



Friends of the International Center,
at UC San Diego

Newsletter

Volume XLV, No. 2

October 2017

President's Column: Special Membership Vote

The academic year is off to a quick start with our volunteers and the International Center adding program offerings to accommodate the ever-increasing number of international scholars to our campus, projected to exceed last year's numbers of 5,240 international undergraduates (28,127 total); 2,698 international graduates (5,071 total), and 2,853 international faculty and scholars for a total of 10,791 representing ninety-nine countries. This number does not include family members.

Conversations with our administrators make clear the toll current politics is exacting, and I regret that the University and others must repeatedly take action to make basic tenets about nondiscrimination. That said, it is wonderful to be embedded with like-minded people who respect and value the importance of diversity and are willing to stand up for those that may not have a political platform.

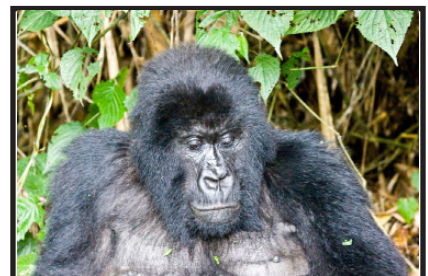
As a certified UC San Diego campus support group, the Friends, like others, are being asked to amend its bylaws to reflect the University's revised Policy on Nondiscrimination, which states:

University Policy on Nondiscrimination:

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and university policies, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services). The university also prohibits harassment based on these protected categories, including sexual harassment, as well as sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in university programs and activities.

This column serves as notice of a **Special Meeting for Members, to be conducted by mail, on November 13, 2017**, for the sole purpose

(continued on p. 2)



RESERVE!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
GREAT HALL,
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE**

JOIN US ON A TRIP TO
AFRICA WITH A DELICIOUS
CATERED DINNER
FOLLOWED BY
AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY
PROF. CHRISTOPHER WILLS
DESCRIBING SOME OF HIS AND
HIS WIFE'S AMAZING
ADVENTURES IN NAMIBIA,
RWANDA, TANZANIA, AND
OTHER OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACES

A FUNDRAISER FOR
FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIPS

To MAKE RESERVATIONS:
[http://
FICAfrica2017.eventbrite.com](http://FICAfrica2017.eventbrite.com)

RESERVATION DEADLINE,
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

Together with a related certificate for the fiscal year of 2017-2018, our Friends President received this letter, dated June 28, 2017, from the Office of the Chancellor:

Dear Ms. Newmark,

I am pleased to acknowledge the Friends of the International Center as an official support group of the University of California, San Diego. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Friends members for their significant support of the International Center, and student scholarships, as well as their contributions to the international experiences of our students both here and abroad. For 50 years, the Friends of the International Center have provided an integral part of the university experience for our international students and helped to share the diverse cultural landscape of San Diego.

It is a pleasure to recognize you and the members of your group for your continued efforts and commitment. The Friends of the International Center are an invaluable resource of UC San Diego's international community. I wish you every success with this and your future endeavors.

With Kind regards,
Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor

Donations

The Friends scholarship program has started off the academic year 2017-18 with several gifts. We are especially appreciative both of the donation as well as the sentiment expressed by **Richard Fitzsimmons**, brother of **Jerry Fitzsimmons**, who wrote: "this donation is in honor and memory of my mother, **Nan Kehoe Fitzsimmons** (1909-2008), on the ninth anniversary of her death. All the best wishes in the important and significant work the Friends do on behalf of international students."

Our most recent contribution came from **Nona Crampton**, who, it seems, is making this an annual happening. Thank you Nona for your firm belief in the importance of scholarships!

Several people made a donation to the UC San Diego Foundation designating their gift to the Friends scholarship account. We are most grateful to: **Laurette Verbinski** and to UCSD graduates **Niki Zamora** (2002) & **Trevor F. Henthorn** (1990).

Special Membership Vote (continued from p.1)

of approving the above language to replace the existing Nondiscrimination Policy set forth in Article XVI in our bylaws. You may review our current bylaws at: http://icenter.ucsd.edu/_files/friends/FICBylaws2014.pdf.

There will be no physical meeting and we need your participation/vote via e-mail or mail on or prior to November 13, 2017.

I ask that you complete and mail the *Nondiscrimination Policy Bylaw Amendment* on the back page of this *Newsletter* as directed, or, if you prefer to vote electronically, that you copy and paste the same information in your e-mail. **Please note that your participation is critical.**

On a lighter note, I am excited about the coming year's events and opportunities for our members, beginning this month with the American Regional Southern themed Friends Dinner Social on October 7th, and next month's African themed Ethnic Dinner and Scholarship Fundraiser on November 4th.

Thank you for your anticipated endorsement of diversity,

Katya

Katya Newmark, PresFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

Resale Shop

The Resale Shop team has enjoyed the extended summer break. However, due to the demolition of the International Center and associated parking lot construction, I had to empty out the container in the beginning of August. The shelves and parts of the content were transported to a storage unit by a UCSD moving team, although quite a few items were brought to the Shop. The container itself was also to be moved, but still remains where it has been all along. We hope to get the use of the container back before opening day.

The Shop received a lot of great donations. **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** and **Daniela Schmitt** helped me organize some of these. We are teaming up to ready the Shop for our reopening on September 26. Most of our team members will continue to volunteer—yay!

I do have one or two volunteer openings on Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested, please contact me at: shopFIC@ucsd.edu.

Marion Spors



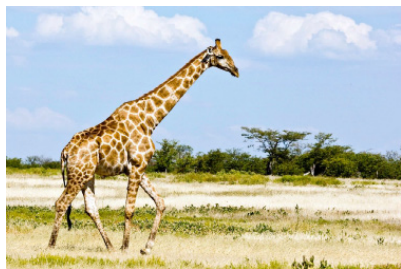
Friends Resale Shop

Springtime in Africa

—by Chris and Liz Wills with Photos by Chris



Rwanda dance festival



Namibia giraffe

A few years ago, we went on an unusually extensive safari through southern and eastern Africa.

We drove through the country of Namibia in Africa's southwest. We saw ostriches striding across the world's largest sand dunes, vast herds of fur seals on the Skeleton Coast, and plants that had survived the pitiless heat of the Namib Desert for a thousand years, along with the amazing wildlife of Namibia's highlands and Etosha Park.

In Botswana, just to the east, we explored the world's largest inland estuary and went hunting and gathering with the !Kung tribespeople. These people have survived in the Kalahari Desert for the better part of a hundred thousand years, since the time that their ancestors parted company with the ancestors of the rest of us.

We flew over Victoria Falls, in a helicopter surrounded by rainbows.

In the green and mountainous central African country of Rwanda we visited sites of the great genocide and trekked to see the mountain gorillas. These gentle primates, which are severely threatened, are now being protected and are starting to thrive in Rwanda's rainforests.

Along the way we saw an astonishing variety of animals and birds, all reveling in Africa's magnificent spring. We saw zebras and wildebeest gamboling in Tanzania's Ngorongoro Crater at the height of the wildflower season. And we went hunting for wild honey with the Hadza, another of Africa's remarkable hunter-gatherer peoples.

Throughout the trip we were able to photograph unusual animal behaviors and some of the world's most spectacular birds. The juxtaposition of ancient landscapes and ancient hunter-gatherer ways of life gave us a vivid glimpse of how our species first emerged in this richly-endowed part of the world.

We invite you to join us at the **Great Hall in I-House** in retracing our trip. To fortify you along the way, you will be served a magnificent Africa-themed repast (details follow). Proceeds from the evening will go to the Friends Scholarship Fund, and you will have a chance to hear from some of the scholarship recipients about their adventures around the world.

For reservation information, please see p.1.



Egyptian ibis landing on a Tanzania hippo

Food In Africa Varies As Much As The People Do!

—by Liz Wills

Eating locally sourced foods may be new for us, but in less developed parts of the world, it is what people have always done. No refrigerated trucks, no airfreight, not even networks of paved roads. And Africa is

so vast, there are few dishes that are Pan-African. Sometimes regional dishes do spread. *Jollof rice* originated in Sierra Leone, but it is now part of the cuisine of the tribes of all of West Africa.

In Ethiopia, we had stews served on *injera* bread that were just like those available on El Cajon Boulevard in San Diego. In Namibia, we pigged out at a buffet that featured the same animals that we had come halfway around the world to see. We had NOT expected to eat springbok, kudu, crocodile, or oryx (the best!), but enjoyed their distinct flavors grilled on a BBQ.

According to **Mimi Holland**, who wrote *The World on a Plate*, there are few distinctions among sauces, soups, and stews in West Africa. They have similar consistencies and are eaten with *fufu*, yams, or rice. *Fufu* is a carbohydrate base of pounded starches or roots that accompanies soups and stews. It is usually served in a big ball from which people break off bits to shape as an edible spoon.

The food depends on the economy. In 1994, **Chris** remembered seeing lots of food and prosperity in Zimbabwe and bare shelves and hungry people in neighboring Zambia. At that time, Zimbabwe was self-sufficient in food. On our recent trip, the situation had reversed, so that the shelves in Zimbabwe were so bare that we could not even figure out what they had been selling.

The manager of the resort where we stayed had to get up very early to go grocery shopping in Zambia, the country next door where things had turned around completely. He would buy just enough to feed the hotel guests. This resort, overlooking the gorge of the Zambezi below Victoria Falls, was built by an American friend of ours, to be a place where weddings and big celebrations



Botswana !Kung lady

would take place. Big buffets were a thing of the past now that food was so scarce.

In Botswana we went out with !Kung tribespeople to look for food. The young men with us threw rocks at iridescent beetles to knock them out of trees and then roasted them in a fire pit when we got back to camp. The truth is that the beetles were burnt and full of ash when we got to eat them, and you would need to eat buckets full to earn back the calories that you expended in catching them.

The !Kung ladies were able to find gourds buried about a meter underground, and excavated them with their bare hands. The flavor was very delicate, like a watery radish, and the gourds were a good source of moisture in the desert.

Our last food experience was hunting for wild honey with young men of the Hadza tribe near Lake Eyasi in Tanzania. The microbiomes of this tribe have been studied, and they differ greatly from ours. But, like us, they crave sweetness. We checked out every tree/bush/shrub to find a small beehive, and the small honeycomb was divided amongst all of us...a little taste of sweetness that

is rare in the desert.

The dishes at our Saturday, **November 4 Ethnic Dinner** will be more reflective of Africa's urban scene than of the bush. Barring last minute substitutions, the Pan-African menu will feature West African pumpkin soup with a peanut garnish, Nigerian *suya* (skewered meat), West African *jollof rice*, Namibia *morogo* (a leafy green vegetable), and South African malva pudding. Wine and rooibos tea, a caffeine-free drink also from South Africa, are included.

Cost: Friends members @ \$50, community @ \$60, UCSD students and international scholars @\$25.

Reservations:

FICAfrica2017.eventbrite.com

Deadline: October 25, 2017

October Calendar

Oct. 4, 18: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**, 1:45-2:45

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Everyday English**, 10:00-11:30

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Friday Chat**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 7: **Friends Dinner Social**, 6:30

Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31: **Gus' Table, English Conversation**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:30-3:30

Oct. 10: **Yoga Class**, Noon-1:00

Oct. 12, 19: **Cooking Class**, 9:00-Noon

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by *Mariko Usui*

Some of the regular Mommy/Daddy & Me kids have transitioned into schools. We will miss seeing them in the class and hope they are going to enjoy this new stage of their life.

For several of our international volunteer moms—**Bree Chunharas**, **Srisiri Siriwanarangsun**, and **Huanwei Cui**—this was their last summer with Mommy/Daddy & Me. Many families visited their respective last class to show appreciation of their two-year leadership contributions and to wish them bon voyage. Fortunately, in September, two new volunteers joined our leadership team; they are: **Chu-ying Lin** from Taiwan and **Mayo Kodera** from Japan.



Crafters show off zippered pouches they made under Lynn Jahn's tutelage

Tuesday Afternoons

—by *Jennie Chin*

The Craft Circle is doing well ever since **Lynn Jahn** introduced sewing projects to the group. During the summer, the sewing machines have been in non-stop usage, and now that many have been trained on how to use the machines, a number of the participants come in to work on their own projects and are able to set themselves up independently, which is nice to see.

Kristin Hannesdottir introduced a beginner's yoga class for participants from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m., which appears to be going well.

Family Orientation

—by *Nancy Homeyer*

Over the course of the summer, 45 people attended Family Orientation. In addition, there were lots of children and an occasional spouse. The number of school age children with their parents is high in August, as families arrive early to settle in and see about school for the children. Then September is even busier, as many international faculty and scholars come on September 1. This year there were 30 spouses expected to arrive on that day. All has gone well so far, though on two occasions we barely fit in the room with all the volunteers standing.

Wednesday Morning Coffee

"Wednesday Coffee has had a fun summer and despite the leaders' various vacations, we managed to have an activity every week. Some weeks we had more participants than others, but we feel we served our constituents. We are now planning the Fall Quarter and have enlisted several of our international visitors to teach a class." So wrote the program chair, **Georgina Sham**, from Turkey.

To this, **Lynn Jahn**, who has stepped in for Georgina while the latter is enjoying a well-deserved vacation, added: "We have been the last stop for Family Orientation hoping to encourage newcomers to stay and participate in the day's projects. We offer them coffee and food to make them feel comfortable, and show them that the Coffee is a great opportunity to meet others from their home country."



Making friendship and kumihimo bracelets was one of Wednesday Coffee's summer projects

Gus' Conversation Table

—by *Nori Faer*

It's been such an interesting summer. With a shortage of volunteers to lead while some of us were traveling, I identified **Jeihan Park** as a possible participant-leader. Much to my delight, she eagerly accepted the job, and approached her new role with gusto and an impressive amount of preparation. She doesn't come up short on interesting topics to discuss. Recently,

discussion centered on tension and potentially related intestinal problems, leading to an exploration of what makes us nervous and what we can do to better manage our anxiety. Jeihan has developed the skill to make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak. The group enjoys her, as do **Susan Graceman**, **Claire Harootunian**, and I.

Friends Volunteer
Hours
for August
446 = 2.53 FTEs



Lou and Joan Adamo



Flowers reflect the evening's golden theme



Mayank Chadha, Ruth Newmark, and Peter Braden

The Value of Scholarships

—by Ruth Newmark with photos by Lou Adamo, Katya Newmark, and Justin Costello



Katya Newmark and Alex Kershaw

- I am so honored to receive the Friends of the International Center fellowship! I am very much looking forward to meeting you and the other members of the Friends of the International Center at the scholarship awards ceremony.—**Charlotte Beall**, Ph.D. candidate in climate science, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- This is such wonderful news. I feel honored to have been awarded a Friends of the International Center fellowship.—**Alex Kershaw** from Australia, Ph.D. candidate in art history, theory, and criticism, Visual Arts
- That is wonderful news! Thank you! That will help immensely!— **Haley Ciborowski**, Ph.D. candidate in Public Health with concentration on global health
- I am so excited to hear that the Friends of the International Center are willing to help me study in Germany. It means so much to me to have this assistance. I cannot wait to meet some of the wonderful people who have helped make this happen.—**Alexandria Vollhardt**, Literatures of the World major, Revelle College, recipient of the Friends *David K. Crowne Memorial Scholarship*

As Friends Scholarship Committee Chair I am in the enviable position of receiving many words of thanks from our scholarship recipients. Above are just a few I received upon notifying the 26 graduate, 4 medical students, and 34 undergraduates that they were chosen to receive a 2017 Friends of the International Center scholarship.

To know that a small sum of money (\$2,000 for graduate students, \$1,500 for undergraduates) can bring happiness is rewarding, but more often than not students point out that our scholarship provides far more than financial benefits. Recipients stress that the award boosts self-confidence, launches them on the road of writing grant applications, helps in garnering further awards, and, above all,

makes them feel valued. By example, I quote from an e-mail by **Mayank Chadha**, here from India's Nicobar Islands, working towards a doctorate in structural engineering and the recipient of one of the two Friends 2017 *Ruth Newmark Scholarships*. Shortly after the Scholarship Awards Dinner, Mayank wrote:

“Dear Mrs. Ruth, Thank you for making us part of this very caring Friends of the International Center family. More than financial aid, I think this effort of yours and many others adds up to our confidence. Thanks again from the core of my heart. Kindly let me know if you ever need me for anything that I could do for Friends and you.”

For a similar point of view, I enjoyed getting this note from **Daniela Vidart**, a 2016 fellowship recipient

from Colombia and Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Economics:

“I am extremely grateful for the Friends of the International Center for your support. I truly feel that the strong sense of community that the International Center at UCSD brings forward is instrumental in making international students feel welcome during the duration of their studies.”

For undergraduates, the scholarship may well convince family that study abroad is a worthwhile pursuit and more often than not the scholarship tends to lead to life-changing experiences.

Because the Friends of the International Center's Membership Dinner with its large scholarship awards component is such an important part of our annual activities, a fair amount of *Newsletter* space is

devoted to its coverage. Added to this is the fact that the *Newsletter* serves as the primary source of the Friends history. In the September issue, I presented an overview of the evening, focusing on the election of Friends officers for 2017-18, the guest speakers, and the general feeling of community experienced and noted by those present, not the least by several students.

In this issue, I will concentrate on the scholarship awards ceremony, no doubt the highlight of the evening. The scope of guests has grown over the years, in large part because Friends are giving greater numbers of awards each year, but even more because we have extended the guest list to include both donors and scholarship recipients of awards other than our own, some of which the Friends Scholarship Committee helps select, others because the students' accomplishments would otherwise not be feted.

Finding a venue large enough proved to be a challenge, but with the help of the Chancellor's Office, we settled on the Multipurpose Room in the Student Services Center that by holding the initial reception in the adjacent courtyard could seat our 150+ guests. We did have to explain to some of the scholarship recipients that regrettably we could not accommodate spouses, significant others, mentors, or others they would have liked to bring, but all graciously understood. By adding some decorative touches, the rather barren room was made to look festive, and the sound system was excellent—far superior to what we had been used to in the past.

As Friends Scholarship Committee Chair, it fell to me to say a few words before presenting the Friends scholarship recipients. Here, as then, I thank each and everyone who, despite the physical loss of our International Center, made it possible for the Friends



Bahram Kheramand, Jan Tuomainen, Tony and Conrad Fung, Renate Schmid-Schoenbein (back)

scholarship program to flourish. We can all be proud that for our fiscal year 2016-17, we made more awards than ever—64 to be specific, with a total value of \$110,000.

Particular thanks go the volunteers in our **Resale Shop**, to our **Ethnic Dinner** and **Friends Dinner Social** teams, and to the many generous **individual donors** who helped us accomplish this goal.

And, of course, we thank our **University colleagues** that partner with us in our joint support of international education. In particular, we thank the **Office of the Chancellor, Student Affairs**, the **Graduate Division**, the **Medical School**, the **Financial Aid and Scholars Office**, the **UC Education Abroad Program**, **University Development**, **UCSD Housing, Dining, and Hospitality**, and, especially, the **International Center** for all their help—financial and otherwise.

We thank each and everyone who, despite the physical loss of our International Center, made it possible for the Friends scholarship program to flourish. We can all be proud that for 2016-17 we made more awards than ever—64 to be specific, with a total value of \$110,000.

There are many others who support us in our endeavors; please know that we appreciate you all!



Medical students Bannett Muhoozi and Susan Saev with Carol Robertson, who is seen shaking hands with the Friends Teclé Kidane-Mariam scholar



Nari Shin, Carol Smith, Luke Johns, and Taciana Durrant

A special note of gratitude goes to the members of the Friends Scholarship Committee who read—with care—165 or so scholarship applications and helped choose not only the recipients of our own awards, but also helped in the selection of many of the other scholarship recipients present that night. I thank my fellow Committee members: **Jeri Abernathy, Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Kathy Hodges, Louise Kauffman, Candace Kohl, Katya Newmark, and Carol Smith**, and express compliments to **Gail Fliesbach** for making the scholarship certificates.

The Committee couldn't do the thorough job we expect of ourselves, if it weren't for the letters of recommendation written by **faculty** and others, and certainly not without the help of the **university staff** involved in disseminating information about Friends scholarships and preparing applications for us.

Friends appreciate having staff among our guests and hearing their remarks. Said **Becky Burrola, Sr. Graduate Student Employment Coordinator** in the Graduate Division,

seated, among others, with two doctoral candidates in the History Department, one in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and another in Structural Engineering: "I really enjoyed talking with everyone at our table, and was particularly interested in hearing about what the history and engineering students are doing. Since we focus on administrative work, it's refreshing to hear about the cutting edge research taking place right here on campus."

The value of a Friends scholarship cannot be overestimated. This was best expressed by one of last year's recipients, **Olga Lazitski**, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Communication and a native of Russia, who wrote:

"I want to thank the **Friends of the International Center** from the bottom of my heart. Your incredible help is not limited to financial support that is surely extremely important. Your moral support is also vital for me as an international student. You have done everything to make me feel confident in my ability to produce an important piece of scholarship, to deal with my personal hardships, and to obtain a sense of belonging to the community I happen to live in now. Thank you for everything. And please keep doing what you are doing for us and for the entire humanity!"

Here follow the names, destination or country of origin, and field of study of our postgraduate students.



International Graduate Students

Pavimol Angsantikul	Thailand	NanoEngineering
Noni Brynjolson	Canada	Visual Arts
Valentina Calvache	Colombia	Literature
Mayank Chadha	Nicobar Islands	Structural Engineering
	<i>Ruth Newmark Scholarship</i>	
Taciana Durrant	Brazil	Anthropology
Alexander Kershaw	Australia	Visual Arts
Sang Eun (Eunice) Lee	S. Korea	Literature
Xuanyi (Michelle) Ma	China	Bioengineering
	<i>Diane Lin Memorial Scholarship</i>	
Daniel Ortiz Vélez	Colombia	Bioengineering
	<i>Luna Fung Scholarship</i>	
Manel Palos Pons	Spain	Communication
Udit Parekh	India	E & C Engineering
Ivana Polic	Croatia	History
Kittiporn Rodvanich	Thailand	Theatre & Dance
	<i>Fitzsimmons Scholarship</i>	
Wun Kiat (Justin) Tan	Singapore	Bioengineering
	<i>Luna Fung Scholarship</i>	
Duy Trinh	Vietnam	Political Science

Domestic Graduate Students

Charlotte Beall	Arabian Peninsula	SIO
Peter Braden	China	History
	<i>Ruth Newmark Scholarship</i>	
Garrett Bredell	Japan	Political Science
Haley Ciborowski	Guatemala	Public Health
Julia Clark	Tunisia	Political Science
Banah Ghabdian	Turkey/Jordan	Ethnic Studies
Luke Johns	France	Physics
	<i>Carol & Stuart Smith Scholarship</i>	
Lauren Linsmayer	Panama	SIO
Omar Padilla	Mexico	Ethnic Studies
Jorge Ramirez	Mexico	History
Matthew Sitek	Peru	Anthropology



Medical Students

Luke Burns	Mexico	School of Medicine
Bannett Muhoozi	Uganda	School of Medicine
	<i>Tecele Kidane-Mariam Scholarship</i>	
Zoe Renner	Nepal	School of Medicine
Susan Saev	Peru	School of Medicine

We will report on the undergraduates next month.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Lesvos, Greece

My name is **Hedieh Matinrad** and I just graduated with an M.D. from UCSD School of Medicine. In my final year of medical school, with the scholarship that **Friends of the International Center** graciously offered me, I was able to go to Lesvos, Greece and volunteer at a refugee camp, both clinically and as a Farsi translator.

The camp I attended is called “Kara Tepe” and is mostly comprised of refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, though refugees from the Congo, Iran, as well as Kurdish refugees from multiple countries were also camp residents. There are many NGOs that run different services—from food distribution, to washing machines, sports, and children’s activities, while the Greek government is in charge of the camp’s administration.

Emergency Response Centre International (ERCI) was the organization that kindly accepted me as a volunteer. It originally started as a search and rescue crew, finding and bringing to shore boats of refugees crossing the water between Turkey and the Greek island of Lesvos. ERCI has since expanded and now provides swimming lessons for children (initiated by my fellow volunteer, **Sarah Mardini**, herself a refugee, who was a competitive swimmer in Syria), a clinic, and many other ancillary services.

Additionally, I worked with an organization called **DocMobile** that had a mobile clinic on various locations of the island, serving anyone who needed medical attention.

My experience there began with surprises. As a native Farsi speaker, I quickly found out that Farsi-speaking residents of Kara Tepe (generally Afghans, Iranian Kurds, or Iranians) were delighted to have a volunteer there who could connect with them in their own language, translate for



Hedieh Matinrad with ERCI at a Greek refugee camp

them, and advocate their needs to the camp administration or NGOs. The children soon began to call me “Khaleh Hedieh” meaning “Auntie Hedieh” and the teenagers, “Doktor Hedieh” upon learning that I would soon be receiving my M.D. They were all so loving and excited to meet a fellow Farsi speaker who now lives in the States, asking me about my own immigration story, which I used as an opportunity to give them hope for their future. I began to call one of the teenagers who is interested in pursuing medicine, “Doktore Ayande,” meaning “Future Doctor.”

My surprises continued into the clinical work. I was in clinic with a U.S.-based physician and nurse, both white women who did not speak Farsi. It was a privilege to be able to speak to patients in my, and their, native tongue. The majority of the concerns were primary care or psychiatric issues.

One story that stands out is of a middle-aged woman from Afghanistan who came in for knee pain. She described the pain as a *tir*, typically meaning shooting pain. It took some time and further history taking for me to learn that what she meant by *tir* was actually that she had been shot

in that leg. I was taken aback. This double meaning of a word had gotten me in trouble, because despite having spent time with these refugees, I had forgotten the violence, war, and devastation they had escaped.

Another notable story is of a young Afghan man, who was living in an abandoned building occupied by a German Anarchist group, and repurposed as a home for single male refugees (a different refugee camp for single males exists on Lesvos, the conditions of which are brutal). This plump Afghan male asked me: “Doctor, I want a pill that will curb my appetite. I eat too much!” I proceeded to discuss with him that diet and exercise are the starting grounds of losing weight, soon learning that his diet consists of what the NGO provides him, and his exercise is limited by lack of equipment and space. It struck me as such a universal shame that people whose only aim is escaping war, are mandatorily stuck on an island, with limited resources, wasting away—yet they continue to strive for and seek improvement in themselves.

DocMobile has clinic both at the previously mentioned, abandoned house and at a community center, a little ways from Kara Tepe Camp. I was fortunate enough to aid in the starting of a dental clinic by DocMobile where a German dentist and an Afghan refugee dentist were collaborating to provide dental services to community center attendees. **Dr. S.H.** is a dentist from Kabul, whose husband and brother were killed and she was forced to flee with her children, her brother’s children, and her elderly mother. She lamented telling me about her dental practice in Afghanistan. When I looked at her, I saw my mother, I saw my aunt (an OBGYN in Iran), with so much intelligence, talent, and passion for providing health-

care to people. Yet Dr. S.H. has been in this camp for 10 months, doing basically nothing day in and day out. She was excited to practice again as a dentist and help the other refugees living at the camp. DocMobile was able to purchase some basic equipment she needed, and although she needed translation help, it was empowering for her to use her valuable skills again. Humorously, at one point the Arabic speaking patient's translator translated to English, I translated from English to Farsi, and through

this chain, Dr. S.H. was able to deliver healthcare.

I would be remiss to gloss over the inspiring volunteers I met: people from Syria, Spain, Germany, and the U.S., who humbly offer their services. I learned so much from them, and had the privilege of fasting during Ramadan with the inspiring Syrian swimmer, Sarah Mardini.

The strength and resilience I witnessed in the refugees was something I wish every American would see; perhaps then, as a country, we

would have a different attitude toward the refugee crisis.

I am grateful to have traveled to Lesvos and plan on returning once I have completed my first year of residency in Internal Medicine, at which point I will function as a licensed physician. Thank you so much for this opportunity. It was an awakening experience.

In June 2017, Hedieh Matinrad moved to San José to start residency at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center..

Ever since 2009, when she received a Friends study-abroad scholarship, Mabel Zhang and I have carried on an intermittent correspondence in which Mabel revealed that her undergraduate study at the University of Edinburgh opened her eyes to robotics and artificial intelligence, prompting her to continue her postgraduate education (B.S. in computer science at UCSD in 2011), working towards a Ph.D. degree in robotics at the University of Pennsylvania. On the way, she has earned an MSE in 2013, has become a skilled teacher, and published several professional papers. Having heard from her friend Richard Chim about the planned razing of the UCSD International Center, she signed a 2016 petition to save it. In July of this year, I received a further update.

Friends know Richard Chim well from his years of volunteering at our special events, and even after earning his Ph.D. in Physics this Spring, Richard returned on July 4th to help serve food at our celebratory picnic. —Scholarship Committee Chair

Hi Ruth,

Greetings from LA! How have you been? I am in LA for a few months to work on my thesis research and a publication with a collaborator at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in the official form of an internship.

I know I owed you an e-mail since my trip to Korea and Japan last October, and I drafted it, but I never had a chance to organize my photos. So it never got sent, and now it's outdated. It was a great trip overall; I really loved it and hope to visit Japan again some day. This year, my paper was accepted to the same IROS conference (International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems), so I will go to Vancouver in late September.

A few weeks ago, I got a chance to go down to UCSD for the **Dalai Lama's** public address. There were useful takeaways for me personally, most notably his tips on being happy, being kind to others, and less "we vs. they" and more "us as one" as far as diversity goes. A few months ago, I read a book, *The Noodle Maker of Kalimpong*, written by his brother, **Gyalo Thondup**, for a time the head of Tibetan



Mabel Zhang and Richard Chim

foreign affairs. I learned so much and got interested in what kind of a person the Dalai Lama is, so when I saw that he would be at UCSD again, I jumped on the opportunity.

Richard Chim and I attended the public address. We sat as close to the stage as we could find seats, so I tried my best to get close-up photos of the Dalai Lama. In my camera zoom, I could see him smiling like a child to different people in the audience. It was so great.

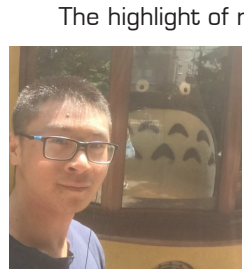
Richard and I forgot to take a photo at UCSD, but we made up for it this weekend when he briefly visited LA. We thought it might make you smile.

Mabel Zhang

Update: Friends 2010 scholarship recipient **Leo Trottier**, cofounder of **CleverPet**, is using his knowledge of neuroscience towards the development of pet feeders designed to entertain dogs while their owners are away. Relying on a dog's ability to see colors, the device requires the dog to identify a sequence of colors to get a treat.

Hello,

Greetings from Japan. I have been having a thrilling adventure in the land of the rising sun. Japan has a fascinating culture with a unique relationship with nature, technology, and humankind. I only wish I had more time to experience the culture a little while longer.



Gregory Loui
outside Ghibli Museum

The highlight of my trip so far has been my visit to the Ghibli Museum. I grew up on Studio Ghibli films thanks to the fact that Hawaii is pretty much submerged by Japanese culture. One of the first memories I have is of watching the animated film *My Neighbor Totoro*, back when I was in preschool. I still remember how I wanted to have a Totoro of my own. From that point on my progression and immersion in Ghibli films was pretty much assured. So, to be at the Ghibli Museum and to see the beginnings—the history of my childhood—was a dream come true. It was more like being in a playground or an amusement park than being in a museum, especially with how many of the activities were structured for young children. Well, that and the replicas of the workshops. It was fascinating to see the scene drawings of the various films, from the first to the very last, to see the progression of the work, the polishing needed to make it into the masterpieces that they are. I am a little bummed that we didn't get to take pictures though.

It was also inspiring, as a speculative creator myself, to see the compiled works of one of the great speculative creators of our time. At first, I was resistant to take some of the themes that **Miyazaki** often uses within his films—themes such as nature, tragedy, and the moral ambiguity in the world—because I was just a young kid who didn't know any better and who just wanted explosions and cool shit, but as I matured, I began to see the wisdom in Miyazaki's works and the need for mature themes that can speak to everyone to create classic works that will not just stand the test of time, but also influence people in the real world. It was stunning to see how Miyazaki wove his themes into the fabrics of all his stories. Also, Miyazaki's honorary Oscar was pretty cool.

Gregory Loui, Global Seminar, Sixth College, Speculative Design major



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Nondiscrimination Policy Bylaw Amendment

*If voting by regular mail, please print this page, complete as indicated and return to:
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I, _____, am a member in good standing and hereby vote to
(fill in complete name – one name only per ballot)

(circle) approve / disapprove

the replacement of the existing provision in Article XVI in its entirety that states:

In compliance with the policy of the University of California, the organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, age, marital status, or sexual preference. This nondiscrimination policy covers membership selection, activities, policies, and practices of Friends of the International Center.

So that Article XVI of the Friends of the International Center Bylaws will now read:

University Policy on Nondiscrimination:

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and university policies, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services). The university also prohibits harassment based on these protected categories, including sexual harassment, as well as sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in university programs and activities.

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