President’s Column

Since its inception, Friends programs have always embraced food, understanding the importance of food and its ability to bring people together in a way that nothing else can. The sharing of food is like breaking bread, it’s very symbolic.—Robert Irvine (Contemporary Chef)

It is easy to say food holds this power because food is a universally shared, quotidian necessity; but, in my opinion, this explanation is far too cold and clinical. Food is much more than providing us required calories to sustain our physical beings: food is our culture, food shapes our identities, food provides us comfort, food conjures memories of home, and food provides a forum for community to take root.

Whether we sit around a table or stand on a sidewalk, we become equals with those around us embarking on a culinary journey together … our individual identities, ethnicities, religion, economic class, and politics give way to the common and shared pursuit and enjoyment of our proverbial “breaking bread” together. When we take a bite and savor the flavors exploding in our mouths, we immediately share a connectedness to nature; to the strangers who have grown, transported, and prepared our food; and to a world larger than ourselves. Forgive the New Age reference, but when we eat, we are present and living in that moment, and it is in that moment that we are able to reach across any divide and discover the humanity of our fellow diners, and the simplicity of living connected side-by-side without socially contrived barriers.

Through exposure and discussions related to food, we become comfortable with cultures and ways of living outside our own, and generally leave with a new-found respect for what be-

Proposed Slate of Officers

At the Friends March 12, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, the Nominating Committee, consisting of Jean Selzer, Georgina Sham, with Linda Ferri as chair, proposed the following slate of officers for the year 2019-2020. The motion was unanimously approved, and the following slate will be presented to the membership for a vote at the Friends Annual Membership Dinner to be held on Tuesday evening, May 21, 2019, at the Student Services Center’s Multipurpose Room.

Slate of Officers to Be Placed in Nomination for the Year 2019-2020

President: Katya Newmark
Vice President, Membership: Georgina Sham
Recording Secretary: Jean Selzer
Treasurer: Linda Ferri
Corresponding Secretary: Renate Schmid-Schoenbein
friend was foreign to us.

Friends daily programs open the door to a wealth of never-ending discussions about food: e.g., where is it polite to slurp your soup and should you change your personal practices to conform to a culture where your behavior might be perceived as impolite? Attend our English conversation programs to share in discussions like this. Attend our daily programs and you might be treated to Lynn Jahn’s American pineapple cake, or to Caroline Luciani’s French crêpes, or to a wide variety of Asian savories and sweets—through our exchanges of food, we deepen our understanding of the world, our similarities and differences, and even begin to appreciate the nuances between rice from Iran, rice from Mexico, rice from Japan....

Our Visit an American Home program is all about food as a universally recognized gesture of hospitality—we are always looking for more hosts! If you really want to make a friend, go to someone’s house and eat with him. The people who give you their food give you their heart.—Cesar Chavez

And, you have only to read our pre- and post-evening event articles to appreciate that through food, Friends continues to fulfill its missions fostering a sense of community. One-by-one, through new connections made and a sense of optimism borne through the shared experience of an evening’s meal, we leave emboldened to help change the world. As J.R.R. Tolkien wrote: “If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.”

I look forward to seeing you at our next Friends Dinner Social, featuring the food and culture of Spain.

Katya
Katya Newmark
PresFIC@ucsd.edu

Friends Dinner Social: #SpainInDetail
—by Katya Newmark

Our final Friends Dinner Social of this academic year takes us to the effervescent land of Spain, with its catchy slogan #SpainInDetail. From our reception icebreaker/game to our post-dinner flamenco performance with UC San Diego’s own Dean of Undergraduate Education, John Moore, on guitar, you will become immersed in the energy and vitality that Spain is known for. To this energy, add the undeniably delicious Spanish cuisine with a menu featuring both well-known and lesser-known, iconic Spanish dishes, and you will leave the evening feeling fully sated:

- **Tapas: Croquetas de Pollo (Chicken Croquettes), Datilos con Tocino (Dates with Bacon)**
- **Sopa: Salmorejo (Tomato Soup)**
- **Bufé:**
  - Pollo al Ajillo (Garlic Chicken)
  - Albondigas (Meatballs)
  - Tortilla Española (Spanish Potato Omelet)
  - Alubias con Arroz (Beans & Rice)
  - Espinicas con Garbanzos (Spinach with Garbanzos)
  - Ensalada de Rúcula, Uva y Almendra con Vinagreta (Arugula Salad with Grapes and Marcona Almonds with a Vinaigrette Dressing)
- **Postre: Crema Catalana (Spanish Custard)**

*vegetarian tapas available upon request

For additional information and reservations please visit: [https://fdsspain2019.eventbrite.com](https://fdsspain2019.eventbrite.com)

Please make your reservations quickly, and no later than April 12th, since space is limited and each of our Friends Dinner Socials has sold out!

Make Your Reservation:
Friends Dinner Social: Spain
Saturday, April 20, 2019, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.,
Village 15th floor

Membership

We are happy to report the names of several new members; they are: Teresa & Dick Norris, Pamela Omres, Alysson & Travis Satterlund, and Klaas Van Der Wey & Jason Woltman. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Alysson Satterlund, had hoped to join Friends at our upcoming Annual Dinner in May, but sadly other commitments are taking precedence. Please welcome our new members to the family of Friends.
Numerous attendees at our evening events have raved about the opportunity to meet people of different ages and backgrounds. Upon attending our recent Ethnic Dinner, Sridip Pal, a brilliant recipient of a Friends fellowship (see his scholarship report on p. 9), wrote the following day: “Let me know if there are other events like this. I would love to attend and mix with diverse people; in fact, I hardly get a chance to mix with people outside Physics, so this is an excellent opportunity for me.”

By no means are Friends efforts to build community limited to making our international scholars and families feel wanted. Building community is inherent in our outreach far and wide. Let me illustrate with the following story.

Our President, Katya Newmark, has established a fine relationship with the wait staff at our special dinners, in part by always sending them a note of thanks. Commenting on the February 23 Indian Dinner, Roy Givon, the owner of the bar services we use, replied: “It is always a pleasure to get your e-mails by the next morning, with kind words and great pictures. I will make sure to share those with Lauren,” Lauren being our usual bartender.

As Katya tells it: “Lauren keeps the corks for us, which are often given to Liz [Fong Wills] to give to Ginny Young, who uses them for craft projects. Ginny made Lauren a cork planter that Liz gave Lauren last night. Lauren gushed, saying something like: ‘This is perfect, since I can’t keep plants alive.’” When Ginny learned that Lauren sets aside the corks for Friends to use for craft projects, she picked up a couple of little bunches of artificial tulips that she thought Lauren might like and placed them in one of her cork boxes. “I thought it would be nice to give her a little token of our appreciation.”

Weavers, according to David Brooks, “live for others and are more joyful as a result.” Small acts of kindness bring us together, building community by community: creating weavers.
Visiting an American Home
—orby Linda Ferri

The evening before Yukina Nakazawa and family were scheduled to come for brunch, my husband, Norb, and I met the Kato family (at Friends Dinner Social: Vietnam) and invited them to join us. It was a good thing, because the Nakazawas had unexpected car trouble, forcing them to postpone their visit.

The Katos arrived bearing a lovely bouquet of flowers. They were very complimentary of both our home and each dish served. Taka is a visiting scholar in bio-engineering, and Mia is a stay-at-home mom while they are growing their family. They were interested in things such as how we select schools for our children and in the school application process.

They told me that this was the first time they’d been inside an American home. I was quite surprised to hear this, since they’ve been here since August.

The baby had a great time playing with Jenga blocks and was captivated by the flowers in our courtyard garden, and Mia’s mom, who was visiting for two weeks, loved our showing them the house.

Good thing we have the Visit an American Home program and the Friends Dinner Socials, since this fun brunch would never have happened without the serendipitous connection triggered by these two programs!

We are rescheduling the visit with Yukina, chair of Friends Mommy/Daddy & Me program, and her family.

Please contact Elisabeth Marti (hostFIC@ucsd.edu), if you, too, would like to invite some of our international scholars to your home.

Friday Chat
—orby Cindy Tozer

We continue to gather after tennis and talk about whatever happens to spark the conversation or we go around the circle as each takes a turn to answer a question that Michelle Grandin has sent for the participants to ponder. Most often it is a question designed to both challenge their expression in English and to show their personalities—so we get to know each other better. And we do! We have discussed topics such as: memorable firsts, “Would you rather have many good friends or one very best friend?” and so much more. One Friday, we talked about what we were doing before starting our career. This prompted Saori Yao and Kazuyo Ando to get up and show us a cheerleading move.

On March 1, we went to Dr. Seuss’ birthday party at the Geisel Library.

Dr. Seuss’ 115th Birthday Celebration

Everyday English
—orby Pat and Irma Canan

Our attendance generally is about 6-8 plus the conveners. We bring subjects to talk about, and the conversation develops breadth and depth in the course of the discussion. In the end, we consistently get a robust exchange.

We continue to note improvement in fluency, range, and confidence of our participants in conversational English. Lots of laughter, and we learn a great deal from one another.

On March 1, we went to Dr. Seuss’ birthday party at the Geisel Library, put on our party hats, ate cupcakes, and took photos. I think there were about 15 of us.

It’s all so much fun, and Michelle Grandin, Eileen Tozer, and I welcome any of you to come join the fun at 10 a.m., Fridays, in the Dance Hall of Building 409.
When I was a sophomore in college, I was given the chance to go to Australia as an exchange student. Even though it was a short one-month stay, the experience played a huge part in my life, and led me to travel to 15 countries while still in college. The more countries I visited, the more I wanted to work with people from other places.

Upon graduation, I started working at the Bank of Japan as a human resource specialist. Because the Bank of Japan is the central bank of Japan, we had hundreds of thousands of international conferences each year. Along with my HR job, I arranged conferences and in this way had many opportunities to work with people from all over the world.

In talking with attendees, I learned that the practice of human resource management was quite backward in Japan, and it made me want to connect more and more with new people and to seek higher education abroad. When my husband asked me if I would come to the United States with him in his pursuit of a Ph.D. in economics at UCSD, I immediately answered yes, full of excitement about the possibility of attending graduate school myself.

After moving to San Diego, I started ESL school, which helped me to transfer to graduate school majoring in human resources. In both schools, I made a lot of friends, some local, some from other countries.

I enjoyed studying, experiencing a new culture, and meeting new people. In my second year of graduate school, I had my first child. My main job turned from studying to being a fulltime mom, leading me to leave school temporarily. Even though I was happy to be a mom and enjoyed being with my precious son, I felt that I had lost all my San Diego friends, as none had a child.

I had no one to talk to about baby and motherhood. Most kids’ classes are not intended for little babies, and I was struggling to find a place to make mom friends. Then I recalled that I had attended FIC’s Family Orientation a few years back. I found the Friends of the International Center’s webpage and reached out to the chair of a program called Mommy/Daddy & Me— Mariko Usui. Even though my son was only six months old and could hardly sit up by himself, and could not be expected to participate in circle time, I needed the class.

With very kind words, Mariko explained that babies were welcome. I will never forget our first MDM class. I was a little nervous, fearing my son might be too young to participate, but moms and dads were so friendly and welcoming that I immediately felt comfortable. The Mom friends I met at MDM were always supportive and lent me a hand, especially when I returned to graduate school and faced difficulties balancing study and family.

Originally, I attended Mommy/Daddy & Me basically to chat, but after my son turned one, he actually started enjoying dancing to nursery rhymes and doing crafts. Now that he’s close to two, he has learned a lot of English words, just as I learn new vocabularies by attending the Mommy/Daddy & Me class.

When Mariko asked me to take over her chair position, I was honored to be asked, but at the same time, I was hesitant to accept, as I had a few courses left to finish my master’s degree and had no experience in either childcare or teaching.

Deciding to lead Mommy/Daddy & Me was a big decision for me; what pushed me is that I like to challenge myself. Also, recalling the time that I had no mom friends, I wanted to help other international families in need of a little encouragement.

Currently, I volunteer with Fernanda Ana Sosa Vatiz from Mexico and Megumi Inui from Japan. Both are passionate about their work with MDM and try very hard to make families connect. Holding graduate degrees themselves, they understood my problems, and are not only my co-volunteers, but also my best friends who helped me to survive graduate school.

I am so lucky to have this opportunity to be the program chair for Mommy/Daddy & Me. This will be an experience for which I will forever be grateful.

Meet Yukina Nakazawa: Juggling Study and Family

Yukina Nakazawa with son Alex
Danya Costello paints wall decor

The performers: Swetha Godavarthi, Nandkishore Prakash, Sunandha Srikanth

Liz Fong Wills assembles table centerpieces

Barbara & Jerry Fitzsimmons, John & Eileen Tozer

The Friends Ethnic Dinner Team Does It Again! —by Liz Fong Wills

The February Northeast Indian dinner was one of the best of the 120 fundraising dinners that Friends have offered over 46 years! It was a complete experience with classical Indian dancing and singing, a brief talk by a young Indian student who made us proud that we were able to help him with a scholarship, Indian food unlike the usual dishes that the local restaurants offer, and a PowerPoint presentation by Chris Wills of our recent trip to relatively untouristy parts of India that don’t look like what we think of when one thinks of India.

Danya Costello and Candace Kohl were able to transform the caverness of the Great Hall. Danya supplied us with huge colorful paintings, and Candace supplied huge Indian fabrics to cover some of the wall windows and created cheerful bouquets for each table. Marigolds are the flower that one sees at Indian festivities, but, alas, they weren’t available here as long-stem cut flowers. Luckily, Candace was able to find a mum that, from a distance, is a look-alike to the common marigold. (One sees several varieties of marigolds at the huge flower market near the Howrah Bridge in Kolkata, but only the traditional one is used for making leis and strings/ropes for decorating.)

Photos of India taken by Katya Newmark provided yet another vision of India. Commented Adele Abrahamsen: “Your photos are amazing. I closely watched the long loop at least three times, seeing new details each time.”

Barbara Fitzsimmons, Joan Adamo, and Elisabeth Marti welcomed the guests. After doing the seating arrangements, Georgina Sham made easy-to-read name tags and very informative programs to guide us through the event.

One of the highlights of the evening was the cultural program during which Swetha Godavarthi, a postdoctoral researcher in the Biology and Neurosciences Department, and Sunandha Srikanth, a Ph.D. student in Biology, entertained us with two different types of classical Indian dancing. Barbara Fitzsimmons especially enjoyed watching the hands of the dancers. Then Nandkishore Prakash, also a doctoral student in the Biology Department, sang classical Indian songs.

What blew us away was that these young scientists are so talented and are so proud of their cul-
tural traditions that they have spent countless hours perfecting their art! Both sides of their brains must be extraordinarily well developed!

The Scholarship recipient, Sridip Pal, is going to the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study after graduating with his doctorate degree in June. He emphasized how much the Friends Scholarship had helped him secure his future by allowing him to attend a summer seminar at the Institute, where he was able to meet and impress other physicists.

Because of the long pre-dinner entertainment period, Katya made individual bags of Indian nibbles—chivda—to keep the hunger pangs at bay.

Katya worked with the caterers on the extensive menu, a real challenge to execute, because it featured lots of dishes with which the caterers had no experience. I was most impressed by the fish steamed in banana leaf, and marvel that they could serve the little packets to 91 guests without overcooking the fish.

Chris was happy to share our fourth trip to India with the audience. We visited parts of India that were previously known to us only by reputation and through stories told by Chris’ family (Sikkim in the foothills of the Himalayas; the hill station, Darjeeling, in West Bengal, where Chris’ mother was born; Assam with its many tribal peoples from neighboring Bhutan, China, Tibet, and Bangladesh; and the Sunderbans that are the largest wetlands in Asia, and the Indian equivalent of the American Everglades). Chris told how, in the Sunderbans, his aunt, at the age of two, was nearly eaten by a tiger. Although we bounced through four national parks on open suspension-less jeeps looking for tigers, we only found footprints. But we saw lots of Indian animals and birds that were new to us.

More exciting was experiencing the student and worker strikes in Assam. We weren’t affected by the ATM problems caused by the striking bank workers over the proposed merger of two banks in Kolkata that threatened layoffs. However, sudden student strikes, over Prime Minister Modi’s plan to give Indian citizenship to the 4 million Bangladeshi living in Assam, led to road closures that almost wrecked our travel plans. When the students stopped us at a roadblock, we told them that our country, too, was split by the question of refugees. We were careful to speak in vague but generally uplifting terms. Somehow the striking students then decided that we were okay and invited us to join them for tea.

The delightful surprise of our 27-day-long trip was seeing the pilgrims at the “Half” Kumbh Mela, who came to bathe in the Ganges to wash away their sins. The exact dates of the festival vary at each place it is held and is based on a combination of zodiac positions. It was interesting to see laundry hanging in the windows of the hundreds of buses that had brought the pilgrims to Kolkata and in which they lived during their stay.

The huge tents where the pilgrims got free meals all seemed to have the same menu: watery dal over white rice and greasy-looking puris. The food was provided to the pilgrims by the congregations of Kolkata’s many Hindu temples. A noble offering, but I was glad that we had other food options!

We were pleased that our experiences could contribute to this dazzling evening of Indian culture and food. Thank you, everybody!

“The Indian dinner was phenomenal!”
“Chris gave his usual inimitable guided journey recapitulating some of his amazing experiences as a traveler par excellence.” These were just two of the post dinner assessments expressed.—Ed.
The Friends Scholarship Committee has been busy reading scholarship applications from graduate, medical, and undergraduate students, and Friends can look forward to meeting an exciting new group of scholarship recipients at our upcoming Membership Dinner & Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 21, 2019, at 6:00 in the evening.

Hearts & Scholars
—by Katya Newmark

Scholarship Chair Ruth Newmark and I, as President of Friends, had the pleasure of attending UC San Diego’s Annual Hearts & Scholars dinner that Chancellor Khosla said was the largest ever, with four hundred in attendance, representing scholarship benefactors and students.

We were seated with three of Friends 2018’s scholarship recipients and it was lovely reconnecting and seeing the visible excitement each student had when recounting their study abroad experiences. Scott Liu said that his time in Barcelona exceeded his expectations and added that his expectations were very high; Tiffany Wang said that she gained so much from her New Zealand trip that she is more than ever confident in her ability to pursue a career in chemical engineering; and Julia Quon enjoyed her experience in Thailand so much that upon graduation she has accepted an internship in Hong Kong, while deciding whether she wishes to remain abroad or to return home to pursue further education.

Julia thanked us for publishing her report in the Friends Newsletter, which she sent to her parents to help them better appreciate the importance of her decision to study abroad. Over the course of the evening we had a chance to chat with a number of additional Friends scholarship recipients who, like the three sitting with us, all thanked Friends and its donors for supporting their education.

Scholarship Donations

We received several recent scholarship donations and thank the following donors for their continued support of the Friends scholarship program:

• Ruth & Leonard Newmark, who made a contribution to the Ruth Newmark Scholarship in honor of their grandchildren, Danya and Justin Costello.
• Horst Hoffmann, Molly Ann McCarren, and Alma Coles, who made contributions to the Tcile Kidane-Mariam Scholarship in memory of Tec, a former international student advisor, one-time colleague, and good friend.
• Michael Shanks, who made a donation to the UC San Diego Foundation in memory of Prof. David K. Crowne.
• All who made special donations to our Indian Dinner fundraiser.

April Calendar

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Tai Chi, 2:00-3:00
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Gus’ Table, 10:00-Noon
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: FIC Craft Circle, 1:00-3:00
April 3, 17: Family Orientation, 9:15
April 3, 10, 17, 24: Wednesday Coffee, 10:00-Noon
April 3, 10, 17, 24: Mommy/Daddy & Me, 1:45-2:45
April 4, 11, 18, 25: Everyday English, 10:00-11:30
April 5, 12, 19, 26: Friday Chat, 10:00-Noon
April 6, 13, 20, 27: Yoga Class, 9:00-10:00
April 9: Friends Board Meeting, 10:00
April 11: Cooking Class, 9:00-Noon
April 20: Friends Dinner Social, 6:00
Summer School at Institute for Advanced Study

My research revolves around deeply understanding quantum field theory (QFT), a mathematical framework to investigate nature, from the theory of fundamental particles to collective phenomena in condensed matter. Even though we know a lot about weakly coupled QFTs, strongly coupled field theories are much less known. To provide a sense of strong and weak, let me introduce an elementary example: suppose, I am standing on the floor, the whole enormous sized Earth is attracting me towards its center, but I am not falling through because of the normal reaction from the floor. This normal reaction is nothing but electromagnetic interaction and it does show that the electromagnetic interaction is much stronger than the gravity. I study strongly coupled field theories using symmetry arguments, especially scale invariance. As we scale space and time, scale invariant systems behave in a similar manner.

The motivation for me to study scale invariance not only stems from its novel practical applications, but also from two fundamental cornerstones of physics: first of all, QFTs can be understood as flows between scale invariant theories, so the latter organizes the space of QFTs, secondly the scale invariant QFTs offer the simplest and most tractable examples of the AdS-CFT correspondence, which offers one of our best hopes of understanding the ambitious holy grail, a nonperturbative theory of quantum gravity, whose nature is quite different from the usual picture of weak gravity I initially described.

It turns out that gravity can become very strong and quantum in nature in the beginning of the universe, when the so-called Big Bang happened. Thus if one likes to investigate the physics describing the beginning of the universe, one has to take resort to strongly coupled field theories. The Friends Fung Scholarship aided me financially to go to a summer school held at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, in July 2018. The summer school offered a variety of in depth lectures on the topic of my research, keeping us up to date with the new advancements and landmark discoveries in my field of research. I came back very much inspired by the academic atmosphere of IAS, a place which is known as the singularity of academic excellence.

Months went by. I applied for postdoctoral position at IAS in November and I got hired. I will be moving to IAS in coming fall to start a new chapter of my life after finishing my Ph.D. Not to mention, all of it got initiated from the Friends scholarship, making me able to attend the summer school and giving me the opportunity of enriching myself with cutting edge research.

Sridip Pal
Ph.D. candidate from India
Department of Physics

UCEAP at the University of Glasgow

Physics in college is infamous for being one of the most difficult subjects for pre-med students, notorious for both its soul-sucking and GPA-dropping qualities. And while I’m tempted to say it was my love for Scottish literature that convinced me to take physics abroad, it was ultimately that horrid reputation of physics that propelled me to sign up more. However, after completing my entire physics series abroad in two months at Glasgow, Scotland, I can safely say my study abroad experience taught me more than just physics.

One of the first things you’re taught are Newton’s three laws of motions. While they may only seem relevant for physics tests, they can also double as guidelines to have the best study abroad experience possible.

Law 1: “An object that is at rest will stay at rest unless a force acts upon it.” Studying abroad is a terrifying experience, especially if it is the first you’ve traveled alone. However, going abroad is a force that will undeniably change you as a person and make you realize how much you can handle. For example, before I studied abroad, I wasn’t confident in my academic abilities. However, while I studied abroad, I learned how to create my own experiments in just two hours while using a tracking software I was unfamiliar with. Being abroad tests your limits and teaches you what you’re capable of.

Law 2: “Force equals mass times acceleration.” Being in a new country means that you’ll have to interact with people you’ve never met, but if you accelerate out of
your comfort zone, you’ll meet amazing people and ultimately have a more impactful experience. My friends and I traveled to as many places as possible, from Oban to Paris, and while we got lost all the time, we met incredible people that helped us along the way. When my friends and I missed our bus stop, the bus driver instead drove us around Isle of Skye and gave us a personal tour, stopping at scenic spots to tell us Scottish folklore. In Paris, we ran with the crowds on Bastille Day trying to find the perfect spot to see the fireworks. During the World Cup, we danced with the locals as Parisians zipped by on their motorcycles, cheering with their flags flying in the wind. Experiences are waiting for you on every corner: you just have to be brave enough to find them.

Law 3: “There is no such thing as a force that is not accompanied by an equal and opposite force.” Your experience abroad will be full of up and downs. Sometimes you’ll get a 17/40 on a test you studied hard for. Other times, you may lose a bag of clothing. But without those downs, you won’t experience the ups. Without failing a few tests, I would’ve missed out on the girls’ nights where we pulled out a bottle of rosé and had singing/shouting competitions with students downstairs. Without losing that bag of clothing, we wouldn’t have had a reason to run around the maze-like gardens of Versailles, and without climbing down that difficult hill, we wouldn’t have been able to soak in waterfalls of the turquoise Fairy Pools.

As college students, we are still growing up; we’re sometimes irrational, and act on impulse. But that’s exactly what makes it so fun to travel at our age—we’ve got so much to learn and so much time ahead of us. Why not spend that time sharing flaky croissants in a cheap one-room Airbnb together, watching the sun grow up with us?

Sabrina Chen
Sixth College, Literature/Writing major
David K. Crowne Scholarship

A Study of Immanuel Kant
I am very grateful and honored to have received a scholarship from Friends of the International Center. This scholarship supplemented my funding from the Baden-Württemburg Stiftung (to spend the winter semester) at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, to pursue my research in classical German philosophy. Early in 2018, the Study Abroad office at the University of California, San Diego contacted the philosophy department at UC San Diego with information about a new Graduate Student Exchange Agreement that had been set up between UC San Diego and the University of Tübingen and invited graduates in the department to apply.

I have been enrolled as a Ph.D. student in the Philosophy Department since 2013, and at the time of receiving information about the exchange program I was making very good progress on my dissertation, which focuses on one of the most influential figures in classical German philosophy, Immanuel Kant. I immediately recognized the program as a very promising and exciting opportunity to deepen and develop my research. I applied to participate in the program and was notified in June that my application was successful.

I have had a truly transformative few months in Tübingen. I have met and interacted with the leading German scholars in my field, and I have had the opportunity to share my work with them. Without a doubt, my academic work has flourished during my stay in Tübingen. There is no question for me that German scholarship, and the academy in Germany more broadly, has made a very distinctive mark on my research and my future development as a philosopher. I am, therefore, deeply grateful to the Friends of the International Center for supporting me;

Claudi Brink
Ph.D. candidate from South Africa, Department of Philosophy

Philosophical Crossroads
I would like to begin by thanking the Friends of the International Center for their generous support of my dissertation studies—the flexibility of the Friends fellowship has made it possible to extend my original study- and travel plans substantially.

My research focuses on an area at the intersection of philosophy, linguistics, mathematics, and computer science, investigating why logical languages emerged the way they did, and what feature of a logical expression it is that grounds a “good” inference in particular. I am interested in what is usually termed the demarcation problem of the logical constants: the issue of deciding, in a principled and precise way, which expressions of a given formal language to count as logical expressions, i.e. to treat as privileged in the development of the language, and for what reason. Originating in the influential model-theoretic account of logical consequence, this issue has since become a fundamental topic in the foundations of logic.

Sebastian Speitel
Ph.D. candidate from Germany, Department of Philosophy
Economic Disparity

As a development macroeconomist, my broad question of interest is the same that has been at the heart of the economic profession since its beginning: why cross-country differences in income are so large.

This year, through the help of the Friends of the International Center, I was able to make progress in finding new approaches to gain insight into that question and work towards completing my dissertation.

My research has specifically focused on the factors that make certain individuals and households better poised to take advantage of the benefits from the arrival of new technologies. My main project shows, for instance, that the returns from electrification are larger for younger households, since they can still coordinate their education and fertility decisions to best exploit the labor and home modernization benefits from having access to electricity.

I am extremely grateful to the Friends of the International Center for their support, both in 2016 and 2018.

Daniela Vidart
Ph.D. candidate from Colombia
Department of Economics

Semester in France

I know it’s been a while since I returned from my semester abroad in Bordeaux, France, but the memories are as fresh as if the experience had ended only last week. I was given the amazing opportunity of living in a beautiful town for four months, and thanks to the Friends, I was able to comfortably pursue my dream of exploring the rest of France and Europe while there.

Laura Morejón Ramírez
Revelle College
Aerospace Engineering major
April 2019

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