



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

# *Newsletter*

Volume XLIII, No. 3

November 2015

## President's Message

With the holidays just around the corner there is heightened focus on the meals that we will share and the company we will keep. That food features prominently in Friends programs is no surprise. Long before publication of books like *Three Cups of Tea* and movies like *The Hundred-Foot Journey*, Friends recognized the transcendent quality of food in breaking down cultural barriers and facilitating cross-cultural respect. In my humble opinion, food is a universal language that brings people together offering a window into the soul of a culture while sharing a common and yet distinctly personal experience. As Dutch food scientist **Louise Fresco** opined: "Food, in the end, in our own tradition, is something holy. It's not about nutrients and calories. It's about sharing. It's about honesty. It's about identity."

Many of our Friends activities have food as a focal point, and how lucky we all are to have such wonderful cooks running our many food-centric programs. In addition to our formal food oriented programs, food is never far from reach. Our volunteers and participants frequently bring food items to the Center to share: both food that they have prepared and precious food that they have

received from their hometowns. It is clear to me that our international visitors equally understand food's ability to bridge cultural divides, to educate, and to bring about a feeling of comfort. There have been many fascinating discussions about cultural traditions born of a shared treat, and for me there is nothing more satisfying than sampling new flavors while engaged in conversation with interesting people

Whenever you ask visitors (or yourself when you travel) what they miss most about being away from home, food is usually the second thing mentioned after family and friends, and quite often food is the number one answer. There is now much research about the science of why we crave certain foods supporting the hypotheses that not only do we associate foods with happy memories, but we also associate comfort foods with social ties. Food is deeply comforting and triggers both psychological and physiological reactions explaining why we crave comfort food to combat lonesomeness when we feel isolated.

In my opinion, the offering of food is a willingness to share something deeply personal and in doing so we are nonverbally extending an invitation to initiate



Wednesday Coffee English Tea

a relationship. Author **Jonathan Safran Foer** writes: "Nothing—not a conversation, not a handshake or even a hug—establishes friendship so forcefully as eating together."

And thus, I once again write to encourage you to join in any of our Friends activities that will not only satisfy your stomach, but also your heart.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving I write to thank each of our board members, program leaders, volunteers, and participants for all that you do to keep the Friends mission not just an ideal, but also a realized goal: the mission of the Friends of the International Center shall be "to support international education, to foster friendship, understanding, and cooperation within the international community, and to create a meeting place on the UC San Diego campus for people who share these aims."

Wishing you all happy holidays with a bounty of food, family, and F/friends.

*Katya Newmark*

## Friends of the International Center Board of Directors, 2015-2016

\* designates Executive Committee

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2nd Vice President, Membership	* Renate Schmid-Schoenbein	renateschsch@yahoo.com
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Treasurer	* Karen Davis	ksndavis28@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer (appointed—no vote)	Wen Gu	guwen24@hotmail.com
Financial Advisor (appointed)	* Joan Adamo	jadamo@ucsd.edu
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Members-at-Large (appointed)	Alma Coles	acoles@ece.ucsd.edu
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Communications	Kristine Kneib	knkneib@pacbell.net
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Hospitality	Elisabeth Marti	hostFIC@mail.ucsd.edu
Nominations (3 appointed)	Barbara Fitzsimmons	bfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu
	Lynn Jahn	lynnjahn@gmail.com
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English Conversation	Nori Faer	nfaerweathr@gmail.com
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FIC Crafts Circle	Jennie Chin	tuecraftFIC@ucsd.edu
International Cooking Experience	Tashu Malik	cookingFIC@ucsd.edu
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Resale Shop	Marion Spors	shopFIC@ucsd.edu
Wednesday Coffee	Georgina Sham	gbsham@gmail.com
International Kitchen	Georgina Sham	gbsham@gmail.com
Mommy/Daddy & Me	Alice Blake-Stalker	blakestalker@hotmail.com

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Annual Membership Dinner	Katya Newmark	presFIC@ucsd.edu
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Newsletter	Ruth Newmark	editorFIC@ucsd.edu
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Sports: Football	Judith Muñoz	jtm722@gmail.com
Visit an American Home	Elisabeth Marti	hostFIC@ucsd.edu

**LIAISONS** (no vote)

Oceanids	Eleanor tum Suden	etumsude@san.rr.com
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Int'l Students & Programs Office (ISPO)	Dulce Dorado	ddorado@ucsd.edu
Study Abroad, UC San Diego	Kelly O'Sullivan	kosullivan@ucsd.edu
Campus Support Group Advisor	Corinne Cramer	ccramer@ucsd.edu

September  
Friends Volunteer Hours  
770.5 = 4.38 FTEs



## Visiting an American Home

—by Ruth Newmark

**Elisabeth Marti** is very enthusiastic about the Friends Visiting an American Home program that she chairs, and is unwavering in her desire to have as many people as possible participate in hosting our incoming UCSD international visitors. To show how rewarding such an experience is for host and guest alike, she shares excerpts from feedback she has received.

The cheery comments from Friends members, **Loreen** and **Roland Wilhelmy**, read: “We did it! Last evening we entertained our first two international couples. Thank you for leading us through this process. Here is the thank-you we received.”

Hi Loreen and Roland,

It was so nice to meet you yesterday and we have enjoyed the dinner at your lovely place so much last night. Thank you so much for inviting us to be your first guests from the “Visit an American Home” program at UCSD. We are just so lucky to be selected! Your house and the garden are very beautiful.

The food was just so delicious. We enjoyed every dish but especially the big yummy cake. We will try to make it at home one day and will let you know the result. Thanks for sharing the recipe with us.

Thanks again, and we will definitely stay in touch with you to keep you posted with things happening in our lives.

*Wen and Xiao*

Originally from China, **Wen Gu** has a cosmopolitan background. Explains Wen: “I went to Australia for the last year of my high school in 2003, and then completed my Bachelor of Commerce (major in Accounting) in 2007 and Master of Commerce (major in Applied Finance) in 2008, both from University of Adelaide. After graduation, I started working at a local firm as an accountant and then became a financial controller for the company. In 2013, I decided to go back to Beijing, after getting my CPA certification in Australia, because I had been away from my parents and friends in China for nearly 10 years and thought it was time for me to reunite with them. In Beijing, I then worked as a financial reporting supervisor at a Nasdaq-listed company. My husband, **Xiao Wang**, who is from Beijing as well, went to University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas for his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry and Chemistry, and then came to UCSD to work as a postdoctoral research scholar. We both love San Diego and want to stay here as long as we can.”

Upon coming to UCSD, Wen became very active in the Friends, volunteering at Wednesday Coffee and in the Resale Shop. Somewhat later, she accepted a post as our Assistant Treasurer, and also joined **Nancy Homeyer’s** Family Orientation team.

In mid-September, Wen started a job as a senior accountant with a local real estate firm. Said Nancy: “Wen has assured me that she will try to

### November Calendar

- Nov. 4, 18: **Family Orientation**, 9:15
- Nov. 4, 18, 25: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon
- Nov. 4, 18, 25: **Gus’ Table**, 10:00-Noon
- Nov. 6, 13, 20: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon
- Nov. 7: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:00
- Nov. 10: **Board Meeting**, 10:00
- Nov. 10, 17, 24: **FIC Craft Circle**, 10:00-1:00
- Nov. 11: **Veterans’ Day Holiday**
- Nov. 12: **Int’l Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00
- Nov. 16-20: **International Education Week**
- Nov. 18: **International Kitchen Lunch**, Noon
- Nov. 20: **International Fashion Show** during Friday Café, Noon-1:15
- Nov. 26: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

continue to help with tasks, such as updating the Friends *Welcome!* booklet, that she can perform during non-business hours.”

While it is hard for us to lose talented and dedicated volunteers such as Wen, Friends are always pleased for our international spouses when they find paid employment in their chosen field.

To participate in the Visiting an American Home program, please contact **Elisabeth Marti** at [hostFIC@mail.ucsd.edu](mailto:hostFIC@mail.ucsd.edu). We guarantee that she will match you up with interesting guests.

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# Family Orientation: The International Volunteers

—by Nancy Homeyer

Family Orientation runs on the volunteer efforts of a number of people. It has been over a year since we introduced the initial international volunteers in Family Orientation. **Audrey Leriche** from France and **Elisa Postila** from Finland were the first. They were then joined by **Wen Gu** from China and Australia (see p. 3) and by **Alicia Boutonnet** from France. They have all added a new perspective and enthusiasm to our presentations. They are excellent role models for new arrivals who may be experiencing a period of cultural adjustment and who may have time on their hands. However at some point, the international volunteers may get a job or they may return to their homes. Elisa and Alicia returned to their home countries. Audrey and Wen succeeded in securing fulltime employment and are less available. We miss all of them for their contributions to the program and for their friendship.

Then other wonderful volunteers came to the rescue! They are **Macarena Galaz** from Chile, **Yoko Kageyama** from Japan, **Jeongmin Choi** from South Korea, and **Diana Saunders** from England. I asked the first three to introduce themselves by writing a short paragraph about themselves and why they are volunteering. (Diana's will appear next month, as she was out of the country.) The following is what they said:

•My name is **Macarena Galaz**. I am from Chile and I came to the US because of my husband's working on a Ph.D. in Physics at UCSD. Before coming to San Diego, I used to work as an organizational psychologist in the human resources department of a Chilean company. There, I set myself the goal to always encourage employ-

ees to improve their skills and do their best in their jobs. That's why, since I came to San Diego, especially this year, I had been looking for a way to help people no matter how. Elisa Postila, a friend of mine who at the time was volunteering for the Family Orientation program, told me that I could help people out by joining this program. I instantly loved the idea.

I will always remember how depressed I was during my first year in the US, so I strongly think that we all need support to get over the transition of moving to another country. Therefore, I am absolutely glad that at the International Center there is such a wonderful group of volunteers and different programs that help to make families feel more comfortable, and I am proud to contribute to the mission of the Family Orientation program. I also will be thankful for being welcomed in the activities that I've attended during these years, especially Wednesday Coffee and the International Cooking Class, where I've learned new things and met wonderful people.

•I am **Yoko Kageyama** from Japan. I came here in San Diego to stay with my husband who is a second year student at Rady School, a business school at UCSD. I had worked for my previous company, a computer-based testing provider, for six years and engaged in account management, training, and operation. A good friend of mine, Wen Gu, brought me to Family Orientation and I am grateful to be part of this program because my first few months here to settle down was nothing but a struggle. I first learned about the International Center through my husband, but unfortunately I did not get to know what is really happening there. After I finally got there, I was so relieved that I could find friends who have a lot in common, understand what I

have gone through, and share the joy and struggle to be here. I am an active participant at Wednesday Coffee, Cooking Class, and also a volunteer at the Resale Shop and Family Orientation.

•My name is **Jeongmin Choi**. I am from South Korea. I came to the United States to accompany my husband who is working on a master's degree in International Relations and Pacific Studies at UCSD. In Korea, I am a doctor, board-certified in Family Medicine, as I am interested in the health of all family members.

I am participating in Family Orientation because I'd like to help people in the U.S. and because I would like to make new friends as well. I have lots of friends now from the Family Orientation.

I first learned about the International Center when I attended the Friday Café last year and **Wen Gu** told me about all the Friends' programs there. Now I usually attend the Wednesday Coffee Conversation Table as well as the Friday one. And I love participating in the Cooking Class every month. And I have an English tutor also, so I am practicing speaking English in San Diego!

When I first came here to the U.S. one year ago, I felt lonely and useless. After I learned about the Friends of the International Center programs, I could make many friends and improve my English. Finally I can enjoy my San Diego life.

Please notice two themes with the new volunteers.

They all expressed having difficulties with cultural adjustment when moving to a different country. This transition is hard on just about everyone, and that is something we discuss in Family Orientation. We also introduce the newcomers to ways to have fun and meet others, to improve their



English, and even how to cook for large groups. The point is to make it easy and pleasant to settle in, make friends, and be active.

The other theme is that these three are the spouses of graduate students, not of faculty and schol-

ars. The spouses of students are a new target audience for Family Orientation. It is one that we are having some difficulty in reaching. Macarena, Yoko, and Jeongmin will be of great help in this effort.

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## FIC Craft Circle

Our organization constantly strives to take into consideration the talents of our volunteers and the interests of our international visitors. Accordingly, the program known as *Knit-Along* was renamed in October, and is now known by the more descriptive title: *FIC Craft Circle*.

Explains the program's chair, **Jennie Chin**, "Because we are expanding beyond knitting and crochet work, the name change will allow us to include other handwork now and in the future. Though we continue to meet in the International Center dining room on Tuesdays (no meetings on the first Tuesday of each month), we now meet in the mornings, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The time

change is to be more in line with other Friends activities that happen during the week."

In describing the changes a bit further, Jennie informs: "Our plan is to work on our projects from 10:00 o'clock until noon. From 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., we hope that participants will stay for lunch, either by brown bagging or purchasing food from the various vendors on campus. For variety, we may include some carpool shopping trips to fabric stores, or perhaps carpool to a new dining experience.

"In October, we started to add twice monthly sewing. **Lynn Jahn** will teach us to sew projects that we can complete in one or two sessions. **Mary Woo** will also help in this area, and along with Lynn will

## Come join the Fall Fun

**Saturday  
November 7, 6:00 p.m.**

## Friends Dinner Social

**Cost: \$15 Friends;  
\$20: Community/guests;  
\$10 UCSD international students,  
scholars, and families**

**Reservations required by Nov. 2:  
<http://fdsfallfun2015.eventbrite.com>**

provide lessons in sewing basics and safety of the machines.

"Like knitting and crocheting, for which participants bring their own needles, hooks, and other supplies with them, participants in the sewing section will need to bring their own fabrics and other essentials."

The expansion of this program to include more handwork is in no way intended to conflict with, but rather to expand on, Wednesday Coffee craft activities.

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## Resale Shop

—by *Marion Spors*

**Courtney Giordano**, IC Institutional Relations and Communications Program Coordinator, has invited the Resale Shop to participate for the second time in the upcoming International Education Week celebration. Our team will represent various nations during the International Fashion Show that is scheduled during the International Café on Friday, November 20. Hope you can all come at noon to enjoy a Japanese lunch for only \$5 a person and see our



International Fashion Show, 2014

lovely ladies present their home country through fashion.

The Resale Shop would like to thank everyone, but in particular **Jan Tuomainen, Jane Potter, Edith Smargon, Margo Villarin, Marlena Poulin, Anne Rosenblatt, Karen Karis**, and the La Jolla consignment store that continues to supply us with high-end merchandise, for their generous recent donations.

We will have a Holiday sale on December 2, 3, and 4 with all sorts of goodies. Mark your calendar!

**International  
Fashion Show  
Friday, Nov. 20, 2015  
during Friday Café**



Ruth Newmark and Katya Newmark



Table 3 host Kelly O'Sullivan studying her list of table guests



Aerospace engineering major Trevor Irwin in conversation with Joan & Lou Adamo

## What You Said...

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



Ernest Mort (in red sweater) and students

The Friends Annual Membership Dinner with its scholarship awards ceremony attracts a diverse mix of guests: Friends, UCSD administrators, students, International Center staff (who graciously serve as table hosts), and a smattering of people from the community at large. It is rewarding when we hear from them.

☛ "I always enjoy the dinner. It's great that the seating arrangements mix people up. Every year, I talk to students from various departments, and I always learn something. I'm grateful for the opportunity to attend!"—**Zoe Ziliak Michel**, Graduate Fellowship Advisor, Graduate Division

☛ "At the Annual Dinner last week, when table 7 was seated—except for Joan [*Lou's wife, Joan Adamo, who was checking in guests*] still working at the entry—**Graciela Casas-Silva** took charge by introducing herself as staff and as our serviceperson for the evening. And for the first time in my memory, she also took a moment to introduce the scholarship recipients with a short piece about their work and interests. She introduced the rest of us as well. She had obviously prepared for this. Her impact on the rest of the evening was dramatic. Rather than the customary three or four independent, rather private, conversations going on with the person on one's left, or right, there were exchanges across the table with everyone engaged. We all learned about the specifics of the scholars' upcoming work, and how and why study abroad is so important to each of us.

I thought we all had received a special gift at table 7, and thanked Graciela for it before we left. Upon just a little reflection, I realized that Graciela may have done a terrific job implementing something that actually originated in the planning this year, and perhaps all the tables received a similar gift. Whatever the case may be, she deserves this kudo. And I recommend

that all staff servicepersons do or continue doing the same at future events."—**Lou Adamo**

*Indeed all table hosts received background information on each person seated at their respective tables*—RN

☛ "I just wanted to thank Friends of the International Center for putting on such a wonderful event last night. I am so grateful for my scholarship, and I really appreciate the mission of your organization and all of the work that you do!

I am already volunteering with the *Mommy/Daddy & Me* class on Wednesdays, but I am also interested in helping with social media, if you still need someone. In addition, I have event planning experience, so if you need someone to help with events like the scholarship dinner, please let me know.—**Emily E. Little**, Graduate Student, Department of Psychology

☛ "Thank you for all of your hard work and coordination for such a successful event. I had a great time getting to know the people at my table—what a fantastic bunch. Thank you again for all of your support with scholarships and for the beautiful evening!"—**Sheri Liebovich**, Office Manager & Study Abroad Advisor, Study Abroad Office

☛ "Thank you so much for having me at last night's festivities. Table 8 was fantastic! It was a pleasure to meet **Ernie Mort's** scholars in person. I also enjoyed meeting **Courtney [Giordano]**."—**Adrienne Hamilton**, Scholarship Stewardship Manager

☛ "It was a lovely evening, as always, and I'm sure you enjoyed meeting many of the scholarship recipients, as I did."—**Kim Burton**, EAP Director

As Scholarship Committee Chair, I had the pleasure of introducing this year's 57 Friends scholarship



recipients, virtually all of whom were present that evening. And in the absence of **Jennifer Leighton**, Associate Director of Development, Alumni & Community Engagement, who was ill, I also introduced the recipients of undergraduate scholarships funded by **Gail Fliesbach**, **Ernest Mort**, and **Marion & Kwan So**, Friends members all.

Having explained that the **Friends Scholarship Program** was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I was delighted to pass on a message from one of our earliest scholarship recipients. Not by chance had I received that day a note from **Cecilia Ubilla**, who came to UCSD in the 1970s as a literature graduate student from Chile to escape persecution by the **Pinochet** regime that had overthrown the duly-elected government of President **Salvador Allende**. Wrote Cecilia:

☛ “Please convey my best wishes to those who will be going abroad to expand or reinforce their education. I am with them. In spite of my years, I remember myself as a foreign student joyously receiving a scholarship from the Friends of the International Center.”

The October *Newsletter* listed our graduate and medical students; here follow the names of Friends undergraduate scholarship recipients, along with their destination and field of study.

### *Undergraduates Studying Abroad on EAP*



- **Joseph Breuer**—Denmark—Biochemistry
- **Noble Dwarika**—Spain—International Studies
- **Megg Garcia**—Sweden—Biochemistry
- **Cecilia Gomez**—Germany—Sociology
- **Vennis Hong**—Thailand—Global Health
- **Amber Knight**—Italy—History
- **Mikhaila Powers**—Japan—International Studies
- **Marshall Seid**—Scotland—Computer Science
- **Stephanie Smith**—Sweden—Nanoengineering
- **Ralph Torres**—New Zealand—Environmental Chemistry
- **Ved Vakharia**—Germany—Mechanical Engineering
- **Rosely Villa**—Singapore—Human Development
- **Yingtao Xie**—Chile—International Studies

### *Undergraduates Studying Abroad on OAP*



- **Alexandra Pryor**—Egypt—Global Health
- **Sara Rupp**—Chile—Writing  
David K. Crowne Memorial Scholarship
- **Shannon Subers**—Ecuador—Anthropology

### *Undergraduates Studying Abroad on Global Seminars*



- **Hoa Bui**—Greece—History
- **Alexis Buz**—Vietnam—Public Health
- **Chase DiBenedetto**—Germany—International Studies
- **Sarah Hutter**—Greece—Psychology
- **Trevor Irwin**—Scotland—Aerospace Engineering
- **Rainbow Lin**—Italy—Structural Engineering
- **Megan Ludington**—Jordan—Public Health
- **Daniel McFarland**—France—Aerospace Engineering
- **Nhut Nguyen**—Scotland—Human Biology
- **Thien Nguyen**—Greece—Physiology / Neuroscience
- **Yazmin Tenorio**—Jordan—Physiology / Neuroscience

☛ Discussing the importance of his Friends scholarship, Marshall College, Public Health major, **Alexis Buz** shared that without our scholarship, he would be unable to attend the Global Seminar program in Vietnam. Not only would he lose out on the opportunity to

study abroad, but he would also have lost his research internship opportunity with the professor leading the program—they will be studying the effects of Agent Orange and the United States' response to the damage left behind.

The evening's program concluded with **Kelly O'Sullivan**, Director of the UCSD Programs Abroad Office (recently renamed Study Abroad, UC San Diego) presenting not only the recipients of PAO scholarships but also the four UCSD students honored with a UC-wide study abroad scholarship.

• It was satisfying to hear Kelly say that availability of scholarships—Friends scholarships in particular—greatly helps study abroad advisors during their counseling sessions.

**Friends are proud to have been able to make scholarship awards totaling \$100,000 for our fiscal year 2014-2015.** Fifty-seven awards were made: 28 undergraduates received scholarships @ \$1,500 with an additional 25 graduate and 4 medical students receiving fellowships @ \$2,000.

Many thanked us for sending them photos of the annual dinner.

• President **Katya Newmark** received yet one more thoughtful note from our guest speaker, Vice Chancellor **Juan González**: "The event was great fun and certainly for a wonderful cause."

• About to leave for Greece on a Global Seminar, **Sarah Hutter** asked: "Is it ok to share these photos on Facebook and with family? Thank you."

• "Thank you for the lovely evening. I had a wonderful time; my table was a fantastic group of



Kristine Kneib seated with scholarship recipients going to Denmark, Germany, Scotland, and Singapore

people. Thank you for these pictures! I look forward to sharing updates and pictures in Oaxaca in the next months."—**Rebeca Espinoza**, Ph.D. candidate, Public Health, SDSU/UCSD

Particularly gratifying is that the dinner often leads to further get-togethers.

• Disclosed **Kristine Kneib**: "Immediately after I had visited at the reception with **Jim Galvin** [*International Center's Director of Opportunities Abroad and Faculty-Led Programs, including the Global Seminars*], who had told me about some of **Cecil Lytle's** Paris sessions coinciding with my visit to Paris in August, a young scholarship recipient, **Daniel McFarland** [see p.9 for his report], came up to me to introduce himself. He said he sees me in La Jolla at Mary, Star of the Sea Church at 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. Of all things, he tells me he is going to Paris to take Cecil Lytle's Global Seminar on jazz. So, I'll probably be seeing him there too. Isn't that all just great?"

*This is the third and final article on the 2015 Friends Annual Membership Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.*

## Death of Paul Yunouye

On September 18, **Dulce Dorado** sent out the following notice about the sudden death of **Paul Yunouye**: "It is with a very heavy heart that I write to inform you that our beloved colleague, Paul Yunouye, Assistant Director of the International Students & Programs Office, passed away on September 16. The autopsy report identified his cause of death as a brain aneurysm. This tragic loss is overwhelming for his family, friends, students, and colleagues. No words are sufficient to explain the loss we feel. We are all heart-broken and still in shock about Paul's passing."



Friends share in the loss of Paul and extend condolences to his wife and two young daughters.

## Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

- November 4: *Covering Boxes* of all shapes and sizes with beautiful fabrics under the expert guidance of **Lynn Jahn**, for use in the Resale Shop. It is our way of giving back to the Shop, which provides us with some of our supplies. We will break at 11:30 to start the party of a baby shower for **Chiaki Fugimura**, who is expecting at the end of December.
- November 11: *Veterans Day*. No meeting; campus closed.
- November 18: *International Kitchen*. We will meet in the kitchen at 9:30 to prepare a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. Lunch \$5 per person.
- November 25: *Making Stuffed Animals* for the children's Holiday Party.

*Mommy/Daddy & Me* will meet as usual on Wednesday mornings, except on November 11, Veterans Day, which is a National holiday.



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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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July 29, 2015

Dear Friends of the International Center,

I am writing to you from Paris, France. I received a scholarship from the Friends to attend a five-week Global Seminar in Paris studying jazz. I have had the opportunity to meet and listen to several great jazz artists in the classroom and around Paris.

The city itself is very impressive and I particularly enjoy the architecture. The churches are among the most magnificent buildings I have ever seen, not just for their structure, but for their history and religious significance. Though I must admit my French is severely limited, most people I have met have been very kind and helpful. My apartment is located in a largely residential neighborhood, which has allowed me to partake in the Parisian experience as my neighbors might.

The program is nearly over; I return on Saturday morning. I have had a fantastic time here in Paris and wanted to thank you again for supporting my studies with a scholarship.

*Daniel McFarland*

Sixth College, Aerospace Engineering major

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## Studies in Mexico

As a recipient of the 2014 Friends of the International Center *Ruth Newmark Scholarship*, I have had the opportunity to carry out a significant leg of my dissertation research. My dissertation explores the U.S. imagination of Maya ruins vis-à-vis three formative, though somewhat disparate representational moments between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the 1970s.

The first point of interest is the 19<sup>th</sup> century American expeditionary tradition and the politics of “ruin gazing” (the process through which ruins come to be seen as objects of study) in southeastern Mexico, concentrating on **Frederick Catherwood’s** architectural illustrations of Maya ruins, first published in explorer **John Lloyd Stephens’** 19<sup>th</sup> century travelogue texts on his jointly archaeological and diplomatic mission through areas of Yucatan, Chiapas, and Guatemala.

Mayan Revival architecture is the second subject of the dissertation, focused on architect **Frank Lloyd Wright** and his use of Pre-Columbian architectural forms to create a California vernacular style in the 1920s.

The third and final area of research centers on the Yucatán projects and writings of artist **Robert Smithson** and their operative role as reflective “antidotes” to Wright’s use of Maya forms and Stephens’ and Catherwood’s attempts to gain authority over Maya antiquity.

By addressing several works by the aforementioned figures, I aim to ex-



Mayan stela

plore the role of cultural heritage and hemispheric American antiquity in the national imagination, the changing notions of the pastoral, and key representations of Maya ruins therein.

The works of the aforementioned figures continue to have a significant impact on the understanding of Maya antiquity in the United States. However, scholarship on Stephens and Catherwood fails to provide a full account of how their legacy impacted 20<sup>th</sup> century representational extrapolations of Maya ruins into other disciplinary realms, such as American art and architecture. Likewise, a discussion of Wright’s and Smithson’s employment of Maya antiquity that situates their work amidst historical models of ruination has yet to be written. In fact, scholarship on both figures’ engagements with the Maya ruin is frequently marginalized altogether from the art historical narratives surrounding their broader practices. Settled as they are into autonomous configurations of the modernist moment—Wright in the Prairie School and organic architecture and Smithson in the conceptualist coda of the neo-avant-garde and the romantic pastoralization of American land art—each figure’s engagement with Maya ruins also represents a number of cultural and political phenomena that challenge hegemonic readings.

Characterized by the shifting relationship between U.S. national narratives and Maya antiquity, Stephens’ and Catherwood’s depictions of Maya ruins establish a context for discussing the 20<sup>th</sup> century representational paradigms of ruination exemplified by the case studies of Wright and Smithson. Wright’s exploits in the Mayan Revivalism, typified by buildings such as the 1924 Ennis House, and the dilapidated hotel of Smithson’s *Hotel Palenque* (1969-72) slide lecture are examples that illustrate changing

engagements with the historical representations of indigenous ruins. The anachronistic centrality of Maya ruins to these twentieth century art and architectural works shed light on the unusual and occasionally overlooked relationship between U.S. art historical modernism and Mesoamerican antiquity, but also problematize dominant readings of primitivism and the pastoral tradition in American art history.

Historically contextualizing selected works by the aforementioned explorers, artist, and architect will foster a more complex understanding of the role of ruination in the American imagination. Addressing some of the deeply rooted notions surrounding Maya antiquity as a case in point and how these notions played out in a few key examples of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, we can take a further

step in understanding how historical treatments of ruination have also impacted the idiosyncratic convergence of art historical modernism with the politics of nationhood in the United States.

During my time in Mexico thus far, I have been spending mornings at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH, National Institute of Anthropology and History) consulting their important collections related to the study of the Maya since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the afternoons, I make my way to Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) for an intensive language course. At the conclusion of my travels in Mexico, the Friends of the International Center scholarship will help me cover travel expenses for a three-week period of site visits to document several major Maya archaeological sites of

Stephens's and Smithson's travels in southeastern Mexico, including the ruins at Palenque, Uxmal, Yaxchilán, and many others. Additionally, I will be visiting the Casa Na-Bolom ["Jaguar House" in Tzotzil Maya] Library—the collection of acclaimed explorer and anthropologist **Frans Blom**—in the lovely mountain city of San Cristobal de las Casas during my trek through Chiapas.

Finally, I have just received some excellent news! I have been selected as a recipient of the UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grant, which will afford me the opportunity to complete the research I have begun with the support of the Friends of the International Center and the many UC faculty and affiliates who have served as mentors for my project.

*Elizabeth D. Miller*

Ph.D. candidate, Visual Arts

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August 25, 2015

Hello!

We are starting our 4<sup>th</sup> week here in Berlin, only two more to go. So far it has been amazing. I couldn't think of a better city to experience the merging of past and present, an almost surreal juxtaposition of historical tragedy, separation, and now a process of community building.

On our second day here, we visited the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Straße, a preserved piece of the wall that is accompanied by a commemoration to the separation of the city and to the victims. Being an avid history lover and being suddenly placed at the site of an actual historical event, I was completely overwhelmed (in a good way!).

Since then, it's been a whirlwind of tours, class, and personal trips. This past weekend we traveled to Munich and saw the Hohenschwangau castle. Absolutely breathtaking! I can't wait to see what else we manage to see in our final weeks in Germany.

Thank you again for the financial help in getting me here. I will forever be grateful.

I was interested in helping out with the Friends or working at the Center, but as of fall quarter I already have two jobs! Hopefully, my time will free up later this year. Thanks again!

*Chase DiBenedetto*

Global Seminar: Revolution, Industry, and Empire

Eleanor Roosevelt College

International Studies major

Hi Friends of the International Center!

I have just finished studying abroad in Rome, Italy through UCSD's Global Seminar program called "Mathematical Beauty in Rome." I have experienced a different culture and also seen wonderful mathematical and architectural wonders, such as the Colosseum and Pantheon that are still standing today. I gained great respect for Italians who have long developed a way to bring in clean and fresh water to the city. Water is abundant in Rome, and can be found on almost every other block in sources like fountains. Historical engineering skills, like the aqueducts, are absolutely wonderful and essential to a city like Rome.

During my first couple of weeks in Italy, I was culture shocked by how different the Italian lifestyle is to America's. However, I believe that I adjusted quite well, and actually began to eat and greet like a true Italian.

Even though my program only lasted 5 weeks, I have enjoyed learning new things and immersing myself in a new culture in that limited time. I also learned a lot about myself through this trip, which has allowed me to realize how grateful and fortunate I am to have experienced all this. Hopefully, in the near future, I will visit Italy again, as well as other countries, to broaden my knowledge and experience the world. I want to thank you for making my dream to study abroad come true. I really appreciate your generosity and kindness.

*Rainbow Lin*

Sixth College, Structural Engineering major

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