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



Newsletter

Volume XXXIX No. 8

April 2012

President's Message



Hospitality . . . Scholarships . . . International Community . . . these words summarize our mission as supporters of international education at UC San Diego. Many, many Friends work hard to bring our mission to life, but this month I'd like to give special recognition to three in particular.

❖ For coordination of our Wednesday Morning activities with creativity and gracious hospitality, thank you, **Georgina Sham**. Who can imagine our Scholarship program or this monthly *Newsletter* without the dedication and

wisdom of **Ruth Newmark**? And thanks to **Gayle Barsamian**'s diligence in running the Resale Shop, funds for our scholarships are generated, and the campus and community are well served. I find the long-term commitment of these three women truly inspiring. Thank you!

A few anecdotes illustrate the person-to-person impact of our programs.

❖ Just about a year ago I met **Hiroko Nakamura** when she came to our Family Orientation at the Center, soon after arriving in San Diego. That day there were women from Japan, Korea and Germany attending, and she helped translate for some of the others. She became a regular participant in Wednesday Coffee, frequently cooked for the International Kitchens, and particularly liked learning English idioms and knitting. Recently, I enjoyed listening to Hiroko and her sister, who was visiting, as they bubbled with enthusiasm for the new Knit-Along group. As she prepares now to return to Japan, Hiroko writes about her experiences at the International Center: "I was so happy to be there with such kind people. I appreciate them very much."

❖ I was pleased to attend the annual Hearts and Scholars celebration in February, which honors scholarship benefactors and recipients at a lovely reception and dinner at the Faculty Club. Soon after getting my glass of wine, a tall young undergraduate approached and we introduced ourselves. When I told him I was representing the Friends of the International Center, he lit up and told me he had just been at the Resale Shop that day, and was so excited to have found the great suit he was wearing!

Save the Date



**Annual Membership Dinner
and
Scholarship Awards Ceremony**

Tuesday, May 22, 6 p.m.

(I must say it fit him very well and he looked very handsome indeed.)

❖ Be sure to notice the new name badges being worn by some of the tutors you may see at work around the Center. Thanks to a generous donation to the Friends in memory of **Doug Mitchell**, former Friends' member and tutor, we were able to fund these special name badges for those who have taught in the English in Action program for five years or longer (see p. 8).

❖ Finally, I want to acknowledge a very generous anonymous donation to fund supplies and equipment for Mommy/Daddy & Me. The happy faces of parents and toddlers on Wednesday mornings attest to the great success of this international hospitality program.

Happy Easter to all!

Joan Adamo

Australian Community Supper

—by *Barbara Fitzsimmons*

The Taiwanese Supper in February proved to be extremely successful with more than 75 people in attendance. Chef **Ginny Young**'s menu was wonderful, from the hot and sour soup to the mango mousse and almond cookies. Please consider joining us for our last ArtPower! Community Supper of the academic year where Australian food will be featured.

- **Australian Community Supper**, jointly sponsored by the **International Center, Friends, and ArtPower!**, Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:00 p.m., International Center. The menu will feature Creamy Squash Soup; Aussie Chicken; Crash Hot Potatoes; Sunshine Salad with Vinaigrette; Pavlova with Citrus-Infused Cream and Fruit. Vegetarian meals are available upon request; requests should be made at time of purchase. Cost: \$12 per person, \$7 for UCSD students. Order early, as the deadline for supper ticket sales is Friday, April 13. Supper tickets *only*, for exact change, will also be available at the Dean's Office at the International Center.



- **Performance:** The performance by **Chunky Move** 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.

Chunky Move from Australia will be making its third appearance with ArtPower! The company teams up with California artist **Reuben Margolin** to animate body and machine using a weblike moving sculpture. Beginning with simple movements that evolve into complex structures, athletic and agile dancers twist and hurtle through space to construct a vast sculpture in real time. 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 I-Center. Your parking permit for Lot 604 is included in your performance ticket. but not in your dinner ticket.

If you have supper questions, please contact **Eleanor tum Suden** <etumsude@san.rr.com>.

April Calendar

April 3, 10, 24: **Knit-Along**, 1:00-3:30

April 4, 18: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

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

April 5, 12, 19, 26: **Cooking in America**, 9:30-2:00

April 6, 13, 20, 27: **International Café**, Noon-1:15

April 8: **Easter**

April 10: **Friends Board Meeting**, 9:30

April 17, 19, 24: **Scholarship Committee Meetings**, 9:30

April 17: **ArtPower! Community Supper**, 6:00

April 18: **International Kitchen**, Noon

International Café

—by *Ginny Young*

Here follow the menus and sponsors for the April International Café.

- 4/6 Brazil: Chicken with catupiry cheese sauce, rice, hearts of palm torta, green salad, coconut cake
Sponsor: **Division of Social Sciences**
- 4/13 American South: Cajun oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with cheddar cheese, green salad, brownie
Sponsor: **Office of Chancellor Fox**
- 4/20 Canada: Maple-glazed chicken, rice, green salad, *pouding au chômeur*
Sponsor: **Division of Physical Sciences**
- 4/27 Morocco: Moroccan chicken, rice, bean dip with pita, green salad, orange cake
Sponsor: **Del Mar Rotary**

Hearts and Scholars Dinner

—by Ruth Newmark

“A gift of education is life-changing and permanent—something that can never be taken from its recipient. I have found that our UC San Diego scholarship recipients are not only aware of this, they are also aware of the generosity and vision of people who make such gifts.

“Please join me and other UC San Diego scholarship benefactors for an evening with our impressive and delightful scholarship recipients—including your Friends of the International Center Scholar—at the annual Hearts and Scholars celebration, a joining of generous hearts and bright minds.

“Hosted by Chancellor **Marye Anne Fox** and the **UC San Diego Undergraduate Scholarship Council**, the reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. on February 16, 2012, at The Faculty Club.

“As we send our young people out into an uncertain future, this event never ceases to leave us all with a sense that the future is in good hands. I promise a rewarding evening that will warm your heart.”

So read the invitation to the annual Hearts and Scholars Dinner by **Reed Vickerman**, Chairman of the Undergraduate Scholarship Council.

Chris and Liz Wills, Joan and Lou Adamo, my husband and I were seated with two students, **Elizabeth Miller**, 2011 Friends Scholarship recipient and **Katherine Rimpau**. Elizabeth had gone to Costa Rica on EAP, an experience that proved to have far-reaching influence. Working with iguanas convinced her that this is an area of research that she will want to continue to explore. Presently, she is a senior, enrolled in an integrated bachelor’s/master’s program that will allow her to earn her M.S. in biology in one year.



Elizabeth Miller, Ruth Newmark,
Leonard Newmark

Whoever made the seating assignments did a miraculous job, for we soon learned that Elizabeth had worked as a TA for Chris Wills and been to the Wills home. Liz, as chair of Friends Ethnic Dinners that help raise funds for international scholarships, conscientiously tries out recipes in her own kitchen, serving her culinary creations to Chris’s TAs, who get to weigh in if the dishes pass muster or not.

Not only had Elizabeth something in common with Chris and Liz Wills, but Joan Adamo pointed out that while working in the Programs Abroad Office, she had been in charge of the Costa Rica program and had visited the EAP site. Joan, Lou, and Elizabeth continued to talk about the professor in charge of the Tropical Biology and Conservation Program in Monteverde, and about the conditions of the roads. Such personal connections make for easy conversation.

Katherine, the other student at our table, had not given any thought to studying abroad, but after being bombarded by information about its many virtues, may yet consider it, particularly once Joan and I assured her that study abroad does not need to delay graduation.

It was fun to reconnect with **Brittany Lyng**, who had received a Friends Scholarship to study exer-

cise physiology in Australia. After completing her Global Seminar program, Brittany continued on to Haiti, part of a group of UC San Diego students who in the summer of 2011 visited Port-au-Prince to help relieve phantom limb pain suffered by victims of the Haitian earthquake. Their mission was inspired by **President Clinton’s** Global Initiative University that urges students to address issues of concern and commit to action. In Haiti, the student team applied an innovative mirror-box therapy developed by UCSD Professor **V.S. Ramachandran**, director of the Center for Brain and Cognition. To ensure that such treatment would continue after their departure, the students gave presentations to doctors and physical therapists, and left mirrors and prosthetics behind. Next on Brittany’s agenda is the UC San Diego medical school.

No doubt other guests had conversations that were equally inspiring. It is exactly this kind of interaction that the Hearts and Scholars Dinner tries to foster and at which it succeeds brilliantly.



Gail Fliesbach so enjoyed meeting the recipient of her scholarship at the Hearts and Scholars Dinner that she proudly provided this photo of **Ramona Brooks** taken in Legon, where Ramona spent the fall quarter at the University of Ghana. As a theater major, Ramona appreciated the opportunity to take part in a production; here she is seen backstage with one of the actors.

In addition to all the hours that **Gus Lestick** spends tutoring international students and scholars, he also devotes every Wednesday, from 10 to noon, moderating Gus's Table at Wednesday Coffee. For his service to the international community, he was twice honored with a Chancellor's Award, being named Tutor of the Year, first in 1991, and more recently in 2010. Gus is many things, especially a lifelong learner and an intuitive teacher. Here are photos and selections from an interview he consented to with **Alice Blake-Stalker**.



Augustus Lestick

The Gus at Gus's Table

Q. What do you want the readers of the Friends Newsletter to know about you?

A. Not much.

Q. I've been wondering, what do you carry in that black, leather briefcase?

A. (From one of the conversation table regulars) Body parts!

A. [From Gus, as are all other answers, unless otherwise stated] A dictionary, a notebook, and a magazine or two.

Q. What do you like to read?

A. I read different things, especially science. I wanted to be a scientist, but I flunked math and left college. I was 17 and joined the Navy. In fact, the first time I was on this campus, it was still a Marine Corps base.

Q. Were you career Navy?

A. No. I was a "Cold Warrior." I worked as an electronics technician, as a civilian employee.

Q. How did you get involved at the International Center?

A. My math limitations. My stepdaughter was having trouble with math, and I was unable to help her myself. I hired a tutor, **Rao [Mikkilineni]**. He was the president of the International Students Club. He invited me to some Friends activities. I began tutoring English, and have now tutored 259 students, but only four currently.

Q. How did "Gus's Table" get started?

A. I used to tutor at my house or at the student's house. Others would join us at the kitchen table, and it seemed to work. After I retired twenty years ago, I had more time. I knew about Wednesday Coffee and thought I'd try group work. I had a small group that I called a "rump caucus."

Q. How does the Table work?

A. There is no fixed format. No curriculum. We just bring up interesting topics. We keep it in English. The table teaches itself, and I let it. I don't interrupt conversation, but I correct pronunciation and grammar sometimes.

(Note: Topics discussed on a recent Wednesday morning included: Chinese New Year, Russian wedding customs, the International Cottages at Balboa Park,

and the movie, "The Help."

Q. What do you get out of it?

A. I get to know fascinating people. (Long pause) I know I'm out of my class as far as education and intelligence is concerned. I am not a scientist, but I get to help some scientists communicate better. I get to help some families be happier. I have learned much more than I have taught. And I am grateful for the friendship of the other Friends volunteers.

(Despite Gus's comments on his limited formal education, his extensive informal education is evident. This interview was interrupted several times, with other volunteers using Gus as the final authority on matters of grammar, animal classification, and geography.)

Q. How does it feel to have touched so many lives over the years at important crossroads?

A. (Smiling) I used to bring a camera. I now have lots of pictures of beautiful foreign visitors, and I no longer know their names. I have lived longer than I expected. I am more forgetful, slower, stupider. I'll have to quit.

A. (Chorus of voices from the Table) No! Never! He's just teasing!

Q. How do you draw out participants who are shy and insecure about their English ability?

A. I try to bring them out gently. (Moving uncomfortably close, nose-to-nose) Sometimes I get close in there and look at them. They will look away, at everything except me, then, finally say something, anything. Once they start....

Q. Would you say your discussions are similar to symphonies, with different instruments contributing at different times?

A. More like a jazz group, improvising.

(At this point, Gus excused himself as I talked with some of the others at the round table.)

Q. What would you like our readers to know?

A. **Celia Garcia Olivencia**, Spain, spouse: This is my very first time at Gus's Table. I feel welcome. I feel comfortable speaking with this group.



Seated: Nori Faer, Letty Ponomareff, Gus Lestick, Parveneh Kamyab; standing: Celia Garcia Olivencia, Olga Kanzheleva, Guangli Suo

A. **Nori Faer**, U.S., volunteer: I appreciate Gus's intense curiosity and how he draws out different social perspectives.

A. **Letty Ponomareff**, U.S., volunteer: Gus is a walking encyclopedia!

A. **Olga Kanzheleva**, Russia, wife of a Ph.D. student in physics: Gus has a lot of jokes.

A. **Parveneh Kamyab**, Iran, community member: Gus is knowledgeable and kind. He is never hurtful or embarrassing.

(More detail came from a five-year veteran of Gus's Table, **Guangli Suo**, China, postdoc at the Moores Cancer Center.)

Q. What was it like when you first came to the International Center?

A. I couldn't open my mouth! Most of the members of my lab spoke Chinese. When I did speak English, it was just narrow professional topics. Here, at Gus's Table, we talk about EVERYTHING. Gus is patient and encouraging, and he has full passion.

Q. Was Gus also your official tutor?

A. No. I had a wonderful tutor named Barbara. She tutored topics deeply. I learned a lot from her. However, Gus often helped me, as well. We sometimes met beyond the normal Wednesday Coffee hours. He always had a magazine or two in his bag, and he helped me feel confident reading English aloud about many topics. He even edited my Green Card application. I got it with no lawyer. Just Gus.

Q. You have been at UCSD five years and speak excellent English. Why do you still come to Gus's Table?

A. It's interesting and fun. I plan my work so I can be here often. I like the diverse people and the broad topics, especially about American and other cultures.

Q. Finally, Gus, what do YOU get out of tutoring and presiding at Gus's Table?

A. I get to know the most interesting, the finest people, I have ever known in my whole life!



Easter Egg Hunt, 2011

Wednesday Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

April 4: **Dyeing Easter Eggs and Egg Hunt**. Please bring a dozen eggs (2-3 raw eggs for making silk tie Easter eggs, the rest hard-boiled for dyeing). Children will have an egg hunt at 11:30, immediately following the Mommy/Daddy & Me class.

April 11: **Crafts and Merci Marie—Au Revoir Party**. Crafts in the morning (perhaps we'll work with FIMO—a polymer clay); potluck lunch at noon. Please bring a dish to show off your native food. **Marie Perroud** must return to France for a little while, and we want to thank her and wish her well until we see her again.

April 18: **Persian Lunch**. Our International Kitchen will feature the cuisine of Iran under the guidance of **Parvaneh Kamyab**. We'll start cooking at 9:30. Lunch will be served at noon for \$5/person.

April 25: **Where to go for free? Alice Blake-Stalker** will lead us in a discussion of free activities on the UCSD campus and in San Diego. Be prepared to share information, so that we may compile a list and make a print-out for all.

Book Discussion--check our website or dining room bulletin board for particulars.



The **Knit-Along** group will meet on Tuesday afternoons, April 3, 10, and 24, from 1:00-3:30. Note that there is no meeting on April 17. For further information, you may contact **Jennie Chin** at enjen1@hotmail.com.

Donations

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **David Liberman** for his recent gift, and to yet another generous member of the Friends for a handsome contribution to our Mommy/Daddy & Me program.

From the Editor:

A few months ago, **Carol Smith**, who photographs many of our activities and special events, handed me a small packet of old snapshots that she had come across. We lamented that many photos were of people that had died or were no longer with us in other ways. It is hard to toss such treasures away. I am therefore going to try to incorporate one or the other in future *Newsletters*, beginning here with a picture of **Sylvia Rath** taken in the Friends Resale Shop, presumably sometime in the nineties.

Note the hanging white sweat-shirt with its multiple colorful flags that we sold (along with similarly emblazoned t-shirts and tote bags) to raise money for scholarships and other Friends projects. The shirts were fun and of such high quality that some may still be in your closet (or possibly turn up again in the Resale Shop).

Sylvia played a central role in the Friends, taking part in many of our programs. Not only was she a regular volunteer in the Resale Shop, but shared, in 1989, the position of Shop Coordinator with **Joyce Dunn**. She helped at many an Ethnic Dinner, often taking reservations. She served on the Friends Board, twice as treasurer; was a Wednesday Coffee hostess; and a devoted American English in Action tutor who believed that it was not the student but rather the tutor who should pay for the privilege of learning. For all this, and more, Sylvia was honored with a Chancellor's Award, being named 1989 Friends Member of the Year. Perhaps her fondest activity was the Host Family program, about which she enjoyed writing for our *Newsletter*. In 1996, Sylvia was recognized with yet another Chancellor's Award; this time she was named Host Family of the Year. Gradually, as her health declined, she had to give up active participation in our organization. In 2004, she moved to San Francisco to be near her son. In 2009, we learned that she had died.



Fran Frautschy and Sylvia Rath



The second picture, clearly taken on the same day, shows the Resale Shop from a slightly different angle. Sitting at the checkout counter that served then, as it does now, for display of jewelry and other specialty items, is **Fran Frautschy**, apparently pricing goods.

Fran had been an elementary school teacher and administrator in the San Diego public school system. Upon retirement, she joined the ranks of our Resale Shop volunteers. Much earlier (1959-60), she had served as Oceanids President and, as recounted by **Betty Shor**, participated in Scripps Institution activities while her husband **Jeffery** was SIO deputy director under **Roger Revelle** and after Roger's departure. Another Shop volunteer, **Ruth McCunney**, recalls that Fran also was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

After the death of her husband in 1993 and up unto her own, at age 83, in 2004, Fran continued to live in the house that she and Jeff built in Scripps Estates Associates (SEA), and where their children grew up.

Twenty Years of Cooking in America

—by Barbara Starkey

In August of 1991, I invited **Alma** and **Bill Coles** to our fish fry barbeque. The barbeque was a then annual event held at our home for friends. I always did the cooking of all the dishes except for the barbequing of the fish. My husband, **Bob**, did that. Alma brought her father. Later Alma asked if I would be the coordinator of a program called “American Cooking,” offered under the umbrella of the Friends of the International Center. The purpose of the course was to teach American culture and English through cooking to spouses of our foreign doctoral and research scholars at the growing University of California at San Diego. The thinking was that we could not retain these scholars if their spouses were not comfortable in the United States.

On January 20, 1992, the classes began under my direction. Alma Coles taught that first class. They have continued every fall, winter, and spring quarter since then—20 years so far.

By the Spring Quarter 1992, the name was changed to “Cooking In America.” America is a heterogeneous country. Its people eat foods that reflect their ethnicity; they may add to these foods dishes borrowed from other groups that they come in contact with. The two may become mixed, and may lead to a popular contemporary style called “fusion cuisine.”

Cooking in America is an all-volunteer program. I recruit the instructors. There have been 48 since I became the coordinator—I thank each one for participating. Some of the classes I teach myself. [Remarkably, Barbara continued to

teach and chair the Cooking in America classes during the two years (1994-96) that she served as Friends President—Ed.]

Each student is provided with relevant recipes, so that she (or the occasional he) can follow the preparations and repeat the dishes at home. The class is hands-on: students help prepare a 3-course meal; we eat lunch together and discuss topics of all kinds. Students often tell me what dishes they have replicated. At the end, participants pitch in with the cleanup of the kitchen.

Our students come from all over the world. Many have described the class as a gift. Occasionally, students return the gift by teaching us how to prepare dishes from their home country. Thus, we learned how to make *sushi*, and we have learned how to make *paella*.

Our reach extends far beyond San Diego. **Georgina Sham**’s class was written up in a newspaper in Japan. **Sallye Krause** was asked by some of our former students to set up a cooking class in Korea while Sallye was there.

Keeping this program alive and well has kept me excited about cooking, discovering new dishes and ingredients. From time to time, I take cooking lessons to broaden my own skills

This program uses the medium of cooking as a creative expression of American culture. The dishes range from the mundane to the gourmet. They are what the instructor wants to present. Instructors have taught recipes ranging from apple pies to wedding cakes, from baked Alaska to brownies, pot roast,



chili con carne, vichyssoise, curried squash soup, Cobb salad, and so much more.

Every year, we teach one class that highlights a typical American Thanksgiving menu. And every year, Alma Coles and I teach at least one class in our individual homes. Our international visitors enjoy seeing how we live.

Spring classes are scheduled for April 5, 12, 19, 26, and May 3. So far the lineup of teachers for this session includes **Alma Coles**, **Ginny Das**, **Louise Engleman**, and myself. The April 19 class will be at my home.

Membership

Please welcome new members **Edie & Ed Drcar**, who joined the Friends upon attending our Chinese New Year Dinner, and **Janice Hill**, who joined after hearing from one of her friends about her positive experiences of volunteering in the International Center’s English in Action tutor program. Said Jan: “I am now tutoring a Korean scholar and it has helped me realize even more how important the international experience is for all. Another connection with UCSD is my son being an alum!”

We hope you will find our 2012 *Membership Directory and Handbook* useful. Let us know of any additions or other changes.

From the Scholarship Committee Chair:

April is the month the Friends Scholarship Committee convenes to read applications. In response to whether the Friends might once more count on **University funds** for 2012-13 Friends Scholarships, I received such immediate and positive replies that I would like to share selected quotes:

Wrote **Ann Klein**, Director of the Financial Aid Office: "It is wonderful to hear from you. Yes!!! We are pleased to continue our support with a matching \$3,000. Thank you and the Friends for all your hard work on behalf of our students. You all are most appreciated."

Kathryn Murphy, the Director of Graduate Student Financial Support at OGS, answering on behalf of Prof. **Kim Barrett**, Dean of Graduate Studies, wrote: "Dean Barrett has approved your request for \$10,000.00 in matching funds.

We will send the call for nominations, but I will pass the draft by you before we do."

Our International Center's Director of UC's Education Abroad Program, **Kim Burton**—a longtime member of the Friends as well as of our Scholarship Committee—sent this message: "Hi Ruth. Yes, I'm pleased to report that we will again have the \$5,000 in EAP scholarships to match with the Friends for 2012-13 participants."

The School of Medicine (SOM), too, has been providing matching funds. Wrote Dr. **Carolyn Kelly**, SOM's Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs: "It is always wonderful to hear from you. Yes, we plan to again provide the matching funds for four awards. We will make this announcement for our students, and provide to the Friends at least six names."

This \$22,000 in matching funds comes in addition to a generous \$10,000 grant from Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dr. **Penny Rue**.

Such enthusiastic support—financial and otherwise—means a great deal to the Friends. Not only does it strengthen the longstanding collaboration between the University and Friends, but it makes the Friends work particularly rewarding.

—*Ruth Newmark*

EIA Tutors

—*by Eleanor tum Suden*

Tutors with lengthy volunteer service in the English in Action (EIA) tutor program recently received special recognition through new name tags provided by the Friends to show our appreciation for their efforts. Funds were available from donations given in memory of a former member and longtime tutor, **J. Douglas Mitchell**, Col. U.S. Army, Retired, who had a distinguished military career, ending as Assistant Secretary to the Chief of Staff of the Army, then General **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, and acting as a White House Liaison.

In retirement, Doug Mitchell lived in La Jolla for over 30 years and volunteered during those years as an EIA tutor. These efforts were recognized with the Tutor of the Year award in 1985, and again in 2004, shared with **Lorrie DeSpain** and **Virginia Cox**.

The tutors provide an invaluable service in helping international students and scholars master some of the intricacies of not only our language, but also some aspects of our culture. It is one of our longest running volunteer programs, and is greatly appreciated by our visitors.

Resale Shop

—*by Joe Nichols*

This month we want to start a new series, that is, brief bios of Friends Resale Shop volunteers.

First up is **Nona Crampton**, a 5-year veteran as a volunteer in the Shop, though she has been around Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UC San Diego for nearly 50 years. At one time, she was Financial Officer at SIO, and currently serves as Friends Assistant Treasurer.

She enjoys her hours at the Shop, especially since she partners with her longtime pal **Betty Shor**. Nona is rewarded by the mix of our customers and regular friends who come by. She likes working with students and is particularly proud of what we do in raising money for student scholarships. Also noted are **Fareed**, our frequent helper and singing maestro, a native of Morocco with connections to Germany; **Christomir**, who brought cheer and a Bulgarian helpfulness to us; and a jovial fellow whom Nona calls "socks," because he always was buying socks. What an enriching experience, indeed.

As mentioned in last month news notes, we are still looking for volunteers. Most urgently, we need a person to assist our overworked Coordinator, **Gayle Barsamian**.



Nona Crampton in the Resale Shop

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Evolutionary Diversity of Reef Corals

Globally, sea surface warming and ocean acidification are subjecting reef corals to severe stresses, resulting in intensified mortality and declining rates of reef building. It is alarming to note that one-third of the world's reef coral species are threatened with extinction. In order to reduce biodiversity loss, it is important to consider species' contribution to evolutionary diversity along with their risk of extinction for the purpose of setting conservation priorities.



For my study, I collected coral genetic samples from various localities around the world, including Australia, Fiji, and the Seychelles, supported in part by the Friends of the International Center Scholarship. I then reconstructed the tree of life for the world's 837 reef species, and employed a composite measure of evolutionary distinctiveness and extinction risk to identify the most endangered coral lineages. Conservation of these lineages, not just the threatened species, is vital for safeguarding evolutionary diversity. And while corals facing elevated extinction risk are not clustered together on the evolutionary tree, species that are susceptible, resistant or resilient to different stresses, such as bleaching and disease, tend to be close relatives. Intensification of these threats or loss of the endangered lineages could therefore result in disproportionate pruning of the coral tree of life.

It has been a great privilege to receive support [in 2008 and 2011] from the Friends of the International Center. I am grateful that the organisation has contributed tremendously towards research on corals that has a significant impact on their conservation.

Danwei Huang

Scripps Institution of Oceanography

On EAP in Scotland

Despite being in Scotland without prior knowledge of its culture and people, I found myself eager to explore and immerse myself into my new surroundings. My admiration for the city's distinct traditions, which are embraced and still alive, the overall ambience of life in Edinburgh, and the friendly locals who often approached me when I appeared lost for directions, facilitated my liking for the city. Through the UC EAP program, I was fortunate enough to meet open-minded friends who shared my interests in traveling and were willing to welcome new experiences. Having found a close group of students from California, definitely helped me from being affected by the sense of initial separation from home, and enabled me to branch out and meet others, Scottish and international students, with many of whom I formed friendships.

Initially, my primary interest was in learning something about Scottish culture and gaining a unique educational experience at one of the world's oldest

and most distinguished universities. I took advantage of the freedom I had to take an English literature course, which is outside my study of biology. The educational experience definitely turned out to be different, with more emphasis on communicating ideas as a group, writing papers rather than taking tests, and learning that required consolidating new ideas and creatively coming up with original approaches.

Studying abroad has been a life-changing experience, mostly non-academic, but a truly invaluable one that I would not have obtained otherwise. While I got to try novel experiences (such as eating haggis and kebabs), or trying out new words (such as "cheers!" instead of "thank you"), and accents (which I never fully managed to acquire), what I discovered to be most important was having an open-minded attitude about both new and familiar experiences. The landscapes of the Scottish highlands, the picturesque vista of Edinburgh from atop my biology building, and the visit to the Edinburgh castle are all among the many things that I will remember, but my most cherished moments and the highlights of my stay are the regular afternoons cooking with my friends or strolling around the meadows with the people I came to love. I found appreciation and joy in ordinary things. I realized the importance of spending time and truly appreciating those close to me. This in turn made me appreciate more those who are important to me back home. The memories and lessons from this experience have helped me define myself further, and are ones I will take everywhere I go. If I could change anything about my study abroad experience, I wouldn't.

Charlie Park

Dear Friends of the International Center,

Through your support I was able to spend two months in Lahore, Pakistan interning at the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and carrying out my own anthropological fieldwork. The emphasis of both projects was on the Christian community in Pakistan. In my report that I submitted to the HRCP, I discovered several fascinating aspects of the Christian community in Pakistan. First, due to certain articles in the constitution and laws in place, Christians, in particular, and religious minorities, in general, face several difficulties. Most specifically, I analyzed multiple cases of conversion, usually involving abduction and rape of Christian women. The unlikely finding about these cases was that they were utilizing liberal legal procedures, but due to the influence of religious sentiments in the legal system, the decision did not respect the norms of religious freedom.

Moreover, in compiling this report, I became aware of the many ways in which the Christian community is included in the nation-state, specifically by being recognized for its contributions to the health and education sectors.

In the second part of my research, I made many trips to churches for Sunday services, Bible studies, or daily prayer meetings. In these visits, I came across the religious and social life of the Christian community that escapes the gaze of the state and law, but that also is not captured in human rights and journalistic reports. For instance, one of the churches that I frequented was headed by a charismatic figure and had over 4,000 members. Many of the congregation's concerns were brought up and discussed in services and meetings, and were directly related to the social and political history of the community in the Punjab province (where Lahore is located) and of Pakistan as a nation-state.

So, since returning to San Diego, I have begun to unearth the history of this community—from the people's original conversion from low-caste Hinduism to their status as a stigmatized Christian community in contemporary Pakistan. This pursuit has led me to start thinking about this group's changing relations not just to religion, but equally to labor, family, and community. I sincerely thank the Friends of the International Center for giving me this opportunity.

Waqas Butt

University College Maastricht

The Netherlands was absolutely incredible! I loved it so much. The people were so friendly and welcoming. The town of Maastricht was gorgeous. The *stroopwafels* (caramel cookies) delicious. In all, I had a fabulous time. I very much enjoyed the *Sinterklaas* (St. Nicholas) celebrations and all the *kruidnoten* (ginger cookies) that came with them. The entire town was so festive during the Christmas season; it was wonderful!

The program at University College Maastricht places a high value on academics, and I learned an incredible amount in a relatively short time. Classes are taken seriously, mostly because the students are truly enthusiastic about the material. What's more, classes are small and discussion-based, and in such an intimate setting, not doing your work is made obvious right away. While the Problem Based Learning (PBL) system was a challenge to adapt to, working in a small, discussion-based environment has made me look at my reading materials, classes, and overall learning experience in a new way. It has made me a more critical reader and thinker.

My classmates at University College Maastricht (UCM), all taught in English,



were a mix of international exchange, UCM, and UC students. In classes of about 10-18 students, I never had more than one UC student in the class. I actually think this helps to keep the focus on academics, because the UCM students enrolled at the university took their studies very seriously, as it was their fulltime university and grades very much mattered to them.

I can't say enough good things about my time in the Netherlands. Moreover, I got to travel a lot throughout Europe, which was equally as much fun. I knew that I would love being abroad; still, it exceeded all my expectations.

Akemi Brown

Good News and Thanks

I have some good news about one of our students, **Kim Ang**. You may recall that Kim was a Global Seminar Istanbul student who also did OAP in Turkey. She received a [2009] Friends Scholarship.

Kim has been a wonderful returnee because she has given back to UCSD in a number of ways. Last spring, she spoke at the study abroad General Orientation about her experience as an Asian-American student abroad. Her remarks were very well received by the students. Recently, Kim made a short video reprising her remarks for inclusion in our updated online orientation. In the video she speaks with insight about her experience of diversity abroad. See the YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T78gLtQMwI>.

I want to thank the Friends for your continued support of study-abroad students, especially of Global Seminar and OAP students like Kim, and to let you know that the opportunities created by the Friends Scholarships are helping some truly outstanding young people who will make a real difference in the world.

Jim Galvin

Director of Opportunities Abroad
and Faculty-Led Programs

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