



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

Newsletter

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March 2017

President's Column

With all but one of our programs firmly reestablished (Friends Dinner Social to come on April 22), it is time to shout out a resounding: "Thank you to all who have made our transition possible, including University administrators, faculty, staff, post-docs, and students; Friends members; community supporters; and our ever-appreciative international visitors." Without your collective efforts, I hate to think what might have happened, so thank you one and all!

I have wrestled with this month's column and my desire to remain apolitical; so please forgive me, since the very nature of our Friends organization suggests that this is a proper forum to express my personal opinions. The need for each of our skills as American ambassadors of good will has never been more paramount. Every day I shake my head in disbelief wondering if I am having a nightmare, living on another planet, or existing in a parallel universe: I feel for those who question whether traveling to the United States is safe, I feel for citizens afraid to leave our country not knowing if they will be able to return and, I feel for

those who feel compelled to leave this country because they no longer feel welcomed by us.

I admire those at our University who artfully walk an ever-fluid line and are now required to put out publications stating what should be so obvious: "We welcome you, no matter your country, ethnicity, religion, etc." I shudder to think that an increasing number of people around the world might soon share the opinion expressed by **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** that our President's actions are showing the "real face of America."

Please world know that our country's real face is not revealed in the barrage of hateful tweets, angry outbursts, or incomprehensible actions of those leading the country, but in the faces of the millions who stand up, voices raised, speaking to the America we know: a country of inclusion, equality, respect, and dedicated to raising children who have no need for walls and instead a commitment to truth, science, fundamental civil rights, and, most of all, love and respect for their fellow humankind.

By far the single best antidote to hearing the latest news is spending just five minutes in

In response to Katya Newmark's February Board report, our Dean of the International Center, Kirk Simmons, wrote:

Dear Katya,
I read your President's Report this morning. I am heartened to find the Friends programming is more robust than ever. 2016 was not an easy year for our volunteers or our professional staff, but 2017 is looking very good on all fronts. I feel the positive momentum building every day since I returned from the holiday break.

I want to thank all the Friends volunteers for weathering the storm and persevering in such an inspirational manner. I so deeply respect and appreciate every one of you. In the end, we know it is about the good work we all do—everyday—to contribute in some way to world understanding and peace.

Best wishes,
Kirk

the company of our international visitors and being reminded of the world's inherent goodness or

by speaking to any of the students our scholarships have supported and learning how much their experiences have shaped their views of the world for the better.

I again encourage you to become more active in the Friends mission to foster cultural understanding in whatever way you can, including hosting an international visitor at your home for a cup of coffee or a meal. Please send an e-mail to **Michelle Brown** at icfriends@ucsd.edu if you are willing to be a goodwill ambassador for a day!

Xo

Katya

Katya Newmark

PresFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

**January
Friends Volunteer
Hours
979 = 5.56 FTEs**

Wednesday Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

Now that we are feeling at home in our new space, we will have our first baby shower. On March 8, we will have a breakfast/brunch party for **Yuuka Noshibori**, who is expecting a boy mid-April. Because the space is used from 12:30 on, we are adjusting to a morning party rather than a lunch.

On all the other Wednesdays, we will do fun craft projects, making, among other things, corset buttons, embroidered felt cell phone cases or books marks, t-shirt bags, and macramé bracelets.

To receive weekly information, please go to the website:

<http://j.tinyurl.com/pzvosrv>.

Our Fashionable Resale Shop

—by *Marion Spors*



Marion Spors and Cida Coelho

The new year in our new space has been good to the Resale Shop. We are receiving great donations and wonderful community support.

Carlos, a cherished customer, designed and constructed an awesome rolling device that holds our canvas billboard in place, and we can roll it up to Library Walk every morning. **Jessey Velasquez** has also helped us with sign projects, and

UCSD Facilities Management put up a new outdoor light fixture and has been very helpful in working out details.

We love our new digs and are starting to feel at home, coming up with new procedures and ideas. **Katya Newmark** created a new donation receipt and I am delighted to report that we have filled out quite a few.

Students seem to enjoy the Shop and they are starting to bring their friends. We are also surveying their needs. Quite a few dance students have a need for ballroom gowns, so if you have any hanging around, bring them in.

Our campus' **Career Services Center** asked to collaborate with us. I happily agreed and **Pearl Tangri**, **Daniela Schmidt**, and I are working on an information flyer.

Dexter Davis, **Shaye Stalians**, and **Meagan Madrigal** have made great signs, and **Daniela Schmidt**, **Bobbie Velasquez**, and **Irene Moon** love to organize and clean.

We are blessed with an awesome team, but were very sad to say our farewell to **Cida Coelho**, who returned to Brazil.

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by *Mariko Usui*

Contrary to our previous thought that we might be a very small group, due to the many changes—one-and-a-half month break over Holiday season and during the month of January, and also possible difficulty for our guests in finding parking spaces near our new home in McGill Hall—the first meeting after relocation turned out wonderful. We had a great turnout that happily surprised us international volunteers.

During the class, 19 families with altogether 26 children were counted by **Alice Blake-Stalker**, who was there with us to welcome everyone. Our returning participants were amazed at the new look of the class with the projection screen, a couch, and a large craft table. The children had a great time and the parents enjoyed socializing and bonding. We thank the Friends and the International Faculty and Scholars Office for promoting our class!

Thursday: It's English As A Second Language



My name is **Diana Saunders** and I am from England. I moved to San Diego a year and a half ago with my husband, who is currently working as a statistician at UCSD. I am an ESL teacher and I mostly teach private students in San Diego ranging from kids to adults from beginning to advanced levels and all coming from a variety of countries. I love my job! In my spare time, I volunteer with the Friends.

In October 2015, I set up a weekly ESL class on a Thursday morning at the International Center, and since then I have enjoyed teaching a fantastic group, mainly comprised of spouses of international scholars and post-docs. The participants come from countries around the world, including Japan, China, Korea, Mexico, France, and Spain.

In the class, I try to help the group to build confidence communicating in English by developing reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through a variety of fun activities in pairs and small groups.

Each week I teach a new grammar point and new vocabulary to help them to express themselves more freely in English in their everyday lives here in San Diego. We do this through games, stories, role-plays, newspaper

articles, and discussions about a wide range of different topics as well as many other activities. I also try to teach about American (I am learning this alongside them!) and British culture, as this is, in many ways, equally as important as learning the language.

We have looked at major holidays such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, as well as famous people such as **Donald Trump** and **Martin Luther King**. We have also covered many interesting topics such as politics, technology, movies, music, and so on.

The group has changed over time with some people leaving to go back to their home countries, to have children, or start new jobs. It is always sad to say farewell and those that leave are dearly missed.

However, this balances out with a stream of newcomers who have been able to join and hopefully benefit from the class, as well as the other wonderful programs available through the Friends.

I personally really enjoy teaching the class and seeing the confidence that participants have developed and the joy that they find in learning more about the language and culture each week. I hope that the class has been helpful and enjoyable for those who have taken part, and that as we continue to meet this year, we will



Cailing Yue from China and
Ryoko Sakamoto from Japan

continue to learn from each other and have a great time together. I look forward to welcoming new participants and seeing how the class grows and evolves over the coming weeks and months.

March Calendar

March 1, 15: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:
Wednesday Coffee, 10:00-
Noon

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:
Mommy/Daddy & Me, 1:45-
2:45

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: **ESL**,
10:00-11:30

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: **Friday
Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

March 7, 14, 21, 28 **Gus'
Table, English Conversation**,
10:00-Noon

March 7, 14, 21, 28: **FIC Craft
Circle**, 1:00-3:30

March 9: **Cooking Class**,
9:00-1:00

March 14: **Board Meeting**,
10:00

March 31: César Chávez
Holiday



Dan Muñoz explaining the basics of American football



Super Bowl Watch

—by *Judith Muñoz*



On Sunday, February 5, the Friends, together with the International Faculty and Scholars Office, sponsored a Football 101 class and Super Bowl watch party.

Around twenty scholars and family attended the fundamentals of American football class held in Mc-

Gill Hall. The class was presented by Friends **Judith** and **Dan Muñoz** and hosted by **Nallely Garcia** of IFSO.

After the class, the attendees went to Round Table Pizza in the Price Center, where other scholars joined to watch an historic Super Bowl. For the first time in Super Bowl history, the game went into overtime and was won by the New England Patriots. It was not an enjoyable end to the party as most of the fans were rooting for the Atlanta Falcons, who had dominated the first half of the game.

The Friends thank **Roark Miller** and **Jacqueline Soong** of IFSO for their support of the event.

English Conversation Groups

Nori Faer always picks interesting topics to discuss around the English conversation table. Many are topical. Thus, in late January, she wrote the group's participants: "Tomorrow I would love to hear from all of you about your participation/opinion of the Women's March. Do you think this protest will have an effect on how **Donald Trump** leads the country or his choices for his Cabinet? Will his Presidency have an impact on relations with your country and its economy? What do you think of his personal style? What adjectives would you use to describe him? What do you think his wife, **Melania**, feels right now? So many questions! Please come and share your thoughts."

By no means are all subjects discussed on Tuesday at Gus' Table of a political nature. A recent one focused on: "What annoys you?" and touched on: "Do your ears hurt when someone uses a chalkboard? Are you sensitive to loud talkers? Low talkers? People who let their dog jump up on your lap?"

Cindy Tozer reports that the Friday Chat Group also discussed our national news. Chatters expressed their thoughts on immigration and the taking in of refugees into their own countries.

Added Cindy: "For some feel good moments, **Michelle Brown** played the ukulele as we sang songs, such as *You Are My Sunshine* and *Frère Jacques*, singing rounds in French and English, and then listening as the Taiwanese sang their version. More singing planned."

Plans are also underway to take a group of internationals to Anza Borrego State Desert Park for a day trip. Said Cindy: "I know some great slot canyon hikes there and we can have a picnic with Julian apple pie for dessert."



Craft Circle

—by *Jennie Chin*

The Tuesday Craft Circle is adjusting to its new space in Building 409. As always, our participants are from wonderful far away places, such as New Zealand, Japan, China, France, and more recently from Norway and Austria. **Lynn Jahn** continues to inspire, and along with **Mary Woo**, encourages participants to bring projects to work on or to start new ones, such as making imaginative quilting squares that may turn into purses or other items.

As always, there is both joy in meeting new faces and sadness when participants leave to start a new adventure.

English Language Institute

—by Roxanne Nuhaily

Among the many excellent assets of our campus is one that many campus faculty and staff—and possibly also Friends of the International Center—have not yet heard about: the English Language Institute (ELI). It is housed right on campus and is part of the Extension Division located off North Torrey Pines Road. The ELI has served the English language learning needs of international visitors and our local community for over 35 years.

Local students and professionals who want to work on their English while they pursue their studies and careers can choose from a variety of late afternoon and evening classes, which suit their study and work schedules. They take occasional classes to improve their pronunciation and fluency, their academic or business writing skills, or their grammar.

In addition to these local students, the ELI also welcomes thousands of international students, who come each year to study English as a foreign language on a full-time basis. Over the years, the ELI has welcomed students from over 50 countries. The major source of students changes, depending upon regional economics, political circumstances, and scholarship programs that come and go.

These days, most students in these intensive programs are from Saudi Arabia, China, Kuwait, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, Spain, and Chile, with a student here and there from many other countries, so ELI's classes are quite diverse. Ask any of the students and they will tell you that studying English fulltime is a fulltime job! They are in 20 - 25 hours of English classes each week, and they have considerable homework loads each

week to augment their learning.

Many students in these full-time English programs are preparing for graduate studies or other post-baccalaureate studies in the U.S. or in their home countries, but many others have important professional and personal goals that motivate them to invest so much time in improving their English. To address the variety of goals, the ELI has many programs to choose from: Academic English, Business English, Medical English, Legal English, and programs that focus more on fluency and American culture. Most students are in the ELI's quarter-long programs, but many are in the shorter 4-week programs.

With 400-700 international students in its intensive daytime programs at any given time during the year, the ELI relies on almost 30 professional staff, who take care of all student services and program administration. Everything from immigration advising, admissions processing, student and program accounting, academic advising, health and health insurance needs, housing needs, student activities, and much more are handled every day by a dedicated staff who serve both the ELI and various other programs for international students at UCSD Extension.

On the instructional side, ELI's teachers are the key to ELI's reputation as one of the best English language schools in the U.S. They have master's degrees in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), applied linguistics, or related fields, and they have many years of experience teaching English as a foreign language, specializing in skills development and in English for specific purposes to

help students meet their academic and professional goals.

In 2008, the ELI began preparations to obtain accreditation by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), which is the only accrediting body for ESL programs recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. In 2010, CEA completed its review and granted the full five years for initial accreditation, followed in 2015 by reaccreditation for 10 more years!

The English Language Institute is one of UC San Diego's important resources for international students and for campus departments. Please come see us at Extension sometime, e-mail us at ip-info@ucsd.edu, or visit us at www.ip.extension.ucsd.edu.



Roxanne Nuhaily is Assistant Dean for International Affairs and Executive Director English Language Institute and International Student Services.

Save the Date!
Saturday, April 22

Friends Dinner Social

Menu with a French theme.

Enjoy music by a string quartet that includes IC's Roark Miller on the viola.



Cida Coelho, Klara Bojanovic, Yuuka Nishibori. Chef Vargus preparing squash flan, Miki Komatsuzaki, Carla Reale Batista



Cindy Tozer (left front) with international participants enjoying a lunch featuring dishes made with squash

A HAPPY COOKING EXPERIENCE

—by Ruth Newmark with photos by Katya Newmark

UCSD's Housing, Dining, and Hospitality Executive Chef **Vaughn Vargus** is attracting a happy following as Friends cooking instructor. Thanks to **Cindy Tozer's** outreach and our program leaders' spreading the word about a wonderful opportunity to learn about what goes on in modern American kitchens, the cooking classes have been filled and been enthusiastically received.

Much of the credit for the success of this new program can be attributed to Chef Vargus' informative and entertaining teaching style. He plans the monthly cooking class with care and varies the focus on what he believes will be of interest to the international participants.

February featured pasta and ravioli favorites, leading Cindy to comment: "Ah, yes, ravioli is an American favorite and can be tweaked with different ingredients." The emphasis in March will be on new twists on classics, such as the Monte Cristo sandwich and Beef Wellington. In April, the focus will be on tapas.

The class is limited to 14 lucky international students, on a first come first paid basis, and includes both instruction and lunch, which

all who attend help prepare. We thank Vice Chancellor **Juan González** for underwriting part of the cost of running this program.

And as intended, lessons learned are inspiring students to engage in further culinary explorations. When **Katya Newmark**—always present with her camera—was asked follow-up questions about horseradish, she e-mailed participants pictures of possible brands to buy and in which markets they might find these, advising that some will be found in the refrigera-

tor section, while others would be on more general display, but would require refrigeration once opened. This, prompted **Klara Bojanovic** from Slovenia to express her feelings about the class: "Thank you for the pictures and the info about the horseradish, as well as a nicely organised cooking class. I enjoyed it a lot and will try to join in the future. It was also nice meeting you and others."

Ting Yang from China also liked the class and wrote: "Thank you for sharing these awesome



June Allen, Nancy Homeyer, Jean Selzer, Gayle Barsamian, Jennie Chin, Katya Newmark, Marion Sprs, Mary Woo, Liz Fong Wills, Chef Vargus, Alma Coles, Joan Adamo, Barbara Fitzsimmons, Mariko Usui, Cindy Tozer

photos of the cooking class including the information on the squashes [subject of the January 12 session]. I really enjoyed the class and will try some squash recipes at home."

Board members, too, wanted to experience what the monthly cooking classes in Revelle College's beautiful 64 Degree demonstration kitchen were like, so that they could have a better appreciation for what has been gained with our new partnership with HDH and be better able to describe the cooking class to our ever changing group of international visitors. Despite the busy schedule and long hours worked by the chefs on campus, a special class with a theme of grains and legumes was arranged for January 26.

Noted **Jennie Chin**: "Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share in this very wonderful experience with Chef Vargus and his staff. It is a winner and I believe this to be a big plus for the international participants and hopefully they are all enjoying it."

Reading these different comments prompted me, as *Newsletter* editor, to ask one of the international participants for a more detailed view. Here from Japan with her husband, a researcher in electrical engineering,

Miki Komatsusaki considered this request an "exciting and challenging suggestion" and wrote:

"I have enjoyed attending the new cooking classes thanks to Chef **Vaughn Vargus** and the wonderful organizers, **Katya Newmark** and **Cindy Tozer**. I was lucky to get into both the November and January classes, and through these experiences I have been able to supplement my knowledge of both traditional American dishes and modern American cuisines. In each class, the instructor showed us how to prepare dishes skillfully and professionally.

"We listened to Chef Vargus' passionate lectures on cooking methods, but we were also given opportunities to take part in the preparations. We handled ingredients and kitchen tools, such as a mandolin slicer, and tasted the food. By using our own hands, we could more easily understand the recipes.

"During lunch, I could share my impressions and opinions of the food with others, and could ask Katya and Cindy more questions about what we had learned. When I came home, I could review what we had done in class through the recipes we were given, as well as through the many pictures Katya e-mailed us.

"The more knowledge I got, the more enjoyable my daily shopping experiences became, and the better I understood the offerings in the supermarket. I now understand, for example, why there are so many pie shells and bags of cranberries displayed in the best places during November. I now recognize butternut squash and know that it is suitable to making delicious bisque.

"I am looking forward to joining the next class, to learning new recipes and getting more cooking tips, knowing that I will get a fine lunch and have a good time with others, all at a very reasonable price.

"This ongoing cooking program, which changes its theme every month, is really attractive. Thank you Chef Vargus and all those responsible for offering these classes."

Judging from correspondence with Katya, the chef, too, seems to be pleased: "As I've said before, time spent with the Friends group is the highlight of the week for me. I am happy to know that the demo was well received. **Carl [Caldejon]** and I truly enjoy the company and look forward to the next opportunity to cook for our new Friends."

Membership

We regret to report the death, at age 97, of **Dorothy Gish**, a Life Member of the Friends and a loyal tutor in the English in Action program for which she was recognized in 1996 by being named Tutor of the Year.

In late January, we lost yet another Life Member, **Madeleine Rast**, who died peacefully at age 92. **Georgina Sham** tells us: "Madeleine joined People to People, which was under the auspices of Oceanids, and began coming to Wednesday Coffee. She really liked the variety of nationalities, she said. She became a member of both Oceanids and Friends and soon served on the Board of both organizations. When I was compiling the Friends *Welcome* booklet, she asked how she could help. She looked up all the transportation information: what city buses to catch to get on and off campus, how the campus transportation worked, etc." Madeleine was a great help in this and in many other ways. She regularly signed in guests at our International Kitchen lunches, without ever eating the meal herself, and volunteered at Family Orientation. We will miss this very private lady.

Donations

Several end-of-the-year donations reached us too late to include in our report in previous *Newsletters*. We thank **Ann Bowles** for her donation to the Friends scholarship fund and **Jean Fort** for her generous contribution that came with the request to apply half to the *Ruth Newmark Scholarship* and consider the remainder as an unrestricted gift.

And at the beginning of the New Year, **Susan Galluccio** made a donation in support of the work of her friend, **Katya Newmark**.

Thank You!

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

A Year in Japan

To start, I would like reiterate how grateful I am for the scholarship I received from the Friends of the International Center. These past three months have been life altering. I would not have been able to come to Japan if not for your generosity.

I also would like to update you on how my program has been going. The first couple months were a bit of an adjustment period, but now I feel as though I have truly gotten into the swing of things here in Sendai. For the holidays I took a trip to Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. When I returned to my dorms, I had the feeling of returning home after a trip to a foreign country (Tokyo and Osaka definitely felt foreign when compared to Sendai!)

Here at Tohoku University half of my schoolwork is science, Japanese language, and Japanese culture classes. The other half is lab work. I was placed in the Advanced Acoustics Information Systems lab under Professor **Yoiti Suzuki**. February will mark the end of my first semester, and I will soon present the research I have been doing in my lab.

Professor Suzuki placed me under the guidance of a Master's student named **Ryo**, and I have been working on a simplified version of his research. I am working in the field of auditory search asymmetry. Imagine you have a line of ten apples, all of which have a stem except for one. Now imagine you have another line of ten apples, where all are stemless except one. Is it easier to find the one stemmed apple or the one unstemmed apple? (Spoiler: The stemmed one is easier to find!)

My research is similar to this situation, but with different-sounding noises instead of different-looking apples. I have already written all of the MATLAB programs I need. Within the next month, I will get to use the lab's



A visit to the Osaka Aquarium

heavy, expensive equipment to run some experiments.

I have made a number of good friends while here, a lot of which are Master's students. I have been unsure about whether I will pursue graduate studies, but after learning a bit more about different graduate programs from around the world, I am feeling very inspired to go on to graduate school. I have been enjoying my experience in Japan very much, and therefore am considering pursuing a Master's or Doctorate abroad. My lab experience here has been incredible, and I can see myself working in an international lab in the future.

I look forward to visiting everyone at the International Center again upon my return from Japan! Again, thank you very much for your help!

Mikayla Webster

Muir College,
Computer Science major

European Adventures: Global Seminar in Italy & Rock Climbing in France

While studying abroad in the *Social Cognition and Drugs in Italy* Global Seminar, I interacted with foreign people and cultures, participated in events, and visited countless amazing destinations that I will never forget. The beauty of studying abroad with the UCSD Global Seminars programs is that you aren't solely limited to studying in your designated coun-

try. During my trip for example, I visited five other countries aside from Italy (Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Austria, and France).

Of all the wonderful things that I experienced and the places I visited, it was my trip to France that stood out above the rest. As an avid outdoor rock climber, I was especially excited to go there in order to visit the world-renowned climbing area known as the Forest of Fontainebleau. As I had hoped, the forest did not disappoint.

Once there, I had the pleasure of not only climbing some of the best routes in my life, but also of biking through quaint French farm towns and meeting other climbers from all over the world. Prior to studying abroad, climbing in the Forest of Fontainebleau was nothing more than a far-fetched dream that I assumed would likely never actually come to fruition. Thus, I am so thankful for the generous scholarship that I received, because I would never have been able to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience if not for it.

Austin Mahler

Sixth College,
Cognitive Science major

Hi Ruth,

Thank you for checking in about my research! Things are going well and I'm making progress on my dissertation, with much credit to the support provided by your scholarship from the Friends of the International Center. In addition, based on the contacts I built over the summer and some additional support from PDEL Research Community, some colleagues and I will be running a survey about policing in the Philippines in January and February of 2017.

I will be traveling back to the Philippines to implement the survey. We have

collected all the police officer names in Sorsogon Province of the Philippines and, using the family network data I collected for my dissertation, we can use this data to see the location of each officer in their family network. We then plan to look at whether officers who are highly “embedded” in their local communities are either: 1) more trusted, effective, and better at monitoring, or 2) more corrupt and susceptible to political influence.

Again, many thanks to the Friends for supporting my research.

Dotan Haim

Ruth Newmark Scholarship

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Political Science

Semester at Lund University, Sweden

My name is **Alec Chac** and I am a third-year mechanical engineering student at UC San Diego. For the past five months, I have been studying on EAP at Lund University in Sweden. This trip has been a life changing experience that has taught me a lot about myself and helped me grow as a person. I have met many different people of different cultures, who have opened my eyes to different perspectives and made me a more accepting person. Without the help of your generous scholarship, this life changing experience would not be possible.

Before and during my study abroad, I have often been asked, “Why Sweden?” I would usually answer that Sweden was a perfect fit for what I wanted academically, culturally, and socially. What I did not tell them was that I had serious doubts that Sweden was going to be the right place for me. Not knowing much about Scandinavian lifestyles, I decided to make the leap of faith and find out for myself. Even after arriving in Sweden, I still had doubts. I thought to myself, “What is it that is causing this uncertainty?” Thinking back, it was that I was very much out of my comfort zone of what I was used to

in California. Without my family nearby, and without all my friends back in America, there was no one I could easily fall back on in hard times. I was in a whole new world.

I can still remember my first day in Sweden like it was yesterday. Arriving by train into the quaint college-town of Lund was breathtaking and daunting at the same time. It was amazing that I could experience the old cobblestoned roads and the warm Swedish summer in full bloom. On the other hand, it was terrifying that I was in a foreign country, thousands of miles away from California.

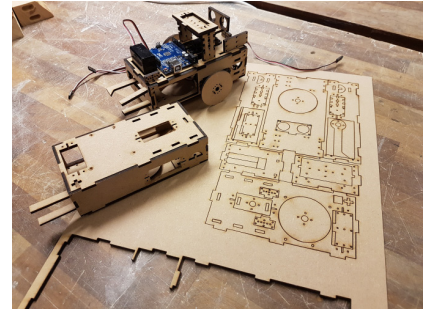
Everything in the market was in Swedish. Many items were foreign to me. I desperately looked for things I was used to, not finding much, but was happy when I saw a few well-known American brands.

As I reflect on what got me through those times of uncertainty, I can say that my peers helped me through those situations the most. When I did not know what groceries to buy, I relied on my Swedish dorm mates to guide me in the way of Swedish eating habits. When I had trouble choosing the right classes, I could rely on the UC Study Center in Lund to help me out. Sometimes I just had to dive into the deep realm of the unknown, knowing that it would somehow work out in the end. I learned immensely from these experiences and can say that today I am more willing to try new things.

I also learned a great deal academically at the engineering school of Lund University. The first class I took was an introduction to combustion engines. This showed me research in the automotive field that I knew nothing about.

Furthermore, I had the opportunity to work on an independent project involving robot design. My goal was to create a robot that was as cheap and as versatile as possible to allow students to increase their creativity and interest in technology. This project allowed me to experience the complete

process of product design, from the initial brainstorm to the assembly of the final product. I got to use computer-aided design software (CAD) to build a 3D model of my robot, allowing me to experiment with different designs. Then I got to use a fancy laser cutter to construct pieces of the robot out of wood. I am very proud of the final product.



I learned a lot about how engineers design products and put them into production. I learned how to plan my time well and not get overwhelmed by deadlines. I also learned how to communicate with others to get advice and make improvements on my robot.

And I learned about Swedish history, geography, its population, economy, and society. Because I lived in a dorm with a mix of international and Swedish students, I could experience both Swedish culture and cultures from around the world on a daily basis.

By experiencing how it is to be new in a completely foreign environment, I now understand how to persevere through hard times and how to adapt to new situations. The cold weather in Sweden during the winter made me realize how nice it is to have a heated room to stay in.

Studying at Lund University also made me realize how lucky I am to be able to study mechanical engineering at such a high level. The knowledge gained and the memories made will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Alec Chac

Eleanor Roosevelt College

The Influence of the Media in Politics

Thanks to the Friends of the International Center support, over the past summer I was able to conduct preliminary fieldwork. Thanks to the money I received, I was able to pay my rent (during summer months, when I am not TAing, I am not getting paychecks), to buy a voice recorder and cords to transfer recorded interviews to my laptop, and to fuel my car to drive to the interview locations (some of which were in Los Angeles and Orange County).

I conducted audience ethnographies of **Donald Trump** supporters, observing how they consume the media and how they make judgments and form their opinions about particular social and political issues, such as race, immigration, religion, etc. Observations and the follow up interviews took place before the election, mostly in August. The result of the presidential election made the data I collected extremely important for understanding how it happened that the people of the United States chose a Putin-like populist, who built his ratings on hatred, disrespect to a wide range of different social groups (from women and people with disabilities to journalists and Mexicans), fear of the “others” and on displays of ridiculous narcissism.

A lot of questions are yet to be answered. Currently, I am working on data interpretation. So far I have identified a list of patterns that came up in conversations with my informants and in their behavior. Some of these patterns can be identified as:

- Anti-establishment
- Anti-Hillary
- Anti-refugees (Muslim refugees as a threat to Christianity)
- Anti-illegal immigrants
- Anti-political correctness
- Pro-business without social responsibility.

What strikes me the most in my data is that among the Trump supporters, there are significant numbers of people that one would expect to be against Trump, as his claims appear to be opposed to their interests. In my



Olga Lazzitski at the 2016 International Center Holiday Party

sample of Trump supporters, there are a lot of immigrants (including Latin American immigrants) and women (including Mexican women).

In an attempt to find a plausible explanation for the paradoxical outcome of the relations between audiences, media, and politicians, I engage myself with the theory of populism as well as with such concepts of social psychology as wishful thinking and self-deception. In an era of crisis for professional journalism and the widespread dissemination of fake news, it is vital to understand how to distinguish truth from outright lie, how to hold the media and politicians accountable, and to understand what would be the consequences of the failure to do so.

I am redirecting my focus on American mainstream journalists and their struggle to cope with a president for whom truth and facts seemingly do not exist. Much like Russian journalists during the period of the Crimean annexation in March of 2014, U.S. journalists are experiencing a major shift in their understanding of the social role of their profession and in the ways they previously have done journalism. Studying this shift in comparison to the crisis in Russian journalism that I experienced personally back in Russia will be the next step of my research.

I want to thank the Friends of the International Center, and particularly **Ruth Newmark**, from the bottom of my heart. Your incredible help is not limited to financial support that is surely extremely important. Your moral support

is equally vital for me as an international student. You amazing people have done everything to make me feel confident in my ability to produce an important piece of scholarship, to deal with my personal hardships, and to obtain a sense of belonging to the community I happen to live in now.

Thank you for everything! And please keep doing what you are doing for us and for the entire humanity!

Olga Lazzitski

Russian Ph.D. candidate,
Department of Communication
Ruth Newmark Scholarship

Thank you again for awarding me a Friends of the International Center scholarship last year. I hope to one day promote studying abroad by creating a study abroad scholarship foundation in my future adulthood.

Dianna Ratsamy

Global Seminar, Ecuador
Muir College,
Ethnic Studies major



¡Hola Friends of the International Center!

This is **Erika Robinson**. I am currently studying abroad in Costa Rica. I am having the time of my life! There is something new to do here every weekend. Last weekend I went sledding down an active volcano! I am also learning a ton of Spanish and also how the Costa Rica healthcare system operates.

Thank you so much again for your scholarship, so I could have this amazing experience.

¡pura vida! Erika
Revelle College,
Human Biology major

Friday International Café

The January 13 International Café, now held at I-House in its Great Hall, was sponsored by the Study Abroad Office and therefore attracted a large International Center contingency. **Jim Galvin** presented several special summer programs that would allow students to interact with the Dalai Lama. It also was an opportunity for attendees to reconnect with the former Director of the International Center, **Lynn Anderson**, and meet her friend **Bruce Hedge**, in San Diego to see colleagues and friends and to get some respite from Minnesota's cold winter.

On February 3, Friends sponsored the Café that featured a delicious Estonian menu. Volunteer servers were: **Alma Coles**, **Nancy Homeyer**, **Katya Newmark**, **Ruth Newmark**, and **Jean Selzer**. Present were many of the Friday Chatters, who walked all the way from the Dance Hall with **Cindy Tozer**, **Ellen Scott**, and **Michelle Brown** showing the way.



Alice Blake-Stalker, Nancy Homeyer, Ruth Newmark, Bruce Hedge, Lynn Anderson, Carol Smith, and Joan Adamo



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