Dear Friends,

Given that the world remains upended by the coronavirus pandemic and some aspects of life have experienced abrupt and dramatic changes since March 2020, I regret that I possess neither a fortuneteller’s ball nor powers of clairvoyance to speak to the conditions that will exist when this issue of the Newsletter is in your hands (or inbox). So, forgive me should information be obsolete.

The Friends of the International Center board decided that regardless of UC San Diego’s decision/efforts to bring back students and staff to campus, Friends will not be holding any in-person events during Fall Quarter 2020. Again, this was not an easy decision as we, like everyone else, have grown weary of social isolation, are eager to resume enjoyable activities, and keen to participate in the community we have built based upon a foundation of tolerance, inclusion, greater understanding through education and interaction, and respect for all.

Friends programs that have been meeting on Zoom since Spring Quarter: Tuesday Chat, Wednesday Coffee, Mommy/Daddy & Me, and Friday Chat, will continue to do so, and I repeat my encouragement that every member join in these sessions at least once. They are wonderfully uplifting and one learns fascinating things about a broad range of topics: the best non-knead bread recipe, the process of ordering a car in China (did you know Tesla has a factory in Wuhan and that purchasing is done by lottery with a five-plus year wait?), and that some Korean homes have specialized refrigerators just for their kimchi? You might meet up with some of our international scholars that have moved away; you may learn who has the best local take-out for any number of cuisines; you may learn tips to making reservations at campgrounds; or you may simply find that you smile and laugh more during your Zoom sessions than you do normally.

The near future consists of a greater number of unknowns than knowns; for example, we are uncertain how robust our programs will be this Fall, since many of our current participants have been able to repatriate to their home countries or have plans to do so soon, while, at the same time, there is a slow influx of new international arrivals. Furthermore, due to existing social restrictions, there is little opportunity for word-of-mouth promotion of Friends and we have no knowledge when Friends programs, currently in suspension mode, might resume.

Add to these unknowns, the new challenges we all face in addressing and redressing a growing number of societal grievances born out of our country’s history of racial injustice, economic disparities, and systemic racism. I confess that, at times, it feels daunting for Friends to try to navigate these critical issues, especially when it is not always clear that Friends efforts will be perceived in the way intended. I am concerned that in June, the editor-in-chief of Bon Appetit magazine was forced to resign, in
Election of Officers

I am pleased to announce that all of the members nominated as the Friends of the International Center Officers for the 2020-2021 year have been officially elected to their positions. There were ample votes beyond the required 10% quorum, all in favor of the following slate:

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

I am sure I speak for everyone when expressing heartfelt thanks and appreciation to these five people for their willingness to serve in their respective capacities. Despite all of the recent difficulties, I believe that the Friends of the International Center is a wonderful organization that provides a valuable service to the international community at UC San Diego.

Eileen Tozer, Parliamentarian

In a Wednesday Coffee video chat, participants learned from Angie Serrano that the weather is nice in Costa Rica, but there are heavy rains every evening; that schools will be online until December; and that Costco carries brands in Costa Rica that are similar to those carried in the U.S.

Angie also shared recipes from Friends fall 2003 cooking classes she took with Alma Coles, Georgina Sham, and Barbara Starkey.
Donations

Friends are enormously grateful to the many who continue to make donations to our organization. It was thoughtful of Christa McReynolds to send a scholarship contribution in lieu of making a reservation for our customary May Annual Membership and Scholarship Awards Diner that was cancelled due to the spread of Covid-19. Others who made contributions to the Friends scholarship fund were: Maarten & Janet Chrispeels, Ann Craig, Karen Davis, Asoka & Janine Mendis, Dick & Teresa Norris, Ray & Debbie Park, and Carol Robertson.

In July, NONA CRAMPTON made a contribution to the David Crowne Memorial Scholarship, and in celebration of Ruth Newmark’s birthday, Friends received donations to the scholarship fund named in her name: Sascha Duttker (himself once a 2013 recipient of a Ruth Newmark Scholarship, when, as a German graduate student, he was working towards a Ph.D. in the Biology Department), Linda Ferri & Norbert Kubilus, Gail Fliesbach, David Jordan, Hannes & Ariane Pessenteiner, Danièle Rodé, Manny & Paula Rotenberg, and Liz Fong Wills & Chris Wills.

Unrestricted funds are especially appreciated and we are grateful to Yin Tai Hong and Maiko Seo for their donations.

Also in July, Friends received an exceptional gift from The Peacemakers Fund, when we heard from Davida Huchel, co-trustee with Andrew Mundt of the fund established by Andrew’s father. Much like the Friends of the International Center, The Peacemakers Fund strongly believes in the value of international education. Wrote Davida Huchel:

“As promised, now that we have some expendable funds, we want to honor Tec and continue supporting scholars working to make the world a better, healthier, more just, and humane place to live. Toward that end, we have placed a request to The San Diego Foundation for $10,000 to further your wonderful efforts. Only sorry, due to the crises requiring our immediate emergency funding combined with market slides, we’ve had to trim back the extent of our scholarship donation.”

Davida Huchel’s note references Tec Kidane-Mariam, who served at UCSD as an international student advisor from 1989-2000, and in whose remembrance the Friends award an annual scholarship. Davida learned about this scholarship when Carol Robertson brought her to a November 2017 Friends Ethnic Dinner at which a medical student and recent recipient of the Tec award spoke about his studies and intent to participate in an ultrasound-training project in Uganda, where he was born. Davida was greatly impressed by Bannet Muhoozi’s presentation.

This introduction to the Friends scholarship program led to a more detailed explanation of each other’s mission and not long thereafter, in 2018, the Friends of the International Center received a $25,000 grant “to fund scholarships for UCSD graduate students traveling abroad for research, study, or field work for advancement of peace, justice and/or development.” To our delight, Friends received another, similarly generous grant the following year. And now, in 2020, we received yet a third grant for $10,000!

The wide-ranging impact of The Peacemakers Fund cannot be overestimated. To give some representative examples: recent recipients of a Friends fellowship are working on studies that deal with the application of nanoengineering to the field of pain research; the professional development of teachers of migrant students in Honduras and Mexico; the effect of the mining of lithium—used more and more in batteries—on indigenous communities in Chile; the influence of interest-group lobbying in American politics (interestingly, a study being conducted by a Ph.D. candidate from China); the identification of marine fish microbiota vital to aquaculture, and the participation in a child health and mortality prevention surveillance project in Harar, Ethiopia by a medical student.

These grants have made it possible for our organization to support international education in a manner that advances the aims of both The Peacemakers Fund and Friends of the International Center. More importantly, they help to provide UCSD graduate students with a fellowship that allows them to further their global imprint in a positive way.

**FRIENDS VOLUNTEER HOURS**

for May 2020: 365 = 2.07 FTEs
for June 2020: 361 = 2.05 FTEs
for July 2019 - June 2020: 7,173 hours
for July 2020: 282 = 1.60 FTEs
From the Editor: A WWII POW Story

From time to time Friends Newsletter readers submit comments to the editor, but it is rare that I receive an unsolicited article. Thus, I was delighted when Christa McReynolds sent me an anecdote with the invitation to share it with Friends membership.

The topic may well be a surprise to many because the fact that the United States housed a large number of WWII prisoners of war has not been widely disseminated. From the little I have read, there were close to half a million POWs, most of them German, but also a few Italians and a smattering of Japanese. The camps, mainly located in rural areas, were broadly distributed among different U.S. states, as seen in a map of 1944.

The largest group of German prisoners consisted of soldiers who simply had been drafted into military service; however, there were among them also some ardent Nazis who believed that Hitler would invade the United States and free them. Those holding strong Nazi beliefs were generally housed separately to avoid fights between the two groups, as the Nazis took to task those that showed any sign of friendship with their American neighbors.

At the end of the war, the internees were repatriated. German POWs were generally forced into harsh labor camps, and it often took them 18 months to two years before they were able to return home. Those unfortunate to end up in Russian labor camps experienced far greater hardships; some did not return home until 1953, if they returned at all.

The United States held to the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war and the POWs were not as isolated as one might think. Because there was a great shortage of male labor on the home front, many POWs were given the opportunity to work, often on farms. The POWs were generally eager to work to avoid boredom and were paid a small sum of money for their work. Most seemed to have been hard workers and well behaved, as illustrated by Christa McReynolds’ story.

Since this year marks the 75th commemoration of the end of World War II, the story seems fitting.

An Uplifting Story

Sometime in the late seventies I visited my family on one of my annual trips to Germany. On my return trip home, like the other passengers on the plane, I was in my seat ready to take off. My neighbor’s seat was still empty.

Finally, an elderly lady with several bags of carry-on luggage showed up and soon the plane began taxiing to the runway. After catching her breath, she was eager to tell her story.

She owned a farm in the Midwest. Her husband was drafted during WWII, and she needed help to run the farm. Nearby was a camp with many German prisoners of war. She asked for three young men to help.

They showed up willing to work, but knew nothing about farming. She adopted them as “her” boys and explained to them the work that needed to be done. They were eager to learn and able-bodied. She treated them to necessities like toothpaste and luxuries like chocolate.

At the end of the war, they were released and went back to Germany.

But that was not the end of the story.

Many years later she got a call from one of “her” boys. All three stayed in contact and invited her to visit them in Germany to meet their families, all expenses paid.

She finally got up her courage and flew to Germany, her first trip abroad. She met their wives and children, and at the end they took her to the Frankfurt airport. Each gave her a bag with going-away gifts.

She was overjoyed to see them again and at the experience of so much warm hospitality.

—Christa McReynolds
 Remarks from 2020 Friends Scholarship Recipients
—by Ruth Newmark

It is not often that graduate students receive departmental nomination for a Friends of the International Center fellowship more than once, rarer yet to get nominated three times. To the best of my recollection this has happened twice, and over the years we have supported both nominees each time. What was interesting to those of us on the Scholarship Committee was not only how much improved the applicants’ English had become over these years, but also how more erudite their writing and research.

When Madhura Som, a Ph.D. student from India in the field of nanotechnology (fellowships: 2015, 2016, 2020) learned of her most recent award, she wrote: “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 third time! With sincere gratitude, Madhura.” (See p.7)

In a follow-up e-mail to my 2020 notification letter, Sang Eun (Eunice) Lee (2017, 2018, 2020), a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Literature, revealed a bit about her current situation: “I’m a fourth year graduate student, and am now dissertating. Looking back, I feel that the Friends scholarship really helped me out in every step of my doctoral career. The first time I received it, I was still taking seminars and narrowing down my research focus, and the second time was when I was preparing for the qualifying exam. And this year, I’ll be using it to continue drafting my dissertation. I was hoping to go on the market this fall, but that seems impossible considering the situation. I’ll probably wait for two to three years while I still have funding here at UCSD, and see what I’ll be able to do.

“Things are looking pretty bleak for academia: universities and colleges have announced hiring freezes for a year to a year-and-a-half, and it seems like UCSD is also considering freezing support for graduate students. A lot of students are also facing insecurities, so there have been movements like Mutual Aid UCSD, through which we help others in need. But there are so many others in situations far more precarious than graduate students. I feel incredibly lucky and blessed to have a place to stay, and food on the table, and no threat of abuse.

“I hope you and yours are safe and well. It’s incredibly unnerving to see how things unravel. It’s also very strange. This year went from my worrying about my family back in South Korea to my parents being worried sick about me here in the U.S.”

Like other recipients of a Friends 2020 fellowship, Dorian Golriz, an Israeli student working towards a doctorate in geophysics at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, expressed his gratitude: “I just received the letter and Friends check from you by mail, and I’m very excited. It is unfortunate that we cannot meet in person to celebrate this year’s scholarship awards. I appreciate everything you and FIC are doing, and I’m very happy and proud to be an international student at UCSD.” In answer to how things were in Israel, Dorian replied on May 18: “My family is safe and just started to go back to work last week. Israel just opened the beaches recently and probably restaurants and malls will follow next week. Currently there is a constant decrease in the number of ‘active’ coronavirus cases. [Sadly, things have changed since then.—Ed.] As you mentioned, Israelis are also working pretty hard on a vaccine, but also on simpler tests, etc. Let’s hope that this pandemic will be over, or at least controllable, soon. Stay safe.”

Yen-Ting Hsu, a Taiwanese graduate student in the Department of Sociology who studies fiscal democracy and political culture from a comparative-historical perspective, shared that his family was happy when he showed them his scholarship certificate. Samuel Gaffney, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication examining the role of the Australian coal industry, went even further: he sent a snapshot of himself holding his scholarship certificate. Our thanks go to Gail Fliesbach for making these, year after year.
Alec, too, found knowing his fellow scholarship recipient useful: “And thank you again for putting me in touch with Nina! We’ve already had a lovely correspondence and I think we have a lot to learn from each other, so I’m extremely grateful for you making that connection.”

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our educational institutions is severe. Universities are trying to restructure the manner of instruction, research, and so much more. Each of the 31 recipients of our 2020 Friends of the International Center fellowships has been seriously affected.

Stephan Kaufhold, a Ph.D. student in Cognitive Science, for instance, shared this about his revised summer plans: “My original plan was to spend some of my time at home in Germany, but also to collect data for my research with primates. I am in communication with the primate sanctuaries I collaborate with and luckily both the staff and the animals in the Republic of Congo and the other sanctuaries are currently doing fine. However, I don’t know when I will be able to travel there myself again.

I am mainly working on wrapping up old projects (writing up papers) and developing new studies for future trips to the sanctuaries. The first sanctuary that I will likely collect new data from will be the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary in Texas, but this might also only be possible this fall.”

Much like her colleagues, Ann Thresher, a UK citizen and student of the Philosophy of Time, expressed her hope for a satisfying resolution: “While there’s obviously a lot of concern about what travel will look like in the near future, I’m still excited to work with the various European academics I’m writing my book with this summer, whether in person or via Zoom. Fingers crossed I’ll get a chance to see them in person sometime soon though. If at any point in the future there is a chance of the dinner being back on, please do let me know, I’d love the chance to thank Friends in person.” The disappointment of hearing that there would not be a celebratory dinner this year was resounding.

No doubt there was great disappointment among the undergraduates who had dreamt of studying abroad. All UC San Diego 2020 summer studies abroad were cancelled, as were, somewhat later, its fall programs, regardless of location. It is unclear whether any spring programs will run or what the global education world will look like in the future. Considering this uncertainty, Friends decided not to offer any undergraduate study-abroad scholarships for the year 2020-2021.

Yet, Friends desire to support students in their pursuit of international education remains as strong as ever, and we are working closely with Kelly O’Sullivan Sommer (Director of Study Abroad UC San Diego), Kim Burton (the campus UCEAP Director), and Jim Galvin (Director of Program Development) to ascertain how we can resume our support for what Friends consider a vital experience for college students. Noted Kelly:

“We appreciate all the consideration you’ve given to scholarships this cycle. Thank you for all of your time and service to our students. I know we will get through this and I am hopeful that the field of international education, and its amazing supporters like you, will flourish and thrive again in the very near future.”
Being Part of the Friends of the International Center Family

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone in different ways. For me, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Nanoengineering at UCSD, Covid-19 has delayed my dissertation research and my upcoming graduation.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the U.S., I was wrapping up my yearlong research assignment in the Anesthesiology Department of Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, Pennsylvania campus. This research at Penn State Hershey was going to form a significant part of my dissertation. It was performed in our collaborator’s lab, designing and testing nanoparticles for applications in the field of pain research.

I had spent a significant amount of time with our collaborators learning about anesthesiology and going through several failed nanosystem designs to finally reaching a design that worked and was the most optimized. From January 2020, we started collecting useful data on the final design, but just when we were really about to get into the important sections of our work, the pandemic hit, and we were sent home from the campus. I was devastated since I was so close to finishing the work and going back to my family in San Diego.

There was uncertainty in when we could go back to finish the work and being in a rented space, I even had uncertainty if I could extend my lease and have a roof over my head in the middle of a pandemic. Eventually, we were allowed to go back to the Penn State campus and finish the project. Something that could have been done in two weeks took three months, as our time on campus was significantly reduced to maintain social distancing and safety protocols.

I passed through a very uncertain time when I could have ended up homeless as my lease had run out and I had no family in that part of the country. Staying in Hershey for the extra months wasn’t in my budget, but I had to make arrangements so that I could complete my work there and also give myself enough time to ensure I could safely travel back to San Diego.

During the uncertainty of those couple of months, I had the opportunity to apply for a Friends of the International Center 2020 fellowship. To my surprise, I was informed that I was chosen to receive the fellowship for the 3rd time. When I wrote about why I was applying for the fellowship, I mentioned how I had overcome much hardship in my Ph.D. program, and now that my dissertation was finally taking shape, I was looking for financial support to present my work at several prestigious conferences.

I used the Friends fellowship towards accommodation during the uncertain months in Hershey, which allowed me to have a roof over my head while I finished my work at Penn State and returned to San Diego.

As the academic world is re-adjusting to the changes due to the pandemic, I envision conferences to renew in the virtual form in the future and when they do, I will be ready to present my work, with the support of the Friends fellowship!

I think in these Covid-19 times, we are realizing all over again the value of human kindness and unity. I surely did, as when things were grim, the news of my receiving this fellowship for the 3rd time gave me renewed hope that I could overcome the hurdles of this pandemic and finish my work. I still remember the warm and uplifting e-mail I received from Ruth Newman that made my day. Fellowships like the Friends are not just about money, but about a supportive, kind community that uplifts international students like me and gives them hope to excel despite the odds.

I am now in San Diego, working on writing a journal article on the project I completed in Hershey. I had a really enriching time there, learning from anesthesiologists and meeting new people. The lush, verdant hills and valleys and the warm people of Pennsylvania really grew on me, and now, I can definitely say that all’s well that ends well.

Above all else, I know, for the 3rd time now, wherever I end up going, I will always have the Friends family wholeheartedly supporting me!

Madhura Som
Dept. of Nanoengineering
Friends of the International Center fellowships: 2015, 2016, 2020
Dear UCSD Friends of the International Center,

I would like to express my gratitude to you all for providing me with the support to be able to study abroad in England through UCEAP. Without your generous contributions it would have been difficult for me to even consider studying abroad. I used the scholarship to pay for a portion of my tuition.

I attended University College London, located in the heart of the city. I not only met native English students, but many international students. I learned much about other countries and how London is an epicenter of multiculturalism.

I was able to visit 14 European countries in the span of three months, visiting many museums and cultural heritage sites with other students. These experiences I will treasure forever, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to study abroad.

Tiara Kaimal in Paris, Arc de Triomphe

Friends of the International Center Scholarship Report

My Friends of the International Center scholarship money went directly to my tuition bill, but because of the Friends and another scholarship, the money funded not only my tuition and regular expenses, such as housing and food, but also a variety of sightseeing trips and extracurricular activities. For example, I spent money on buying snacks as a gift to my home-visit family for inviting me to their takoyaki parties that offered a good opportunity for me to practice Japanese and learn about Japanese culture, especially since my home-visit family did not know English at all.

Another time, I spent money buying insurance and rubber work boots for a volunteer trip to a region in Nagano prefecture that was destroyed by Typhoon Hagibis.

The greatest investment of my trip, however, was for the JLPT N1 test fee and official test prep book. The JLPT is the only internationally-recognized Japanese proficiency test for foreigners, and N1 is the highest level of that exam. For reference, JLPT N2 certification is widely accepted as business proficiency, and it is one level below N1.

Because my program was only for [the 2019] fall quarter, I have now returned to UCSD and am continuing with my computer engineering classes. However, because I had the opportunity to take an interpreting course while I was in Japan, I also want to explore interpreting as a future career path. For now, as a college senior, my plan is to apply to four programs/activities: 1) UCSD’s 5-year BS/MS program for computer engineering, 2) software engineering full-time jobs, 3) the JET program (a program sponsored by the Japanese government to bring foreigners to Japan to teach English in schools or work in city governments), and 4) a master’s degree in translation and interpretation at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California. Depending on where I am accepted and how much pay or financial aid I am offered, I will decide my next adventure.

Jacalyn Li, UCEAP, Japan

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the Friends scholarship committee for giving me the financial means to be able to study abroad freely without having to worry about how I was going to pay for my tuition.

I am a 4th-year political science student who will be graduating this quarter and I’m currently preparing for the LSAT with hopes to attend law school next year. I look forward to achieving my future goals and I am so grateful to the Friends of the International Center for allowing me to accomplish my goal of studying abroad.

Tiara Kaimal
Political Science major
Fieldwork in China
I conducted three-months fieldwork in Wuse County, China with the financial support from the Friends of the International Center. The fieldwork went very smoothly. I managed to conduct nearly 60 interviews, 200 hours of participant observation, and extensive archival research in the local archive.

I was seeking information on how Chinese local officials perceive their working relationship with other institutions in the migration policy apparatus, on the de-registration and re-registration policies for emigrant nationals, as well as the local urban beautification projects. I also obtained data on the Overseas Chinese housing policies and the official programs of political education toward migrant youth.

The fieldwork has also been translated into written work. I have submitted two articles to the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies and the International Migration Review. Both of them are currently under review. I am also nearing the completion of my third paper from the summer fieldwork and hope to submit it to the journal Ethnic and Racial Studies by the end of this month. I plan to write two more articles based on the data I collected last summer. Overall, although it was my first time to conduct fieldwork, it was very successful.

I am sincerely grateful for the generous support from the Friends of the International Center and will continue contributing to building a stronger international community at UCSD.

Jiaqi Liu
Ph.D. student from China, Department of Sociology
J.D., University of Arizona
Master’s in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action, Sciences Po, Paris, France

I Retuned from China in Time
Support from the Friends of the International Center fellowship went towards funding my plane tickets from San Diego to Shanghai, where I conducted the majority of my dissertation research. A portion of the funds also went towards funding travel within China, from Shanghai to the province of Guizhou, in Southwest China, where the liquor factory whose archives I examined was located.

While in Shanghai, I conducted research into how drug users, traffickers (domestic sellers), producers, and smugglers (people who sell or transport across international borders), were represented in early 20th century China, both textually and visually. Some of my most striking finds were visual, many propaganda comics, posters, or paintings depict narcotics offenders as walking skeletons, monstrous beasts, or family-destroying degenerates. Long form newspaper editorials also argued that drug users were pre-modern relics that evolution left behind and that the state needed to eradicate them. Newspapers also published blacklists containing the names, addresses, and common hangouts of suspected drug offenders, based on information supplied by their readers.

Moving forward in time, I also found large amounts of anti-narcotics campaign propaganda materials from the 1950s, including anti-narcotics slogans, songs, plays, and even a short musical performance. I also discovered documents specifying what rehabilitation clinics should look like, and how public punishment rallies and executions should take place. One particularly humorous document also resolutely stated that government officials should not discard the burnt remains of confiscated narcotics by dumping them into the river that runs through Shanghai. Officials were instead advised to dump the ashes into the nearby ocean, which the report claimed was an easy task since the new dumping ground was only a few miles from where they had been dumping ashes into the river in the first place.

Moving forward, I will be writing up my research findings into chapters of the dissertation, and continuing to TA for UCSD’s Dimensions of Culture writing program.

I am very grateful to the Friends of the International Center for your generous support of my research and studies.

Thomas Chan
Ph.D. candidate, Department of History

Ruth Newmark and Thomas Chan at the February 29, 2020 Friends Indonesian Dinner at which Thomas spoke about his research and the importance of the Friends fellowship
From the Scholarship Committee Chair:

Following Chancellor Khosla’s suggestion to UCSD’s international students to consider heading home before they get stranded here, Nicole King, recipient of a 2020 Friends Ruth Newmark Scholarship, returned to Europe, continuing her visual arts studies via the Internet. Because the Friends annual Membership Dinner had been cancelled—a time when our scholarship recipients normally receive their award package—checks were sent to the students’ preferred postal service mailing address. Most of the Friends scholarship recipients were still living in San Diego, many in campus housing, although a few had out-of-town addresses. Nicole King, who hails from Austria, was the sole recipient with an international address, which worried us a bit as we had heard of long delivery delays. Fortunately things went better than feared, although it took more than two weeks for Nicole to receive her letter in Berlin.

In an e-mail dated June 5, Nicole wrote: “Some moments ago the mail lady rang the bell and your letter arrived sooner than I expected. Please know that I am overjoyed by your generosity and recognition!” Nicole supplemented her note with a picture holding up her certificate and the envelope that held the check.

A Bolivian Ph.D. candidate in the Music Department and the recipient of this year’s Fitzsimmons Scholarship, noted the arrival of his fellowship as follows: “I got my award in the mail. I wanted to thank you for all you do. I hope to be able to help FIC however I can. Please keep me updated on your events. I hope you are doing well in this crazy time. Again, thank you for being part of such a wonderful organization. Your trust in me gives me hope that society is headed in the correct direction and that with empathy, education, kindness, patience, and hard work, we can achieve justice for people everywhere, not just the USA. Humbly, Gabriel Zalles.”

When the Friends Scholarship Committee met in the fall of 2019, the members selected two undergraduates to receive Spring 2020 study abroad scholarships. Chosen were: Airi Gonzalez, a Mathematics major who intended to enroll in a UC Education Abroad Program at the International Christian University in Tokyo to take courses that would count towards her minor in Japanese Studies, and Hannah Wangsa, a Thurgood Marshall College student majoring in Human Development Sciences, planning to attend psychol-
ology of neurosciences courses offered through UCEAP at Maastricht University in the Netherlands.

Hannah, however, decided to postpone her study abroad to the fall of 2020, this time selecting Utrecht University, also in the Netherlands, that among others offered psychology and linguistics courses that fit better with her graduation requirements. Impressed by her superb academic record and the care she had devoted to finding the right place for her study abroad, the Scholarship Committee decided to keep the scholarship in reserve for Hannah Wangsa.

Sadly, neither Airi nor Hannah were able to take advantage of our scholarship, as their programs were cancelled. On June 18, I received this thoughtful note from Hannah Wangsa:

“I hope this e-mail finds you well, especially amidst the current crises we are facing as a nation. It has been a while since I have last spoken with you and I sincerely apologize for the delay in my contacting you. Unfortunately, since our last e-mail, my study abroad program at Utrecht University has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Because of my course schedule, I will be unable to study abroad in future terms as well. Therefore, I no longer have a need for the FIC scholarship and am glad to know that it will be able to support another student in their future study abroad plans.”

“I cannot express how much gratitude I feel towards you and everyone else at the Friends of the International Center for your willingness to support my goals.”

“Thank you all so much for the work that you do. If there is ever anything that I can do for you all, I would be so glad to try to do so. I hope you stay safe and well. Thank you once again!”

Friends have followed Jeff Le from the time that he received a Friends 2004 scholarship for an OAP study in Ghana, to a master’s degree at the Central European University in Budapest, through various career moves that, among others, included a stint in Afghanistan with an NGO. A few years ago, his expertise in public policy landed him a job in the California governor’s office; since then, he has moved to Washington, D.C. to work at Dell Technologies. It was good to hear of his marriage and the birth of his daughter, Jacinda.

—Ruth Newmark

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Friends of the International Center, UC San Diego

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Fill in all blank lines and send back to Friends of the International Center)

Name ____________________________  Last  First

Spouse/Partner ____________________________  Last  First

Address ____________________________

City ____________________________  State _____________  Zip _____________

Phone ____________________________  E-mail ____________________________

I wish to make a donation to Friends Scholarships $ ____________

I would like to receive the Newsletter in electronic form ___

I am interested in these volunteer opportunities: ____________________________________________

MEMBERSHIP *

___ $ 35.00 member  ___ $60.00 supporting member

___ $100.00 sustaining member

___ $ 1,000.00 life member

___ $ 500.00 non-profit corporate membership

___ $ 1,000.00 corporate membership

*Includes spouse/partner

Membership and donations are tax-deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of the International Center UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive #0018
La Jolla, CA  92093-0018

E-mail:  icfriends@ucsd.edu
Website:  icfriends.ucsd.edu

Friends of the International Center is incorporated as a non-profit educational charitable trust by the State of California and is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Thus all donations, including resale items, are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law for those donors who itemize their donations.