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



Newsletter

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January 2012

President's Message

The Friends have made a New Year's resolution for 2012: to increase our membership! If we are to continue our good work into the future, we must widen our base of support, as well as our active volunteers. And so we ask your help.

★ First, consider why you are a member of the Friends, and then tell your friends about us. Maybe it's because the work we do and the programs we run impact so many lives so positively, and our reach is worldwide! Or that we enjoy world cuisines, fascinating people, and it's fun to be part of this important work. Our dues are very low (only \$35 per year), but they support our scholarships, hospitality programs, and other activities.

★ Share our colorful new brochure. Bring several to your next book or bridge or yoga group, and invite them to join us. *One brochure was sent to each member with our December donation appeal, but we have printed a good supply, so don't hesitate to ask for more.*

★ Invite all your friends to our next Ethnic Dinner on January 21st (see details and reservation form in this issue). We guarantee a wonderful Chinese New Year feast. In February and April there will be ArtPower! Community Suppers that will also offer good opportunities.

★ To see some of our most successful programs in action, suggest a visit to our Resale Shop for great bargains, or to a Wednesday Morning Coffee to experience the hospitality and activities shared with our international visitors.

Many people in the community, and even on the campus, don't know about the Friends of the International Center, so please tell them. Membership in the Friends supports the great work of international education.

Thank you for your generous response to our recent scholarship donation appeal. That generosity is what drives our success.

With hope for a more just and gentle world, I wish each of you a very happy new year!

Joan Adamo

Fundraiser for Scholarships
in Celebration of Chinese New Year



Saturday, January 21, 6:30 p.m.
Chinese Dinner with Illustrated Talk
by Prof. Christopher Wills

Ethnic Dinner **Chinese Banquet and** **Illustrated Talk on Guyana:** **An Undiscovered Paradise**

For this year's Chinese New Year Ethnic Dinner, we will of course be having fabulous Chinese food. The dinner will take place on Saturday, January 21, two days before Chinese New Year, and will be prepared by the same friends (**Theresa Song, Peggy Cheong, Jimmy Chen** and his wife **Rita Hsia**, and **Clara Wang**) who have prepared Chinese banquets for us for the past nine years. Last year Jimmy, a professional chef, made "rabbits" out of shrimp for the Year of the Rabbit. Come see if he manages to make credible "dragons" for this Year of the Dragon!

Afterwards, **Chris Wills** will take us to an almost undiscovered part of the world, the Caribbean country of Guyana in northern South America. We admit that jumping from China to Guyana is a bit of a stretch, but in extenuation we point out that Guyana's charming and raffish

capital, Georgetown, has at least one excellent Chinese restaurant!

Guyana is mostly covered with dense rainforest, and is home to some of the world's most extraordinary animals and plants. Here you will meet the world's largest spider, the tapir (the largest native South American mammal), the largest snake, the giant anteater, the world's largest water lily, and many other extraordinary creatures. We will not, however, find any dragons!

Guyana and Norway have entered into an agreement to preserve the country's rainforests, and the result is that the forests are likely to stay in good shape for the foreseeable future.

We will visit the breathtaking Kaieteur Falls and learn something about the extraordinary ecosystem that surrounds it. We will see how the giant water lilies are an essential part of the ecosystem, and how they have coevolved with many other animals and plants. We will see how local people are getting involved with censusing and preserving the populations of giant black caymans, which are still numerous along the banks of the rivers. We will meet the redoubtable **Diane McTurk**, who



Kaieteur Falls



Cock-of-the-Rock

has adopted generations of giant river otters and returned them to the wild. And we will travel in a field expedition up a remote tributary of the Rupununi River in search of big cats. In the tributary's headwaters we will swim with electric eels.

In Iwokrama Forest we will see some extraordinary insects that survive by terrifying their predators. We will search for the immense air-breathing Arapaima fish. And we will, after much effort, track down the gorgeous Guyana Cock-of-the-Rock.

Guyana occupies a piece of the planet that dates back billions of years, and in the course of our explorations we will retrace some of that long history in the animals and plants that have survived there. At the end of our trip you will have a deeper understanding of how important it is to preserve such untouched ecosystems.

From past experiences we know that the food will be mouthwatering and express our gratitude to this group of exceptionally fine cooks for preparing yet another Chinese New Year banquet for us.

We also know that the presentation by **Christopher Wills**, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, greatly admired for his

amazing photographs of flora and fauna—to wit his most recent beautifully and heavily illustrated book, *The Darwinian Tourist*—will be both informative and entertaining, and thank him for giving us here a tantalizing description of what is to come.

We laud **Liz Fong Wills**, chair of our Ethnic Dinner series, for once again bringing us an exciting way to help Friends raise money for international scholarships. Liz is a whiz at shopping. She will bring back authentic spices or other specialties from her travels and drive all over town to find the right ingredients at a reasonable price—and at her own cost buy back what's not used.

We look forward to seeing you at 6:30 on Saturday evening, January 21, at the International Center.

Reservations for the Chinese New Year celebration are a must. To facilitate planning, we ask that you make them as soon as possible. You will find a helpful reservation coupon on p. 11 of this *Newsletter*.

January Calendar

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

Jan 4, 11, 18, 25: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Jan. 4: Resale Shop reopens; hours: M-F, 10:00-4:00

Jan. 10: **Friends Board Meeting**, 9:30

Jan. 13, 20, 27: **Friday International Café**, Noon-1:15

Jan. 16: **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday**

Jan. 18: **International Kitchen**, Noon

Jan. 21: **Ethnic Dinner**, 6:30

Dagmar Bocakova



One of the most recent, and one of the most active, participants in our Friends of the International Center programs is **Dagmar Bocakova** from Trecin, Slovakia. Here follows an exchange between **Alice Blake-Stalker** and Dagmar.



Q. What brought you to UCSD?

A. My husband, **Marian Hruska-Plochar**, is a doctoral student in Anesthesiology. I came as his wife. By the way, I hate the word “dependent.” It makes me feel bad.

Q. Before you came to San Diego, what educational and work experience did you have?

A. I have a Bachelor’s degree and a Master’s in Landscaping. I began working as a landscaper while still a student. I was an entrepreneur, hiring my mother and some friends. Slovakia has seasons, so we could only do landscape six months a year. While still a student, I also started an art shop. I sold paintings, ceramics, and jewelry made by local artists, including me. When my husband got a job at an institute near Prague, I moved with him from Slovakia to the Czech Republic. Because of the economic crisis, there was little work in landscaping, so I did several jobs. I arranged flowers in a flower shop. I taught ceramics. Then, I was a librarian and project manager at the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics. That was the only sort of normal job, in an office, that I’ve had. I thought I wouldn’t like it, but I did. My boss told me what needed to be done, but not how to do it. I had a great deal of freedom.

Q. What are your hobbies or interests?

A. Painting, reading, ceramics, sewing, jewelry making.

Q. What do you like to read?

A. Everything. I especially like John Irving, Kurt Vonnegut, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Q. You often wear some of your jewelry creations to Wednesday Coffee. Would you be willing to teach jewelry making some Wednesday?

A. Of course!

Q. How did you learn about the Friends of the International Center?

A. My husband came to the orientation for students and learned about the Family Orientation. Then we came together to that.

Q. How did you become involved with the Friends’ programs?

A. I started to come to Wednesday Coffee. I really liked it. I made friends that I see on Wednesdays, and sometimes during the week. We talk about our feelings. We have the same feelings. Wednesday Coffee is therapy, kind of. As “dependents,” we are in the same situation. In our home countries, we were working. Here, we cannot work—at least not for money. At the Friends’ events, I get support. Instead of feeling guilty and selfish for not working, I feel calm, relaxed.

Q. In addition to Wednesday Coffee, have you been involved in many other Friends’ activities?

A. Yes. I volunteered at the Friday Café. I painted faces at the 4th of July party. I carved vegetables for the Thai dinner. I am a regular shopper at the Resale Shop, and I helped with the Shop’s Holiday Sale preparations. When I first came to the International Center, I didn’t know what was

waiting for me. These volunteers are very open. They know we are scared. They’re so nice and helpful.

Q. What do you like or dislike about San Diego?

A. I dislike the driving rules. I am surprised there are not more accidents. I like the weather and the way people maintain their lawns and gardens, so green, so nice.

Wednesday Coffee Schedule

—by *Georgina Sham*

•Jan. 4: First day back. Chat about what we did during our time off—bring photos to show. Crochet carrying bags using recycled plastic bags.

•Jan. 11: Make scarves with fleece fabric and pony beads; **Marie Perroud** instructor.

•Jan. 18: Celebrate Chinese New Year (January 23) by helping to prepare our first International Kitchen luncheon of the winter quarter. A Chinese menu will be served at noon for \$5/person.

•Jan. 25: Felt projects with **Marie Perroud**. Book discussion led by **Josine Kooman** of *Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Coffees, including **Gus Lestick’s Round Table**, are scheduled from 10:00-noon; the **Mommy and Me** class from 10:45-11:30.

International Center Profiles: Alice Blake-Stalker & John Stalker



John and I are new to San Diego and new to the Friends of the International Center, but we feel like we belong at both.

We grew up in Buffalo, New York. And yes, nearby Watkins Glen did, one 4th of July, have to cancel the parade because of snow.

John earned his undergraduate degree from Canisius College in English. He earned graduate degrees at the University of North Carolina in English and Library Science. His interest in foreign languages began when he was an altar boy serving Latin masses and continues to this day. His master's and doctoral theses were textual analyses of translations from Ancient Greek to English.

He claims that his interest in learning languages came from his distrust of translators. He has basic reading knowledge of French, Spanish, and Japanese. He has become a bit rusty in some languages, such as Latin, Greek, and Old English.

John's professional experience includes careers as a university librarian and as a professor. He held a variety of library positions at Atlanta University, Boston College, and the Ohio State University, and was director at the University of Scranton Library. He has also taught English language, literature, and composition courses at Niagara University, Chuo University in Japan, and SUNY Buffalo. John's hobbies include reading, cooking, and Sumo (watching). John serves the Friends as a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Enough about John. Now about me!

I grew up in a segregated neighborhood not knowing much about diversity of any kind—racial, national, linguistic. I earned my Bachelor's degree in English at D'Youville College and my Master's in African American Literature and History at North Carolina Central University. I earned my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction at Clark Atlanta University and my Ph.D. in Reading Education at the University

of Georgia.

My first teaching job was as a Reading Teacher in an elementary school in an Italian-speaking neighborhood in Buffalo in the first year of schoolbussing to achieve racial balance. My second teaching job was at an all African American, southern, rural school



outside Chapel Hill with grades 4-12. Other teaching jobs have included adult literacy in Appalachia and teacher education in a Spanish-speaking community in northern New Mexico with satellites in Navajo communities. I have also coordinated a study/teach abroad program in Sheffield, England, and in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

My hobbies include zumba, contra dancing, and international folk dancing. In fact, I learned of the Friends through my folk dance teacher, **Georgina Sham**. She invited me to Wednesday Coffee, and I was addicted. I have also tutored in the English in Action program and am an at-large member of the Friends Board.

John and I have been blessed with many wonderful international friendships during our 45 years together. Many relationships have been short-term, as our paths crossed and ran parallel for a time. However, others have been enduring and life-altering. One such encounter led to our being able to host **Maomao**, a teenage boy from Beijing, for his last three years of high school. He and his American wife now have two children and live in New Hampshire. Our son, **John**, met and married a singer from Prague. They have two sons and live in Prague, although our son teaches maths at Trinity College, Dublin.

As John and I look back at this first year of membership in the Friends of the International Center, we realize that we have given a little of ourselves but have received so much more in return. If only our other retirement investments yielded such rewards!

In Memoriam

The last time we saw **Emily Stowell** at the International Center was on May 3, 2011 at the Center's 50th anniversary celebration. She came in a wheelchair, beautifully coiffed, accompanied by her daughter, Rinda. In reply to her invitation, she wrote **Alma Coles**: "You know I am a life member of Oceanids and Friends of the International Center, and I read all of the newsletters and keep track of my old stomping fields very carefully. My daughter had told me that she wanted to bring me to this special celebration for my Mother's Day gift, and it couldn't be a better one. I have missed the Center very much, but the newsletters help me a lot."

Emily Stowell died on November 25 at the age of 95.

Emily's participation in Friends activities dates from her retirement in 1979. She held various board positions; most importantly, she served as Coordinator of the Wednesday Coffee program from 1986-2007. The warm welcome she extended to our international visitors was contagious, and her continued interest in them once they returned home was truly amazing. As a college creative writing and journalism major and the author of a historical novel based on her family, Emily enjoyed writing, reporting for our *Newsletter* on Coffee activities, often announcing the birth of babies. At the beginning of the year, we could count on news of former participants.

In 1992, she was rightly honored with a UCSD Chancellor's Award as Friends Member of the Year. In 2000, the U.S. Department of State presented her with a prestigious Millennium International Volunteer Award for her work with Amity Institute, an international language exchange program she founded with her late husband, Dr. **Ernest Stowell**.

We extend our condolences to her children, **Rinda Young** and **Christopher Stowell**, and family.

What's New at the International Center?



Dulce Dorado

The International Students & Programs Office (ISPO) welcomed nearly 1,300 international students this Fall 2011 term—the largest group ever. In addition, ISPO is now serving nearly 3,100 international students—a more than 21% increase from last year. These dramatic increases are a result of UC San Diego's efforts to enroll more non-resident students in order to help offset the over-enrollment of State-supported students and increase the diversity of the student population at UC San Diego.

To meet the needs of this growing international student population, ISPO focused on adding more staff and offering additional programs this year. Two new staff members joined the ISPO advising team in August 2011. **Layla San Jose**, former ISPO Front Desk Advisor, and **Hannah Reese**, former ISPO Graduate Student Assistant, both bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in assisting international students.

In September 2011, ISPO also launched 7 new programs designed to assist international students with their successful integration to UC San Diego:

- **Triton International Leaders Program:** Current UC San Diego students serve as peer mentors to newly admitted international undergraduate students.
- **International Triton Trekkers Program:** Activities for international students to enjoy the great outdoors in the local area.
- **Discover San Diego:** Activities and visits to local tourist attractions during the weekends and academic breaks.
- **Thanksgiving Exchange Program:** Local families host international students during the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **Intramural sports:** International Center-sponsored recreational sports teams. Each team must have at least one international student and one study-abroad returnee. There are 4 teams (3 soccer and 1 basketball) sponsored by the International Center during the Fall 2011 term.
- **Mini-Grants for UC San Diego Student Organizations:** Quarterly funding available for student organizations to conduct programs and events that promote international education and exchange.
- **Coffee/Tea with a Professor:** International students meet with their professors in a casual setting outside of the classroom.

Lastly, ISPO launched a newly designed website featuring an easier site navigation structure and more photos highlighting international students and programs. Visit the new site at istudents.ucsd.edu.

Dulce Amor L. Dorado

Associate Director, International Center/
Director, International Students & Programs Office

The Holiday Sale

—by Jeri Abernathy

Part One

The Resale Shop Holiday Sale is a yearlong affair that begins with the collecting of merchandise. All year long, **Gayle Barsamian**, the Resale Shop Master and Coordinator, sorts through incoming donations, finding lovely themed objects, decorations, knickknacks, and gift items suitable for the holidays. As she discovers these treasures, she saves them until she has stacks of bins and boxes stuffed to the bursting. Some of the items are Christmas related, but there also are international artifacts and things simply great for holiday giving.

On November 11, while the school was closed for Veteran's Day, a group of sturdy volunteers gathered at the Center for a sorting party. There was **Alice Blake-Stalker** and **Nancy Licon**. Then **Arline Paa** and **Jeri Abernathy** showed up. **Lynn Anderson** stopped by. **Janet Fialho**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Moir Igor**, and **Dagmar Bocakova** were there, too. And let's not forget our wonderful Shop Coordinator, Gayle herself. Without her organizing skills, we would have been overwhelmed by the mass of goods.

We sorted things into their proper categories. Gayle priced each item, removing the broken ones. Such sorting is helpful to seller and shopper alike. When a customer looks for a specific type of product, we can say: "Candles, we got 'em. Indonesian batiks, got those, too," and direct the person to the right place.

Then comes advertising, a task taken on by **Gail**

Fliesbach. Flyers are posted all over campus. E-mails sent out, and a notice is placed in the *Friends Newsletter*. There are many ways to get people out to the sale. Telling neighbors and friends works well.

The Holiday Sale happens in conjunction with Friends sponsorship of the Friday Café. There will be students, faculty, and staff, as well as Friends and community shoppers. Volunteers for the actual sale day are recruited. The excitement builds. Finally, the big day arrives.

Part Two: December 2

The tables are brought out around 8:00 a.m., the items are displayed on festive green tablecloths, and the sale starts at 10:00 a.m. The first round of volunteers works hard to set up, and the crowd is slow to get there, but by 11:00, the place is hopping. The Friday Café brings in lots of customers looking for lights and gifts. They leave with full bags and happy faces. By 2:30, we would like the last stragglers to hurry on so we can pack up, but we let them search the few remaining items for final treasures. By 3:30, we are packed up and counting the money. It is a long day, but very well worth it. Somewhere in this pile of dollar bills is a scholarship or two. And we are all proud of that.

Many helped **Gayle Barsamian** make this a profitable event; a big thank-you to: **Janet Fialho**, **Fran Doolittle**, **Suzuko Tokuyasu**, **Irene Allison**, **Dottie Keffala**, **Verena Fisher**, **Jeri Abernathy**, **Carol Smith**, **Joan Adamo**, **Annie Cho**, **Nancy Homeyer**, **Eve Davidson**, **Chelsey Davis**, **Jim Chase**, **Hillary Zan**, **Alice Blake-Stalker**, and **Gail Fliesbach**.

Partners in International Education Awards



The International Center's 2011 Partners in International Education awards were given out November 15 during International Education Week. This is the fourth year that these awards have been given out to members of the UC San Diego community who have made significant contributions to international education. Pictured, from left to right, Dean of International Education **Lynn C. Anderson** with the six awardees: **Sam Chin**, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; **Georgette Handal**, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; **Michelle Hermas**, International Affairs; **Jennifer Atkins**, Admissions and Relations with Schools; **Eric Williamson**, Admissions and Enrollment Services; and **John Moore**, Linguistics.

After the PIE awards were given out (an engraved glass pie plate), recipients, Friends of the IC, IC staff, and members of the UCSD community, adjourned to the dining room for pie and coffee, which was generously provided and served by the Friends of the International Center.

This is the seventh year that UC San Diego has participated in the national International Education Week.

Winter Scholarships

—by Ruth Newmark

The Friends Scholarship Committee met in November to read applications from students going on either a UC Education Abroad Program (EAP) or on any of numerous other accredited study-abroad programs (OAP). There generally are few winter applications, but we expected something in the neighborhood of 10-15 applications. We know that more and more students are studying abroad, and that more and more students need financial assistance or seek the prestige that a Friends merit scholarship affords. Thus it came as a shock that there were just 5 applications. Unusual, too, was that of the five applicants, two were students in the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS). **Kim Burton**, our Programs Abroad expert on the Committee, assured us that the usual number of students were going abroad at this time of the year, adding: “We promoted the scholarships the way we always have and the advisors have been talking them up with our students who are leaving in January.” So, what was the problem? I wish I could provide an answer; the best I can come up with is that the Friends still require a letter of recommendation, while most similar scholarships do not.



Undeterred, the ten committee members present—**Joan Adamo, Kim Burton, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Gail Fliesbach, Jean Fort, Marjorie Jackson, Ruth Newmark** (chair), **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein, Carol Smith, and John Stalker**—read the five applications that included four from EAP participants and one from an OAP student. Committee members enjoyed the leisurely pace at which we could read and discuss the applications. Naturally, the question came up of how many scholarships to give when so few applied. Perhaps none; we could simply save our funds for the spring when we were assured of a large crop of applicants. But much to everyone’s surprise, three students stood out—all undergraduates at that.

Chosen for Friends Scholarships were Kaylie Fernald (OAP) and Neda Shenaval (EAP), and, on **Gail Fliesbach’s** suggestion, Heidi Dixon for an endowed scholarship that Gail funds. Upon learning the news, **Jim Galvin**, Director of the campus Opportunities Abroad Programs and faculty-led Global Seminars, sent an e-mail: “We would like to thank the Friends for your wonderful ongoing support for UCSD students who study abroad.” I received Jim’s kind note even before I received the acceptance letters from the students.

The students, too, were grateful. Wrote Kaylie: “This has been wonderful news! I have shared it with my parents and close family and we are all so thankful and excited. I look forward to carrying out the terms of the award and doing everything I can to promote international exchange and understanding and friendship within the international community.” Wrote Neda: “I am honored to be awarded the Friends Scholarship. Thank you so much!! I read the conditions and accept them. Once again, thank you so much!” (Heidi’s acceptance letter would not have come to the Friends, but gone to **Kim Signoret-Paar**, Director of Development for Student Affairs, or to the Financial Aid Office.)

As readers of this *Newsletter* will know, Friends Scholarships receive the enthusiastic support of our University, to the extent that some units contribute financially to the Friends Scholarship Fund. For this round of scholarships we are especially grateful for the financial assistance of the **Office of Student Affairs**, in particular to Vice Chancellor **Penny Rue** and Associate Vice Chancellor, **Ed Spriggs**, as well as for the administrative assistance of **Becky Obayashi**, the scholarship coordinator in the **Financial Aid Office**. As always, we appreciate the work done by the **International Center Programs Abroad Office** in preparing the applications.

Here follow a few lines about each of the winter scholarship recipients.

☛ **Kaylie Fernald**. When asked why she chose Peru for her study abroad, Kylie answered: “I chose Peru because it combined all of my interests: studying in a Spanish-speaking country, taking courses on linguistics in Spanish, and living in a place of natural beauty.” Other attractions are living in Lima with a host family, seeing Cusco, Machu Picchu, and parts of the Amazon, and, if possible, studying some Quechua.

☛ **Neda Shenaval**. An introduction to Korean music led to a fascination with its country and people. “My liking of Korean music spread to a liking of its dramas, cuisine, language, and general culture.” Neda is currently enrolled at Yonsei University, attending its Korean Language Institute and taking courses for her economics major. She will remain the rest of the academic year in Seoul, keeping in mind her goal of teaching English in Korea upon graduation from UCSD.

☛ **Heidi Dixon**. Art, especially of the Renaissance, has been of interest to Heidi ever since taking an advanced placement art history class in high school. However, she is interested not merely in high art, but also in its application to enact social change. She has chosen to spend the spring semester in Italy at the UC Center, Rome taking advantage of its focus on the humanities, arts, social sciences, and Italian language study.

Thanksgiving

—by Barbara Baehr

The turkey is an American bird. The main course of our traditional American Thanksgiving dinner is turkey. It had been my family's tradition for holidays to invite all the friends we called "Starving Armenians"—artists, musicians, theatre people, visiting diplomats who would otherwise be alone on a holiday. When I was eight, an Arabian prince played miniature golf with me under and over the furniture while the turkey was cooking.

As my sons could not be here on turkey day, I thought it would be fun to introduce some of our students from other countries to the Thanksgiving feast at the UCSD



Pouya, Tiranun, Barbara Baehr, Xiaonan, and Alicia

Faculty Club by inviting four of my international students/tutees who had never had an American Thanksgiving dinner. Invited were: **Pouya**, a first-year Iranian medical student; **Alicia**, a biologist from Mexico City; **Tiranun**, a second-year medical student from Thailand; and **Xiaonan**, my Chinese physical chemistry post-doc tutee.

Xiaonan had never had turkey before and liked it very much. Tiranun enjoyed the unusual apple and cheese soup. Pouya and Alicia must have liked everything, because they went back for seconds.

Donations

"The Friends received a very thoughtful and generous donation from a person who wants to remain unnamed at this time," reports Friends Treasurer, **Jeri Abernathy**. "She wanted to pay off the cost of printing the Friend's history book, *Celebrating 50 Years of the International Center at UC San Diego: 1961-2011*, edited by **Ruth Newmark**. Our anonymous donor is a dear wonderful person who wanted to show how much the book means to her."

Additionally, we received contributions to our general scholarship fund from **Melva Gordon, Laurette Verbinski, Alice McCauley, Nancy & Bill Homeyer, Mary & Joe Watson, Margaret Fogerty, Kim Signoret-Paar, and Heidrun Foulconer** in the name of **Philip W. Faulconer**.

The Ruth Newmark Scholarship Fund was enriched by a contribution from **Jeri Abernathy**.

RESALE SHOP
THE FRIENDS RESALE SHOP WILL REOPEN ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, WITH REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 10:00-4:00.

Directory

The 2012 Friends Membership Directory is coming! If you have any changes to your listing in our Member Directory, please let **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** know by January 3, <renateschs@yahoo.com>. Your current listing information was sent to you with our December donation appeal.

Friday International Café

There will be three Friday Cafés in the month of January. Lunch, for a cost of \$5, is served from noon until 1:15 p.m. For exact menus, please consult: <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/about/programs-events/icafe.html>. A vegetarian alternative is always available.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Menu</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Jan. 13:	Moroccan	International House
Jan. 20:	Mexican	ERC and Student Affairs
Jan. 27:	Middle Eastern	Division of Social Science

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

An Italian Summer

Flying into Rome, I was supposed to be greeted by a person from the hotel I was going to stay at and be taken there safely and cheaply. Alas, that did not happen. I could not find this person anywhere at the airport. After wandering about the airport for a while looking for anyone with a sign that said UC Davis, I gave up and approached a taxi driver. He asked where I wanted to go in English, I replied in Italian. My Italian at that time was at best decent. I had studied from books without ever practicing it orally, but I managed to keep up a good conversation with the taxi driver. I found out how to get to Venice, Milan, and Naples and how much and how long it would take.

When I arrived at the hotel, none of my fellow students were there, so I took a long walk around Rome. Later that evening I went back to my room and met the people with whom I would share many adventures for the next month.

That first day in Rome was magical. There is something completely amazing about walking on your own so far away from home, armed with only a limited amount of knowledge about the language but ready to take on anything that comes. The sense of freedom one gets from this is energizing, encouraging, and inspiring.

During the first week I learned to cross the streets as a Roman—, disregarding traffic—to wash my clothes and hang them on the terrace, to eat Nutella and pizza daily, and I got used to the Roman accent. I walked under the hot, unforgiving sun. Walking through the streets of Rome is very much like walking through a labyrinth. Rome doesn't reveal all of its secrets at once. Some of its jewels are evident from any point in Rome, such as the Basilica of San Pietro: getting there feels like a reward after a long journey, but the prize was always in

sight. Others, however, surprise you by appearing out of nowhere, like the Pantheon. The first reaction is short of paroxysm as you confront thousands of years of history entirely surrounded by stores virtually hidden between the narrow streets of Rome. As a group, we did all the things a tourist should do. We visited the great places of antiquity and they are indeed amazing. But I will talk about one of the places that impressed me, but that you rarely hear about.

La Scarza is a marsh plant found in a region of Italy in which Saint Francis is said to have planted roses that miraculously transformed themselves into a fountain. Out of this legend, a convent and a church were established. In 1957, the architect Tomaso Buzzi acquired the place and decided to build his ideal city. Out of this endeavor La Scarzuola was born.

Today we find a small and old convent surrounded by walls that create a pleasant courtyard. The place is deeply embedded in marshes, surrounded only by nature. It first reveals itself as an unremarkable church in which the most important fresco is an image of Saint Francis levitating. The other paintings are mostly reproductions of original ones. The place has an air of discrete wonder, until you see what's behind the church. This is where La Scarzuola is located.

It is customary for the guided tour to be given by Marco Soleri, the present owner of La Scarzuola. His enthusiasm and irreverence add much to the buildings themselves—they complement each other. He explains, in an Italian enriched by local slang, that in order to understand La Scarzuola one must forget everything one knows about rational thought, science, and engineering. He warns that in order to enter this place one



La Scarzuola

must do so without prejudice and freed from the world. As soon as you see La Scarzuola, it is clear that indeed this place requires you to suspend your disbelief. Soleri himself describes its style as Neo-Mannerist and, indeed, it is. Bursting with absurdness and literary symbolism, La Scarzuola rejects all the teachings of modernism and is, in this way, a postmodern construction. More than architecture, La Scarzuola is an exercise rooted in experiment, it borders between architecture and sculpture.

I could go on for pages talking about experiences like these that made my journey so wonderful. The truth is that there is an amazing sense of liberation in traveling and getting to know new people, new cultures, new ways of doing things. And what probably enriched the experience even more was the amount of Italian I learned, and how I kept pushing myself to speak only Italian with everyone. All in all, Italy was unbelievable. I will never forget the experiences I had and the friends I made.

David Najera

Thank you Friends!

I want to thank you for helping me make my incredible trip to Australia this past summer a possibility. My time in Australia studying exercise physiology was an unmatched time of growth and applied learning. At the beginning of August, I traveled to Canberra with a group of 28 students and a world-renowned physiologist to begin a learning experience like no other. Canberra, as you may know, is the capital of Australia, and although it isn't the most scenic city in Australia, it is home to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). The AIS is a remarkable place where Australia's most talented Olympic athletes train alongside some of the most dedicated and advanced sport physiologists. The AIS opened its doors to us and let us experience this amazing world where research and sport coexist.

Over the five weeks of the Global Seminar we took two challenging courses. The first was an in-depth exercise physiology course taught by UCSD's **Peter Wagner** that worked through the many systems involved in making exercise possible. The second course was a medley of exciting lectures about the specific work going on at the AIS taught by AIS researchers themselves. These lectures were then each followed by trips into the labs where the research takes place, at which point we were given the opportunity to partake in many of the tests, and even had the opportunity to run tests on the athletes themselves.

On weekends we would take the bus into the city to explore the sights. My favorite adventure was a trip to the magnificent city of Sydney. Our entire class made the three-hour voyage from Canberra to Sydney, where we had three beautifully sunny days. We gazed in amazement at the sea creatures in the Sydney Aquarium, walked across the Harbor Bridge, rode the ferry out to Manly Beach for a frigid surf session, and devoured the fresh fish and chips

from Watson's Bay. Sydney is a lively and scenic city with treasures to be found around every corner. The extensive public transportation made it possible for us to zip around the city quickly; we spent a morning shopping at a market in Circular Quay, played at Bondi Beach in the afternoon, and watched a fireworks show over Darling Harbor that night. I loved that our class became such a cohesive unit so quickly, and I know that they are friends I will have for a long time to come!

Just this last month Professor Wagner had our entire class over for a BBQ at his home. It was wonderful to be back together. I could not have asked for better classmates or a more inspiring, knowledgeable, and personable professor. Australia was absolutely the trip of a lifetime and exactly the adventure I craved before I move on to medical school.

Thank you for your generous support and encouragement. Before the trip I was terrified I wouldn't be able to cover the costs, and I can tell you honestly that the Friends Scholarship was a huge part of making my trip possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Brittany V. Lyng

Nofit Itzhak is an Israeli graduate student in the Department of Anthropology.

Project Title—"Globalizing Compassion: The Ethic of Love and Altruistic Social Action in a Transnational Catholic Charismatic Community"

My study is an ethnographic examination of the manners in which love and compassion are lived, aspired to, and enacted in the context of religious practice and humanitarian work among members of a transnational Catholic Charismatic intentional community, in France and Rwanda. It asks whether and how community members

succeed at cultivating compassionate selves, or an enhanced capacity to feel love and compassion for others, and examines the manners in which this attempt at virtuous self-cultivation motivates and shapes altruistic social action in the context of humanitarian outreach.

With the support of the **Diane Lin Memorial** grant I received from the Friends of the International Center, I was able to conduct a pilot study in France and Rwanda during the summer of 2011. This was crucial for the development of my project, allowing me to interview and establish relationships with key members of the community and refine my research questions and objectives. Being able to conduct the study during the summer of 2011 is also currently helping me in my application for extramural funding for full dissertation fieldwork research, which will commence in the next calendar year, and will be carried out in both France and Rwanda for a total duration of 18 months.

Nofit Itzhak

Newsletter by U.S. Postal Service or Electronically?

Perhaps you have indicated in our survey last spring that you would like to receive our monthly Newsletter electronically only, but you have received a hard copy anyway. Here is our problem—addresses for our mailed Newsletter copies dropped below 200, the required minimum number to qualify for the bulk mail rate. So, each month a few members get the Newsletter by mail just so we can reach that magic 200 number. Now you know that when the Newsletter was sent to you, it was actually to save money. Please consider passing the extra copy on to someone who might be interested in our organization.

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Saturday, January 21, 2012, 6:30 PM

Please complete this form and enclose a check, made payable to the Friends of the International Center. Send to Ethnic Dinner Chair, Friends of the International Center, UCSD International Center 0018, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018.

Reservations must be received by Friday, January 13, and will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Late reservations will be charged an extra \$5.00, or may be refused and seating requests not honored.

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(If you spell out the names of everyone in your party, all will receive nametags at the door.)

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