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



Newsletter

Volume XXXIX No. 6

February 2012

President's Message

February is the month we celebrate Valentines and Presidents. As your President, I thank all of you who give your Hearts♥ so generously to all the Friends programs. But I must also beg you to give even more to keep our organization thriving.

♥Please continue to spread the good word about **Membership** in the Friends. Don't forget that many people in the community, even on the campus, don't know about us; so use the ideas from my January column, plus your own, to tell them about our work. Membership in the Friends is fun, and supports *people*—international students, scholars, and their families—on our campus.

♥The **Nominating Committee** will begin this month to put together the slate of officers for next year's Friends Board. Committee members are: **Alma Coles** (chair), **Alice Blake-Stalker**, **Josie Foulks**, **Kristine Kneib**, and **Candace Kohl**. Please say "yes" when your phone rings!

♥Volunteer for our programs: our **Family Orientation** for new arrivals requires help for just a few hours on one Wednesday morning a month. The **Resale Shop**, so essential to our scholarship program, needs an Assistant Coordinator, and also more volunteers in the Shop on a weekly basis. And, looking ahead, we're seeking a chair for next December's Holiday Sale, an important fundraiser for our international scholarships.

♥The Board needs your help with some subcommittees: **Membership Outreach & Development** (to coordinate our growth efforts); **Publicity** (for our events and programs); **Website Review** (our website <<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends>> has a great new look, but needs some refinements).

Please contact me with your interests and questions: <jadamo@ucsd.edu>.

Joan Adamo



ARTPOWER! SUPPER
WEDNESDAY
FEB. 22 AT 6:00 PM
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖
A COMMUNITY SUPPER
PRECEDING ARTPOWER!
TAIWANESE DANCE
PERFORMANCE

Taiwanese Supper

—by *Barbara Fitzsimmons*

In 2007, **Martin Wollesen**, Artistic Director of the ArtPower! program on campus, approached Dean **Lynn Anderson** with the idea of a collaborative effort, with the International Center hosting a series of suppers to precede select programs to be held at Mandeville Center. Since I have been interested in the arts for many years, I volunteered to chair such events. It's been a very successful program, attracting members and guests, student groups from the various colleges, volunteer ushers, and others. The suppers always feature delicious food of the area from which the visiting artists come.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Our second ArtPower! Supper of the 2011-12 academic year will feature food from Taiwan. Join us for a wonderful meal preceding the ArtPower! presentation of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. Even if you cannot attend the performance, plan on coming to the I-Center to enjoy seeing other Friends, while having a delicious supper prepared by our chefs.

Taiwanese Supper: Jointly sponsored by the **International Center**, the **Friends**, and **ArtPower!**, the supper will be held at the International Center on Wednesday, February 22, 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$12 per person, \$7 for UCSD students. Order early, as the deadline for supper ticket sales is Thursday, February 16, 2012. Vegetarian meals are available upon request, and requests should be made at time of purchase.



Performance: The performance by Cloud Gate will take place at 8:00 p.m. at Mandeville Auditorium. Presented by ArtPower! Cost: \$25-\$40. Identify yourself as a Friends member at the Box Office, or use the code PARTD in the coupon field when ordering on line, and receive a 15% discount for the performance. Supper and performance tickets may be purchased online at artpower.ucsd.edu, by phone at

858/534-TIXS, or at the Box Office window in the Price Center patio. Supper tickets *only*, for exact change, will also be available at the Dean's Office at the International Center.

Cloud Gate 2 will feature a surprising range of works including a hybrid of Asian gestures, martial art-inspired leaps, and modern dance. For additional information see www.artpower.ucsd.edu.

Friends of the International Center ArtPower! shuttle service (beginning at 5:45 p.m.) is provided from Lot 604 to the shuttle stop across the street from the International Center.

If you have supper questions, please contact **Barbara Fitzsimmons** at [<bfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu>](mailto:bfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu).

In Memory

We are saddened to report the death of three of our members.

Dr. **Samuel I. Rapaport** died on December 20 at the age of 90. A medical researcher and clinician, Sam became interested in blood coagulation as a young physician. In 1953, this interest took him and his wife, **Joyce**, to Norway on a Fulbright grant. A rewarding year in Oslo not only led to a distinguished career in medicine, but also kindled a profound appreciation of international exchange. Upon the death of Joyce, Sam, a life member of the Friends, established a memorial scholarship in her name. Each year, the Friends Scholarship Committee chooses one or two students, generally in the School of Medicine, who might benefit from their study abroad in the same way that Sam had fifty or so years earlier. Sam enjoyed hearing about their pursuits, and, when possible, would meet with them upon their return to UC San Diego. He was a true educator, always proud of the accomplishments of his students.

On December 13, we lost a valued Wednesday Coffee and Resale Shop volunteer. "With much sorrow and a heavy heart I want to let you know that my mother, **Lucretia Burt**, passed away from complications from ulcerative colitis. She enjoyed many years of volunteering at the Center and carpooled with **Emily Stowell**. Emily also died recently and Mother was very sad when she heard the news. She was active and living in her condo until 8 months ago, and her final month was spent at Kearny Mesa Convalescent Hospital. She was 89 1/2 years old. Please let the rest of the volunteers know. Thank you, **Sherry Ceccanese**." Lucretia considered her service to our international community both useful and stimulating. In 2010, she expressed her sadness at no longer helping out at Wednesday Coffees: "This is how we show American hospitality and can assist these young families feel at home in a foreign country. I find I learned much in sharing our cultures. I have made friends with many with whom I am still in touch. I also made good friends with other hostesses."

In early January, **Candace Kohl**, who received her Ph.D. under the direction of Prof. **James Arnold**, informed the Friends: "I am sorry to tell you all of the death of Jim Arnold. Many of you have known him over the years; he was founding chair of the Chemistry department and a Friends member for many years. Jim died January 6, 2012 of complications from Alzheimer's. He was 88 years old. Memorial donations may be made to the Jim Arnold Lectureship Fund through the UCSD Foundation, fund number 3062." We send our love to his wife, **Louise**.

Additionally, we learned of the death in December of **Marc Swartz**, Professor Emeritus of the UCSD Department of Anthropology and husband of **Audrey Swartz**, Friends President from 1978-80.

Mommy/Daddy-and-Me

—by *Keiko Bott-Suzuki*

I want to take the opportunity to tell you a little about the Mommy/Daddy-and-Me class, which is held during the Wednesday Coffee from 10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

I started the class with my son **Hayato** (15 months old then), back in January 2009, with the support of my friends **Lois Le Brazidec** and **Georgina Sham**. Before then, Hayato and I had been visiting the Wednesday Coffee for a few months. Many of us were first-time moms, and so we often talked about our new experiences living in the USA and bringing up children in an unfamiliar environment. Although Wednesday Coffee provides numerous activities, there was very little offered for children, especially not for the younger ones.

Having attended a number of music and other indoor and outdoor classes with Hayato, I felt I could create an environment where children with different abilities could learn together through music. With some experience in teaching at universities, and being a fully qualified aerobics and step instructor, I felt confident that I could teach children some nursery rhymes.

Typically we have children aged 5 months to 5 years old, but all children under the age of 5 are welcome. Each class starts with a song and ends with a song. We mainly sing English nursery rhymes to which I can easily introduce finger play, sign language, or movement. I may use picture books or puppets for certain nursery rhymes, and I often introduce American Sign Language, which lends itself well to communication with non-verbal children, while equally providing a fun activity for toddlers and parents. My daughter **Amelie** started to come to the class when she was 4 weeks old (well, she had no choice), and

before she was 1 year old, she was singing nursery rhymes and learning sign language.

We also play with a parachute, chase after bubbles, and before the goodbye song, we always have story time. I introduce counting from 1 to 10, and through song I teach kids how alphabet letters have different sounds (phonetic ABC). Especially the older children like these songs, and parents often tell me that they sing the alphabet song at home.

Parents who come from abroad are often concerned about their children going to preschool or kindergarten knowing no English. Since I personally have been in the same boat as these children, I want to create an environment where they are exposed to English through fun activities such as singing and music. And since many nursery rhymes are sung in school settings, knowing these gives children the ability to join the rest of the class.

Over the last three years, a total of more than a hundred children have attended the classes. Many of these children did not speak English very well to begin with, but their moms have told me that every time they sang nursery rhymes at school, they were sitting at the front of the class singing aloud amongst their classmates, smiling, and impressing their teachers with their confidence.

Throughout the journey of Mommy/Daddy-and-Me, my son Hayato has been with me. About a year ago, he was diagnosed autistic. He attends a special education school run by the San Diego Unified School District and, like Hayato, many of these children have so many hours of therapy that they rarely get



to play with typical children. Hence, I have been spreading the word to parents to come and join us at the International Center. Currently, we have some of Hayato's classmates coming to Mommy/Daddy-and-Me. I am so pleased that they, too, can join us and have fun. It is inspiring to see that children with very different abilities can learn and enjoy themselves in the same environment.

Our Mommy/Daddy-and-Me participants come from all over the world. Some come from the Far East: Japan, China, Taiwan, Vietnam to Australia, some from South America (Argentina, Puerto Rico, Chile), and some from European countries (France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden). On rare occasion, we have dads instead of moms participate in the class; they are all welcome.

On the first Wednesday of the month, we hold a potluck lunch after the class with no restrictions on what you can and cannot bring. It is a friendly get-together of parents—simply a time to share experiences and make new friends.

Every two months, I compose a newsletter for the group. I provide the lyrics for new songs, list the birthdays of the months, highlight special events in San Diego, welcome new participants, and suggest readings. Thanks to **Georgina Sham's** posting, you can find the newsletter

on the Web, <<https://sites.google.com/site/ucsdwednesdaycoffee/wednesday-coffee/mommy-and-me-class>>.

I hope to continue to run the Mommy/Daddy-and-Me class for as long as I can fit it into my family's schedule, AND as long as the Wednesday Coffee wants to have me. Since this is a completely volunteer-based activity, I would very much welcome any donation of old instruments, toys, books, etc. that can be used in our class.

Membership

Vice President **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** is pleased to welcome two new members to the Friends: **Mitchell Furumoto**, immigration advisor at Salk Institute and a UCSD graduate (1991), and **Timothy Jull**, a friend of **Candace Kohl** (and fellow geochemist), who attended our 2011 Holiday luncheon though he lives and works in Arizona.

February Calendar

Feb. 1, 15: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: **Cooking in America**, 9:30-2:00

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: **Friday International Café**, Noon-1:15

Feb. 14: **Executive Board Meeting**, 9:30

Feb. 15: **International Kitchen**, Noon

Feb. 20: **Presidents' Day**

Feb. 22: **ArtPower! Supper**, 6:00

HAMIDREZA ZIAYEE

*If the field of mechanical engineering involves analyzing systems and developing tools to meet needs and solve problems, then recent UCSD graduate, **Hamidreza Ziayee**, is the quintessential mechanical engineer. His ability to overcome obstacles was tested at the start of his graduate program last January. Here follows an exchange between Hamidreza and **Alice Blake-Stalker**, who served as his tutor in the English in Action program.*



Q. What was the start of your experience like here at UC San Diego?

A. It was great, but I had a few problems. We have an expression in my language that translates, "Difficulties make you stronger." Although I had applied to start during fall quarter 2010, the visa-issuing process in the U.S. Embassy took longer than expected, so the Admissions Office agreed to defer my start till January 2011. I arrived in Los Angeles on December 31. A shuttle driver offered to take me to San Diego for \$350. I carried my two suitcases and two backpacks around the airport looking for cheaper choices. I finally got to San Diego 12 hours, and many buses, later. Then, no hotel would take me without a credit card. Finally, one manager agreed for a big cash deposit.

Q. Wasn't campus closed for the holidays?

A. Yes. That's why no one was answering my e-mails during those days.

Q. After that rough start, did things get easier?

A. Yes, but not right away. Since I missed fall quarter, I missed the prerequisite courses for some that I had to take in winter quarter.

Q. How did you manage?

A. (Laughing) I LIVED in the library, 8 a.m. till midnight! My friends said that the university should change the name from Geisel Library to "Geisel-Hamid Library!"

Q. How did you learn about the International Center?

A. They told us about it at orientation, but I was so busy studying that I didn't make time for it then. I didn't know what I missed. Later, in spring quarter, I applied for a tutor and got you.

Q. What would you like the readers of the Friends Newsletter to know about the English in Action program?

A. It was more than help with English. I got familiar with American culture, and how to act in different situations. I also liked when you took me to places, like to the International Market. I was your tutor about Persian foods. And I liked when you took me to the Hillcrest Farmers Market. I was surprised to find an outside bazaar. I liked the free samples. You could go there hungry and come back full!

Q. Do you remember when I combined a tutoring session with my shopping for dance shoes?

A. Yes. I automatically analyzed the mechanics of the different shoes and how they would work with your feet in the dance moves you showed me. You didn't buy any. Sorry!

Q. What other activities have you been involved in at the International Center?

A. I really enjoyed the Wednesday Coffee with “Gus’s Table.” We had interesting discussions and made friends from different cultures. We shared information, like getting a driving license. The best part was participating in English the natural way.

Q. Would you tell us about your 4th of July here?

A. (Smiling) I will never forget that day! I came to the IC early and helped arrange tables and chairs outside. I also helped with the children’s games and photography. It was special. Later, we went to La Jolla Cove for fireworks. It was my first time seeing fireworks from underneath them.

Q. Now that you have finished your Masters in Mechanical Engineering, what’s next?

A. I want to work in an American company. I have authorization through my OPT [Optional Practical Training] visa to work in the U.S. for 12 months; through STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics] I can get a 17-month extension. So, I can work here without sponsorship for 29 months.

Q. Because of your six years of experience in engineering, do you fear that some employers might think that you are “overqualified,” or that they can’t afford you?

A. That is possible, but I want to start at the beginning. I will work hard. I already have my Social Security card from my work as a Teaching Assistant. Now, all I need is an opportunity to put my training and experience to work.

An International Education

—by Ruth Newmark

Though our world becomes ever more interconnected, it is sad to say that with a world population that has now reached 7 billion we do not necessarily understand each other much better than before. It seems essential that we make an effort to do so, and what better way than through international education? The Friends Scholarship program is a splendid example of what can be accomplished. The students that we help support are an amazing group; renewed evidence thereof came at the Friends December Holiday Luncheon, attended by a fine crowd of Friends, IC staff, and their guests.

To celebrate with us, we invited three students—all Friends Scholarship recipients—asking them to say a few words about their research and/or their study abroad.

Daniel Smith, a Ph.D. candidate in UCSD’s Department of Political Science, was asked to speak first, and clearly set the tone by his

thoughtful words of thanks, not just for his scholarship award but also for the luncheon invitation. Dan told us a bit about the comparative study he is conducting, examining the causes and consequences of political dynasties in three different countries: Japan, Ireland, and the United States. While political dynasties are common in non-democratic regimes and generally expected in developing countries, they are by no means rare in developed democracies. Even in the United States, the practice dates from the nation’s earliest days—all we need to do is think of the Adamses. Dan ended by sharing with us the good news that he has been offered a position as assistant professor at Harvard University.

Next came **Sam Lyon**, who had received first a 2008 **So Scholarship** for a two-months language study in China, followed by a 2010 Friends Scholarship for a year’s study at Peking University. After half a

Resale Shop

—by Joe Nichols

We’ve been filling the racks with items you will love: sweaters, blouses, and warm stuff. The bookshelves are full of great reading, both light and heavy. We have lots of posters and living green plants to liven up the winter days.

We celebrated lunar new year with lots of red that will carry over to Valentine’s Day. We have a fine assortment of vases for those of you bringing flowers to a sweetheart, as well as heart-themed decorations. We can always use more jewelry, dig deep and see if you can find some you no longer need.

We love to have more volunteers, so we can make more money for Friends Scholarships. Please see **Gayle Barsamian** at the Shop, if you can help out.

year, Sam had acquired sufficient Chinese to enroll in regular urban studies courses, and had managed to obtain an internship with an architectural firm. Much to his surprise, he was soon asked to help design a dormitory! Sam stressed how incredibly focused and competitive the Chinese students are, much more so than their American counterparts, even at a supposedly competitive institution like UC San Diego.

Annie Yu, an undergraduate at Muir College majoring in biology with emphasis on global health, spoke about her experiences in Mongolia, where she spent the summer volunteering in a hospital. She mentioned her amazement at seeing how westernized Ulaanbaatar was; by contrast to the nation’s capital, many people in the countryside still live in yurts. Annie was fortunate to be in Mongolia for its national Naadam Festival, an annual event that features

traditional music, native crafts, but most of all fierce competitions. Even children as young as 6 compete in horse races—riding not on little ponies but on full-sized horses.

The luncheon guests gave the students a loud round of applause. The next day, **Dulce Dorado** (Director, International Students & Programs Office) wrote: “Definitely one of the highlights of the luncheon was hearing from the Friends of the International Center scholarship recipients. It reiterates the importance of the scholarship committee and the wonderful work of the Friends.” The students, in turn, enjoyed chatting with us.

I must stress that these three scholarship recipients are by no means unique, but are representative of their cohorts. Let me illustrate by telling something about two other recent Friends Scholarship recipients.

Danwei Huang is an international student from Singapore. About to complete his research on

coral reef ecology for a doctorate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Danwei already has an extensive list of publications to his name. I was pleased to note that one was co-authored with Dr. **Lanna Cheng**, an expert on marine insects and an active member of the Friends. In December, Danwei dropped me a few lines: “I’ve just completed my fieldwork for my Ph.D. in October, and am busy with lab and analysis work. I went to Seychelles to collect coral samples. I’m also revising a manuscript for publication, the work being supported by the Friends Scholarship. This paper is about the extinction risk of the corals of the world. Will let you know when the paper comes out.”

Elizabeth Miller advocates so persuasively for an experience abroad that I will let her speak for herself. “My time in Costa Rica was hands down the best quarter of my college career. It really changed my outlook as a student and as a

biologist. Biology classes at UCSD test your knowledge, but not your ability to ask questions and carry out research projects. My teachers in Costa Rica challenged me to think critically and come up with my own research project without much guidance, starting from writing a research proposal to designing an experiment that was feasible to do on my own. It was the first time I felt like a scientist, not a student. The best outcome of my study abroad experience is that I am preparing to submit my research project for publication in a peer-reviewed biology journal!

“I highly recommend any biology student to do the same study abroad program [UC’s Tropical Biology and Conservation Program in Monteverde, Costa Rica], because you learn so many things about being a scientist that you would never learn as a science major at UCSD. I am very thankful for the Friends Scholarship; it has made a huge difference in my life.”

Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by *Gorgina Sham*

With five Wednesdays in the month, we have a full schedule lined up for February. **Gus Lestick** will continue to lead his Round Table English conversation group, and **Keiko Bott-Suzuki** (see p. 3) has been busily expanding the scope of the Mommy/Daddy-and-Me class.

•Feb 1: **Discussion:** For the beginning of Black History Month (an annual reflection on the history of the African Diaspora, observed in the United States since 1976), **Alice Blake-Stalker** will lead a discussion. Alice has taught at two Black colleges and is knowledgeable about African-American history.

•Feb 8: **Valentine’s projects:** 1) Using yarn and plastic canvas, we will make “Kissy Faces,” little figures in which we hide a Hershey’s Chocolate Kiss. 2) **Jennie Chin** will show us how to make covered boxes using scrapbooking paper and card stock for our Valentine gifts. 3) We will have supplies for making cards for our Valentines.

•Feb 15: **International Kitchen:** In continuation of Black History Month, we will prepare a Soul Food lunch. The menu will feature Southern Fried Chicken, Collard Greens with Ham Hocks, Macaroni and Cheese, Cornbread, and Sweet Potato Pie. Please come to the kitchen at 9:30 to help prepare the meal, and/or plan to stay after lunch to help clean up. Lunch will be served at noon for \$5/person.

•Feb 22: **Baby Booties:** **Mary Woo** will teach us how to knit or crochet baby booties. This is a great project for all who are expecting babies or go to baby showers. A lot of the materials will be provided.

Book Discussion: **Josine Kooman** will lead us in a discussion of the book, *Emma*, a classic by Jane Austen. Discussion will start at 10:30. You do not have to have read the book to join in the discussion and learn.

•Feb 29: **Folk Dancing:** Our two international folk dancers will lead us in some folk dances in the lounge. Please join **Alice Blake-Stalker** and **Georgina Sham** for some exercise, wonderful music, and learning to perform simple international folk dances from many nations.

Cooking in America

—by Louise Engleman

About ten years ago, my friend **Barbara Starkey** asked if I might help with a Cooking in America class. I learned that I could plan my own menu, purchase the food, and prepare the meal with the help of spouses of international scholars or graduate students. I was happy to give it a try, but agonized over what cooking in America might be. Having a deep interest in Native Americans, I decided to prepare a meal of Southwest Indian chicken pozole (a hominy-based stew), jicama orange salad with chili lime dressing, and piñon finger cookies. I brought photos of the parched land where foods are grown, and was prepared to give a talk on Indian lifestyle.

Once I arrived at the kitchen, I learned that this was a wonderful vehicle for the spouses to practice their English and for me to get acquainted with some interesting young people. I was hooked. Last year there were some involved husbands, and they were a great morale boost. Every dish was demolished and, as the instructor, I felt as though each meal was a huge success. Near Valentine's Day, I like to include a decadent flourless chocolate cake, and near Mother's Day, I prepare a brunch menu that includes orange scones, a flavorful oven egg dish, and yogurt cream with balsamic strawberries.

I became a pediatric nurse in 1965 and worked in the field until I retired. My husband, **Vic**, and I have lived in University City since 1976 and can now claim to be native San Diegans. We have two married sons and two grandchildren. The grandchildren are also in University City, and it is very special to be able to participate in their lives. Besides cooking, I enjoy gardening, classical music, theater, art, lectures, and travel.

We were very active with the AFS (American Field Service) student exchange program and have been fortunate to visit many of the students in their home countries, to attend several weddings, and to watch new families develop. When I was in high school my family hosted a German girl for one year, and thus began my interest and involvement with foreign students. It is a pleasure to pursue this interest with the Friends of the International Center.

Donations

Treasurer **Jeri Abernathy** reports—with thanks—a long list of donations, starting with contributions from **Alma & Bill Coles** and **Shao Chi & Lily Yuli Lin**, who earmarked their gifts to the **Diane Lin Memorial Scholarship** fund. **Carol & Stuart Smith** allocated theirs to the **Ruth Newmark Scholarship**, in memory of **Emily Stowell**.

Others who made end-of-the-year gifts to the Friends Scholarship Fund are: **Joan & Lou Adamo**, **Lynn Anderson** (in honor of **Barbara** and **Jerry Fitzsimmons**), **Louise Arnold**, **Barbara Baehr**, **Maxine Bloor** (in memory of **Emily Stowell**), **Joan Bowes**, **Maryruth Cox**, **Heidrun Faulconer** (in the name of **Philip Faulconer**), **Barbara & Jerry Fitzsimmons**, **Gail Fliesbach**, **Margaret Fogerty**, **Jean Fort**, **Mitchell Furumoto**, **Faye Gish**, **Rose Itano**, **Mariette Kobrak**, **Dorraine Offerman**, **Dorothy & David Parker**, **Estelle Shabetai** (in memory of **Ralph Shabetai**), and **Mary & Joe Watson**.

Mihoko Vacquier designated her gift to the Wednesday Coffee.



Louise Engleman

Cooking in America Coordinator **Barbara Starkey** has announced yet one more quarterly series of classes to be held at the International Center on Thursday, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, and March 1, 2012, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost for the series of 5 classes is \$40; besides instruction, this includes a three-course lunch.

Advance registration is required. Students are encouraged to sign up during the Wednesday Morning Coffee program or may contact Barbara at <bstarkey@san.rr.com>. Late arrivals to our campus will be accommodated at a prorated cost.

International Café

Café hours are Friday, from 12:00 noon until 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$5. For full lunch menus, please consult <<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/about/programs-events/icafe.html>>. Here follow dates, themes, and sponsors:

- ☞ Feb. 3: Black History Month Extensions's **International Student Services/English Language Program**
- ☞ Feb. 10: Valentine's Day Menu **Oceanids**
- ☞ Feb. 17: Indonesian Cuisine **Retirement Association**
- ☞ Feb. 24: *Silver Palate* Recipes **Cellular & Molecular Medicine**

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Timothy Tirrell is working on a joint Ph.D./M.D. degree.

I have been a busy little bee, working away in the lab. We are still in the planning phases of the Sweden trip. My boss, who has been there many times, strongly suggested that I wait until it defrosts a bit before going there!

Our current plan is for me to go over there over the summer. Right now I am collecting lab data that will serve as preliminary data for the project that I will do while I'm in Göteborg; so it's all very exciting. In addition, the hand surgeon with whom I will work came to visit San Diego last year, and we did a short project together that we're hoping to publish soon. He's a great guy and I can't wait to work with him in his native country.

Also, I've even started trying to learn Swedish! Even though I'm told that everybody speaks perfect English over there, I'm going to try to make the most out of the trip and learn all that I can. It's tough trying to learn it online (the pronunciation and spelling are SO fundamentally different from English), but I'm hoping to make a little bit of headway before I go over there.

Tim Tirrell

Muscle Physiology Laboratory
Biomedical Science Graduate
Program

*Here follows a brief note from **Brandon McCray** (written Dec. 15, 2011) with two excerpts from his China Blog.*

I am still in China, now at Fudan University. I am finishing up with finals and I am also taking the GRE here tomorrow, so I can apply to IR/PS for Fall 2012. I am keeping pretty busy. I have had such an eye-opening and amazing experience here. I am a little sad that it is coming to an end next week. Thanks for everything!

Air Travel: I have had a few experiences of air travel in China, from Beijing to Shanghai and from Shanghai to and from Kunming. I have noticed a huge difference in air travel in China compared to the U.S. At the Hongqiao airport in Shanghai I arrived with a little over forty minutes until departure. In the U.S. this would mean that I might not make my flight, because of the extensive/excessive security measures. I was not required to take off my shoes, and I was not taken to the side and asked to do a secondary screening (as I have multiple times in the U.S.) Overall, the airport experience was a smooth and enjoyable one; the actual flight, however, was a little less enjoyable. I fell asleep on the flight and woke up to people standing in the aisle having a loud conversation; one of them was holding a baby whose bare bottom was



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

My time in London is very quickly coming to a close. I leave on December 15, after the London School of Economics term ends. I am here for a total of two and a half months and

have had a wonderful time so far.

I have taken several classes: philosophy of economics, philosophy of social science, rationality and choice. Besides these I have attended the Ph.D. student weekly seminar, as well as the Choice group seminar. Meeting and working with the faculty here has been eye opening, and I have made some contacts that I hope will benefit me in the future. This has been an invaluable experience for me, as it allowed me access to a significantly different philosophical tradition from that at UCSD and the U.S. in general. I have inundated myself with all the activities going on in the department, both academic and social.

Because the LSE philosophy department is so diverse, I have gotten to meet students from a broad range of countries. I enjoyed some of the social life: a beginning-of-the-year party, a Halloween party (which is a lot more about gore than in the U.S.), and will go in a couple of weeks to a departmental-wide (faculty and students) Christmas dinner.

Besides enjoying the department here, London is obviously wonderful. There is so much to see and do. I have gone to shows, exhibitions, as well as traveled to some places in Britain, and for a weekend to Paris.

The Friends award helped greatly towards being able to be here, and I am very grateful for having received a Friends Scholarship. The cost of living for several months in one of the most expensive cities in the world obviously exceeds the award, but without having that money at my disposal, I would not have been able to experience as much of Britain as I did. Simply living, eating, and commuting in London requires a lot of funds.

I hope to come back to the London School of Economics in a few years and continue the doctoral work I have begun at UC San Diego.

Gil Hertshten, B.A. Hebrew University, Jerusalem

***Hannah Wang**, who, in winter/spring 2011, studied abroad in Senegal, wrote: "I am trying to finish up my last year of college and am applying to medical schools, and hope to attend one next fall. I am really looking forward to all the international opportunities in medicine." With a choice of NYU, Tulane, and UCSD, and news still to come from Columbia and Northwestern, it is clear that Hannah is in demand!*

pointed at my face. I also noticed that people disregarded the no-entry curtain between the cabin and the area where the flight attendants sit. I didn't really think too much of this until I realized that if we were in America, the plane would probably have made an emergency landing and the person would be interrogated and perhaps taken into custody.

Some Final Thoughts: I have had many great experiences in Shanghai and I feel like I will definitely return to this city in my lifetime. While observing the view from the World Financial Center in Pudong, the thought crossed my mind that if I look from this same vantage point ten years from now, I am likely to see a completely different view. Shanghai is changing at such a rapid rate that the skyline of the city will be almost unrecognizable in a relatively short period. The next time I am in Shanghai, I might well be looking out of the Shanghai Tower currently being built next to the World Financial Center, a building that when completed will be the tallest in the world. I thought back to the documentary *Nostalgia* as I looked out and could see slums on the historic Puxi side that we learned are in danger of being leveled to make room for new developments. This led me think of the drastic stratification of income in China. Here I was sitting in a place where one of the cheapest drinks cost 120 Kuai, when I have heard that the average employee income at McDonald's in China is around 6 Kuai an hour, which would mean the employee would have to work 20 hours for one drink. This type of income distribution does not seem to be sustainable forever, and it will be interesting to see how that plays out. While pondering from the top of the World Financial Center many questions came to my mind about Shanghai; I was already planning my return before I had even left. I wonder what the view will look like then.

I just got back from Madrid. Within a week of being in the U.S., I'm already missing everything about Spain. From the architecture to the food to the people, there's nothing like Madrid. I can't believe the luck I've had to experience things that so many people wait a lifetime for, all at the ripe age of 20. I am thankful to have lived abroad for three months in a culturally rich place. I see everything differently now: from the way people interact, to language, to my own father who grew up in a Mexican-American household much different from my own. I know I will apply the things that I learned in España on a more-than-daily basis when I pursue my career.

I've also been reflecting about how I've grown personally from this experience. I feel that I've matured a lot in these times. Getting outside of one's comfort zone is the best way to learn about oneself and about the world. How much more outside of my comfort zone could I have been halfway across the world in a country that doesn't speak my native language?

I am blessed to be able to return to a country with so much opportunity. Spain is an amazing place, but its government and society still face a lot of problems that are rooted in its tumultuous history (monarchy, civil war, anarchism, and dictatorship). There currently are half a million people without jobs in Spain. Every day I took the train to school I would see at least one of them, like in any big American city. The difference is that they are not there because of drugs or mental illness; they are there as ordinary people ruined by a ruthless economy. These people carried pictures of their children, husbands, wives, and others that they needed to support. From now on, I will thank God every day that I am in a situation where I have food, shelter, employment, and dignity, unlike so many across the world.

I would like to express my great gratitude to the Friends of the International Center for giving me this chance to experience education and life in another country. I will never be the same person for this experience, and hope to use my skills to one day give back to the community, improving international awareness and understanding, both at home and abroad.

Jonathan Gomez

Coming home this time was the most difficult transition I have ever made in my travels. I am trying hard to deal with reverse culture shock. Ghana was great. I am desperately missing all the friends I made there. I didn't think I would, but I'm also missing the heat of Ghana. Thank you so much for allowing me to have Ghana as a part of my history.

Annie Barker

You may have noticed that in December, in reply to my sending out happy holiday wishes, I received a large number of letters from Friends Scholarship recipients. Here are some more.

*The one immediately following is from **Chulyun Park**, who enjoyed studying English literature in Edinburgh, but added that he will continue with his studies of biology and goals of studying medicine.—
Scholarship Committee Chair*

I have been very well here lately. Still in Edinburgh studying for my final exams. It's been a fantastic time for me here, both inside and outside school. I have done a nice amount of traveling, almost every weekend, mostly within Great Britain. I will be going on a winter break in a few different cities in continental Europe starting Dec. 22nd to January 4th, and will be very much looking forward to that once my exams are over. That said, I really started appreciating Scotland now that I will be leaving in a week. I love this city and wish I could stay longer.

Thank you so much for the Friends Scholarship!

Charlie Park

From the moment I arrived, I have enjoyed every minute of my time in Israel. The international school here in Mount Scopus has allowed me to meet an incredibly diverse international community. I have met students from every continent and from all over Israel and the Middle East itself, and the number of languages and cultures I encounter every day is far greater than I have encountered before. As for myself, my Hebrew language has improved considerably since my arrival. My vocabulary has expanded and I find myself able to navigate without referring to the English signs. I often find myself feeling like a native.

When I think about my experiences, I realize that the most important aspect of this opportunity here is that it has allowed me to cultivate an increased sense of belonging, belonging to my Israeli family and culture, to my Jewish identity, but also to my consciousness as a global citizen.

I have attended services at synagogues of nearly every Jewish denomination (my favorite was a modern orthodox feminist congregation in Jerusalem's German colony), and have taken many fascinating tours around the Old City. These experiences have brought me a lot closer to understanding Judaism religiously, culturally, ethnically, and historically.

Daily life brings to the surface many issues in Israeli society, and exploring them has been, although frustrating, incredibly intellectually gratifying. I have been greatly enriched by aligning my daily experiences with my coursework, especially on the subjects of Israeli foreign policy, the military, and the effects of traumatic events on Israeli society. The political, social, and economic situation here is not easy; yet there is a great spirit in Jerusalem's inhabitants that is beautiful to watch as an outsider and as a type of insider.

I greatly thank the Friends of the International Center for your support in my studies.

Noam Ziv-Crispel

I returned from the Republic of Korea (ROK), also known as South Korea, early in September. Altogether I spent about ten weeks in Korea, including an exhausting six weeks of classes at Yonsei University's International Summer School. Since my return to the States, I have spent a lot of time thinking about what parts of my experience in Korea I want to highlight and share.

Taking classes during monsoon season promised constant humidity and pouring rain. In between my three classes, I often got caught in the rain without an umbrella. Or the combination of pouring rain and monsoon winds would break my umbrella and leave me drenched. By the end of the six-week program, I had gone through six umbrellas, which became victims not only to monsoon winds but also to petty theft.

On the weekends, my friends and I tried to discover Seoul as much as we could. When we weren't studying at a café, we critically analyzed the specific ethnonationalist narrative that the Korean War Museum constructed, nearly died from heat exhaustion while touring Gyeongbok Palace, haggled for clothes and other goods in shopping areas like Dongdaemun, observed Seoul's stunning night lights from Namsan Tower, or enjoyed a gyro or a hot dog in Itaewon, the part of Seoul known for its large expatriate populations.

I know that I have grown a lot, not only academically but personally due to my summer experience. Before I left for the ROK, I wrote: "I want to study abroad in Korea for personal, academic, and career-related reasons. Personal reasons include exploring my identity politics and [re]learning a language that I speak to my parents in a broken tongue." My Korean American history course, as well as my realization that South Korea has constructed a Korean identity based not only on ethnicity but also on culture, have forced me to think through what it means to be diasporic, and consequently what it means for 1.5, second, third, etc. generation Korean-Americans to study "abroad" or visit Korea as "tourists." Furthermore, my reexamination of identity politics also left me with gaping questions on how my (uneven) diasporic privilege operates throughout South Korea and especially at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which splits North Korea and South Korea along the 38th parallel.

I am still processing how my summer has affected me both personally and academically. I had so much fun and met wonderful friends, and I know that I want to return to Korea to conduct research for a senior thesis. Thank you for your support, Friends of the International Center!

Susie Kim



Rethinking the investment of masculinity and militarism at the DMZ

China was wonderful! I wish I could have extended my stay and didn't have to rush back for graduate school tests and applications.—*Lincoln Lo*

And from Lincoln's blog:

Military Museum and Yuyuantan Gongyuan by myself today. First time I really just went out totally by myself to see the place. Being alone is actually really nice, since people usually want to leave and go eat/party/drink, etc. Not a great day weather-wise, but the park was a nice change of pace. One thing that

needs to be said about the Military Museum, it is exactly what you would expect: a museum for the nationalists and arms enthusiasts (like myself) out there who want to see a part of history. Like it or not, much of history is about war, bloodshed, and revolution. That the CCP (or any other government, for that matter) would put out a museum that would do anything less than glorify the young people who give up their lives for the cause is a bit idiotic. So yes, they fudged the casualty numbers on the Korean War and asserted their victory over the "invading Americans."

London has treated me very well. The weather, however, has become truly cruel compared to San Diego. I definitely need some more time to warm up to it. I've enjoyed my classes for this term very much. I've taken two literature classes, one art history, and one German language class. All my lecturers have been amazing. I've done very well in all of them. I've also made new friends, many of whom are British and some are of other nationalities. My British friends

are mostly from other parts of England, so we've had a lot of fun discovering London together. What is amazing about London, and something I think I'll miss most of all, is that most museums and art galleries here are free to enter. The British Museum houses some of the oldest artifacts from around the world. I was standing among 2,000-to-3,000-year-old Egyptian mummies. It was surreal. Also, Tate Modern has many famous modern paintings and sculptures. Those two places are my favorite hangout spots now. And there are many more!

I've gotten a job as a student mentor. I work at a college called BSix (which is for students aged 16 to 18, I think, in the British education system). Basically I help students who struggle with turning in assignments on time and organizing their time efficiently. It's not much pay, but it's something. London is very expensive so any bit helps.

I won't go back to California until June. I'm making a mini-excursion to the Continent this winter break. I'm already excited for next semester!

Hao Tam



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