



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

Newsletter

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May 2020

President's Column

Dear Friends,
Epidemiologists understood just how disruptive Covid-19 would be long before policymakers took action and for the past couple of months, we have seen our lives slowly transformed, forced to adjust and settle in to a new normal. Some have created new routines (yoga and foreign language learning are most popular with my friends), while others have been delighted to find ways to virtually resume pre-coronavirus schedules. Of this latter approach, I am happy to report that by April Friends saw many of its programs back in full swing to the visible relief of our international visitors and to our volunteer's joy. If you have not discovered the power of videoconferencing to lift your mood, please give one of our virtual programs a try!

Perhaps like me, you have chosen to look at this new period in history through lenses that offer a perspective of a glass half-full with an abundance of lemonade. Personally, I have done a far better job sticking to an exercise routine—the simple joy of getting outside each day for a walk has been immensely beneficial, especially as I have added the goal of documenting in photos this period of time. I have also done a

far better job communicating with friends and family across the globe ... this is not because I have more time, but because of the increased global embracement of Zoom, WhatsApp, and FaceTime technologies coupled with everyone's curtailed outside-the-home social calendar.

Talking about shared circumstances, coping methods, and our small joys that bring much laughter have not only brought relief but have made life extremely rewarding. Overall, just slowing down the pace of life has been a welcome respite, though with cooking and cleaning for four 24/7, I can't really say that the pace has slowed—just shifted in activities. Please write us and share what positive changes you have experienced.

I confess that the most difficult change for me has been showing love by socially distancing my family from my parents. There is no upside that I can think of beyond hoping this keeps them healthy! This is followed by trying to shop for two-weeks+ of groceries since I am accustomed to daily shopping, being able to change my mind on a whim and



without thought about availability of supplies. Not finding eggs, flour, or pasta on outings has been a powerful reminder of how much I take for granted, but on the upside it has made me a better meal planner, which I am willing to concede is semi-liberating. My third greatest difficulty is losing access to the beach, but I have replaced this with walks in different neighborhoods and am happy to be gaining a broader view of life during this unprecedented time. Please write and share your greatest challenges.

May scientists continue to light our path and the many providing essential services stay healthy so that we can all emerge on the other side soon.

Stay well, keep hydrated with warm liquids, and keep washing your hands frequently!

Katya

Katya Newmark
PresFIC@ucsd.edu



Calendar



All Friends programs normally held on the UCSD campus are shut down until further notice. We invite you to participate in our programs via Zoom or by other means. Stay well!

Slate of Officers Placed in Nomination for the Year 2020-2021

President:	Katya Newmark
Vice President, Membership:	Georgina Sham
Recording Secretary:	Jean Selzer
Treasurer:	Linda Ferri
Corresponding Secretary:	Renate Schmid-Schoenbein

2020 VIRTUAL Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers via Online Voting or Proxy

Friends scheduled May 19, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting to be held in conjunction with our scholarship awards dinner has sadly been canceled as the result of the following message from Chancellor **Pradeep Khosla**: "In accordance with Gov. **Gavin Newsom**'s stay-at-home executive order issued March 19, 2020, all campus events must be postponed or cancelled until further notice. Additionally, with certainty there will be no in-person events or gatherings throughout spring quarter per campus directive."

Thus, we will be holding Friends election of officers via online voting on Eventbrite at <https://ficannualmeeting2020.eventbrite.com> or, for those who prefer by filling out the proxy statement contained in this *Newsletter* and either e-mailing it to icfriends@ucsd.edu attention: Parliamentarian, or mailing it by regular post to **Eileen Tozer** (whose address you may find in your Friends membership directory). It is my belief that online voting will prove to be the easiest for those who have Internet access.

The Friends Board of Directors has approved and recommends that the following slate be nominated to serve as our officers for the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

President: **Katya Newmark**
Vice President, Membership: **Georgina Sham**
Recording Secretary: **Jean Selzer**
Treasurer: **Linda Ferri**
Corresponding Secretary: **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**

Using the link: <https://ficannualmeeting2020.eventbrite.com> you will be taken to our virtual event site, and after reading the information you may then register your vote. You will take the same action as you do when purchasing a ticket for an event carefully selecting the type of ticket you wish and providing the requested information.

Since you will be voting remotely, you may vote anytime between now and 11:30 p.m. on May 19, 2020. After that voting will be closed. We need a quorum of general members to participate, so PLEASE vote.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!
Katya Newmark, President

Staying in Touch

—by Ruth Newmark

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyone's lives. Friends programs have been on hiatus for weeks, heeding instructions about social distancing in an attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus. "To slow the rate of infection and to keep our community safe, we canceled in-person gatherings and moved all exams to remote or take-home format," informed Chancellor **Pradeep Khosla** and his executive team. By the end of the Winter Quarter, the campus was essentially shut down and would remain so for the Spring Quarter.

How to remain in touch with limited personal contact became a main concern. Friends program leaders continued to communicate with their program participants via e-mail, Facebook, or other social media, as did pretty much everyone else. Here follows a sample of early e-mails.

•The Wednesday Coffee chair, **Georgina Sham**, for instance, wrote this note: "It is time for our weekly e-mail and we want to know how you are coping with all the news. Lots of people have been sharing their toilet paper stories or cartoons. We want this regular use of e-mail to continue to maintain contact with all of you during this stressful time. Wednesday Coffee is all about crafts, getting together, and meeting with others. Some of you have sent in photos of what you have been doing and we want to share these to encourage others. Let's ALL share, please! With affection and best wishes for everyone to stay well."

At another time, Georgina provided a link that showed how to make pretty boxes out of repurposed food containers, urging craft-



ers and crafters-to-be to give it a try.

By late March, a group chat had been organized: "Great News! We will be meeting online on Wednesday, April 1st (no, this is not an April Fool's joke). We miss seeing you and meeting in person, so we are trying the next best thing. We will be using Zoom. What do you need to do? Use your laptop, computer, or phone and click on the link posted by **Lynn Jahn**, at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time, on Wednesday and we will be able to chat." Programs other than Wednesday Coffee, including the Friends Board of Directors, are also making use of such video communication.

•Friends Resale Shop Coordinator, **Tatiana Zapata Palacio**, waxed philosophically: "These are strange times and it never ceases to amaze me how the future is always so uncertain. When we take a lot of things for granted, boom! Events like this remind me how unprepared we are. Who had thought that toilet paper would be a kind of a currency some day? But even with just two rolls of toilet paper now, we are fine; we have food for two weeks, and we are not hoarding things. We buy for two weeks every time, and we trust that even though this health crisis is probably going to last a couple of months, the panic in the people will have settled and it is going to

be easier to find the basic household things as usual.

"In the meantime, we feel, amid the struggles, very fortunate and privileged, because Mauricio's work can be 80% done online, so is not jeopardized for the current situation. [Both Tatiana's husband, **Mauricio Caraballo**, and Tatiana are natives of Colombia with doctorates in science from Brazil.] I am spending my time sewing, reading, and watching some shows. I already sewed some mask and donated them to a church, but I don't have more supplies or resources to make more. But I'm offering myself to sew more masks, if the material is provided—so will see. Even if it is only something small, it is something that helps the community in this rough times."

•**Jei Yoon Park**, who often takes charge of correspondence for the Tuesday English conversation table, thoughtfully provided a schedule for when area grocery shops were open specifically to seniors, while **Nori Faer**, the chair of the program, shared with pride how she was spending the time at home. "Congratulations are in order. I baked my first bread. It was a knead bread, so I got exercise too! Two beautiful loaves of olive oil, rosemary bread. I also baked a beautiful apple / cranberry pie with a crust I made (struggled with), but it was delicious."

Our Friends President awarded Nori a vintage Girl Scout cooking badge, with the suggestion to keep on baking and to feel free to let us know about her delivery service.

"I'm doing an online, low level, Spanish tutorial daily," continued Nori. "I've been doing a 45-minute walk in the mornings, which keeps the anxiety at bay. I also give **Percy** [the Faer's dog] many walks, which he's enjoying. Netflix just started *Unorthodox*. It is very good. Lastly, I heard from **Hiroko Villardi**, who is

still here with her Brazilian husband and young daughter awaiting their return to Japan. I might yet get to say a proper goodbye to little **Anna** (whom I call Miss Banana) and mommy after all."

•Friends Recording Secretary, **Jean Selzer**, took a quite different approach to the lengthy hours spent sheltered. As a nurse, Jean is probably better attuned than many of us as what to do in a health crisis. "It is unfortunate that it has taken a flood from our bathroom into a hall storage and COVID-19 to make me stay home and concentrate on projects I have put off for years," confessed Jean. Since social distancing is paramount, I have forced myself to create emergency disaster bags using unused, rolling luggage, left-over camping equipment, unused clothing, and personal hygiene items. My husband and I created one bag for a kitchen center, one for water purifying, one for sleeping equipment, and another for hazardous situations and 1st Aid. The only items that caused me much consternation was trying to decide what clothing to take. Maybe it would be summer and I needed shorts and tank tops; maybe it would be winter and I would need gloves, a beanie, long pants, long-sleeved shirts? I sincerely hope it will never be in winter, because I absolutely hate wearing long sleeves and long pants. It took days to do this, but we finally have five emergency bags to either roll down the street or put in the van in case we need to evacuate. A friend asked me if I had become a 'prepper' and my answer is no. From what I have read, they are quite extreme and my goal was to have enough for a week."

•Ethnic Dinner Chair, **Liz Fong Wills**, who with her husband, **Chris Wills**, had been in Indonesia, wrote on March 26: "We just got home late Monday. LAX and Interstate 5 were



empty of people/traffic! There were fewer people on the road than on Super Bowl Sunday. There was a little excitement at the airport when we arrived in Singapore from Jakarta about an hour before they banned transit passengers. Then we learned that Singapore Airlines was operating only 4% of their 125 planes; they assured us that our flight to SFO the next day was okay, but we were very nervous/didn't sleep very well. A policeman rounded us up the next morning and took us to Singapore Immigration to make sure that we had boarding passes to get out. I couldn't even figure out what language he was speaking in nor what he wanted us to do. We normally fly into LAX but that Singapore Airlines flight was cancelled. We were only four passengers between SFO and LAX on Alaska Airlines, but there were eight attendants.....

"Oops, I almost forgot to say that this was the best of the 5 trips that we have made to Raja Ampat! As a snorkeler, I was thrilled to find a walking shark while doing a nite dive on my own. I learned to use my new Go-Pro and took a few decent pixs of whale sharks and the bagans where they feed. It was a pity that we couldn't stay for the second cruise, but our daughter, **Anne Marie**, sent a message saying that we needed to come home ASAP.

Seeing the news that maybe 50,000 Americans are stranded overseas means that Anne Marie was right!"

•Many of us are corresponding with Friends participants, current and past. Friday Chat's Chair, **Cindy Tozer**, used her iPad to inquire from **Abirami Sabarethinam** how things were. "Abi, dear, I've heard that all in India must stay at home. And that the Internet was sooooo slow. I decided not to contact you, because my message would use up too much Internet. We stay home and work in the garden; all beaches and trails are closed. How is **Vignesh** and **Raj**? Do you think you will be able to fly here in May?" A reply came quickly: "Hi Cindy, Yeah, we all have to stay at home for 24 days lockdown. Now I have good Internet speed. Vignesh and Raj both are fine and they are managing. Hopefully I should fly in the month of May." "What are you doing at home? Cooking for sure? Caring for children?" asked Cindy. Answered Abi: "Yeah you are right that I am cooking, but parents are not allowing their kids to go to anyone's place. So it's boring here." In a later e-mail, we learned that in India police often hit people found on the street not complying with the order to stay at home.

•On March 11, **Pat** and **Irma Canan**, wrote this note to the students in their group: "To our Everyday English friends: On the direction of Friends of the International Center (FIC) we will, with regret, cancel all Everyday English classes until at least May 10. We will keep sending weekly notices, but until then we will not be holding the class.

"Do feel free to keep in touch. If you would like to get messages and photos to the class, send them to us and we will forward them to everyone.

"We will start by attaching two photos of the baby seals from the

[La Jolla] Children's Pool. Please notice that the mothers and their babies are together. We have been told that the fathers are 100 miles away, feasting on fish! ...

"We are so sorry, and miss you, but we do not want to spread the disease."

- From a former Wednesday Coffee participant, **Victoria Fagman**, we learned that Sweden has been rather lax about instituting coronavirus regulations. Wrote Victoria to **Katya Newmark**: "The situation in Sweden during the pandemic is that people here also seem to buy a lot of toilet paper and pasta—empty shelves in those isles almost every time when we go grocery shopping. Right now Sweden has 3046 people infected by COVID-19 and 93 people has died, but we don't test everyone any longer, so there might be a lot more people infected. We are not in quarantine here as long as you don't have any symptoms; [once you do,] then you need to stay home. And today [March 27] the government banned crowds with more than 50 people.

"Love to stay in touch with you and get news from our second hometown. We loved having you and **Justin** for dinner when you visited Sweden. Hopefully we can visit San Diego soon after this pandemic is over; would love to show **Bettina** San Diego! I think she would love the beaches and the ocean! Miss you and IC a lot and are so thankful for your great work!"

- Music lovers may remember **Yeung-ping Chen**—recipient of the

Friends
Volunteer Hours
for March 2020
591 = 3.36 FTEs

2014 *Friends Diane Lin Scholarship*—having heard his award-winning, technically innovative composition, *The Moon in La Jolla*, that was given its premiere performance in 2017 by the La Jolla Symphony at Mandeville Center. On March 27, Ping wrote **Katya**: "How are you and **Ruth** and everyone of IC? **Sisi** (my wife) and I are now living in Guangzhou (Sisi's hometown and very close to the place I am from, Hong Kong), and working as teachers for a university." A quick Google search showed me that Ping is now an Associate Professor at South China Normal University.

Going into more detail, Ping wrote: "Sisi and I are okay now in Guangzhou (the city is much better compared with 4 weeks ago, and I think will get back to normal soon), though the school we are working for is still suspended (actually, so are all the schools in the nation). But let's be patient, and work very hard on protecting ourself and others, and we will get through it together."

Reminiscing, Ping continued his e-mail: "It has been about 2.5 years; we think of you and have many very good memories at UCSD, one of them is the time when we had a dinner at Ruth's place. Please take very good care, particularly in this strange and difficult time. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you and the Friends."

A week or so later, I found a package with masks at my door, sent by Ping to his good friend **Kyle Johnson**, a fellow composer completing his doctorate at UCSD, and like Ping a former (2015) recipient of a Friends of the International Center scholarship. Ping had asked Kyle to share some of the masks with the Newmark family. The irony of getting masks from China was not lost on me.

- From longtime Friends participant **Tuktuki Bhattacharya**, stranded in India, we heard: "Hi all. This is simply to find out how you are. I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. Currently I am in India staying with my mom. We are fine; my husband is in La Jolla home. See you soon. Love and hugs."

- Let me finish with a bit of humor from Friends member **Christa McReynolds**, who sent a picture titled: "My cat is sheltering in place."



Friends Membership Directory

By now Friends members will have received their 2020 *Directory and Handbook* with its canary yellow cover.

It was good to hear from **Janine Mendis**: "The new *Directory*, incorporating not only the membership list, but so much information is great—thanks to all those who put it together. I particularly enjoyed reading about the history of the organization from its origin with the **Zonta Club**, through its evolution to the present. Needless to say, during the shutdown I'm doing lots of interesting reading!"

Putting together the booklet was a team effort and our thanks go to Membership Chair, **Georgina Sham**; Historian, **Ruth Newmark**; photographer, **Katya Newmark**; and Past President, **Joan Adamo**.

Global Education at the Time of the COVID-19 Crisis

At this time of anxiety, social distancing, and closed borders, necessitating the postponement of travel essential to a student's research, our graduate fellowships have taken on greater meaning than ever. The School of Medicine requested that we put our 2020 awards on hold, while the Friends Scholarship Committee decided to forgo making undergraduate study abroad awards until more was known about programs going forward. Once we learned that all Global Seminars had been suspended for the summer of 2020, it seemed unlikely that other study abroad programs would risk going ahead. Soon enough UCEAP followed suit and UCSD halted all undergraduate summer study abroad programs. The coronavirus pandemic has taken hold. Normality is no longer what guides us.

Upon notifying the 30 graduate students selected to receive a 2020 Friends of the International Center fellowship (funded in tandem by Friends and UCSD's Graduate Division), I received heartwarming responses. Students thanked Friends, consented to writing a report and attending our annual scholarship awards ceremony on May 19, should the dinner go forward as originally planned. Many commented on the uncertain times, wishing us well.

From among this outpouring of thanks, I have selected a few (some edited for brevity), so that you may share in the happiness that even a small grant like ours brings. For clarification, I have added the recipient's country of origin and/or destination, as well as the student's department. All students quoted are working towards a Ph.D.

- ❖ *Thank you very much for the good news! It is my great honor and pleasure to receive this fellowship. I would love to accept this award and satisfy the conditions, including writing a report about my research and use of scholarship and attending the Awards Ceremony should it be held. Again, thank you and thank FIC for offering this opportunity to support international scholars and make UCSD a stronger community. — **Shijia Liu** from China, Neurobiology*
- ❖ *What wonderful news amidst all this chaos! I most certainly accept the reward and thank you many times over for choosing to support my project. Looking forward to any next steps. — **Sofia Lana** from Argentina, to Bolivia, Anthropology*
- ❖ *Thank you so much for delivering these wonderful news in uncertain and difficult times like these; this really made my day! I gratefully accept the fellowship; of course. I hope that the meeting in May will take place and that I can thank you in person very soon. The fellowship will help me tremendously with continuing my research. — **Stephan Kaufhold** from Germany, Cognitive Science, Ruth Newmark Scholarship*
- ❖ *This is my first ever fellowship as a scholar, and as such I would like to thank you for putting your trust and hope in me. I will do my best to make your organization proud and represent the university properly. Thank you very much. — **Gabriel Zalles** from Bolivia, to Bolivia, Music, Fitzsimmons Scholarship*
- ❖ *Thank you for this wonderful news coming at a very difficult time of Covid-19. I owe a lot of my achievements here at UCSD to your previous support. I am glad I am given this opportunity for a 3rd time! — **Madhura Som** from India, NanoEngineering*
- ❖ *Thank you so much for the great news! In the wake of what's been going on lately, I'm honoured and ecstatic to be a Friends of the International Center fellow. Thank you again for the opportunity and the faith. I am planning on staying in San Diego at least until July before I head to Beirut for research. — **Zeead Yaghi** from the U.S., to Lebanon, History*
- ❖ *Thank you for these good news in distressing times! I humbly and with gratitude accept the award, and I am especially touched that it is a named award. If you have more information about **Teclé Kidane-Mariam** and the scholarship in his name, could you please send it to me so that I can share it when I share the news with my department and other students? I would have to add that parts of my research activities currently have come to a halt, given the social distancing measures that have come into play. — **Nina Hagen Kaldhol** from Norway, working with a group of Somali refugees living in San Diego, Linguistics*

- ❖ *Thank you so much for bringing some good news during such special period of time. I am thrilled and truly honored. In terms of the short report about my research and the use of the scholarship, I am currently waiting for a journal's decision if to accept my paper, and once published, I will be able to talk more about my research. Stay safe and healthy!—Yao Jiang from China, NanoEngineering, Luna Fung Scholarship*
- ❖ *Thank you for your email. I am happy to receive the Friends of International [Center] fellowship! I also wish all of us will be healthy in surviving through the outbreak of the coronavirus—Chih-Chun (Dino) Hsu from Taiwan, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Diane Lin Scholarship*
- ❖ *Thank you so much for this great news. I feel truly honored to be selected to receive this fellowship and I'm so grateful for this opportunity. Thank you so much again and I hope you stay healthy and safe in this time of stress and chaos.—Sarang Kim, from the U.S. to South Korea, Education Studies*
- ❖ *Thank you so much for this great news! I am very happy to accept this valuable Fellowship proposed by the Friends of the International Center. Thank you again for acknowledging my work, as well for building a vibrant community among UCSD students.—Marianna Hovhannisyan, from Armenia, to Russia, Visual Arts*
- ❖ *I am grateful for your support of my project and I hope that I can adjust the project to continue in these interesting and challenging times. I am optimistic that the impact of this research will still benefit the academic community and foster friendships between countries, especially given the current situation.—Catherine Arnett from the U.S., to China, Linguistics*
- ❖ *This award is probably the best news recently!!! Thank you so much!!! —Yen-Ting Hsu, from Taiwan, Sociology*
- ❖ *I feel quite honored to accept the Smith Fellowship and would be happy to meet Carol and many of the Friends of the International Center once the current COVID-19 situation dies down. Hopefully we'll all be able to get together in May! To that end, I was hoping to begin my collecting in Singapore in late April, but that seems impossible at the moment. I will reschedule as soon as possible, but I hope the Friends can understand the results of my research may be a bit delayed depending on the ability to travel. Thank you again for this opportunity!—Alex Neu, from the U.S., to Singapore & Japan, Biological Sciences*
- ❖ *This is such happy news! I very much appreciate this support from the FIC to conduct my dissertation research in Mexico. I am copying my advisor here so he can have this in the back of his mind as we monitor the COVID crisis and make updates to our plans for fieldwork. I do accept this fellowship, with the candid caveat that, depending on how this outbreak unfolds, fieldwork may be impacted and delayed (but hopefully not!). Thank you again for your consideration, support, and thoughtful letter.—Erica Ferrer, from the U.S., Marine Biology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography*

I could easily have chosen other quotes, but looked for slightly varying expressions of delight and gratitude. Less consciously, I aimed for a representation from different departments, although a quick review

shows me that I have left out Communication, Ethnic Studies, Global Health, and Political Science.

As the far-reaching impact of the coronavirus pandemic became clearer, students began to grapple with alternative ways of continuing their studies. Friends are, of course, cognizant that many of the plans that students wrote about in their scholarship application will have to be postponed or drastically altered, so it is doubly nice to know that \$2,000 can go a long way in someone's life.

As **Katya Newmark**, a member of the Friends Scholarship Committee, explained to one of our scholarship fund donors: "When Friends decided to award the Graduate Fellowships/Scholarships, we did so knowing that many would be unable to use it for the international conferences, international fieldwork/research, etc. given what was happening. However, we similarly recognized that the recipients were all in great financial need: for the first time, it was not just one or two applicants, but many, who spoke about their dire finances trying to live on a TA stipend, the lack of support for international students, etc. Thus, we concluded that if indeed any of our selected recipients were sidelined, they would need financial support now more than ever."

By late March, all on-campus events and gatherings were cancelled through Spring Quarter. The one-time idea of holding a large, celebratory dinner seemed almost ludicrous. The disruption to our everyday lives has been extraordinary. We shall miss the Scholarship Awards Dinner with its warm spirit of camaraderie.

Ruth Newmark
Scholarship Committee Chair

REPORTS FROM 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Aquaculture Research

I am very grateful for the Friends of the International Center award, as it has enabled me to travel to New Zealand to study the microbiome of diseased Pacific farmed salmon, along with attend two international conferences on aquaculture in Germany.

For the New Zealand trip, I participated in research at Cawthron Institute, which is the largest private research institute in New Zealand. I had the opportunity to network and meet with various expert scientists in aquaculture, while working on a dataset of skin swab samples taken from fish with varying levels of skin ulcers to determine if the microbiome could explain the disease. My research would potentially identify the



causative agent if it were bacterial. I also had the chance to visit a few local attractions including Abel Tasman National Park and go on an overnight hike that was probably the most beautiful hike I've ever gone on.

For the international conferences, I had the opportunity to travel to Berlin, Germany, to attend the Euro-

pean Aquaculture Society [EAS] annual meeting (about 2000 attendees), along with the NordicRAS [Recirculating Aquaculture Systems] meeting. I gave a total of four oral presentations (3 at EAS and 1 at Nordic RAS). For the NordicRAS conference, I presented in front of 300 people, which was the largest number of people I've spoken to, and was very influential as it helped me meet many people.

Thank you very much for the fellowship. It truly helped me in my research for both data collection and presentation.

Jermiah (Jake) Minich

Ph.D. student, Marine Biology
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Political Science Study in Pakistan

I am a third year Ph.D. student in the Political Science department and study politicians' use of non-discretionary resources, particularly foreign aid, as a distributive electoral strategy. I specifically study local level political exchange in Pakistan, as mediated by the presence of foreign-aid-funded public programs.

The FIC scholarship allowed me to travel to Pakistan in the summer of 2019 and establish research understanding with local partners. In particular, I was able to achieve two key activities while stationed in Lahore, Pakistan. Firstly, I teamed with a World Health Organization polio vaccination effort to visit an urban slum termed the "Afghan Camp," where I conducted qualitative interviews with twelve residents regarding their political preferences and their distributional expectations of local politicians. While slum residents are mostly refugees without voting rights, servicing them is important for politicians who want to contain the spread of epidemic diseases (such as polio) and advance the cause of education and gainful employment. I was able to establish the feasibility of conducting a future survey with the slum residents, which I plan to carry out in summer 2020.

My second key activity was to find and settle on a research partner who can help me conduct the survey in the field. I have decided to work with the survey team at IDEAS (Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives), an independent research think tank in Lahore.

In an effort to engage with local researchers, I also presented my survey design in a Brown Bag seminar convened by the Economics department at the Lahore University of Management Sciences.

I want to thank Friends of the International Center for their generosity.

Syeda (ShahBano) Ijaz from Pakistan

Dear Friends,

I am very grateful for your support this year! Your fellowship not only helped me further my research but also to establish new friendships with researchers from around the world.

It was my great pleasure meeting Friends Scholarship Committee chair, **Ruth Newmark**, in person at the Friends Dinner. I very much enjoyed the great company at our table. **Kirk Simmons** offered help with my husband's job application. I also had the chance to talk to another awardee, **Matt Wills**, which was the start of a great friendship. Matt has been assisting me with my academic work ever since by helping me proofread papers. The dinner very much reflected the Friends investment in mutual support and friendship, which I am very much proud to be part of.

With your financial aid, I was able to travel to Arlington, Virginia, to attend the Society of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) annual meeting. I not only presented a paper but also established new friendships with other researchers

from around the world. In the aftermath of the conference, my paper was accepted for a “revise and resubmit” and it will hopefully get published in the society’s journal. Although the annual meeting is a big conference, which many renowned scholars attend, the atmosphere was very amicable—very much in the spirit of UCSD’s Friends of the International Center.

The Friends fellowship was a real game-changer for my archival research. I was able to travel to the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, where I gathered material for several projects analyzing U.S.-European relations. On top of that the fellowship allowed me to invest in a book-scanner that makes a big difference in working effectively in the archive. The scanner will aid me in my work for many years to come.

Overall, I am very grateful for the Friends support, which will only be the starting point for new friendships that will provide long-term support of my research and my personal development.

Felicia Hartung

Ph.D. student from Germany
Department of History



EAP in South Africa

My name is **Rosaline Meyer** and I used my Friends scholarship to participate in an internship program in Cape Town, South Africa for the summer of 2019.

Prior to embarking on my trip

Happy New Year!

At the end of the year I like to revisit the best parts of my year and to give thanks to those who made them possible. To you, Friends of the International Center, I would like to give thanks for your financial support towards my summer study abroad program in Paris.

As a budding biologist, I had stumbled upon an unexpected interest for sign languages, while taking ASL classes my sophomore year. I joined a sign language linguistics lab as a research assistant to further my interest academically, and was then recommended to take the Sign Languages in Paris Global Seminar with Professor **Lott** for five weeks to explore the historical roots of French Sign Language. Thanks to your generosity I was blessed with five weeks that gave me the opportunity to network with keystone individuals in the Deaf community in America and France and to visit significant locations in the history of American Sign Language.

These five weeks I was also able to expand my knowledge of French culture and become a better international citizen in the process. You have enriched my college education with experiences that others have not, but that I may share with and connect with those who have not had my opportunity, so that we may all become better informed and more culturally aware.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity of a lifetime. You have inspired me to give back one day, when I have the means to, to help others go abroad and to experience beyond their wildest dreams.

Jan Hsiao

Biology Bioinformatics major

abroad to South Africa, I established academic and professional goals. These included learning more about South African policy, gaining a higher familiarity with law and government organizations, widening my worldview, and developing my ability to succeed across cultural borders.

My internship in South Africa was with the Black Sash, a non-governmental organization that focuses on advancing human rights (specifically socio-economic rights) within the country. Throughout my internship, I was able to accomplish many of my goals through compiling research, attending roundtable discussions, and conducting fieldwork, while also gaining valuable work experience. Working with this organization also allowed me to conduct policy analysis that aided me in learning more about South African politics and the country’s governmental system. Together, these aspects of my internship in conjunction with the class that I took on South African culture helped me to

accomplish the majority of the goals that I had outlined before going to study abroad.

My participation in this program has challenged me to rethink my professional and personal habits, assumptions, and values. It has pushed me to grow into an individual that understands how aspects of business, society, and government function differently in other countries, while valuing the diversity that different cultures cultivate.

Now that I am back at UCSD, I am focusing on finishing my double major in International Studies and Political Science. The experience that I gained over the summer has given me valuable insight to inform my contemplation of complex global issues, which has helped to take my in-class learning to another level. Thank you for the opportunity that this scholarship has provided, as it has allowed me to participate in an experience that has not only changed my worldview but my life as well.

Dear Friends of the International Center,

I'm a third-year Ph.D. student in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department. I would like to acknowledge and show my appreciation to the Friends of the International Center for my scholarship. The support of scholarship lightened my financial burden, which allowed me to focus more on my research, and for this I am very grateful.

For over two years I have been working on a project about neurodegenerative disease, looking to use some hydrophobic material to alter the secondary structure of amyloid proteins, which is believed to be the hallmark of most of neurodegenera-

tive diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. It is found that when the amyloid protein is misfolded and in fibrillar states, it is very toxic to neurons and cannot be cleared away by proteases. If the secondary structure of amyloid protein can be manipulated and the beta-sheet content of the protein is reduced, it could become a very promising approach to make amyloids more susceptible to protease degradation.

In the past year, I successfully obtained the monomer and fibrillar form of the protein, and utilized multiple methods to study the structure and property of the protein. I am very

excited and grateful that I can be involved in such a project and contribute in a meaningful way to the betterment of people's lives.

Graduate life is an adventure full of excitement, challenges, and stress. While striving to push forward my research project, I started taking a Spanish language course to balance my research and life. I think it helps a lot to release pressure from all the frustrations I encounter in my research and keeps me motivated about learning, meeting new friends, and exposure to new cultures.

With great gratitude,
Meihan Li from China

Academic Year in London

My name is **Stephen Lightfoot**, and I'm a third-year theatre major. Over the past several months, I had the incredible privilege to study abroad at the University of London, Queen Mary. Though it may be somewhat corny to say, studying abroad has genuinely been one of the highlights of time in college, and of my life. Being abroad has been fantastic for meeting new friends, as well as fellow artists and scholars who are working on groundbreaking theatre works both on and off-campus. Getting an international perspective on theatre has been incredibly eye-opening, especially because most of the work being done on campus, in the UK, and in Europe at large, is much more avant garde than I'm used to seeing in the United States.

I've been able to take classes in several subjects, including politics, history, and, most importantly, theatre. Because the approach to theatre-making, genres, and content of shows



Stephen Lightfoot at the Palace of Westminster

is so different, I've gotten a much different theatrical education than at UCSD. As I move into professional settings as an artist, I believe that my newfound international perspective will help me develop art that is more impactful and further reaching.

The Friends of the International Center scholarship was instrumental in helping cover the cost of living essentials and rent. However, it also helped me enhance my study abroad experience by giving me the funds to go to see theatre across London, as well as exploring towns like Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Moreover, one of the most amazing things about the Friends scholarship was the ability to extend my study abroad experience to the full academic year. Originally, I only had the funds to study for the fall, but being a Friends scholarship recipient allowed me to financially afford extending and deepening my appreciation of London and of the UK. Though I'll always love the United States, London will forever have a fond place in my heart.

Thank you for all the opportunities that being a Friends scholarship recipient has given me!

EAP in Japan

The Friends scholarship allowed me to participate in a two-day trip/seminar that everyone in our lab went to. Our first stop was a city called Shirosaki, a place famous for a dish called umen, a type of noodle that's essentially a thicker somen. After this detour, we made our way to a ryokan, a traditional Japanese hotel with tatami mats in the rooms.

Of course, before all the fun and relaxation started, we had to finish our work first. And that meant a seminar on statistics.

Once it was done, we had some

time to relax and enjoy the onsen [bathing facility] before having an elaborate traditional dinner. I wish I had pictures, but I got a bit too excited and ate everything before I could take one. Afterward, we all participated in karaoke, a common activity that many people do for fun. The next day, we had a chance to visit a place called the Zao Fox Village, which is exactly as it sounds—a village of foxes.



Of course, most of the scholarship went to tuition, as lab trips/seminars only happen once a year. The time saved from having to work a part-time job gave me the time to join a club, an Aikido one to be specific. Not only was this a great chance to meet students outside of exchange programs, but I was also able to both make use of the Japanese I was learning and learn some martial arts along the way.

Tammy Mok
Human Biology major

Dear Friends of the International Center,

The year for my time abroad seems to be speeding by. I am deeply enjoying my courses, and have had many opportunities to broaden my knowledge on engineering approaches that may be slightly different than in America. My class has just finished a design, build, and test project, which proved to have very interesting results compared to the expectations given by the theoretical solutions.

For the most part, the money that I have so kindly been given has gone towards living expenses, as London is a rather expensive place to live. I have however, had the time to do a little exploring in Paris and the greater London area as well. I am really enjoying the many architectural wonders that Europe has to show off.

I would like to once again take the opportunity to say thank you to those that have enabled me to receive this scholarship, as it has been most useful.

Kayla Erler
Structural Engineering major
EAP in England



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May 2020



ELECTION OF 2020-2021 FRIENDS OFFICERS

PROXY STATEMENT

If you have not voted via Eventbrite as described on page 2 of this *Newsletter*, please complete and e-mail to Friends of the International Center, c/o Parliamentarian, icfriends@ucsd.edu, in time to be received by Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

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 slate of officers proposed by the Friends Nominating Committee and as announced in the Friends of the International Center April 2020 and May 2020 *Newsletters*.

Signed _____

Date _____

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