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



# *Newsletter*

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Volume XL, No. 1

September 2012

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## President's Message



Vice Chancellor Penny Rue, Friends President Joan Adamo, Dean Lynn Anderson

Welcome back to a new academic year, and to several changes at the International Center. We are so very sorry that Dean **Lynn Anderson** has left us to re-join her family in Minnesota. But fortunately we anticipate being able to continue to count on her wisdom for a few more months via telecommuting, while a new Dean/Director is being sought.

Another major loss that has occurred this summer is that **Gayle Barsamian** has resigned as Coordinator of the Friends Resale Shop, after many years of very hard work. On behalf of the Friends Board, thank you, Gayle, for your dedication and leadership which has provided support for our scholarship program, and

service to the I-Center, campus and community. I'm also very grateful to our dedicated group of summer volunteers who have continued to staff the Shop as usual, and to all the Friends who have attended extra meetings and offered their ideas as we transition to the next phase in the Shop's important work. (See more on p. 2.)

Always welcome: new volunteers to help out both in the Shop and behind the scenes. Please let me know if you'd like to join the "team."

New idea for the fall! At the Board Retreat in June, we considered how to "nurture" new members in our organization, and also provide more fun events for all members. Here's one result:

save Sunday, October 7 for our first "**Members Just-for-Fun**" at **Candace Kohl's** home in Del Mar. You will love her art and meteorite collections, her garden, her ocean views, and you will love having time to just socialize with other Friends—guaranteed!

While you're marking your calendar, note that our next **Ethnic Dinner** is planned for Saturday, October 27. **Liz Fong Wills** is working on a menu of Sri Lankan cuisine, having done considerable research during her trip there in July. It promises to be another winner.

If you haven't been there yet, I encourage you to visit the latest work in the campus' Stuart Collection, **Do Ho Suh's** "Fallen Star." You really do experience the sense of displacement and uncertainty the artist felt when he arrived in the U.S. from Korea in 1991 to study. Then think about all our international students at UCSD. I'd guess it's pretty relevant!

I hope your summer adventures have been fun and rewarding, and I look forward to sharing with you a year of exciting events at the I-Center.

*Joan Adamo*  
jadamo@ucsd.edu

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On July 10, Resale Shop Coordinator, **Gayle Barsamian**, excitedly wrote: "Thought you might be interested to know that we were visited by our new chancellor, **Pradeep K. Khosla**, this morning, the first day of the Shop's summer schedule. He was accompanied by Executive Vice Chancellor **Suresh Subramani**. It was more than a walk-by. Chancellor Khosla came in and looked around the Shop, asked some questions (Who are our customers? Where do we get our things?) and seemed interested. **Jeri Abernathy** was in the Shop and able to talk about how many scholarships the Friends of the International Center award. A good start to the summer!"

Since then—after 6 years of dedicated leadership—Gayle has stepped down as Shop Coordinator. At the end of July, she shared her resignation with her fellow Resale Shop volunteers, ending her letter with these words:

*I firmly believe that the Resale Shop is a wonderful asset to the campus community. It not only raises money for scholarships but also promotes cross cultural and inter-generational relationships, provides a friendly environment, a bargain shopping experience, and, of course, is an excellent example of how to be "green."*

*Please continue to make this a successful campus experience. It has been my pleasure to share it with you all.*

*Thank you,  
Gayle Barsamian*

The running of the Shop has been assumed by a number of seasoned volunteers.

**Joe Nichols**, who regularly reports on Shop activities for this

*Newsletter*, lauds Gayle for her singular achievements:

"When **Gayle Barsamian** stepped in after **Joyce Dunn**, we all were grateful that she was willing to take on the task of running the Resale Shop. She did a bang-up job in modernizing and updating all the signage in the Shop, and instituted changes that helped volunteers run the Shop more efficiently. Gayle's special sales for various holidays gave the Shop a more hip look, and brought in a lot of scholarship money. Vicariously, we traveled with her to places in China, for solar eclipses, and once to New York City for the Christo exhibit in Central Park. She is a friend and I loved her politics. Again, I thank Gayle for working so hard in keeping us on our toes."

After customary abbreviated summer hours, the Shop will resume its regular schedule on September 17 to coincide with the start of orientation: Monday-Friday, 10:00-4:00.

## I-Center Arrivals and Departures

- *International Scholar Office (ISO)*: In early June, **Dalia Alshamas** joined ISO as an Immigration Assistant, taking over the position **Becky Guberek** had prior to Becky's appointment as a Scholar Advisor. Dalia oversees the ISO Front Desk and provides assistance to Scholar Advisors.
- *International Students and Programs Office (ISPO)*: **Layla San Jose**, International Student Advisor, moved to Fresno to be closer to family and pursue other opportunities. **Gladys Calderon**, ISPO Office Manager, accepted a teaching position in the Republic of Georgia.
- *Programs Abroad Office (PAO)*: **Danelle Boone**, Global Seminar Advisor, accepted a position working with CAPA, one of our international education program partners. **Christine Trinidad**, PAO Advisor, accepted a position with St. Edward's University in Austin, TX, to be a study abroad advisor. **Sarah Vatch**, PAO Advisor, joins us from Sixth College, where she was a Sr. Academic Advisor for the last 5 years. **Jay Minert**, Academic Integration and Outreach Director, joins us with previous experience in advising and student recruitment from the University of Hawaii, Hilo, UC Santa Cruz, and the Peace Corps.
- *Dean's Office*: **Lynn Anderson**, Dean of International Education and Director of the International Center, has requested a part-time appointment beginning August 27, and anticipates telecommuting from Minnesota until the end of January, with periodic visits back to our San Diego campus. Lynn is eager to be back in Minnesota and closer to family and MN friends. No farewells quite yet!

### September Calendar

Sept. 3: **Labor Day**

Sept. 4, 11, 25: **Knit-Along**, 1:00-3:30

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

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

Sept. 11: **Friends Board Meeting**, 9:30

Sept. 17: **Resale Shop resumes regular hours**, Monday-Friday, 10:00-4:00

Sept. 24: **Fall Quarter** begins

# Wednesday Coffee

—by Georgina Sham

Since Friends Wednesday Coffee programs continue throughout the UCSD academic year, we had a very busy summer that began with a celebration of our national Independence Day, a celebration that included a picnic featuring traditional fare (hot dogs, baked beans, potato and mesclun salads, watermelon, brownies, and lemonade) and watching fireworks at the La Jolla Cove.

July 18 saw many of us in the kitchen learning to make three quite different kinds of scrumptious quiches.

**Dagmar Bocakova** showed us how to prepare a Czechoslovak version that incorporates green peas; **Keiko Hirai** taught us how to make a Japanese one using tofu; and **Mary Woo** demonstrated the making of a French *Tarte à la Moutarde*. **Madeleine Rast** underwrote the cost of all ingredients in gratitude for the exceptionally warm care and kindness extended her during her illness,

Other summer activities included making bottle cap pincushions, knitting, decorating baby bibs, beading bracelets, sewing, and preparing (and sampling!) several different salads. **Keiko Bott-Suzuki's Mommy, Daddy & Me** also continued through the summer months; however the *English Conversation Table* lost its longtime leader when **Gus Lestick** resigned in early August, saying that he enjoyed the run while it lasted but wants to quit on a high note. We will greatly miss him. We hope that regular participants **Nori Faer** and **Letty Ponomareff** will continue the Conversation Table.

While we know that Orientation will occupy the International Center lounge in September, we don't yet know about the dining room, making it hard to plan fall Coffee activities early on. Here's the tentative plan, but it's best to check for all Wednesday Morning Coffee programs by looking at the dining room bulletin board.

- Sept. 5: **Sewing**. Continue sewing projects from previous week.
- Sept. 12: **Knitting/Sewing/Crocheting**. Please bring a project to work on so we can chat and visit.
- Sept. 19: **Watch for announcements** of what we will do, as we may not have a venue.
- Sept. 26: Welcoming **English Tea**. We will meet in the kitchen at 9:30 a.m. to make scones, tea sandwiches, cake or cookies, for a repeat of this activity that was greatly enjoyed in May.

*Knit-Alongs*: Coordinator **Jennie Chin** reports that the group has been unusually active, even holding its first evening potluck in June. "Participants could bring their spouses and children. We had about 30+/- in attendance,

and it really turned out quite nice. **Lynn Anderson** was kind enough to support the event by providing a res crew to help set up and wash dishes afterwards. And, as usual, **Ginny Young** was the great organizer, so things went smoothly. Tuesday afternoon Knit-Alongs will continue through the rest of the year. There is one cancellation to date, which is Tuesday, September 18. The Center will not be available to us then."



## Quiche Preparations on July 18



Keiko Hirai, Dagmar Bocakova, Georgina Sham, and Lily Song

Photos by Yasuko Tsukushi



The AAA-team: Alice Blake-Stalker, Arline Paa, and Alma Coles



Roses from the garden of a member of the Del Mar Rose Society



Mouthwatering dessert: biscuit tortoni

## 2012 Annual Membership Dinner

With the number of Friends scholarship awards increasing rapidly, our annual Membership Dinner and Awards Ceremony is taking on an ever more important role. This year's festive event was no exception. About 120 guests, made up of a mix of university administrators, faculty, International Center staff, scholarship recipients, donors, and Friends, socialized over glasses of Prosecco-based punch (or its non-alcoholic version) and nibbled on a super-abundance of *antipasti a tonno*, and continued to enjoy the dinner's Italian theme.

Event planning is a complex job if undertaken seriously. There can be no doubt that Friends take this dinner seriously. While much of the planning falls on the shoulders of the Friends First Vice President and the Scholarship Committee Chair, each finds help as needed.

**Arline Paa**, the Vice President in charge of the May 22 dinner, brought in **Alma Coles** and **Alice Blake-Stalker** as co-chairs. Arline gives this wonderful account of what transpired.

"The AAA team (Arline, Alma, and Alice) met a couple of times to

concoct our menu: once in Encinitas at the Italian restaurant Rosanna's Pasta, then at a wonderful dinner at the home of **Alma** and **Bill Coles**. Alma told us how easy it would be for us to make the appetizer, salad, *biscuit tortoni* dessert, and even the *focaccia* bread, no matter that it would have to be for over a hundred guests. (She is a wonder woman who buys her flour in 100-pound bags!) No arguing that by preparing many of the dishes ourselves, we could keep costs down.

"We would meet and divide up our work assignments, make lists of food and wines to buy, compare punch recipes, decide on Costco runs and trips to Trader Joe's. There was much to consider: we consulted past reports to see if we were on task with all of the preparations. Would we need warm blankets, since we decided not to rent space heaters (another cost saving measure)? Did we need cushions for the cold metal chairs that some would have to sit on? Should we bring in utensils from home? What to do for centerpieces? We decided on placemats with a map of Italy as a base for the roses that **Candace Kohl** offered

to bring from the garden of a rose enthusiast in Del Mar."

Arline describes further details: "The day before the event found Alma in the kitchen preparing the dessert, **Eleanor tum Suden** and **Joan Adamo** pouring over the list of guests to make the table seating assignments, with **Ruth Newmark** providing frequent updates on who cancelled because of illness, which student would arrive late because of class, and which student had to leave early for an exam. In the Friends Office, **Renate Schmid-Schoenbein** was busily making nametags.

"The day of the event, **Kristine Kneib** joined the triple-A team to get the dinner ready. Kristine and Alice learned how to make the *focaccia*—tray after tray of fragrant Italian bread kept coming out of the oven. The smells emanating from the kitchen attracted many passers by."

Alice has high praise for teacher Alma's patience, "as early results ranged from hoagie rolls to crispy crackers. Unperturbed, we ate the mistakes." Kristine's description: "I had the best time cooking all day



Arline Paa holds up sweet peppers in preparation for the *insalata mista*



Scholarship recipient Mindi Summers checks in with Eleanor tum Suden



Jessica Paa and Dagmar Bocakova ready the punch bowl



IC staffers Carol Robertson, Tonia Pizer, Tricia Chan

with the 3As. An added benefit was that my biceps, triceps, and shoulders got quite the workout kneading the dough for the *focaccia*.”

To this, Alice laughingly adds: “The salad, a healthy rainbow, presented different challenges. Nurse Arline meticulously washed the already triple-washed greens, and surgically removed the seeds from the red, yellow, and orange peppers. My contribution was to chop cucumbers and toss the salad in huge metal washtubs.”

Arline resumes her account: “In the afternoon, **Dagmar Bocakova** and **Keiko Hirai** joined the group: filling water carafes, opening wine bottles, getting dishes ready. **Candace Kohl** arrived with an armful of gorgeous tea roses fresh from the garden of a member of the Del Mar Rose Society, sufficient to arrange small bouquets for each table. Alice and Keiko set tables. The color scheme was red and yellow. We had a plan for red napkins on yellow tablecloths, yellow napkins on red tablecloths. Programs, prepared by **Gail Fliesbach** and **Ruth Newmark**, and printed on canary yellow paper to fit in with the color scheme, were distributed on tables. **Katie Mathis** arrived to add another set of hands.

“My husband, **David Paa**, and our daughter-in-law **Jessica Paa** came with 16 trays of hot spinach lasagna from **Rosanna’s Pasta**;

the lasagnas were cut into serving pieces and put in the oven to keep warm. More tables were set up in the courtyard requiring the seating to be rearranged—again! This time everyone had a seat and a proper table number to report to; no mean feat!

“The punch was made. **Bill Homeyer** and **David Paa** tended bar. Music was played out into the courtyard. The marine layer never materialized; instead, there was some sun and blessedly no cold wind—the gods were with us. The International Center staff were briefed on the role they were to play at each of the tables serving the food.

“Guests started to arrive. They were welcomed by **Eleanor tum Suden** and presented with their name tag that also indicated at which table they would sit. While guests mingled in the lounge, **Danny Adams**, the Center’s trusted custodian, had a bit of a scare when someone locked his bicycle to the post where all of the speeches and scholarship presentations were to be made. Danny even considered snipping the lock; fortunately, the owner of the bike was found and the intrusive object removed from center stage. By 6:30 we were ready to sit down to dinner.”

Noted Alice: “After spending the day playing in olive oil, flour, and thyme, Alma slipped



Keiko Hirai, Kim Burton, Joan Adamo, and ERC Provost Alan Houston



Alma Coles

into her festive purple frock, only to discover that she had brought two left dress shoes. Luckily, her long, elegant skirt covered her grey sneakers and her aching feet."

A big thank-you to all who contributed to making this a happy occasion.

A special word of appreciation to Dean **Lynn Anderson** for her praise for the work done by the Friends; to Vice Chancellor **Penny Rue** for speaking to us about her strong belief in the importance of international education and the value of Friends Scholarships; and to Friends President **Joan Adamo** for coordinating a most efficient business meeting. As chair of the Friends Nominating Committee, **Alma Coles** conducted the election, presenting the slate of officers for 2012-13 and calling for a vote, once having assured Friends members that the Parliamentarian had verified that there was a quorum present. The vote by Friends members in attendance was unanimous. Several people were heard to murmur: "All meetings should be conducted this way!"

Highpoint of the evening was the Scholarship Awards Ceremony. **Ruth Newmark**, Scholarship Committee Chair, presented the Friends scholarship recipients; **Lou Adamo** snapped their photos. In following *Newsletters*, Ruth will tell us about this part of the evening by providing a brief overview of our scholarship program and an account of

## 2012-13 Slate of Officers

President:	<b>Joan Adamo</b>
1st Vice President:	<i>Vacant</i>
2nd Vice President, Membership:	<b>Renate Schmid-Schoenbein</b>
Recording Secretary:	<b>Nancy Homeyer</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Jeri Abernathy</b>
Corresponding Secretary:	<b>Nori Faer</b>
Nominating Committee:	<b>Alice Blake-Stalker, Josie Foulks, Kristine Kneib</b>



Newmark Scholarship recipient  
Kyung Hee Ha with Ruth Newmark

this year's recipients.

Meanwhile, Ruth reports having received many kind notes from students before and immediately after the dinner, and shares with us a lengthy one read by our Friends President at the conclusion of the festivities.

Said **Joan Adamo**: "I would like to direct a few closing remarks to our scholarship recipients. Because Friends are immensely proud of you, we thought that it might be interesting to hear from a former recipient. This young woman, **Anshu Abhat**, has been awarded not one, but THREE scholarships through the Friends. We had hoped that Anshu would tell you about her experiences in person, but she is presently in Seattle preparing to start her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington. She sent a nice message, from which I will read in part. It's addressed to Friends of the International Center, scholarship supporters, and students:

'My near decade of education at UCSD is coming to an end June 3rd when I will graduate from medical school. The Friends of the International Center have made my experience at UCSD a very special one, from my undergraduate days through my medical school journey.

'(1) I was originally able to study abroad in Sussex, England as an undergrad at UCSD with the support of the first **Ernest C. Mort Scholarship for Revelle**. I still keep in touch with Dr. Mort, who is a true visionary in encouraging Revelle students to open their minds and go abroad in their undergraduate years.

'(2) During my senior year, I was able to study abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina for a semester with the help of a **Friends of the International Center Scholarship**. I became conversationally fluent in Spanish, shadowed a physician working in the field of Infectious Disease, and, of course, enjoyed the vibrancy of South American culture.

'(3) This year, as a fourth year medical student, I was able to spend two months in Mumbai, India, where I worked in a bustling public hospital. I also became conversationally fluent in Hindi and worked on an anti-tobacco public health policy program. The Friends supported me with a graduate scholarship to do so.

'I would not have been able to study abroad in undergradu-

ate or graduate school without the support of the Friends of the International Center. From my initial experiences in Sussex and Buenos Aires, I acquired an interest in public health and health policy. Last year, I completed a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health to further pursue this interest. [Anshu also went to Guatemala and Santiago, Chile during her med school years, learning more about progressive health reforms.] I know that I will be a better physician because of these unique experiences.

'Students—Congratulations! You have been selected for a scholarship because you are unique and talented. Do your best to give back when you return from your experiences abroad:

'Work with the Friends of the International Center and the Programs Abroad Office to encourage more students at UCSD to go abroad. Continue to stay in touch with the Friends and your scholarship donors. Not only have you been recognized for a scholarship, you have been welcomed into a new



Global Seminar Advisor Danelle Boone (standing) served as table host to (from left to right) FriendsScholarship recipient Mindi Summers, IC Faculty Director Sharon Rose, and Newmark Scholar Kyung Hee Ha

UCSD family where adventure and new cultural experiences abound!'"

Our heartfelt gratitude to the many International Center staff members who served as superb table hosts. Starting with the I-Center's Director, they were: **Lynn C. Anderson, Danelle Boone, Kim Burton, Tricia Chan, Maribeth Erlich, Jim Galvin, Gabi Hoffmann, Roark Miller, Kelly O'Sullivan, Tonia Pizer, Han-**

**nah Reese, Carol Robertson, and Shelly Taskin.**

**Arline Paa** summed up the evening perfectly: "Everyone had enough to eat and drink. Tables were cleared, speeches made, scholarships awarded, wonderful table conversations were overheard—the evening was a success!"

Our photographers were: **Lou Adamo, Eduard Schwan, Alice Blake-Stalker, and Candace Kohl.**

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## Letter from the Chancellor

August 8, 2012

Dear Mrs. Adamo:

I am pleased to acknowledge the Friends of the International Center as an official support group of the University of California, San Diego. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Friends members for their significant support of the International Center, and student scholarships, as well as their contributions to the international experiences of our students both here and abroad. The Friends of the International Center have provided an integral part of the university experiences for our international students and helped to share the diverse cultural landscape of San Diego.

It is a pleasure to recognize you and the members of your group for your continued efforts and commitment. The Friends of the International Center are an invaluable resource to UC San Diego's international community. I wish you every success with this and your future endeavors.

With kind regards,  
*Pradeep K. Khosla*  
Chancellor

### SAVE THE DATE

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**Members Just-for-Fun:  
An afternoon  
social gathering for Friends  
at the Del Mar home of  
Candace Kohl**

**Sunday, October 7, 2012  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**No charge**

**Details to follow**

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## Membership News

Many Friends members have honors bestowed upon them, but it is not every day that you have an asteroid named for you. Congratulations to **Y.C. Fung**, one of the three founders of the UC San Diego bioengineering program, who was honored by the International Astronomical Union (the body responsible for naming such objects as planets, stars, and asteroids) by having an asteroid located about 225 million miles from Earth designated as *210434 Fungyuancheng*. Widely respected, Fung, 92, helped pioneer ways of combining engineering, biology, and physics to diagnose and treat a wide spectrum of health problems, especially soft tissue injuries.

At least one other Friends member has an asteroid named for her: *4899 Candace* was named for **Candace Kohl**, a cosmochemist who says that she has performed fieldwork on all seven continents.

And in 1980, Dr. **James Arnold** (1923-2012), under whose tutelage Candace received her Ph.D. in chemistry, had an asteroid, now known as *2143 Jimarnold*, named for him.

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## Donations

Because of the *Newsletter's* summer hiatus, we could not report earlier on the contributions received from **Laurette Verbinski** and **Dorothy & David Parker**. After making 45 scholarship awards in 2012, these contributions are a wonderful way to begin replenishing our scholarship fund.

The new academic year started off with a scholarship donation from **Debby & Ray Park**. **Ruth Newmark** followed with a donation to her scholarship in celebration of the birthday of **Candace Kohl**.

## Children of the International Center

— by *Jeri Abernathy*

Over the years, the Friends of the International Center has served many more students than just the ones enrolled in UC San Diego classes. For many years, the Friends offered a nursery school program called the International Cooperative Nursery School (ICNS). Many Friends members had their children in this pre-school. It is hard to believe that these “children” are now grown with kids of their own. Possibly some even have grandchildren.

What has happened to these lovely children over the years? How have they grown and progressed? Do they travel? Do they remember us? I can tell you about two of them.

In the early 1980s, my first child, **Stefanie Ness**, started ICNS at the age of three. She attended for two years before going on to kindergarten in the public school system here in San Diego and in Del Mar. After graduating from Torrey Pines High School, Stefanie went to UC San Diego with a scholarship from the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. She graduated in 2002 from Revelle College in Biology and Cell Biology. Currently, she works at Tecan, a global life science company headquartered in Switzerland, doing field engineering in robotics and liquid handling. She is a senior engineer, married (now named **Kairs**), and looking at having a family sometime soon.

The second child, my son **Scott Ness**, also went to ICNS. He, too, started when he was three, but being born late in the year did not go on to public school until he was six. He graduated from Poway High in 2002 and from California State University San Marcos in 2007. He is currently teaching English at a university in Chengdu, China. It is a long way from home, but he is truly loving the international experience.

Both of my children are multi-lingual. They used their early exposure to different cultures to expand their opportunities in their adult life. They were comfortable with the educational environment of a university even while they were in high school. And they have made friends all over the world.

My daughter, the local one, wants to start hosting a few students for Thanksgiving this coming year. She is very excited that the International Center has a program of matching students with host families for holiday celebrations. And my son wants to have a career in multinational education.

The Friends of the International Center played a big part in helping them develop their life plans.

Where are the other children? I am hoping you will let us know.

*Jeri first joined the Friends Board in 1984, when she served in the capacity of ICNS President. In 1985, she became Friends Newsletter Editor. In the early 1990s, she served as Friends President. There followed years of lawyering. Presently, Jeri is Friends Treasurer, and is active in the Resale Shop and Knit-Along.*

*In the adjacent picture, Jeri is seen in the Oceanids Pavilion preparing lunch before an April meeting with the UC San Diego Foundation comptroller to discuss how to access Friends funds.*



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# SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

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## The Aymara of Bolivia and Chile

Thanks to the funds received from Friends of the International Center I was able to visit several highlands communities located at the isolated border between Bolivia and Chile. This rugged high altitude landscape is composed by a myriad of small Aymara-speaking hamlets where indigenous peoples integrate their Andean roots with national narratives, and modernization processes. This contrast between the approaches of Bolivia (currently engaged with a critique of neoliberalism) and Chile (hailed as a “success story” for combining market-friendly reform with re-democratization) to nationhood leaves the Aymaras, an indigenous group that occupies the vast transborder area between both countries, subject to very different sets of demands from different—if not antagonistic—nation-states.

Once I got there, I witnessed traditional festivities that stressed the lasting community ties of the local Aymara population with the indigenous migrants that settled in the major cities of La Paz, El Alto, and Iquique. The construction of Aymara cultural identity constitutes a relevant example of how indigenous societies deploy sophisticated ways to cope and negotiate the imposition of national narratives that often deny the legitimacy of indigenous culture as part of the nation.

Participant observation of such festivities and everyday life in the highlands helped me to better understand the nuances behind the construction of both indigenous identities and the tensions with national logics. For instance, the carnivals in the hamlets of Socoroma (Chile), and Sajama (Bolivia) became excellent opportunities to engage with the social dynamics and the convoluted discourses that inform the interplay between indigenous identities and national projects.

With the support of the Friends of the International Center I was able to start this research project that examines the nuanced strategies the Aymara use to navigate among

competing sets of national narratives, as well as how this process produces new forms of subjectivities.

*Jorge Montesinos*

Department of Anthropology

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*To our surprise, we learned in May, when 2012 Friends Scholarship recipient **Paula Saravia** asked if she could bring her husband **Jorge Montesinos** to the awards ceremony, that we were dealing with a husband and wife team from Chile.*

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Dear Friends of the International Center,

I want to thank you for your scholarship, which allowed me to develop and strengthen research collaborations with my home country, Chile.

I am interested in the study of microorganisms, and the role that they play in the environment. Microbes are present everywhere, but most of the time we only think of them when they have some negative effect on us. The truth is that the majority of them are benign and they play very important roles in all ecosystems around our planet. Yet, we have only skimmed the surface of the microbial diversity that surrounds us, and even less on the role that they play in different environments on Earth.

An example of this, are a group of microorganisms that are called large sulfur bacteria. These organisms are very abundant in marine sediments, in particular in low oxygen zones. One striking characteristic of them is that they can form filaments, which even can be seen with the naked eye!

During my trip to Chile I had the opportunity of talking to some of the researchers who are studying these organisms. In particular, I started to collaborate with Dr. **Victor Gallardo**, from the University of Concepcion, to help him analyze and understand the genome sequence of two of these organisms.

In addition, around the same time, we wrote a short proposal with the idea of studying a novel microbial community dominated by these large sulfur bacteria. Their habitat is surface hydrothermal vents, located in the Comau fjords, in the southern regions of Chile. We were successful with this proposal, and are now studying this microbial community using an approach called metagenomics. The idea is to understand both the taxonomic diversity (who is living there) as well as the functional diversity (what are they doing), using their genome sequences.

Dr. Gallardo and his group collected samples in the south of Chile, submitting the samples for sequencing. Currently, I am working on the analysis of the sequence information, trying to identify the organisms found in this community, and the different things they do. Hopefully, in the near future, we

will know more about this community. For example, whether it is similar to other microbial ecosystems found around the world under similar conditions (hydrothermal vents). We might also discover novel organisms and possible novel biochemical processes that are unique to such ecosystems.

Thanks to your support, it has been a busy year that allowed me to travel to Chile and start these collaborations.

*Juan Ugaldé*

Ph.D. Candidate, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

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Dear Ruth,

I have now been in East Timor [a former Portuguese colony] for a bit more than 8 months. When I came in August 2011, it had been two years since I had last been here. Dili, the capital, has definitely seen some changes: a lot more traffic, more buildings (hotels, restaurants, etc.) and Timor's first mall, Timor Plaza. I would say Dili feels more like a normal city (albeit a poor, third world one) than it ever has to me—much more stable and peaceful and functioning.

In terms of my research on how Timorese are “making sense” of the past violence of the Indonesian era, the most interesting event so far was the 20-year anniversary celebration of the Santa Cruz Massacre, which took place in November 2011. (This massacre occurred in Dili in 1991 and was caught by a foreign journalist on video; the footage sent outside the country was instrumental in gaining international attention for Timor's cause.) The tenth anniversary of Timor's official independence will take place in a few weeks, on May 20, 2012. The Indonesian and Portuguese presidents are coming, as is **Kofi Annan**, and this will be another interesting event to witness.

Also interesting for my research was the presidential election, which took place on April 16. All of the candidates (originally there were 13) ran on the basis of their past involvement in the resistance movement. The eventual winner, **Taur Matan Ruak**, was the commander of the Timorese guerrillas at the time of Timor's referendum in 1999. A lot of talk about the past and who suffered/struggled the most for Timor's independence. In general, it seems a “hero discourse” is currently very strong in Timor, with veterans (former members of the resistance) getting a lot of status and recognition, while civilian victims are almost never talked about anymore (and have yet to receive reparations or justice). The elections really drove this point home.

There was a lot of fear that the elections would result in violence, and a lot of energy was put into ensuring this would not happen. For example, the Church led a “peace march” and the State organized a “peace pact” between candidates. With the exception of a few incidents, the presidential election ran very smoothly. The parliamentary election is going to take place on July 7, and people fear that there is a greater chance of violence then, as the stakes are higher (the president is more or less a ceremonial

position). If those elections are peaceful and there are no other major problems, the UN peacekeeping mission will leave the country at the end of the year.

In August I plan to move out of the capital to a town called Keraras, where, in 1983, there were a series of massacres of the local population after the killing of 14 Indonesian soldiers. I want to look at how memory is operating on the local, as well as at the national level.

Well, I just wanted to say hi and touch base. I hope everything is going well in San Diego and with the International Center. Hope to hear from you soon.

*Amy Rothschild*

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*This letter from Amy Rothschild, a 2009 Friends Scholarship recipient, has led to further exchanges in which we discussed how countries handle national identity and deal with the politics of memory. — Scholarship Committee Chair*

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Dear Ruth,

I'm happy to inform you that, thanks in large part to the generosity of the Friends of the International Center scholarship, I was just able to complete three weeks of field research in Dublin, Ireland. I hope that you will relay my message and gratitude to the other Friends.



Dan at Glendaloug in County Wicklow

The timing of my trip overlapped with a conference I was serendipitously invited to attend about parliamentary politics. The conference was held in the Irish parliament buildings (The Houses of the *Oireachtas*) and caused quite a stir: one of our roundtable panel sessions, which was held in the *Seanad* (Senate) chamber, was covering the topic of whether such upper chambers ought to be abolished or reformed. Needless to say, some senators were not amused, and it created somewhat of a media scene! Ironically, some of the reaction from senators may have reinforced ideas that the chamber ought to be done away with, although in the end the panel proceeded as planned, senators attended and gave their opinions, and everyone seemed satisfied with the event. My dissertation advisor at UCSD, Professor **Kaare Strøm**, gave the plenary address, which was broadcast live on the parliament website.

In addition to the conference activities, I was able to meet with a dozen members of the more important lower chamber (called the *Dáil* in Ireland) and party organization officials for interviews. I was also able to collect much-needed historical elections data that I was unable to locate previously. These interviews and data will be a tremendous help as I revise my dissertation next year (during a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford) to include more on the Irish case.

Thanks again to the Friends and best wishes,  
*Dan Smith*

# FALL SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

## SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 11 Full Board Meeting

## OCTOBER

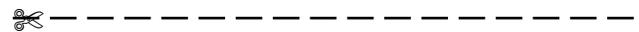
Sunday 7 Membership Social  
Tuesday 9 Executive Board Meeting  
Tuesday 23 ArtPower! Community Supper: Congolese  
Saturday 27 Family Weekend/Scholarship Benefit: Sri Lankan Ethnic Dinner

## NOVEMBER

Tuesday-Friday 13-16 International Education Week  
Tuesday 13 Executive Board Meeting

## DECEMBER

Friday 7 Resale Shop Holiday Sale  
Friends Sponsor Friday Café  
Tuesday 11 Executive Board Meeting  
Holiday Lunch: Showcase Friends Scholarship Recipients



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