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



Newsletter

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June 2014

President's Message

Reflecting on the success of Friends programs and events over the past academic year, this quote from **Israelmore Ayivor** seems particularly fitting: "With teamwork, any little contribution you make yields greater output when it meets the contribution of others, and guess who gets the plus? Everyone in the team!" And, what an amazing team of volunteers and members we have!

The Friends longevity rests firmly on the shoulders of so many talented and caring individuals and I appreciate every contribution you make: whether it be participating for only a few minutes at a Wednesday Coffee or Tuesday Knit-Along; or donating to the Resale Shop; or sharing a meal with an international visitor at one of our lunches, dinners, or in your home; or adding a resource to our *Welcome Booklet* provided to participants at Family Orientation; or making a financial contribution, Your support and time given in all denominations makes an impact on the lives of many. So, thank you!

President Kennedy had it right when he said: "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." I can assure you that I have been learning each step of

the way and I thank you for your patience as I continue to learn on the job. I also thank you for allowing me to return another year as President of this venerable organization. With your help the Friends will grow stronger yet and provide our volunteers and participants even more reasons to feel uplifted and optimistic about the future (have you seen our remodeled Resale Shop? If not, you are in for a treat!).

I end this column with a few personal comments: Thank you for honoring me with your nomination for the Chancellor's Award for Friends Member of the Year, presented at the Volunteer Appreciation reception in May, and for similarly honoring our Friends Dinner Social program with the Chancellor's Award for Organization of the Year. I hope it goes without saying that I am indebted and grateful to everyone who helped make these achievements possible. And, thank you to all the hard-working International Center staff for providing a beautiful sunny tribute.

Thank you to our dedicated 2013-14 Board members for your service and for helping me to look good. It has been a privilege to meet such an amazing group



Friends Dinner Social, May 2014

of intelligent, interesting people. The hardest part of this job is having to say goodbye to some newly made friends, but I am reminded of yet another quote: "No matter how much time passes, no matter what takes place in the interim, there are some things we can never assign to oblivion, memories we can never rub away."—**Haruki Murakami**.

Wishing everyone a happy summer!

Katya Newmark

Resale Shop volunteers will take a well-earned brief vacation, closing the Shop from Monday, June 9 through Monday, June 16.

The Shop will reopen on Tuesday, June 17 with the following curtailed summer hours: Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

On May 6, the International Center honored its many volunteers at a festive reception. Organized by Programs Coordinator **Shelly Taskin**, the celebration was a joyful affair attended by staff and volunteers, about 80 in all, with entertainment provided by **The Beats**, a UC San Diego co-ed a cappella group.

Hanging from rafters and spread around tables were big tissue pom-poms, handcrafted by members of the IC staff—meant to be evocative of sunflowers, and clearly in keeping with the event's motto: "Those who bring sun-



Audrey Leriche, Karen Davis, Dagmar Bocakova, Katya Newmark, Shelly Taskin, Paola Arroyo, Kirk Simmons, Burt Levine, Aehyang Park and daughter

shine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves," a quote from **J. M. Barrie**.

Dean **Kirk Simmons** praised the volunteers for their time and dedication in support of programming for students, scholars, and their families. As did Shelly Taskin, who also explained the

day's award categories, established 40 years ago. Six volunteers and one organization were singled out for their extra special service by being presented with 2014 Chancellor's Awards.

Here follow their citations as read by **Sarah Ross**, Director of IC's Global Engagement Office.

2014 CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

•FRIENDS MEMBER OF THE YEAR - **KATYA NEWMARK**

Although Katya "grew up" with the Friends of the International Center (her mother, **Ruth Newmark**, was a founding member), she took on the demanding role of President giving the office a new leadership and a new point of view. She assumed her role with energy and determination. Katya accepted this responsibility for many good reasons, foremost, her long-term commitment to the organization.

That commitment is absolute and the time and energy Katya spends with the Friends is boundless. She has reached out to the administration of the University to gain more understanding of and support for the Friends of the International Center. She has also committed to reaching out to the community and increasing and energizing the membership of the Friends.

Besides acquiring excellent knowledge and understanding of the University, Katya leads the Friends in a way that is consistent with the University's values in that she is considerate, respectful, and always inclusive.

The Friends would not be the organization it is today without Katya's leadership. Katya, you are most deserving of this honor and we thank you!

•NEW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - **KAREN DAVIS**

With no previous experience as a member of the Friends of the International Center, Karen Davis stepped in to serve as Treasurer of the organization. With a background in accounting and knowledge of accounting standards, Karen has been phenomenal in professionalizing the Friends' books. This has been no easy task as she has had to not only learn about the Friends organization, but has also had to understand the complex policies and procedures of the University.

Besides the time consuming tasks of Treasurer, Karen has also been supportive of other Friends activities and programs, as well as the recruitment of new members. Karen epitomizes that commitment of an outstanding volunteer, and we all feel very fortunate to have her as an active member of the Friends of the International Center. Thank you, Karen, for your energy and dedication.

•INTERNATIONAL VISITOR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR - **AUDREY LERICHE** and **AEHYANG PARK**
Audrey Leriche, who is from France, deserves this honor equally for her contributions to the Friends as well

as to the International Center. Audrey's work with the Friends includes her involvement and leadership in Friends' programs, such as the Friends Dinner Social, Wednesday Coffee, and the Resale Shop. Audrey also is the master D.J. for the International Center's Friday Café and provides helpful contributions to weekly English-in-Action tutoring sessions. She has a delightful curiosity for learning all she can about the English language and the many cultural nuances of American life. Thank you, Audrey, for your many contributions to both the Friends and the international community here at the IC.

Aehyang Park, who is from Korea, became aware of the need for a new leader of the Mommy/Daddy & Me program during her participation with Gus' English Conversation Table. As a Sunday school teacher, she enjoys working with children, so felt comfortable taking on this task. Her gracious attitude and skills immediately became evident. Aehyang has brought not only new energy but also thoughtful preparation to the program. Every week she provides parents with a message about the upcoming theme for the next week, along with lyrics for songs to be sung, etc. Aehyang has grown more confident and her English skills have steadily improved, all while maintaining a positive outlook in what many of us might consider to be a chaotic environment. Congratulations and thank you, Aehyang, for your devotion to the children.

•ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR - FRIENDS DINNER SOCIAL

The Friends Dinner Social is an exciting new program that many feel has given the Friends a positive shot in the arm. The casual atmosphere welcomed all ages at a cost friendly price. The format helped to attract a younger group of volunteers and participants while still appealing to longtime members. The three leaders—**Audrey Leriche**, **Dagmar Bokakova**, and **Katya Newmark**—represent what the Friends is all about, and that is: people from different cultures working together to create a meaningful experience at the International Center for everyone to enjoy. Each of the leaders has brought something to the table and together they have shown how much can be done with a bit of energy and willingness to try new things. Each of the dinners has been better than the previous one and the hope of the Friends is that everyone will join in the fun. Thank you, Audrey, Dagmar and Katya for your creative, social spirit.

•ENGLISH-IN-ACTION TUTOR OF THE YEAR - BURT LEVINE

Burt Levine, a former corporate attorney and native of New York City, has been an English-in-Action Tutor since 1998, when he retired and moved to San Diego. Burt has worked with many international students and scholars from all over the world since he began tutoring sixteen years ago. The most enjoyable aspect of tutoring for him is learning more about the students and their cultures. Burt shares that he has developed lifelong friendships with his tutees and stays in touch with most of them.

Burt also helps to recruit new tutors to the program through various organizations, including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UCSD Extension, where he is a member. We thank Burt for his dedication and commitment to the EIA program, and for helping international visitors improve their English skills while learning more about their cultures.

•STUDY ABROAD RETURNEE OF THE YEAR - PAOLA ARROYO

Paola Arroyo is a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt College majoring in Human Development. In the summer of 2011 she traveled to Istanbul, Turkey for a Global Seminar. Since her return, Paola has been busy with many leadership positions at UCSD, while still maintaining a strong grade point average. After graduation, she is planning to pursue social work. Paola is a member of Hermanas Unidas, a Latina student organization, and has been a tireless advocate for our Global Seminars, and we would like to recognize her dedication and volunteer spirit.

**June and Summer
Calendar**

June 3, 10, 17, 24: **Knit-Along**. Program will continue through July and August with a bring-your-own lunch at 12 noon and knitting/crocheting from 1:00-4:00.

June 4, 18: **Family Orientation**, 9:15. Orientations continue on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month through the summer.

June 4, 11, 18, 25: **Wednesday Morning Coffee**, 10:00-Noon. Will continue to meet through the summer.

June 9-16: **Resale Shop** will be closed and then reopen on June 17 with summer hours: Tue.-Thur., 10:00-4:00.

June 10: **Board Retreat**, 9:30-4:00.

June 12: **International Cooking Experience**, 9:30-1:00. No classes in July and August.

June 13: **Spring Quarter ends**.

July 4: **Independence Day Picnic**, 5:00.



Marion Spors and Alma Coles



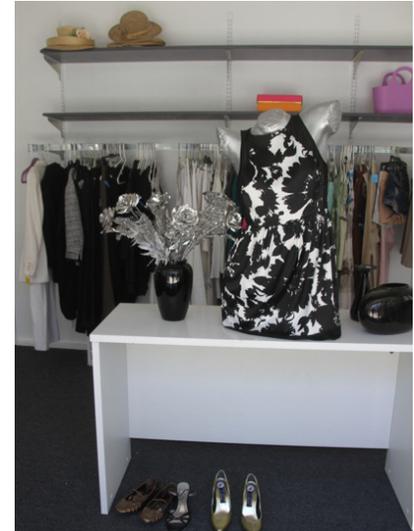
Maria Foulks and Judith Muñoz



Julian Schroeder, Justin Costello,
Matthew Costello



Josie Foulks



Kudos to the Resale Shop

Be sure to come and see our Resale Shop makeover—you will be amazed at the transformation brought about by the Extreme Makeover team under the guidance of **Marion Spors**. Our thanks go to Marion and her many helpers who worked hard over a weekend to jazz up the place: **Dagmar Bocakova, Richard Chim, Alma Coles, Padma Dolma, Maria Foulks** and husband **Chuy Reyes, Cat Hare, Claire Harootunian, Cynthia Leal, Audrey Leriche, Jiangli Li, Judith Muñoz, Katya Newmark** and family (**Mathew, Danya, and Justin Costello**), as well as Marion's husband **Julian Schroeder, Arti Sharma, Marion So, Reiko Watanabe, Kathy Wong**, and IC staffer **Danny Adams**. (Only the new carpet was laid by professionals!)

The following Monday, **Josie Foulks** and **Julianne Singer**—among several others—were already filling up the racks and shelves. Reactions range from “amazing” and “wow,” to “This looks great!”

Membership

Our President recruited yet another of her friends to join our organization. The latest recruit is **Marion Spors**, married to **Julian Schroeder** (a professor in the Division of Biological Sciences), both originally from Germany. Marion jumped right in and, together with **Dagmar Bocakova**, immediately made plans to spruce up the Resale Shop. New paint, new carpeting, opening up of the sliding doors, and a few glamorous touches have given our Shop a younger, brighter, and more inviting look.

We don't usually report on membership renewals, but we are so pleased to see **Horst Hoffmann**, a former member of the International Center team, now residing in his native Germany, continue to send in his membership fee, that we extend a special “thank-you” to him. Wrote Horst to Membership Chair, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**: “After a very mild winter, everything is in bloom around here: tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and many ornamental trees. Certain parks in Hannover are covered with scilla flowers—like a blue carpet. Very beautiful and fragrant. Greetings to all the Friends who remember me.”

It is with sadness that we report the death in April of **Glenda Rosenblatt** at age 79. Together with her husband, Prof. **Richard Rosenblatt**, Glenda formed an integral part of the SIO community, even serving for a time as Executive Secretary to **Don Wilkie**, when Don headed the Scripps Aquarium. Glenda was an active member of Oceanids and strong supporter of the Friends. We extend our condolences to the Rosenblatt family.

Resale Shop Profile: Christina Liu

—by Joe Nichols



We are fortunate to have several student volunteers in the Friends Resale Shop. **Christina Liu** is one of the newer volunteers, who comes with a good sense of humor. Christina tells that she was once asked if she was married; she was puzzled by the question, but said to herself that it seems that for Asians, like herself, it's hard to tell their ages.

Christina's father is from China and her mother was born and raised in Vietnam, but "is 100% Chinese," as Christina is quick to point out. She herself is a first generation American, having been born in the United States. People have told her that she has an accent, but as far as I can tell she talks Californianese. She regrets that she can't read or write Chinese, but she understands and speaks Cantonese. Perhaps because she concentrates so hard on her studies, she never has been out of the United States; however, she loves meeting people from all over the world and

enjoys the diversity of people in the United States.

"I am a microbiology major, finishing up my second year here. Although a lot of classes have been tough, I find that in the end, it's all very rewarding since I know that I'm getting a world-class education and am preparing myself for a career in optometry. I know that this is going to be a job I will enjoy doing for many years." *[If anyone knows of an optometrist looking for a volunteer, Christina is interested in gaining more experience.]*

Christina's family lives in Los Angeles, to which she returns a couple of times a month for visits. (Must be her mom's home cooking.)

Christina discovered the Friends Shop one day when she was between classes and found it a most interesting place. **Josie Foulks** was volunteering that day, and who can resist Josie when she wants to recruit new volunteers? Thus, we have Christina as our Monday morning volunteer together with **Jiangli Li**. We thank her and our solid corps of volunteers.



An interactive presentation: Karen Davis (organizer of the event), with one of UCSD's international scholars, her husband, Tom Davis, and Rob York (basketball in hand).

Basketball 101

—by Karen Davis

On April 10, the Friends hosted Basketball 101 at the International Center. The event was coordinated with the International Faculty and Scholar Office, and tied into a trip they were sponsoring to a Los Angeles Lakers game on April 13.

While not many of those who said they were going to come actually showed up, those who did had a fun and interactive time.

The event was led by **Tom Davis** and **Rob York**, both former college basketball players with a love for the game. Rob was in town from Oklahoma City. He has led many summer basketball camps and quickly got the participants out of their seats and handling basketballs—learning proper dribbling and passing techniques. He and Tom also demonstrated some of the strategies that the teams might use when playing the game.

It was a fun evening for all!

Wednesday Morning Coffee Schedule

—by Georgina Sham

- June 4: **Beaded Bracelets** with **Doris Sant'Anna**.
- June 11: **Coasters**. A repeat by request. Doris will guide us again.
- June 18: **English Tea** to end the quarter. Please meet in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. to prepare scones, sandwiches, and sweets, and brew three different kinds of tea.
- June 25: **Decorate Boxes** with **Tashu Malik**.
- July 4: **Picnic**. As has become custom, **Independence Day** will be celebrated with a picnic at the International Center (parking is free), starting at 5:00 p.m. The menu will include such traditional fare as hot dogs, baked beans, and potato salad with brownies and watermelon for dessert. Cost: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children aged 2-10. Reservations are essential, and must be made by Friday, June 27. For further details, you may contact me, **Georgina Sham**, at gbsham@gmail.com.
- July 9-August: We will continue to meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00.



The popularity of the Wednesday Coffee English conversations now requires the pushing together of two round tables. Standing in action: program chair, Nori Faer



Edith Rubanyi, Guangbing Zhan, Lei Su, and Susanne Wilde



Gerti Csapo, Jiangli Li, Carla Bereiter, Ssui-Chiel Hsu (partially hidden), and Letty Ponomareff

GUS' CONVERSATION TABLE

—Nori Faer

Gerti Csapo from Austria arrives on her bicycle a few minutes before ten o'clock, followed by **Carla Bereiter** from Switzerland, who is carrying a yoga mat for a class that she will attend after participating in English conversation at Gus' Table. Most likely she has already been surfing this morning with her husband. I marvel at the list of activities that **Alejandra Ornelas** (here from Mexico) has been involved in: yoga, zumba, as well as a cooking class and the Knit Along group, both of which are Friends sponsored activities at the International Center. **Huaping Wan** manages to come every week between his otherwise full schedule doing research in structural health monitoring.

The two hours we spend conversing on Wednesday mornings, sitting on the International Center patio, is just one stop in the busy lives of these wonderful international visitors and scholars. Each of them has carved out a life here for whatever length of stay that might be. They come willing to share their stories and their opinions on

the wide variety of topics we discuss each week.

Passersby catch an earful of talk about synesthesia, phantasmagoric dreams, the importance of nostalgia, or they might see a print of Dali's painting, *The Persistence of Memory*, being passed around. On the subject of olfactory memory, **Benjt Carlen** from Sweden shares that he thinks of his father every time he smells tobacco from a pipe. Several of the participants who hail from China share the notion that if you dream of losing a tooth, someone you know will die. Having just undergone dental surgery, I ask how everyone is feeling. Much to my delight everybody laughs.

This week we will talk about our mothers' home remedies. Volunteer **Susan Graceman** is bringing an old sock and a jar of Vick's Vapor Rub. "Show and Tell" never gets old.

In addition to discovering cultural differences and similarities, we have generational perspectives. Currently, the group ranges in age from 25 to 83. This becomes particularly interesting when we discuss

such topics as childrearing, fathers, and music. **Letty Ponomareff**, a longtime volunteer, and I demonstrate the jitterbug to applause from the group.

There's so much to talk about. I'm looking forward to the week when I ask everyone to bring in a joke. Humor is both cultural and universal. I will be interested to see what we get. Many of these folks are newly married. Perhaps we can share photos from our wedding albums? What are the marriage customs in China? How do young people date in Iran?

How many Wednesdays are there in a year? Not enough!

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Debating about how to refer to the program's participants—mainly spouses of international scholars—Nori chose to refer to them as "international visitors," explaining that she was hesitant to refer to the spouses as dependents, "because they are certainly independent in their activities."—Ed.



Flower & fruit



Chris Wills



Audrey Leriche and Dagmar Bocakova



Mira Vendler helps cook and then metamorphoses into a butterfly



Nori Faer as Carmen Miranda

Chica Chica Boom Chic: Celebrate the Tropics

—by Audrey Leriche

Our Chica Chica Boom Chic party was a blast! On Saturday May 3, the Friends of the International Center Dinner Social #4 took us to the tropics for some fun in the sun with delicious food and drinks. We enjoyed a fruit-themed menu composed of an orange and carrot soup, a very-much-appreciated roasted chicken with almonds and apricots served with lime and ginger couscous and a tropical salad made of spinach, avocado, and mandarin oranges. Our Chica Chica Boom Chic Pavlova was chosen to satisfy our sweet cravings. It was in fact a coconut meringue topped with ginger whipped cream and a tropical fruit salad: 60 individual plates prepared by our energetic volunteers!

Dagmar designed the table centerpieces using sunflowers and strawberries. The drinks were served in lime green cups with colorful fruit straws. By using bright colors, fruits, and flowers in our decorations, we tried to introduce even more of a tropical feel. And to put us into a festive mood, we played tropical music.

Many of our 56 guests dressed in tropical outfits and wore extravagant hats. The hat contest was a huge success as hats rivaled each other in creativity! The contest was won by **Nori Faer**, or better said by Carmen Miranda herself. Her turban was an amazing creation. The weather was fantastic, allowing us to enjoy the patio until late in the evening for some spirited conga dances and lively conversations under the stars.

Once again, our volunteers made the event not only possible but also fun and enjoyable. My fellow event co-leaders, **Katya Newmark** and **Dagmar Bocakova**, and I warmly thank: **Lucia Borruso**, **Richard Chim**, **Eileen Collyer**, **Danya Costello**, **Justin Costello**, **Nori Faer**, **Laurent Fattet**, **Catherine Hare**, **Miloš Lazic** and his brother **Pete Lazic**, **Aleksandar Mihajlov**, **Wolfgang Moens**, **Ruth Newmark**, **Davide Povero**, **Miracema Ueyoshi**, **Mira Vendler**, and **Mary Woo**.

The longer the program goes, the more enthusiasm, creativity, and synergy we find among the participants. Come fall, there will be a little change—well, not so little for us, the organizers. **Dagmar**, who last year started the program with **Katya** and me, will leave San Diego for Zürich, Switzerland, where a new chapter of life is awaiting her. **Dagmar** assures us of her continuous support. We are thankful for her dedication and



Matthew Costello with newly-elected Friends VP Jean Selzer and husband Jeff Selzer



Davide Povero, a postdoc from Italy, chops tropical fruit



Postdoc Miloš Lazic prepares the rum punch

wish her all the best!

The Friends Dinner Socials will be back after a summer break, ready to welcome you with different themes and activities. Have a happy summer with friends, family, travel, and fun. See you in September!

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Morocco on EAP

My host family made my study abroad in Morocco. They were the people that showed me the traditions, introduced me to the delicious food, and most importantly they were the people that taught me what it means to really love my own family back home.

From the very first day, they treated me as one of their own. I was a sister like my others, **Oumaima** and **Salima**, and I was a daughter of the parents whom I lovingly called *Mamati* and *Babati* meaning “my” mom and dad. Over the course of my four months there, we celebrated many holidays most notably Eid, which is the most important Muslim holiday that honors Abraham’s sacrifice of his son. It is tradition that each family sacrifices a sheep or goat, and half

of their sacrifice must go to charity. They eat every single part of the animal—a specific part on a specific day. This holiday, like all the others, is celebrated with family that many times includes dozens of people.

In addition to the food I experienced during celebrations, I also enjoyed traditional Moroccan food on a daily basis, my favorite of which was the tagine. The tagine is both the name of the food and the dish in which it is cooked. The dish consists of a sauce based on olive oil and spices with a choice of meat and vegetables, all slow-cooked in this tagine. When I was able to come home for lunch on school days, I always hoped that *Mamati* had made tagine for lunch!

While the celebrations and food

were very traditional parts of Morocco that I experienced, the most important part of my experience was what I learned about what it means to be a family. My host family loved each other so, so much. They were all each other’s best friends, and the absolute center of each other’s worlds. They loved me the same way, and I realized how much I wanted to feel that sense of family back home in the States. Since my return, I have become closer with all members of my family, and have truly enjoyed being surrounded by their love and laughter.

Emily Goldenberg,

Political Science major,
Thurgood Marshall College

Research in Bolivia

From June-August of 2013, I traveled to Bolivia through the Friends of the International Center Scholarship to study Aymara social and political organization, the predominant ethnic group of the rural highland region where I conduct research. Waves of popular mobilizations at the turn of the twenty-first century led to the election of Bolivia’s first indigenous president, **Evo Morales**, and his political party the *Movimiento al Socialismo* (Movement towards Socialism, or MAS). The MAS government has largely espoused social movement demands through a state-led project of decolonization, centered on initiatives such as economic redistribution, pluri-lingual education, and indigenous autonomy. While these changes represent a profound transformation in the relationship between the state and indigenous peoples, these state-led transformations tend to exclude many indigenous groups that make different types of claims upon the state, evident in many of the debates over indigenous autonomy and cultural rights in the past decade. My main purpose of this trip was to collect research for my master’s thesis in the Anthropology Department at UCSD to examine disagreements over the meaning and scope of decolonization in Bolivia, considering how local notions of identity and equality continue to be excluded from a recent process of state-sponsored indigeneity.

In 1983, indigenous activists and intellectuals working at the Sociology Department of the Mayor de San Andrés University founded the Andean Oral History Workshop (*Taller de Historia Oral Andina*, or THOA) to investigate the history of indigenous sociopolitical organization in the rural highlands through oral history workshops, pamphlets, and Aymara language radio stations, emphasizing the critical role of memory and historical consciousness as a source of indigenous empowerment. My research project builds on this historical movement to ask how Aymara activists in the highland region continue to challenge official discourses of indigeneity, even in the context of rapidly expanding cultural rights and recognition. Analyzing the importance of Aymara concepts such as *quip nayr uñtasis sarnaqapxañani* (to walk ahead while looking back), which underlines the important role of memory in shaping contemporary struggles, my research this summer explored alternative ways to understand the “process of change” underway in Bolivia from the perspective of Aymara material practices and *cosmovisiones*, or worldviews.

The Friends of International Center scholarship was invaluable in helping me develop my thesis project further, allowing me to take intensive Aymara classes, travel to various meetings throughout the highlands, and gain ex-

perience conducting ethnographic research. I began my journey in the capital city of La Paz, renting a small apartment in the centrally located neighborhood of Sopocachi. I was able to stay just a few blocks from the Aymara Language and Culture Institute (*Instituto de Lengua y Cultura Aymara*, or ILCA), where I studied Aymara with **Juan de Dios Japita**, one of the predominant scholars of Aymara linguistic studies and cultural practices in Bolivia. During my fieldwork I was also able to meet with Aymara community leaders that work with rural indigenous communities to address questions of autonomy, territorial control, and ethnic identity, as well as bolster the development of local projects of economic production, education, and health.

By establishing connections with indigenous political organizations, I was also able to conduct preliminary research on debates surrounding resource extraction in Bolivia, especially the mining of copper and various other minerals. The ability to travel throughout the highland region during my trip opened my research up to new questions about indigenous territorial rights, state-led economic development, and the historical position of Bolivia in the global capitalist system. In July 2013, I attended a two-day National Mining Summit held by National Council of Ayllus and Markas of Qullasuyu (*Consejo Nacional de Ayllus y Markas del Qullasuyu*, or CONAMAQ), a confederation of indigenous organizations throughout the highlands. The meeting took place in Achocalla, located in the department of La Paz about one hour outside of the capital city. Through participant observation of debates over a new mining law that would grant transnational companies the legal right to explore for mineral resources without prior consultation, I was able to develop a more complicated approach to my initial research question of the role of indigenous cosmovisiones in shaping contemporary debates over decolonization.

As a second-year graduate student in Anthropology, the opportunity to conduct fieldwork at such an early stage of my academic career has greatly enhanced my

research. Using the literature I was able to gather while researching in the city of La Paz this summer, I wrote a theoretical paper for my master's thesis, which helped me to position my own work within a growing field of literature on indigeneity, decolonization, and liberalism, and will also serve as a large part of one of my Ph.D. position papers I will write in the winter and spring quarters of 2014 towards my qualifying exams.

Building directly on my ethnographic material collected this summer, I also presented a conference paper of my work at the Third Conference on Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Oaxaca, Mexico from October 23-25, 2013. This trip held a lot of personal significance, as Oaxaca was where I first studied abroad in 2006, living with a family for two-and-a-half months while studying Spanish. The language immersion program I attended was sponsored by my local community college, Central Piedmont in Charlotte, North Carolina, and shaped my appreciation for intercultural participation and has driven my career in academia thus far.

As a first-generation college graduate in my family, I have a personal understanding of the importance of scholarships programs such as the one offered by the Friends of the International Center, and am deeply appreciative of the opportunity this type of funding offers to students at UCSD. These experiences have continued to shape my commitment to not only my own research abroad, but also to bolster excitement among my peers for international diversity and awareness, as well as to consider the many opportunities to grow through intercultural participation. I plan on returning to La Paz to continue developing my dissertation research and am grateful to the Friends of the International Center for the opportunity to conduct field research at this stage of my academic career.

Amy Kennemore

Recipient of the 2013 *Gayle Barsamian Scholarship*



This is a picture I took with classmates outside of the Juan Gomez Millas campus on the 40th anniversary of the military coup. Behind us is art and posters that Chilean students made to commemorate the event. (I am the one on the far right.)

My Experience in Chile

Studying abroad in Santiago, Chile allowed me to explore and learn more about social issues occurring in Latin America outside of a classroom setting. Going to the country in a semester where important political events were occurring that included the 40th anniversary of a brutal military coup and the November 2013 presidential elections, made my experience particularly rewarding and empowering. As a senior at UCSD my interests are highly focused on politics and media

manipulation in the region, this being one of the main reasons why I chose to study abroad in South America.

I took classes at the University of Chile in Santiago that focused solely on politics and freedom of expression relating to censorship of the press during **Augusto Pinochet's** dictatorship, and the role of media after the country's transition to democracy in 1990. Through the UC EAP program, I was able to intern at CNN Chile using my bilingual speaking skills to make translations for reporters. The opportunity of learning about freedom of speech while working for a major news media network in that country indeed solidified my interest in conducting future research in the southern cone.

While in Chile I learned more about the student movement fighting for free education, and had the opportunity to meet and talk personally with **Roxana Miranda**, a former presidential candidate representing the *Partido Igualdad* (Equality Party) in the November presidential elections. It is these types of experiences that made my journey abroad one of the greatest adventures I've had during my UCSD undergraduate career.

Living and studying abroad does not only foster cultural awareness but also exposes students to new forms of creating knowledge. It is through this exposure in a different cultural setting that one can further explore social issues related to development, globalization, neoliberalism, and social inequality along with the impacts they have in a distinct society. As a study-abroad returnee, I strongly recommend other students to go out and explore the beauty and diversity of the world that we live in. Not only will the experience give a new perspective on the world, but it will also contribute to personal growth while allowing the student to form long lasting connections.

Daniela Leal

Thurgood Marshall College



Backpacking in Chilean Patagonia

Dear Friends,
Greetings from Santiago, Chile. I received a scholarship for the Fall quarter, but it is now Spring and, yes, I am still here. My time in Chile has been so amazing that I decided to extend my semester exchange to a full year.
In the time that I have been here, I have visited the driest desert in the world, seen glaciers in Patagonia, learned a new language, participated in inspiring internships and volunteer projects, and met people from all over the world—all the while studying and living the experience of a college student at one of the country's most prestigious universities. I lack the words to accurately or appropriately describe how profound my experience here has been and how much it has impacted my life. I'd like to express my extreme gratitude to the Friends of the International Center for helping me get to Chile, for helping me to get here where I can honestly say that I have been living the best and most important year of my life.

Emily Wolfsohn

Sociology major, Eleanor Roosevelt College

A Snapshot of Thailand

What I appreciate most about Thailand are its people. The hustle and bustle of Thailand, primarily in the metropolitan areas of Bangkok, showed me how hard working the Thai people are. Work never ends. To run their business, street vendors and small restaurant owners are up incredibly early in the morning and work hard throughout the day. Yet, despite the busy environment, Thai people remain kind to each other. This attitude is representative of the respectful and formal nature of the Thai language and Thai customs.



One of the most interesting things I learned in Thailand is how to greet people respectfully. Such a greeting is called the *wai*, and consists of a slight bow with the palms pressed together in a prayer-like manner. Different degrees of respect and reverence can be shown by how high a person's hands are held in relation to their face and how low their bow is. Whenever I attempted to engage in such practices or displayed my respect in other ways, my interaction with the locals became more relaxed and comfortable—evidently, I no longer seemed so foreign to them.

Though I felt true happiness with my life of simplicity in Thailand, I understand that life is not always so simple for the Thai. In fact, a vast number of social, political, cultural, and economic problems currently plague the country. There are slum communities all around Bangkok. As an advocate of social justice, being in Thailand reinforced my passion for social work. My experience in Thailand not only contributed meaning to my personal life, but also stimulated my academic life.

I hope you know how grateful and how appreciative I am of the scholarships the Friends of the International Center provide to so many students, including myself. Without your support, studying abroad would have been very difficult, and I cannot even imagine what it would be like if I had missed out.

Christina Ching

International Studies major, John Muir College

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University of California, San Diego
International Center
9500 Gilman Drive, #0018
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