. It was filled with opportunities for academic, professional, and personal growth. If it wasn't for your generosity and dedication to students like me, this experience would not have been possible. I am so grateful and I will cherish this experience for a lifetime.

*Noble Dwarika*

Warren College

International Studies major

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## New Zealand Report

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have studied and travelled in New Zealand. I want to thank the Friends of the International Center for helping support me on my adventure. It has been the best decision I have made while attending UC San Diego, so I'd like to share my initial days abroad.

Being in New Zealand didn't hit me until my second day. I first went to the Waitomo Caves, an extravagant, underground, other worldly experience. Amazing stalactites and stalagmites surround you, growing in every direction. As you descend further underground, you come to a grotto where you begin to drift along the water on a dingy. Gazing up, your brain tricks you into thinking that you are outside observing the stars; however, what you see are thousands and thousands of shining glowworms.

Afterwards, I indulged my obsession of Lord of the Rings and visited Hobbiton. Coming up to the small village, a sign simply saying "Welcome to Hobbiton" greets you, triggering the emotion, excitement, and adventure that the movies instilled in your heart (well, technically the first sign was pointing the way to the toilet, but you get the point). You keep to your feet, walking down a dirt road to a new world. Flowering plants, rolling hills, bumblebees, hobbit holes—it is truly a difficult sight to convey in words.

These incredible places are only two of the numerous sceneries New Zealand has to offer. From volcanoes, emerald and blue lakes, pristine beaches, glaciers, rainforests, mountains, rivers, waterfalls to so much more, it would have been impossible to explore all of the country in the five months I was there.

Not to mention that there were a load of various activities, most of which I participated in, including

mountain biking, bungee jumping, skydiving, rafting, kayaking, backpacking (or tramping as Kiwis say), skiing, climbing, and more!

Believe it or not, however, there were academics involved in my trip. I got the honor of studying at New Zealand's oldest, and arguably most prestigious, university: the University of Otago. From working with spectroscopy and colloidal suspensions in the laboratory to learning the basics of the Maori language to conducting experiments on a research vessel out in the Otago Harbour, there was never a dull moment at the university.

As incredible as everything else was, the friends I made were the best part of my study-abroad adventure. From bonding over rugby, cricket (I still have no idea how to play), foot-



ball (soccer), nights out in town, road trips, tramping, and the list goes on, the people you meet abroad definitely make the most impression on you.

Now, I have returned to UC San Diego to finish my last year to obtain a bachelor's degree in environmental chemistry, with a minor in marine science. My academic interests have been reaffirmed while abroad. Being in New Zealand has also prompted me to encourage more people to participate in study abroad programs. I have joined the STARS (Study Abroad Returnees) program to help out with various events around campus. Finally, I have brought back a renewed sense of adventure and have been enjoying the outdoors as much as I can.

*Ralph Torres*  
EAP, Muir College

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## A Summer in Parma, Italy

My Global Seminar experience in Parma, Italy was fantastic! Not only did we have the best professor from UCSD, but Prof. **Jaime Pineda** also made great connections with the University of Parma, so we were provided with lots of guest lectures from some of the world's leading scientists in the field of mirror neurons, an exciting topic in neuro- and cognitive science..

Prof. Pineda is one of the leading scientists whose research is concerned with applying mirror neurons to autism studies. The reason he chose to have his Global Seminar in Parma was because this is where Dr. **Rizzolatti**'s team of the University of Parma discovered mirror neurons in monkey brains. We had lots of guest lectures from Dr. Rizzolatti himself, as well as from two other major scientists from his team: Dr. **Gallese** and Dr. **Ferrari**. We sat at the same lectures with their graduate master students. Dr. Ferrari was kind enough to offer us a very comprehensive tour of the neuroscience department and of his lab. During the tour, his team of researchers and post-graduate students showed us different approaches from different perspectives. The lab tour was an eye-opening experience for me, as I am just considering going to grad school. The dean of their Neuroscience Department, Dr. **Fogassi**, who was also on the team that discovered the mirror neuron, warmly invited us to seriously consider applying for graduate study at the University of Parma. In all, the Global Seminar was just a very enriching experience of learning, and being able to learn directly from some of the big names that one only heard of before.

Thank you for your support and generous scholarship that made my trip possible!

*Chen Wang*

Muir College, Neuroscience major

*For their part, the UCSD students received great coverage in Parma's major newspaper, Gazzetta di Parma: <http://www.unipr.it/notizie/studenti-della-university-california-san-diego-visita-allateneo-0>.*

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## Ineffable Greece

How could we describe the experience of climbing sandstone pillars over a thousand feet above the sleepy town of Kalambaka, and looking up to the precariously placed monasteries of Metéora, as they stake their ancient claim to the junction of earth and sky? Which of us can accurately convey the pride-tinged sorrow of a general telling of wars fought and lost, and fought and won with strategies that would change the face of modern warfare? Who can tell me the feeling of standing with history and of living with a people known only for their past? We can't. You can't. I cannot.

The Friends of the International Center allowed me to experience what I cannot describe, to see what I cannot convey, and to feel what I cannot tell. I began my journey to Greece because it was something to check off my college to-do list. Students with "fulfilling" college experiences travel abroad, and it was definitely something that I wanted to do. But, a small, secret part of me was sure that there was nothing to be seen that couldn't be found online or to know that



couldn't be learned speaking with those who had already been. Perhaps, I thought, it is silly to spend thousands of dollars to travel where millions had gone before.

I was wrong. I can't explain it. After all, the point is that I cannot explain it. But it is different to actually see than to see pictures and video, different to experience than to hear of another's experience. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to discover Greece. And for the support and guidance of those who wished for me to know what they already knew, ineffable Greece.

*Sarah Hutter*

Revelle College, Psychology major  
Global Seminar: Drugs, Behavior, and the History of Neuroscience in Greece

## Thank you!

Where would we be without the **Friends Resale Shop**? For years it has been the major single contributor to the Friends Scholarship Fund, and our wonderful team of volunteers, under the direction of **Marion Spors**, continues to make the Shop a welcoming place to visit and shop. The displays change seasonally and were especially fun and festive for Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, and New Year are looming. A Holiday Sale is planned for December 2-4. Be sure to check out the merchandise, chat with the friendly shop assistants, and support our international scholarship program.



**GIVE THE GIFT OF LEARNING:  
HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL with a gift to the  
Friends of the International Center Scholarship Fund**

Birthday -----                                 ----- In Honor  
In Celebration of -----                       ----- Anniversary  
Congratulations -----         ----- Other         ----- In Memory

Name of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Message \_\_\_\_\_

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Editor: **Ruth Newmark** (editorFIC@ucsd.edu)

Contributors: **Joan Adamo, Jennie Chin, Karen Davis, Nori Faer, Nancy Homeyer, Kristine Kneib, Audrey Leriche, Katya Newmark, Joe Nichols, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Georgina Sham, Marion Spors, Eleanor tum Suden, Liz Fong Wills**

Contributing Photographers: **Katya Newmark, Carol Smith, Stuart Smith**

Circulation: **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**

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