



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

Newsletter

Volume XLIV, No.3

October 2016

President's Column

Few character traits have evoked such a mixed response as curiosity, from "curiosity killed the cat," to "satisfaction of one's curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life." (Linus Pauling) For me, Albert Einstein's disclaimer: "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious" rings true, and it is this ability to fulfill my curiosity that I enjoy most about my involvement with the Friends.

The Friends commitment to fostering mutual understanding leads to the exploration of the minutiae of a country's culture—we are repeatedly told that the conversations had during Friends gatherings are far broader in scope, more open, and more revealing than conversations that can be had at home. While the information shared is not always of critical import, it is nonetheless interesting and opens up pathways of connecting to the world that did not previously exist.

The month of October brings superstitions to the forefront of discussions that expand into sharing symbols of good and bad luck around the world. Here are but a few examples from conversations I have had: in one country

a pig (China, Germany) or magpie (Korea) is a symbol of good luck and fortune, yet this same pig (Finland) and magpie (the UK) are looked at as symbols of greed and bad luck; for Arabic speaking countries, a beetle in the home that causes many to shriek, is considered a positive sign that wanted guests will soon arrive; and, wearing yellow on an exam day in Spain will bring bad luck, while wearing yellow in Korea will bring good luck.

Superstitions about numbers abound: in much of Asia, the number four is a homophone for "death" so that many buildings will skip the number four and in China people will pay extra money to avoid having a four in their license plates, phone numbers, etc. Japan often skips the number nine in its buildings (especially hospitals), because it is a homophone for "torture." In Spain and Colombia, eating twelve grapes at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve will bring twelve months of good luck.

This exchange of culture brings much welcome laughter and reflection about society's ever-evolving culture (ask a Korean about "poop toys") and our own



cultural idiosyncrasies. Consider the black cat who in Japan will bring a single woman many suitors (good luck),

while in China will bring famine; in the UK a black cat crossing your path is good luck, but in Germany a black cat brings good luck only if it crosses from left to right; and in American folklore the black cat was believed to be shape-shifted witches ... and, now we have come full-circle back to October and superstitions.

It is through the Friends that I am exposed to an array of people and information that I would otherwise never find on my own; and, I continue to encourage everyone to jump on the bandwagon and sweep up the wealth of opportunities the Friends provide to satisfy your own curiosity

Wishing you a happy October and the presence or lack thereof of a black cat.

Katya

Katya Newmark
presFIC@mail.ucsd.edu

Mommy/Daddy & Me

—by Mariko Usui

Since the first week of August, our Mommy/Daddy & Me class has been meeting every Monday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 at the Oceanids Pavilion, but as of mid-September has now returned to our preferred, customary Wednesday schedule. With its brightness and coziness and surrounded by eucalyptus groves, the pavilion is serving as a hidden oasis where international parents, guardians, and kids can seek relaxation apart from the hot summer temperature and can nurture friendships. Although we have been a relatively small group since the move, our friendship, affection, and passion for creativity are tying us strongly together. Grateful that Friends of the International Center keeps offering us the opportunity to work on our program, even during this period of transition, we volunteer mothers are continuously trying to improve our teaching skills and enriching our offerings, in the hope that the Mommy/Daddy & Me program will become more appealing amongst many other similar types of classes in the UTC area.

Yuko Takehara and **Mariko Usui** are redesigning the M/D&M weekly newsletter, so that it will fit on a single page and can be put on bulletin boards to further promotion. **Huanwei Cui** continues to impress participants with her carefully prepared craft time activities, while the volunteer team has made classroom decorations, posters featuring song lyrics, and additional teaching materials.

At one of our summer evening play dates that took place at Doyle Park, **Cathy Lin**, who joined us in July, set up an ocean scene, resourcefully using construction paper to fabricate diverse sea creatures. Participants painted and decorated

these freely, after which they were then hung on a string of yarn, so that kids got to watch them “swimming” in the blue sky, while the volunteer team performed a compilation of ocean-themed nursery rhymes.

Cathy’s projects are filled with a lovely combination of art and music that capture kids’ imagination. Her handmade rattles, made from half-folded paper plates holding grains of rice, with many colorful triangular pieces of paper glued all along the arc of the semicircles, were reminiscent of sparkling summer sunrays and were yet another creation that instantly fascinated everyone. With Cathy leading, the kids had a great time shaking the rattles to the volume and tempo of Rossini’s William Tell Overture.

The term has been filled with things that we, the international volunteer moms, had never experienced before. We were often uncertain how to proceed, and when we started organizing the outdoor sessions or a baby shower, we had to face our lack of know-how. For each event we did a lot of research and held discussions that I believe made the friendship among volunteers even stronger than before.

I am glad to report that eventually all these challenges turned out to be rich and memorable experiences for our team. We could never have made any of these activities happen without the practical advice and encouragement of **Alice (Blake-Stalker)** and **Georgina (Sham)**. And we thank **Katya** and **Ruth (Newmark)** for giving us their trust and keeping us in the Friends warm



international community. We’re so proud of all the parents and children who have joined us. They brought us big smiles, encouraged us with positive feedback, and at times even offered new ideas to be incorporated into our class components

All this has given us the power to keep going. Our team consisting of **Bree Chunharas**, **Huanwei Cui**, **Wenjing Deng**, **Cathy Lin**, **Yuko Takehara**, and myself, **Mariko Usui**, are hoping to welcome more participants in the coming Fall Quarter.

October Calendar

Sept. 20: **Resale Shop hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10:00-2:00, but may get extended to 3:30

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25: **Gus’ Table**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25: **FIC Craft Circle**, 1:00-3:30

Oct. 5, 19: **Family Orientation**, 9:15

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Wednesday Coffee**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26: **Mommy/Daddy & Me**: 10:00-11:30

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Intermediate English**, 10:00-11:30

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: **Friday Chat Group**, 10:00-Noon

Oct. 11: **Board Meeting**, 10:00

**August
Friends Volunteer Hours
570 = 3.24 FTEs**

Halloween

Photos from 2015 celebration



Nori Faer



Alice Blake-Stalker

Wednesday Morning Coffee

—by *Georgina Sham*

I-House Update

—by *Katya Newmark*

While our ability to use the IC Pavilions beyond December 30, 2016 remains uncertain, we are moving ahead with efforts to continue Friends programs and events at the spacious and modern Great Hall located in the International House adjacent to the Pangea Parking lot. I-House Director, **Henri Migala**, and staff have been extremely gracious and welcoming and we are optimistic that we will be able to resume our evening dinner events sometime during winter quarter 2017. We are certain that you will be won over by the modern facilities, beautiful vistas, award winning architecture, and a working sound system.



I-House Great Hall

We have now been meeting in the Oceanids Pavilion for a couple of months, and we still like it very much, especially as it has been agreed that we can keep our supplies in Pavilion West, so everything is very convenient. **Lynn Jahn** has organized all the supplies so our weekly crafts are easily set up. It has been wonderful having many volunteers and participants who want to teach crafts. Since **Marie Perroud** came back from France, she has been coming with several new craft project ideas that we are gradually incorporating into our program. **Pearl Tangri** and **Lexi Jiang** have also informed me that they have projects they would like to teach.

In October, we will have a baby shower for three of our mothers-to-be, and while waiting for the shower to start at noon, **Yuko Heath** will show us how to roll diaper cakes—a cute and useful gift for a mother-to-be! We will have our traditional pumpkin carving for Halloween, and throw a Trick-or-Treat party for the children of the Mommy / Daddy & Me classes on Wednesday, October 26.

This month's schedule of special activities:

OCT. 5: *Crochet flowers* with **Marie Perroud**.

OCT. 12: *Make stuffed animals*. We need to start making Christmas gifts for the children in the Mommy / Daddy & Me class. We will show how to use a pattern, operate a sewing machine, and how to stuff the animal.

OCT. 19: *Construct three diaper cakes* in time for our baby shower for **Lexi Jiang, Ting Ting Gao, and Sophy Wang**. **Yuko Heath** will teach us how to make wonderful layered cakes using diapers, so you will be prepared for the next baby shower. Today's baby shower will be a lunch for our three moms, all expecting in November. Please let **Georgina Sham** (gbsham@gmail.com) know by Sunday, October 16, if you can come. If we do not have a reservation from you, there will be no food, no games, no fun for you!

OCT. 26: *Pumpkin carving*. This is our traditional activity the week before Halloween. Additionally, the children will be dressed in their Halloween costumes and parade around campus. Upon their return, we will hand them treats.



The central patio looks festive with tables set in preparation of the Friends annual membership dinner



Shao-Chi and Lily Lin with Weichuan Yao and Madhura Som, recipients of a Diane Lin Memorial Scholarship

The Meaning of a Scholarship

—by Ruth Newmark with photos by Carol Smith, Stuart Smith & Katya Newmark

The Friends Annual Membership Dinner with its Scholarship Awards Ceremony is the culmination of a year's worth of hard work, and with its coming together of members of the Friends of the International Center, International Center staff, University administrators, scholarship donors, and scholarship recipients, it is the most important and most visible of our year's events. It's now



Perry Naughton flanked by Carol and Stuart Smith, the primary donors of his scholarship

been several months since the May 17 dinner, and we are slowly adjusting to new environs.

In the September *Newsletter*, I reported on some of the more general aspects of the evening, with a focus on the many who helped make it a night to remember. In this and the November issue, I will focus on the more student-related part of the celebration, beginning with a talk by Education Abroad Program (EAP) returnee, **Noble Dwarika**.

In the winter of 2014-15, Noble, then a Warren College Junior majoring in International Studies, received a Friends scholarship to study in Spain. Upon his return, he wrote: "My time studying abroad in Barcelona was unforgettable. It was filled with opportunities for academic, professional, and personal growth. If it wasn't for your generosity and dedication to students like me, this experience would not have been possible, I am grateful and I will cherish this experience for a lifetime."

Wanting fellow students to hear from a study-abroad re-



Study-abroad returnee and student guest speaker, Noble Dwarika

turnee about the meaning of an international education, we invited Noble to be one of our guest speakers at this year's Annual Dinner. We learned, among other things, that he was about to graduate and head to Guangzhou to continue his Mandarin language study. Having spent a semester in 2013 studying in China and having minored in Chinese Studies, this path seems a reasonable one.

Noble spoke so enthusiastically about his studies abroad that several students commented that they were ready to embark on a

second study abroad before they had even ventured on their first!

Adrienne Hamilton, who works with the UC San Diego Foundation as Manager of its Scholarship Stewardship Program, thanked us for a lovely evening, concluding her note: “The students are so inspiring. I particularly enjoyed your student speaker.”

As chair of the Friends Scholarship Committee, I followed Noble as speaker and addressed the topic of the meaning of a scholarship and its potential for far-reaching, often life-changing, effects. And here I quote extensively from my speech:

“I would like to share with you some thoughts from an unexpected, but delightful, e-mail I received in early May. The letter was written by **Juliana Wong**, a 2013 scholarship recipient, once again thanking the Friends for her award to study in Tokyo. Upon graduating in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in Communication, Juliana accepted a job with AmeriCorps teaching in New York’s South Bronx.

“Juliana revealed that: ‘As a first-generation college student at UC San Diego, pursuing a graduate degree never really crossed my mind, but with some extensive soul searching and unconditional support from mentors, educators, colleagues, and The Institute for Recruitment of Teachers, I was able to apply to 16 graduate programs in Higher Education & Student Affairs (all with application fee waivers). I am excited to share that I will officially be attending the University of Maryland to pursue a Master’s in Student Affairs this Fall—FULLY FUNDED!’

“Juliana continued: ‘In addition to sharing this news, I wanted to extend my most sincere thanks and gratitude to you all who have made this possible—the financial support to study abroad, the words of wisdom, and, most importantly,

your personal stories, have been integral to motivating and inspiring me to be present, intentional and purposeful, as an Asian American woman in higher education.’”

As Friends of the International Center Scholarship Committee Chair, I am fortunate to receive a fair number of such letters, but this particular letter stated so clearly that a scholarship provides much more than financial aid. Friends have heard from many of our scholarship recipients that our award helps in convincing parents that study abroad is worthwhile, and—this applies to graduate and undergraduate students alike—that by virtue of its prestige, our scholarship facilitates obtaining further scholarships. Perhaps most significantly, recipients stress that the award boosts self-confidence.

I can’t resist quoting Juliana some more, said she: “Keep up the amazing work that you all are doing. It really does help change young lives for the better.”

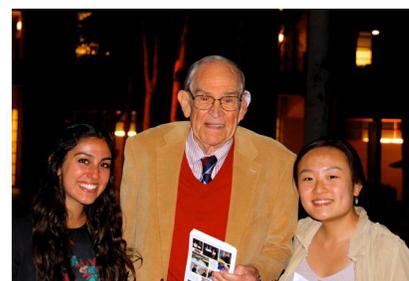
UCSD students are an amazing group and Friends scholarship recipients are no exception. They describe much better than I can, the importance of an international education, and I would like to quote here from a report submitted by **Natalya Gallo**, a doctoral candidate in Biological Oceanography and 2015 recipient of a Friends *Ruth Newmark Scholarship*. Wrote Natalya: “I believe that international experiences are crucial to young



A cheerful group of students



Elizabeth Perl, Monica Sias, going to Senegal, and Kelly O’Sullivan Sommer



Tara Nejad, Ernest Mort, Rowuena Lao

scientists because the problems we work on are global. Therefore, we must learn to work across national, language, and discipline barriers in order to be truly effective scientists and leaders. However, most Ph.D. experiences do not provide opportunities for international engagement. The international experiences I have had allow me to see the world (and our interconnectedness) in a new light, and allow me to understand global problems like climate change and environmental management with empathy for all parties involved. For these experiences and impressions, I am very grateful for the support of the Friends of the International Center.” These sentiments convey the purpose of our scholarships so well that I included Natalya’s words in the 2016 printed dinner program, intended as a keepsake.

“When you study abroad, you are helping to make America stronger,” was a point made by First Lady **Michelle Obama**,

as she addressed a large gathering of students. But we know all too well that an international education comes at a high cost. As Mrs. Obama so aptly put it: “So we know that it’s not enough for us to simply encourage more people to study abroad. We also need to make sure that they can actually afford it.”

This leads me to thank the many who help make the Friends scholarship program a success. It is with great pride that I report that for the academic year 2015—2016, Friends made 59 scholarship awards with a total value of \$103,000! These were about equally divided between graduates (@\$2,000) and undergraduates (@\$1,500). While I cannot thank each donor individually, I would like to single out the **Resale Shop** volunteers and all those who donate goods for us to sell, the many who help put on our **Ethnic Dinners** and other fundraisers, as well as our many **individual donors**—large and small.

And, of course, I wish to thank our **University** that partners with us in our joint support of international education. Several University representatives from our partnering units attended the 2016 annual dinner, and I would like them to know how much we enjoyed having them in our midst: Dean **Carolyn Kelly** from the School of Medicine; **Kathryn Murphy** from the Graduate Division; **Vonda Garcia**, Director of the Financial Aid Office; and **Kelly O’Sullivan Sommer**, **Kim Burton**, and **Jim Galvin** from the Study Abroad Office. Unfortunately, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, **Jeffrey Orgera**, had to leave early.

Friends thank our donors, volunteers, the University, and all who contributed to making our international scholarship program the best ever. With your help, Friends awarded 59 scholarships worth \$103,000 for our fiscal year 2015-2016!

Not only Friends, but also the students appreciate the opportunity to meet and chat with our university supporters over dinner. Again, there are many others who support us in our endeavors; please know that we appreciate you all!



Gail Fliesbach and Summerleigh Martin



Vonda Garcia and Jeff Orgera

A final note of thanks is due to our able and devoted **Friends Scholarship Committee** that not only selected the recipients of Friends scholarships, but also helped in the selection of many of the other scholarship recipients with us that evening. In alphabetical order they are: **Jeri Abernathy**, **Joan Adamo**, **Gayle Barsamian**, **Kim Burton**, **Alma Coles**, **Barbara Fitzsimmons**, **Kathy Hodges**, **Candace Kohl**, **Katya Newmark**, **Ruth Newmark**, **Josephine Randel**, **Carol Smith**, and **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein**. And a special thank-you to **Gail Fliesbach** for making the handsome scholarship certificates.

Here follow the names, country of origin or destination, and field of study of our graduate students that received 2016 Friends fellowships.

International Graduate Students in Residence at UCSD



- **Agard, Katherine**—Trinidad/Tobago—Literature
- **Balaswaminathan, Sowparnika**—India—Anthropology
- **Delgadillo, Maria Jose**—Mexico—Literature
- **Gu, Yumeng**—China—Management
- **Kharputly, Nadeen**—Kuwait—Literature
- **Kheradmand, Bahram**—Iran—Biological Sciences
Luna Fung Scholarship
- **Langouche, Lennart**—Belgium—NanoEngineering
- **Lazitski Kovaleva, Olga**—Russia—Communication
Ruth Newmark Scholarship
- **Pérez-Ahumada, Pablo**—Chile—Sociology
- **Santiago, Veronica**—Venezuela—Theatre & Dance
Fitzsimmons Scholarship
- **Som, Madhura**—India—NanoEngineering
- **Tchir, Paul**—Canada—History
- **Vidart-Delgado, Daniela**—Colombia—Economics
- **Yao, Weichuan**—China—E & C Engineering
Diane Lin Memorial Scholarship
- **Zhang, Qiangzhe**—China—NanoEngineering
Luna Fung Scholarship

Domestic Graduate Students Studying Abroad



- **Boots, Madelyn**—Chile—Anthropology
- **Celleri, Maria**—Ecuador—Ethnic Studies
- **Flores-Lazcano, Marcelo**—Chile—Music
- **Haim, Dotan**—Philippines—Political Science
Ruth Newmark Scholarship
- **Janusz, Andrew**—Brazil—Political Science
- **Little, Emily**—Guatemala—Psychology
- **Naughton, Perry**—France—E & C Engineering
Carol & Stuart Smith Scholarship
- **Quintanilla, Leslie**—Italy—Ethnic Studies
- **Rhee, Inbok**—Kenya—Political Science
Teclé Kidane-Mariam Memorial Scholarship
- **Russell, Whitney**—India—Anthropology

Medical Students Studying Abroad



- **Haynie, Matthew**—Philippines
- **Klas, Joel**—Ecuador
- **Kolkowitz, Ilan**—Peru
- **Matinrad, Hedieh**—Ghana

Missing in the above picture is **Hedieh Matinrad**, who had to accompany her professor on rounds.

As usual, all recipients of Friends scholarships demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, to community service, and to sharing their international experience.

We will report on undergraduate scholarship recipients in the November *Newsletter*.

Donations

With gratitude we report a donation from life member **Gabe Jackson**, founding chair of UC San Diego's Department of History. An expert on the Spanish Civil War, Gabe lived for a number of years in Spain upon taking early retirement from UCSD, continuing to conduct research and working as a journalist. He now lives in Ashland, Oregon from where he wrote our Friends President:

"Dear Katya, I am not traveling these days, but am very happy to send a contribution to the Center which you have served so excellently for many years."

Sad Membership News

We are very saddened to learn of the unexpected death of **Stuart Smith** on September 4, 2016. Longtime Life Member of the Friends, husband of former president, **Carol Smith**, and photographer par excellence at so many of our events, Stu will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, October 23, at 3:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito in Solana Beach. The family has created a Stuart Smith memorial fund at the Torrey Pines Association at: <https://torreypines.org/index.php/join-and-give/donation-page>.

We send our love to Carol and the family.



Some Recent Happenings at the International Center



Diana Saunders meets with her Thursday Intermediate English class



Participants in the Tuesday and Friday English conversation groups gather for a farewell lunch for Gabi Soliman, who has returned to Brazil. Said Gabi: "I will miss you guys very, very much! It was a huge pleasure to be here and spend this time with you. Please, keep always in touch. I will miss our Friday conversations more than everything."

Resale Shop



The large container intended to replace the former Resale Shop's IC storage space has arrived and with the help of Facilities Management, our Shop Coordinator, **Marion Spors**, and volunteer **Daniela Schmitt** quickly went to work moving shelves and filing cabinets. Then they began filling the container with lots of boxes full of new donations, many once more coming from the **La Jolla Consignment Shop** that has supported our project for years. Further donations are welcome. The Shop is in particular need of household goods.

As of this writing, there is no information about what will happen to our Shop once Friends have to vacate the three International Center pavilions that are currently available to us. The final date for our use of the pavilions has been set for December 30; meanwhile all program chairs are carrying on as best they can.

Do come to shop or simply to chat with our friendly volunteer sales staff, and be sure to thank Marion



Containers for the Friends Resale Shop and Oceanids Kitchen Exchange are set in place

for keeping the Shop going during these months of uncertainty.

Undeterred, Marion is busy assembling a full team of volunteers to help her reopen the Friends Shop in time for the start of the Fall Quarter. Keep your fingers crossed that all will go according to plan and that our Shop will be back in business by Tuesday, September 20; instruction begins the following Thursday.

Business hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,
but may soon get extended to 3:30 p.m.,
as more volunteers come forth.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS



Hi there! Or should I say I Hola?
My experience studying abroad in Granada, Spain has been amazing so far! Our group of about 20 UCSD students have already gotten very close and I really don't want the experience to end! It is incredible to take classes where we can visit the actual places of history that we are learning about! Last week we visited a type of orphanage for immigrant children called *Ciudad de los Niños* and today I started volunteering there and teaching them English. This has truly been an experience of a lifetime and I am so grateful for your scholarship to make it possible!

Alison Meagher

Global Seminar: Spanish Memories, African Hopes through Literature & Film
Marshall College, Mathematics/Economics major

Greetings from China

I just wanted to reach out and again extend my appreciation for the generous gift from the Friends of the International Center. I have just completed my first week of immersion in Chinese language and culture and am enjoying every minute. This weekend we took a trip to the Great Wall, and then also spent some time in a local high school interacting with students and learning about their lives in Chengde.

It is opportunities like this that allow one to appreciate the accomplishments of another culture and people, as well as find all the similarities we have as we grow.

Timothy L. Jones

UC Education Abroad Program, Beijing Normal University
M.A. candidate, International Affairs, School of Global Policy and Strategy



*In June, I exchanged several e-mails with **Kyung Hee Ha**, recipient of two Friends scholarships (the first in 2010 and a subsequent 2012 Ruth Newmark Scholarship). Born in Japan but of Korean ancestry, her family's painful status as foreign residents in a country in which the family has lived for several generations, no doubt influenced Kyung Hee's decision to pursue a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies with specialization in the fields of race and ethnicity.*

When Kyung Hee heard of the closure of the International Center, she quickly signed the petition to delay demolition of the International Center until a plan to reinstate the International Center is proposed and agreed upon.

I quote from our correspondence. — Scholarship Committee Chair

News from Japan

I was teaching at UCSD for two quarters after I completed my dissertation. Then, I moved back to Japan to start teaching at Meiji University in Tokyo! It's been about 3 months since I moved back and am finally settled down.

I was in San Diego this past weekend for only 3.5 days to attend the commencement. It was so great to see my dissertation committee chair and colleagues.

71st Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima

Hiroshima is one of the most defining events of the 20th century. Not only did it end the largest war in history, but it was the first and only time nuclear weapons were used on a country. As **Viet Thanh Nguyen** states, "All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield, the second time in memory." I experienced this first-hand on August 6, 2016: the 71st anniversary of the bombing.

My biggest evidence for Hiroshima being in the memory of the Japanese people is their devotion to a nuclear-free world. Evidence that Hiroshima won't forget is the Peace "Watch" Tower. It marks the number

of days since the A-bombing and the days since the last nuclear testing in the world. I got to see survivors speak about their experiences, as well as hear the Mayor of Hiroshima speak his Peace Declaration. The fact that the speech includes demands of the United States, Japan, and other countries to not engage in nuclear warfare, and that Prime Minister **Abe** expressed determination “to realize a world free of nuclear weapons” shows me their devotion as a country to a nuclear-free world. Because of Japan’s experiences with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is one of the biggest proponents of not wanting nuclear weapons on this planet.

I also saw protestors guided by the police saying for Americans to get their base out of Japan and for no more nuclear weapons. The fact that the Japanese feel this strong shows how the last 71 years have been a second battlefield, and now they are fighting their third battle: convincing the world to move away from nuclear weapons.

Seeing Hiroshima was one of those experiences I will never forget. It was more powerful than viewing the 9.11 Memorial in New York.



After the day at the memorial, I got to see the traditional, annual lantern festival. The lanterns have dreams or wishes of peace on them. After 71 years, the number of Japanese, especially people from Hiroshima, still participating in these commemorations surprised me. As an American, I can’t even begin to imagine what it is like living through Hiroshima; however, I feel that I have started to understand. Japan is unique from this experience and henceforth continues to be one of the major countries striving against a nuclear war.

While in Hiroshima, we got to stay overnight in a temple. We got up early to have a Buddhist priest lead us through a Zen practice. It was so

hard, but also very interesting.

I fell in love with Japanese culture when I started watching anime in 6th grade. I have watched over 70 anime shows and studied Japanese in high school. Finally, I have come to the place I have always wanted to visit. Japan has been an adventure filled with amazing food and full of awesome experiences. Some of my favorite things were climbing Mt. Fuji, and visiting both a cat and an owl café. Yes, an owl café. It was a small room that looked like a forest with 32 owls!

I can’t wait to see more shrines, see more anime related things, and enjoy good food.

Christian Olmstead

Global Seminar: Modern Japan
Cognitive Science and Sociology
majors, Sixth College

Jazz in Paris Global Seminar

La vie en rose. Life through rose-colored glasses was Paris in a nutshell. Everything from the touristy landmarks to our cute Parisian apartment was enchanting. It felt like I was seeing everything in rosy hues. It was the most amazing experience, and I’m grateful to the Friends of the International Center for helping me study jazz in Paris.

A typical day involved taking the Metro in the morning (which was very efficient!) to go to class near the center of the city. We learned about the evolution of jazz and different musicians for a few hours and our professor played the piano along the way, demonstrating what he was lecturing about. After the first half of class, we had a small break when we could walk around the corner to one of many *boulangeries*, for a quick pastry or coffee. After the second half of class, we would go get lunch and start our day’s explorations—from looking at art at the Louvre to walking through Paris’s dark catacombs to crossing the many bridges across the Seine and simply enjoying the views.

Sometimes we went to jazz concerts in the city. Each band we saw had its own style of performing. The following day we would have discussions about the previous night’s performance. Sometimes, we even stayed after class and jammed. A lot of the students played instruments, so they played while the rest

of us sang along or just enjoyed the informal show.

As part of UCSD’s partnership with CEA, they also planned cultural activities for us. We had a cheese tasting, where we learned about the different types of cheese and their origins, and attended a classical concert in a chapel. With CEA activities, our walking tours of the highest hills in Paris, and our jazz concerts, we were able to explore many parts of the city.

Thank you so much for helping me study abroad! It was a life-changing experience.

Reina Francisco

Psychology major, Sixth College

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October 2016



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