Global Comfort:
Annual Membership Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Our 2019 annual Membership Dinner & Scholarship Awards Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room, located on the ground floor of the Student Services Center (between UCSD Town Square and Matthews Quad). For this year’s theme I have chosen comfort foods around the globe pairing an American comfort food with a similar international comfort food. We have only to recognize the greater similarities between us to ease the anxiety of being away from home.

In keeping with our theme, dinner will be largely served family-style. The menu will feature multiple courses, each offering cross-cultural pairings of comfort foods that we hope will spark easy conversation. A vegetarian option is available if pre-reserved. Tea will be available at the end of the meal.

Hors d’oeuvres will be served plated with a shot glass of tomato soup topped with a grilled cheese bite, paired with a shot glass of Spanish gazpacho with a Mexican quesadilla. The appetizer will feature American Buffalo wings and Korean gochujang wings. The main meal will include pairings of chicken pot pie and South African bobotie; meatloaf paired with Vietnamese meatballs; macaroni and cheese paired with German käsespätzle; and, succotash with Chinese stir-fried vegetables. To complete the meal guests will dine on pecan tarts paired with Greek baklava accompanied by a chocolate truffle paired with a Brazilian brigadeiro.

After soon-to-retire Dean Kirk Simmons shares a few words, we will hear from Ivano Caponigro, our guest speaker, Professor of Linguistics and Study Abroad Faculty Director, who will share his insights about the significance of international education. This year’s student speakers, Matthew Wills, earning his Ph.D. in history and James Garrafa-Luna, an undergraduate earning his degree in Chemistry, will speak about the impact of a Friends scholarship and the value of international education.

The cost for attending the annual event is $25 and reservations are required to be made online at https://ficannualdinner2019.eventbrite.com by Friday, May 10.
Please note there is limited seating, so I encourage you to make your reservation as soon as possible.

Before Ruth Newmark, Scholarship Committee Chair, introduces the Friends Scholarship Awardees for 2019, there will be a brief business meeting to elect the officers for 2019-20, as proposed by Linda Ferri, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

In advance, I express my appreciation to: Scholarship Chair Ruth Newmark, for her remarkable leadership and championing efforts; the Friends Scholarship Committee, who triumphed over the introduction of yet another new software program to make selections from this year’s highly competitive applicant pool; our wonderful donors (both financial and in-kind); the many volunteers engaged in activities that raise money supporting Friends Scholarship program; and our amazing university colleagues who continue to support our mission.

I look forward to seeing YOU, F/friends and supporters, as we come together to celebrate the joys of international education!

Regardless of your attendance, I ask that each of you cast your vote to approve, or disapprove, the 2019-2020 proposed Slate of Officers (see proxy statement on the back page).

Katya
Katya Newmark
PresFIC@ucsd.edu

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

Annual Dinner: Friends Scholarship Speakers
—by Ruth Newmark

Many Friends scholarship recipients tell us how much they enjoy the Friends Membership Dinner with its important scholarship awards component. Some even go so far as to mention this in their subsequent scholarship report. Wrote Cecilia Leggett, a medical student, about to embark on a career in obstetrics and gynecology:

“The most special part of the Friends of the International Center program is the sense of community it affords during the reception dinner. The whole dinner is a celebration of difference and importance of building bridges. FIC taught me that international travel isn’t just about travel, it is about building connections, it is about something bigger than yourself and is a worthy endeavor.”

Please join us on Tuesday, May 21, at our 2019 dinner, to meet our newest group of scholarship recipients, and to hear two 2018 recipients speak about the significance of their Friends scholarship.

Matthew Wills, a British Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, with an undergraduate degree from Oxford University and Chinese language study at Peking University, will briefly discuss his research on Chinese publications from the 1970s, as well as his vast collection of around 700 propaganda books/pamphlets/images from Mao’s China.

Representing Friends undergraduate scholarship recipients will be James Garrafa-Luna, a Revelle College student with a double major in Chemistry and Mathematics. James spent part of the 2018 summer on a Global Seminar in Granada and will talk about his happy experience in Spain. James is so enthusiastic about his study abroad that he is returning to Spain for the 2019 fall semester—this time on a UC Education Abroad Program at the University of Madrid—with a scholarship funded by our campus Study Abroad Office.

Matthew Wills stands next to his display of Chinese publications that earned him the 2019 California Young Book Collector’s Prize

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**Wednesday Coffee Activities**
—by Georgina Sham

Katya Newmark said it perfectly in the April Newsletter: “Friends programs understand the importance of food and its ability to bring people together in a way that nothing else can.” It’s a shame we no longer have a kitchen in which to cook, but we do try to have food once in a while. At the beginning of April, we had an English Tea that was very well attended and generated a lot of excitement and camaraderie. The finger sandwiches were made so quickly, and the tables set and the different foods laid out on the tables so swiftly that everything was ready way ahead of time—so much so that we had our tea about 20 minutes earlier than planned. Everyone extolled enthusiastically about the event.

We have scheduled a potluck for May 29; potlucks are usually a lot of fun, though the tea seemed to excite people more. We practice folk dances before diving into the food, and this time we are doing the dancing in preparation for a performance at the Del Mar County Fair on June 15, for which about 25 people have signed up!

In spite of having to use paper goods instead of china, we try to have potlucks 2-3 times per year, and an English tea once or twice a year.

We are thrilled to have international participants volunteer to lead projects. In April, Saori Yao and Kazuyo Ando introduced us to folding origami figures. On May 1, in time for Cinco de Mayo, Mayra Nevárez will teach us how to make little piñatas, and on May 8, Anne de Pastore will show us how to make protective food covers employing fabric and organic beeswax. For the rest of May, we will make greeting cards applying a cork stamping technique and create friendship bracelets.

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**Membership News**

Please welcome Adele AbrahamSEN & William Bechtel and Donald Hill & Marcy Beatty to our family of Friends. Both couples joined our organization in conjunction with making reservations to our Ethnic Dinner featuring the food and culture of India.

We are saddened to report the death of Barry Graceman and send our sympathy to his wife, Susan Graceman. Susan served briefly on the Friends Board as Corresponding Secretary, resigning for family reasons, but continued until very recently with her wonderful volunteer work at Gus’ Table, one of the Friends three popular English conversation groups.

We mourn the death of Friends Life Member, Pat Kampmann (1925-2018), who died last December. For years, Pat volunteered at Scripps Institution of Oceanography’s aquarium, making good use of her degree in zoology earned at Northwestern University. Her educational work with children—the popular Junior Oceanographers Corps—gave her great satisfaction, as did her contributions to a volunteer organization known as Docents of the Aquarium; by then, her work at the Aquarium (currently known as Birch Aquarium at SIO) had turned into a very rewarding paid position.

Pat joined Friends of the International Center in the 1980s and served as Friends President from 1993-94. For a number of years both Pat and her daughter, Kate Klampe, were active members of our organization.
Mommy/Daddy & Me
—by Yukina Nakazawa

Mommy/Daddy & Me is delighted to welcome a new grandma, replacing our beloved Grandma Alice (Alice Blake-Stalker). I’m hesitant to call her grandma, as she looks too young to be called that, so we call her Ms. Theresa.

Theresa Sterlina has a year-old grandchild and writes children’s books. She loves kids, is very friendly, and is passionate about reading books. She brought books from which she read to our class, and helped kids with their craft projects. My 2-year-old son already asked me if she is coming to the next class! I’m sure Ms. Theresa will become every kid’s favorite grandma. Thank you Georgina Sham for recruiting her!

In addition to our regular Wednesday class and Thursday play dates, we recently had a birthday party for my son Alex as part of our play date events. As you can see in the photo above, some families have newborns and some have school-age kids. Because only babies and toddlers come to Wednesday class and big kids only come to Thursday play dates, the party was a great opportunity for families from both programs to mingle.

Adding to the festivities was a table full of baby clothes and toys donated by Sayuri Mori and others who have returned home. Families with little babies were thrilled to pick out things and appreciated the donors’ kindness.

We volunteers are enjoying preparing for Easter. We will dye eggs on April 11 and have an Egg Hunt on the 18th, both at Doyle Park.

We very much enjoy having as part of our team, Minju Kim, a Ph.D. student in the Psychology Department and a recipient of a 2018 Friends Scholarship.

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by Yukina Nakazawa

Hello Cindy, Eileen, and Michelle!

I wanted to let you know that I had an amazing time coming to Friday Chat the two last weeks, as I always do. Lots of fun and laughter. I have really been looking forward to these “meetings” after the long break I had to take, like another sparkle of joy in my week!

As I was telling Eileen at the end of the session, I hope I don’t upset you too much with my jokes and teasing…. Sometimes I can’t help myself to add a touch of humor! Be sure that you know that as much as we are “super French” or “super American” (or “super Canadian”), I always feel strongly connected to you all and to my international friends. And for that I want to thank the three of you!

Thank you for your friendship, thank you for giving us this experience to chat, meet, share, and always laugh. Thank you for making this international and cultural experience possible, that makes our California adventure, and life in general, a richer experience.

Love,
Emma

Kudos to Friday Chat

Cindy Tozer, Eileen Tozer (both Americans), and Michelle Grandin (from Canada)—the triumvirate that leads Friday Chat—received this well-deserved thank-you from Emma Forin, who several years ago came to UCSD as the young wife of a postdoc in physics, Antoine Aubret. In her native France, Emma had worked as a neuropsychologist. She soon attended many of our Friends activities and confessed that the warm welcome she received from Friends upon her arrival, gave her the confidence to use her limited English, so that her English language skills improved quickly. She began to participate as a dedicated volunteer in the Friends Family Orientation program, something she enjoyed but gave up reluctantly when her baby girl was born a few months ago. Fortunately, we are beginning to see a bit more of Emma again.

When I asked Emma for permission to print her nice words about Friday Chat, she added: “Those words apply equally to Lynn, Mary, Jennie, and Georgina; I just love their Craft and Wednesday Coffee programs as much as Friday Chat!”—Ed

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Love,
Emma
WORDS OF APPRECIATION
—by Ruth Newmark

The Friends Scholarship Committee (Jeri Abernathy, Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Louise Kauffman, Candace Kohl, Kathleen Micheletti, Katya Newmark, with Ruth Newmark as chair) has been busy this spring reading a total of 172 applications.

Much to our surprise, we had fewer graduate applications from students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences than accustomed to, while the number of applicants in the sciences has grown considerably over the years. Friends were able to offer awards to 30 graduate and 4 medical students, all accepting their $2,000 fellowship with kind words of gratitude.

Here follow some sample acceptance notes from happy graduate students upon hearing of their Friends fellowship:

“I am so thrilled and grateful for the selection of this prestigious fellowship by the committee.” — Jia Zuang from China, NanoEngineering

“I accept the Friends fellowship with great excitement. It is a great opportunity for me to fund my research project.” — Nese Demir from Turkey, Linguistics

“I humbly accept the Friends Fellowship.” — Joebert Rosal from the USA, School of Medicine, going to Jordan

“Thank you for sending me this good news! It is my honor to receive the Friends of the International Center Fellowship. It will be also a great pleasure to attend the Friends Annual Dinner Meeting and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.” — Yiqing Li from China, Visual Arts

“I am delighted and honored to receive this fellowship. Thank you very much for choosing me, my research, and my commitment to international friendship.” — Margherita Capriotti from Italy, Structural Engineering

I can so far not quote the responses from our undergraduate study-abroad scholarship recipients, because I have as yet not heard from them. What I can tell you is that I wrote to 39 students offering each a $1,500 Friends of the International Center scholarship (not counting the two students that received winter scholarships). Also among the undergraduate applicants, there was a surprisingly large number of students majoring in engineering, and a less surprisingly large number of students heading to the United Kingdom, although destinations ranged geographically from Australia to the Caribbean, with many countries in between.

As in past years, our Committee was asked to make recommendations for a number of study-abroad scholarships other than our own Friends of the International Center scholarships. We are proud that the university places such trust in us, and pleased that 32 more undergraduates will be able to embark on what, more often than not, is described by them as a life-changing study-abroad experience.

With the help of many, Friends will be able to award $130,000 in international scholarships this year. Our thanks goes to all who make this possible: our generous individual and group donors, the dedicated volunteers who help raise money—be it through our Resale Shop, Ethnic Dinners, or Friends Dinners Social—and our like-minded university colleagues: the Graduate Division, School of Medicine, Student Affairs, the Financial Aid Office, Study Abroad UCSD, and, of course, Global Education.

Please consider making reservations to the Friends May 21 Annual Membership & Scholarship Awards Dinner, so that you can meet these outstanding and captivating scholarship recipients. Know that your support of international education is both needed and greatly appreciated.

Apologizing for being unable to attend the dinner, Thomas Chan, an American Ph.D. student in the Department of History, currently conducting research in China, wrote: “Your work and the work of Friends makes a difference. I know several people who have benefited significantly from your organization’s generous support, both professionally and personally, and I think that’s something to be proud of on behalf of the organization.”
Scholarship Donations: Tecle Kidane-Mariam Scholarship
—by Ruth Newmark

My tasks on the Scholarship Committee tie in nicely with my duties as designated Friends historian and Newsletter editor, and I think you will see my point when you read the following story.

For a number of years, Carol Robertson, a longtime Global Education staff member, has been coordinating the Friends Tecle Kidane-Mariam Scholarship, named in memory of her former colleague, from 1989 to 2000, a UCSD international student advisor who died all-too-young in 2003, when a scholarship was briefly given in his memory.

When handed some old undated photographs, I was prompted to write about these in the June 2012 Newsletter, focusing in particular on one picture (see above) that showed Tec among a group of four, each dressed in red, most likely attending a Friends Christmas party. For background information on Tec, I turned to Carol Robertson.

Memories of her good friend and co-worker led Carol to approach others who had known Tec and tended to him through his debilitating disease for funding, and so the Tecle Kidane-Mariam Scholarship was revived in 2013. Since then it has been awarded annually to a graduate student, generally to a student with a connection to Africa.

We thank all those who continue to help fund this scholarship, most recently Gail Fliesbach, Kathy Hodges, Alma Coles, Horst Hoffmann, MollyAnn McCarren, the Mundt Peacemakers Fund, and, of course, Carol herself.

The 2018 recipient of what Friends lovingly call our Tec Scholarship was a medical student, Betial Asmerom, from whose scholarship report I quote here extensively.

“This past summer I had the great privilege of working at Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I rounded with physicians, worked alongside medical students in the hospital, and attended mortality and morbidity (M&M) conferences. Each day I was struck with the similarities and differences with medicine practiced here in San Diego and in Addis Ababa. In M&Ms the physicians spoke frankly about end of life and preparing patients and families what would be coming next. These were some of the most compassionate and innovative physicians I’ve had the privilege to work with. When rounding on patients, the medical students presented cases and did the physical exams I was just beginning to feel comfortable with after a year of medical school. But one striking difference was that nearly every case we saw ended with ‘we’ll continue to monitor the patient.’ Most of the patients who came to Black Lion were past the point of treatment and waiting to die in the hospital with their loved ones next to them curled up on the floor. In several of the cases, the patients presented to the local clinics in their province, but a diagnosis was missed for a myriad of reasons. Other patients needed more specialized care that they could only access at Black Lion, but they lived too far away to get to or afford the travel to Addis in time for treatment.”

Continuing her account, Betial wrote: “In addition to working and learning about the healthcare system in Ethiopia, I had the very unique opportunity to visit Eritrea. I am very honored to have received this award in memory of Tecle Kidane-Mariam, a former international student adviser at UCSD’s International Center, who was born in Eritrea. For the first time in nearly 20 years, flights opened between Ethiopia and Eritrea while I was in Ethiopia, something I never imagined happening in my lifetime. I was able to see family members that I had last seen as a child and visit the land that raised my parents.

“My summer experiences were transformative on several levels, and I know that this would not have been possible without the support of Friends of the International Center. I made lifelong connections and friendships with medical students, residents, physicians, and nurses in Ethiopia, and was able to reconnect with family in Eritrea. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity.”

The 2019 Tecle Kidane-Mariam Scholarship will be awarded to Christina Cottiero, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, who will travel to Nigeria to continue her dissertation research “on the ways in which vulnerable African leaders collude through regional political organizations to boost their personal survival prospects.”

The Friends Scholarship Committee (on which Tec served for a number of years) thought that Tec would have been fascinated by the topic, and would have enjoyed talking to Christina, just as he did to the many graduate students he counseled.
Visiting an American Home

Visiting an American Home program chair, Elisabeth Marti, not only matches international visitors with local hosts, but she asks for feedback. Comments, both from visitor and host, tend to be enthusiastic. Noted so often by our international visitors is the large size of our American homes.

Host families often join forces with friends, as did Nikki Waters, Linda Ferri, and Elisabeth herself, as described below.

Hi Elisabeth,

Just wanted to let you know that we had a delightful luncheon last Sunday with Boyoung Kim, Hee Jun Lee, and their daughters Lily and Anna. In addition to the co-hosts, Karen and Tom Davis, my friends Janet, Henry, and their two sons, Austin and Anisten, attended. The two girls are close in age to the two boys and how fun to see the “Oh No Girls” and the same reaction from the girls of “Ugh, Boys”—yet ultimately they all played very well together.

Janet and her husband are also Korean, so Kim and Jun felt comfortable asking them for translation assistance if something was said that wasn’t easily understood.

We all agreed to keep in touch and try to get together again.

Many thanks,

Nikki Waters

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Dear Mr & Mrs Marti,

Thank you so much for inviting us to your home for that lovely lunch party. Not only was the lunch delicious, but we also enjoyed hearing about your beautiful family (sons, grandchildren, etc.). The whole afternoon was delightful. The apple pie you served was cooked to perfection. I can’t ever remember tasting anything so delicious. Your greenery house and lawn with tables, and kids’ toys were beautifully set for both us and the kids. We look forward to seeing the two of you again soon. Next time, we’ll have you over to our house.

Mrs Tozer, thank you so much for everything you did (drive, choosing us to introduce to the best host family) to help make this day perfect. Talk to you soon.

Jyotheeswara R Edula, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Akbari Lab, Division of Biological Sciences
UC San Diego

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Dear Elisabeth,

Norbert and I hosted Yukina Nakazawa and her family for Sunday breakfast at our home. The group comprised Yukina and her family (Nobu and young son Alex), the De Callafon family, who have been our friends for years (Ilkay Altintas, the chief Data Science Officer at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and Raymond De Callafon, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and their two sons), my brother (Michael Ferri), and, of course, Norbert and myself. We had quite an international group: Turkey, Holland, and Japan all mingling with San Diego locals!

We enjoyed lively conversation over breakfast, then fun games, and music afterwards. The children delighted all with their antics and curiosity.

During the course of conversation, one of the locals asked Yukina and Nobu what their biggest surprise is about the U.S. The response? The size of American homes.

Linda Ferri
Youth Under-Representation in Political Institutions

I am delighted to report that I had a very productive research trip to Japan and am incredibly grateful to the Friends of the International Center for its generous support. With this funding, I was able to travel widely around Japan, interviewing 15 mayors and visiting more than 30 municipalities. These municipalities ranged greatly in size, from small towns with a population less than 20,000 to cities as large as 1 million people. Highlights of my trip included interviewing the current youngest mayor in Japan—and the second youngest in history—as well as mayors that are famous for their local innovations in policy areas such as education, childcare, women’s rights, and LGBT protections.

My initial findings suggested that electing a younger mayor typically led cities to spend more on education and childcare, compared to municipalities with older mayors that spent more on healthcare and elderly services. While this dataset has been very helpful for my dissertation, the interviews that I conducted during this trip really allowed me to explore why younger and older mayors may differ in their policy priorities at a much deeper level. For example, I asked the mayors how they thought their age shaped their policy preferences, and whether they felt that they had a strategic advantage in connecting with constituents of a similar age and generation. Moreover, I spoke with these mayors in depth about how they view younger people in particular, such as ways to increase the relatively low voter turnout among younger Japanese.

In addition to the one-on-one interviews, I observed closely how mayors and mayoral candidates interact with their constituents in a variety of settings including stump speeches, town hall meetings, debates, and other campaign events. I also had group meetings with municipal bureaucrats working in the social welfare divisions of three additional cities. These meetings helped me to gain a different perspective and greater insights into the policy-making process within municipal governments.

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During my time in Japan, I was grateful to have two opportunities to present the preliminary findings from my research at Gakushuin University in Tokyo and Kobe University in Osaka. Both events were well attended by Japanese scholars and graduate students, who gave me invaluable feedback toward improving my dissertation project.

I also interviewed a younger national member of parliament. This member offered to connect me with other national-level politicians, and I hope to interview these legislators on my next trip. I also plan to work on issues related to youth political participation in the future, and this trip allowed me to meet with the founder of an NGO focused on encouraging younger people to turn out to vote.

In sum, I would like to thank the Friends of the International Center for giving me this opportunity at a crucial time in my academic and professional development.

Charles McClean
Ph.D. student,
Department of Political Science.
Ruth Newmark Scholarship

The Effects of Natural Resource Windfalls on Selecting Politicians

My doctoral project focuses on the effects of natural resource windfalls on political corruption in Brazil. Travel to Brazil was essential for this project, as this was my first fieldwork experience in Brazil. I spent most of my time in Rio de Janeiro, where I was based. However, I traveled around to many small municipalities. The main objective of the trip was to understand how royalties are distributed, how different actors interact in the process of redistribution, and how local governments deal with and react to these royalty shocks.

While I was there, I met with people who worked in Petrobras for more than 30 years. They offered incredible insight into the functioning of the company, the politics of the distribution of oil royalties, and how Petrobras interacts with the ANP (National Petroleum Agency) in order to actually distribute the royalties to municipalities. These meetings were invaluable to confirm that the distribution rule was set exogenously to local level political interests, and that it was set before anyone could imagine the size of the offshore oil reserves, thus was not subject to a lot of discussion or political pressure.

Additionally, I met with members of the local government in many royalty-receiving municipalities. Most mayors were very busy given that it was pre-election season, however, they sent their Secretary of Finances and/or Secretary of Planning to meet me.

Being there in the period running up to this year’s presidential election was something that really helped me fully
understand the complex political changes that Brazil is going through. The tension was palpable on the streets and in
the subway, and the passion with which voters were acting is not something you can grasp by just reading about it; you
have to be there.

The funds provided by the Friends of the International Center were invaluable, since my other funding was only
deposited into my account after the trip. The funds were mainly used for everyday expenses such as food, lodging, and
transportation. I am eternally grateful for the Friends of the International Center’s generosity and flexibility in the way
they distribute funds. Travelling without any form of ex ante funding would have been a real financial strain, which was
significantly alleviated thanks to your resources.

Kathryn Baragwanath Vogel, Ph.D. student from Chile, Department of Political Science

UCEAP at Queensland
I am so, so grateful for the Friends of the International Center scholarship that I was given, because it helped me
to go abroad and have the most amazing experience of my life. My time in Australia has only strengthen-
ed my love for Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology, and has given me such a strong foundation in mak-
ing and testing experimental hypotheses. This experience has been so valuable to my education in these
topics, as it has provided me with hands-on experience, which is hard, or even impossible, to obtain as an
undergraduate student at UCSD.

Thank you so much for your consideration and your kindness in awarding me with this scholarship!

Jennifer Dusto
Muir College, Marine Biology major

Journalism in Russia
I’d like to start my report by expressing my sincere gratitude for the incredible and generous support of the
Friends of the International Center, who were there to help me during the hardest time of my life. In 2018,
I was honored to receive a Friends fellowship for the second time, which literally became a life-saving help for
me. Due to a difficult immigration situation, I was left without any financial support from the university and was
forced to leave the U.S. without opportunity to continue my Ph.D. study. The help that was so much needed
came from the Friends, a couple of weeks prior to my departure back to

Russia. The fellowship allowed me to start my field work in Moscow and collect data for at least one chapter
of my dissertation.

In my work, I study professional journalism in contemporary Russia, spaces for production of alternative
discourses and hegemonic influence of the state discourse on the Russian society. In a project that I
started in the summer of 2018, I am examining interesting changes in the Russian media system that have
happened in the course of the post-Crimean years. As state propaganda in the Russian mainstream media
has been intensified, Russian alternative media became more prominent in the Russian public sphere.

In personal conversation, the RTVi producer, who previously worked for the NTV evening news show, shares her current mood:
“We all bliss out here. When I came to RTVi from NTV, there was no full freedom of speech on NTV. And now
we are reveling in our professional freedom.”

The editor of Meduza sees his outlet as “an island of independent Russian journalism” and calls him-
self and his colleagues “journalists in exile” (also in personal conversation). Meduza’s office is located
in Riga, Latvia, where Russian laws cannot prevent Russian journalists from doing their job.

The deputy editor-in-chief of Rain TV, who used to work for mainstream NTV and REN-TV, considers
himself a cynical, battered, and disappointed journalist who regained

freedom, excitement, naivety, and belief in his profession after down-
shifting himself to the current position at Rain TV. He is not only writing
news there, as in the beginning of his career, but also training young
journalists who, as he says, give him hope that journalism in Russia can
make a difference.

I believe that seeing this hope, no matter how hard the situation is and how difficult the obstacles that
the power system creates are, is very important for all of us. I want
my study to not only enlighten the public about professional journalists in Russia, who, despite all the cases
of government pressure, found the way not to surrender to propaganda, but who also teach us to com-
mit to the truth and humanity no matter what country we are in, what
political regime is in place, and what traps the power system is throwing
at us.

Olga Lazitski-Torres
Russian Ph.D. student
Department of Communication

Olga at the Friends Holiday Party
December 2016
Dear Friends of the International Center,
My short time abroad was bittersweet. I missed home, and knew I would long to know every minute of my best friends' summer vacations back home in sunny California. This was the first year I was breaking tradition. I was not there for my mom’s birthday dinner. I did not celebrate the Fourth of July with my best friend for the first time in seven years. I was starting a new chapter so you could say, I was in Madrid, my new home away from home. I thought I knew who I was before going abroad, but I found so many layers within myself, that I did not know existed, from the challenges I faced studying in a foreign country with a foreign language and foreign cuisine.

When I went to my first Spanish class, I was a bit in shock that the course, supposed to be for non-Spanish speakers, was full of students who had already taken level 1 Spanish. I was only one of three students who had absolutely no experience in the Spanish language. Coming from my background (I am first generation Iranian-American), I was nervous having to “compete” with students who already were one huge step ahead of me. After a week, I felt like I couldn’t keep up and I broke down during our lunch break. My Spanish teacher caught me and I was beyond embarrassed. Professor Raquel, who did not speak a drop of English, was communicating with me in Spanish while I was crying to her in English. It was an interesting mix with very little understanding on both ends it seemed. What I got from the conversation was that I should enjoy learning the language and go a lot easier on myself. After all I was living out one of my dreams for college, and she was right that I should enjoy every minute of it.

Jump forward a month and a half. I have one of the highest grades and have started helping the students who were teaching me at the very beginning of the course. I am telling this story by no means to claim that I am gifted, but to show that studying abroad challenged me enough to re-ignite my drive for learning. I was losing patience and drive in my difficult major, which has little room for error and every point matters. I was studying abroad in another, completely different field, to experience something new that I could not learn at UCSD. And while I did learn so much about the beautiful culture, language, and people of España, I learned something so valuable about myself. I can do anything I set my mind to, no matter how far it is out of my comfort zone.

I was reminded that hard work does pay off and that you need to push yourself to success, because nobody will do it for you. And if I am not as perfect as another student, that is okay, because I will get there someday if I put in the effort. I also learned that a few extra tapas never hurt anybody.

I immediately saw this change in my study habits in my first quarter back from Madrid. I am much less stressed and do better on each exam knowing it is not the end of the world, and that I will get to where I want to be in the class, in my major, and in my career.

Thank you so much Friends of the International Center for making this study abroad experience possible, because I accomplished all my goals abroad plus so much more, and I am forever grateful for your generosity.

Lily Javaherpour
UCEAP Language & Culture in Madrid
Sixth College, Physiology & Neuroscience major

May 2019

Friends of the International Center, UCSD Newsletter

Historical Archival Work
The main purpose of my research is to investigate how public and private efforts helped improving health and sanitary conditions in Colombian cities between 1869 and 1930. It seeks to reveal how the nascent Colombian state interacted with the Catholic Church, charities, business organizations, and citizens to boost health and welfare in Colombia during the long nineteenth century.

The primary goal of my research trip was to collect and analyze information about the evolution of population and health conditions in the nineteenth century, and the public expenditure on health and sanitation in Colombia during the nineteenth century.

I started my visits to archives and libraries in Bogotá, collecting information on fiscal reports, budgetary laws, and official information regarding hospitals, vaccination campaigns, and public charity expenditures. I also had access to the 1887 General Directory of Bogotá, a complete list of the city residents, their addresses and professional activities, and valuable resource to identify medical practitioners in the late nineteenth century. I collected information on death and birth certificates or tithe records, a relatively unexplored source that provides information on how the church distributed tithes resources among hospitals administration and other activities. After leaving Bogotá, I continued with my archival explorations in

Archivo Central of Popayán
Barranquilla, where I found a similar directory with a complete list of residents and their professional activities. I also surveyed local press and local legislation regarding sanitary and urban issues.

The Archivo Central del Cauca in Popayán has a vast collection of documents with an excellent cataloging system. In this archive, I collected sources related to the administration
and accounting records of the Hospital de la Caridad de Popayán, hospital admissions, population by region, pension payment records, and documents addressing the city’s health policy, such as contracts to provide vaccines in the second half of the nineteenth century.

All in all, this was a productive exploratory trip and a good start for future visits to these archives.

Edwin Lopez Rivera
Ph.D. student from Colombia
Department of History

Intersection of Science and Social Justice
In the last year I have made considerable progress on my research on groundwater changes due to lithium mining in the Andean highlands. I purchased and tested sampling equipment and performed laboratory experiments to precisely determine the values I will use to interpret my results.

In the spirit of international friendship, I used a large portion of the FIC scholarship to bring indigenous community representatives from Chile and Argentina to San Diego, where they spoke at a series of public events on the socio-environmental impacts of lithium mining in their region. Now I am preparing to travel to the salt flats at the end of March to take preliminary groundwater samples, which will help inform the next stages of the project.

Jessica Ng
Ph.D. student, Climate Science, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Ruth Newmark Scholarship

Medical Study in Ethiopia
During my summer work in Harar, Ethiopia, I was fortunate to be involved in many aspects of the Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance project. The mission of this project is to understand and intervene on the top causes of death in children under the age of 5. I thank you again for all of your assistance in making my summer work such a memorable and enriching experience! I truly appreciate all of your support!

Yokabed Ermias, School of Medicine
May 2019

Friends of the International Center

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PROXY STATEMENT

Please complete and e-mail to Friends of the International Center, c/o Parliamentarian, icfriends@ucsd.edu, in time to be received by Friday, May 17, 2019

I/We, (please print)__________________________, hereby state that I/we am/are members in good standing (our dues are paid), and give Katya Newmark, the current President of the Friends of the International Center, or (print) ________________________________, a Friends member in good standing, permission to vote my/our vote at her/his discretion for the proposed slate of officers at the May 21, 2019 Friends of the International Center Annual Membership Meeting.

Signed ________________________________ Date ____________________

If you have no access to e-mail, please be aware that it may take 2-3 weeks for your vote to reach our campus address if you use the U.S. postal service: Friends of the International Center, c/o Parliamentarian; University of California, San Diego; International Center #0018; 9500 Gilman Drive; La Jolla, CA 92093-0018.