President’s Message

This time in the Friends calendar is one of my favorites because I am given the honor of serving on the Scholarship Committee and thereby provided a window into the fascinating lives of UC San Diego’s undergraduate and graduate students. It is no surprise that there is a striking difference between the applications of those still open to the world of possibilities (undergraduates) and those whose passions have more fully developed and are quickly stacking up amazing accomplishments (graduates).

Through the students’ applications I learn about the very real challenges facing too many of our students: financial burdens (the amount of debt accrued is a sad reflection on the cost of education in our country), food insecurity (though ameliorated by campus efforts), histories of family struggles (from fractured families to immigrant challenges), and all-too-many personal challenges (health, abuse, sexual identity). What does not surprise me is the fortitude and resilience evidenced by the students’ achievements academically, socially, and financially.

Our scholarship recipients are the best of an incredible sampling of the talented students attending our university and I thank YOU, our members, for providing support to these very deserving individuals.

Reading about the students’ achievements and aspirations cannot but inspire confidence in the future as they contemplate careers that did not exist and solutions that would have sounded more like science fiction than viable possibilities during my college days. Reading the graduate students’ applications is akin to attending mini-courses in a broad variety of subjects, that leave me feeling fully sated and more informed about subjects that I never studied and/or that have evolved so far from my studies. The integration of computers and technology in nearly all (if not all) disciplines makes clearer the need to integrate technology, including programming, in elementary schools nationwide.

May is also the month of our Annual Membership Meeting and Scholarship Awards Dinner (Tuesday, May 22) that brings so many of you together with our talented
students. This inter-generational connecting always makes me happy and, from all I have observed over the years, it has everyone feeling good.

Students are grateful for the face-to-face connections they make with you knowing that you have chosen to invest in their future. For many, this public validation of their decision to study abroad and/or pursue their chosen graduate discipline is critical. While I wish that every Friends member would/could attend our May 22nd Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, our new venue has limited seating and our scholarship recipients is a growing number, so if you are interested in attending, please make your reservations quickly since seating will sadly be limited.

Regardless of your attendance, I ask that each of you cast your vote to approve, or disapprove, the 2018-19 proposed Slate of Officers (see proxy statement on the back page).

Katya
Katya Newmark, presFIC@ucsd.edu

Wednesday Coffee

Mornings at Wednesday Coffee are often devoted to doing fun projects. On April 10, under the tutelage of Mayra Nevarez, participants made miniature piñatas.

Family Orientation
—by Nancy Homeyer

During March and early April, we welcomed 14 international newcomers in Family Orientation. We currently have four Friends serving as local presenters and five international presenters. The locals are Barbara Fitzsimmons, Joan Adamo, Eileen Tozer, and me. The internationals are Emma Forin, Junko Takemasa, Mariko Hattori, Mayra Nevarez, and Tuktuki Bhattacharya. We are coming on a need to reprint our Welcome! booklet and are in the midst of updating it.
Cultural Mash-Up: 
Annual Membership Dinner and Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Our 2018 Annual Membership Meeting, held together with our Scholarship Awards Ceremony, will take place on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room located on the ground floor of the Student Services Center (between UCSD Town Square and Matthews Quad). This year’s theme will celebrate cultural mash-ups, from our food to our diverse student scholarship recipients. I am confident that you will be pleasantly surprised.

In addition to hearing a few words from Dean Kirk Simmons and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Jeff Orgera, this year’s guest speaker, John Moore, Dean of Undergraduate Education, former Muir College Provost, and Professor of Linguistics, will share his insights about the significance of international education. And, to share about the impact of Friends scholarships, we will hear from Charlotte Beall, earning her Ph.D. in climate science at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Michaela Juels, an undergraduate earning her degree in physiology & neuroscience.

The cost for attending the annual event is $20; reservations must be made online by Friday, May 11, at https://FICAnnualDinner2018.eventbrite.com.

Please note there is limited seating, so I encourage you to make your reservation as soon as possible. If you have trouble with the online process, please contact me at icfriends.ucsd.edu.

A brief business meeting will be held to elect the officers for 2018-19, as proposed by Elisabeth Marti, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Scholarship Committee Chair Ruth Newmark will introduce the Friends Scholarship Awardees for 2018.

I thank Ruth Newmark for her inspiring leadership and championing efforts; the Friends Scholarship Committee that was hard-pressed to select this year’s awardees from a highly competitive and record number of applicants; our many donors (both financial and in-kind); the supportive volunteers engaged in activities that raise money that contribute to the Friends scholarship program; and our faithful university colleagues who continue to support our mission.

We look forward to seeing YOU, our Friends and supporters, as we come together to celebrate the many benefits of cultural integration!

Katya

Resale Shop
—by Marion Spors

We had lots of action/work in March as the two rooms in the back had to be emptied and the rest of the Shop prepared for the upcoming changes of the student group moving into an area little used by Friends. We worked with the helpful Ken Tomory (Student Retention & Success) and the very fun First Gen team, and everything worked out quite well, except for the light switches. We are hopeful that the electrician will fix this problem soon.
Donations

When in March, Matthew Costello was asked what he would like for his birthday, he responded with typical modesty: “Nothing.” But pressed a bit more, he said: “I don’t need anything. Please suggest that donations be made to the Friends Ruth Newmark Scholarship Fund.” We thank Matthew and his well-wishers: Brindan Byrne, Michael Sim, Sally Byrne & Joaquin Flores, Danièle Rodé & Kenneth McKeown, Jean & Jeff Selzer, and Cathy & John Wallace for their thoughtful gifts.

Friends are immensely grateful to Barbara & Jerry Fitzsimmons for continuing to fund a scholarship in memory of their respective mothers.

Laurette Verbinski, too, continues to support Friends projects. In making her reservation for the April Friends Dinner Social, she added this note: “What’s not needed for the dinner can go as a donation.”

The special gift from the Peacemakers Fund deserves far more than a simple acknowledgment. Please read about this exceptionally handsomely written article below.

Friends Scholarships
—by Ruth Newmark

March and April are the months when the Friends Scholarship Committee reviews applications for our spring scholarships. Just in time to allow Friends to increase the number of designated awards, we received a significant gift from the Peacemakers Fund at The San Diego Foundation. It came at the request of Andrew Mundt and Donna (Davida) Huchel, the latter a friend of Carol Robertson, who, knowing of Davida’s interest in international education from their joint work in NAFSA: Association of International Educators, had invited Davida to join her at the Friends African-themed Ethnic Dinner last fall.

Davida enjoyed the congenial atmosphere and was impressed by the talks of the two Friends scholarship recipients: Inbok Rhee, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science conducting research in Kenya, and Bannet Muhoozi, a medical student planning to participate in an ultrasound training project in Uganda (where he was born). Also that evening, Carol introduced me to Davida, explaining that I was the chair of the Friends Scholarship Committee, suggesting that we might get together.

When both Davida and Andrew Mundt came to my house, I told them about the Friends great scholarship program, pointed to some of the letters from scholarship recipients in our Newsletter, and showed them the program of our 2017 Scholarship Awards Dinner that lists far more than the names of that year’s recipients, but illustrates well the Friends outreach. We discussed our corporate status and I assured them that Friends was incorporated as a non-profit educational charitable trust with the status of an officially recognized UC San Diego support group. For their part, Andrew, whose father originated the Peacemakers Fund, and Davida told me about their fund’s charge.

Not long thereafter, I learned that Friends had received a $25,000 grant “to fund scholarships for UCSD graduate students traveling abroad for research, study, or field work for advancement of peace, justice and/or development.”

This unexpected windfall and the generous contributions from our many other donors, including UCSD’s Graduate Division, Medical School, Student Affairs, Study-Abroad Office, and Financial Aid Office that partner with Friends, not to forget the income from the Friends Resale Shop, Ethnic Dinners, and smaller fundraisers, will allow Friends to make 64 scholarship awards this year: 30 graduate students @ $2,000; 4 to medical students, also @ $2,000; and 40 @ $1,500 to undergraduates studying abroad. This amounts to a total of $128,000!

I hope that you are as proud as I am that there is such great appreciation and support of the Friends scholarship program.

Please join us at the Friends Membership Dinner on May 22 to meet our many remarkable, new scholarship recipients and to hear from two of last year’s recipients: Charlotte Beall, a SIO doctoral candidate, who wrote: “the FIC support helped me fully participate in an unusual research cruise that was a defining experience of my graduate program,” and Michaela Jueis, recipient of the Friends Betty Burton Scholarship, a Physiology & Neuroscience major, who studied in Denmark.
Craft Circle
—by Jennie Chin

Tuesday Craft Circle continues to provide an opportunity for participants to work on a variety of skills such as sewing, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, and on small quilting projects, under the direction of Lynn Jahn and Mary Woo, who both help and educate the participants.

On a recent Craft Circle, several of us got together to enjoy an outing to a buffet lunch at the Sufi Mediterranean Cuisine restaurant on Balboa Avenue. For a number of us, this was an introduction to the world of Persian cuisine. Lynn Jahn, Mary Woo, Mira Vendler, Jei Yoon Park, Sung Won Park, Sara Khan, Emma Forin, and I attended. At lunch, we talked about how the various spices and ingredients used in our cooking styles are reflected in our cooking culture. It was a lovely exchange of how we handle very spicy food to milder tasting dishes. It was definitely a fun conversation and, most of all, good company.

Visiting an American Home

In an attempt to offer international scholars and spouses an opportunity to see how we live in San Diego, Elisabeth Marti, the coordinator of the Friends Visiting an American Home program, pairs international newcomers with members of the San Diego community.

Reports Elisabeth: “I appreciate greatly that Mel Green again hosted a visitor (from Hong Kong) without a car and was willing to pick her up on campus. Many thanks also to Katya Newmark, who, with her busy schedule, volunteered to host a family from Canada.”

Hospitality of this sort can take different forms. Most often hosts invite one or two people for lunch; however, in March, Nikki Waters and Karen Davis joined forces hosting, at the home of Karen and Tom Davis, a group of people, most with some connection to Japan. Nikki provided these details:

“Eleven people attended, including Takahito and Mina Osako, the UCSD internationals. Two of the eleven were from Japan and live in San Diego (Konika works at Monte Vista High School, graduated from SDSU, and came to the U.S. when she was in high school; Mika works for Tokay Company in Poway). Zach and Cindy (friends of Karen and Tom Davis) had just returned from Japan after spending several weeks there with Konika and her family. Mina and Taka were very animated and joined in the lively conversation. We had planned the luncheon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and everyone finally left at 5:45!”

Summing up, Nikki wrote: “All the credit goes to Karen who had the brilliant idea to open her home and invite others that had relocated from Japan to share their experiences and help make Mina and Taka comfortable. It took a while for us all to get together, but it was worth the wait.”

Judging from Mina’s thank-you note, the Japanese honored guests were in full agreement. “Thank you very much for inviting us to your great party today. We were very happy to talk with you and your friends and we had a very good time. Today was one of the best days we had in San Diego! All the foods were so delicious, especially your eggs. We would like to continue keeping in touch with you.”

Explaning what brought them to UCSD, Mina wrote: “My husband, Takahito Osako, is a candidate of Masters of Advanced Studies in International Affairs at the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy. He works for The Boston Consulting Group in Tokyo and is funded by his company to study here. I came with him and really enjoy my life here.”

With more and more international scholars coming to UCSD, the program needs more hosts. “Please talk to your friends and neighbors and find out if they would be willing to host,” pleads Elisabeth.

You may contact Elisabeth at hostFIC@ucsd.edu.

Friends Volunteer Hours for March 2018
846 = 4.81 FTEs
As the University as a whole moves towards zero carbon emissions, UCSD Housing•Dining•Hospitality (HDH) has taken on the challenge of expanding our own sustainability efforts. As a player in the food service industry, we decided that solving the most demanding issues that face a food service business would enable us to make the greatest impact on our local, and even global, community.

Our specific goals revolved around reducing food waste, offering eco-friendly food options and supporting sustainable and ethical agricultural businesses.

According to research on the effects of waste in landfills, food left to decompose in landfills accounts for a third of all methane emissions. To make matters worse, methane is among the most potent greenhouse gases, 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Responding to the research, we have made our management of food waste a top priority. Given that the best way to reduce waste is to prevent it in the first place, our first initiative was to switch to an “A la Carte” style meal plan. In this buy-as-you-go model, students tend to purchase only the food they will realistically eat as opposed to an “All You Care to Eat” plan, where students are far more likely to overestimate how much food they will eat.

As a result of our switch, we still offer students a wide variety of food options, but we reduce the food that students waste per meal. In addition to preventing waste on the side of the students, our dining halls practice food preparation techniques that prevent back-of-the-house food waste. For example, many of our stations cook students’ meals to order, preventing the dining halls from producing food that may never be ordered.

For food that is not made to order, the chefs predict the amount of food to make based on metric reports of past purchasing patterns, so that a reasonable amount
is made. All these efforts combine to prevent food waste in the front and backside of our dining halls.

While we have made strides in preventing food waste, some food waste is inevitable. But that doesn’t mean it has to go to the landfill. Partnering with local organizations and businesses, we have implemented several food diversion practices that repurpose food and nearly eliminate our contribution of food waste to landfills. Working with the San Diego Rescue Mission, Triton Food Pantry, and Food Recovery Network, we donate over 18,000 lbs of food per academic year for these organizations to address food security needs of students and our greater San Diego community.

To prevent food scraps and other waste that cannot be donated from entering landfills, our dining halls send 100% of back-of-house food waste (nearly 230 tons per year) to our local Miramar Greenery to be composted. From our meal plans and proper food preparation practices, to donations and composting, HDH has found ways to greatly reduce our carbon footprint, while serving our campus and San Diego communities.

Beyond food waste, another front of HDH’s sustainability efforts is to provide students with responsibly sourced and environmentally conscious food. We recognize that certain foods like meat and dairy degrade the environment far more than fruits and vegetables. This disparity stands as a reason for many students to adopt a vegan or vegetarian diet. Honoring their lifestyle choices, we created an entirely vegan dining hall, Roots, along with many other options throughout the dining halls to provide a full menu that accommodates these eco-conscious diets.

Along with a variety of healthy, ecofriendly menu options, many foods sold at the markets give students the power to purchase from businesses that practice sustainability. We sell cage-free eggs from local farms and free-range chicken farmed sustainably. In regards to produce, 58% percent of our produce comes in daily, fresh from local farms. Buying locally reduces the carbon emissions required to transport the produce and eliminates the need for chemicals commonly used to preserve food in long transportation.

As a natural outcome of providing students with responsibly sourced and ecofriendly foods, HDH supports those businesses that practice such sustainability. EcoGrounds is a perfect example.

College students drink a lot of coffee, so we wanted to ensure that we offered coffee from a business in line with our own efforts. EcoGrounds cares deeply for the environmental and economic sustainability of the regions where their coffee is grown, abiding by Fair Trade practices long before the establishment of the Fair Trade certification. Furthermore, for every pound of coffee purchased by HDH, EcoGrounds gives $0.15 back to the Triton Food Pantry. After thousands of pounds of coffee, this makes for a significant contribution to a program that sustains our campus community.

While all of our accomplishments have culminated to a significant improvement in the sustainability of our operations, we will stay hard at work to improve the impact we have on our local and global community.

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**Explorations**

Friday Chat, which meets weekly on Friday mornings, from 10-12, in the Dance Hall, does more than chat. Under the enterprising direction of Cindy Tozer, the group goes on periodic outings, as they did in early March, when they and representatives from Tuesday’s Gus’ Conversation Table went on an exploration of the campus, heading to the Fallen Star, part of UCSD’s Stuart art installation collection. Docent (and Friends member) Gayle Barsamian offered an informative tour of the house that sits high up in the air, perched askew, and addresses notions of home and dislocation, reflecting the South Korean artist Do Ho Suh’s own experience of migration and feelings of displacement.

“On a busy Saturday,” reported Cindy, “we had 13 walkers for 4 1/2 hours, hiking in Balboa Park and the neighborhoods, going over five pedestrian bridges that span the canyons there. I’m leading a walk in Torrey Pines state park on Saturday, April 14. It’s nice that spouses also have signed up for the Saturday excursions.”
Scholarship Letters

Please note that in the interest of featuring the breadth of pursuits of the Friends many scholarship recipients, a number of the following reports have been greatly shortened and edited.—Scholarship Committee Chair

An Australian Life-changing Journey
Of all the college experiences, studying abroad must be one of the most exciting and character defining. There is so much to learn as an American, as a world citizen, and as a person when you venture beyond your borders and live in a different culture. This past summer, I was honored to receive a scholarship from the Friends of the International Center to study abroad in Australia for a global seminar in cognitive science; an adventure that will stay with me forever. I still remember the excitement when I opened the e-mail from Ruth Newmark, Scholarship Committee Chair, informing me of this generous support, turning this hope and dream of going to Australia into something real. What instantly struck me was that this scholarship didn’t come from some faceless government institution or corporation, but was made possible from the philanthropy of real people who believed in me, even though I had never met them. The Friends of the International Center made this experience possible for me, and I can’t express my gratitude enough.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the hiking and natural wonders, including the Blue Mountain National Park. Named after the blue haze from Mie scattering accentuated by the volatile terpenoids emitted from the vast forests of eucalyptus, there are dozens of spectacular waterfalls and countless hiking trails. With the 100km train ride taking less than two hours and under $5 round trip, I spent three incredible days, seeing all I could. This was only to be topped by a whopping 35 km one day hike made along the Royal Coastal Track. Although no one wanted to join me at 3am to reach the trailhead for some reason, this was one of the most scenic and incredible hikes I’ve ever done, all along the ocean cliffside. I saw wild kangaroos, kookaburras, and lyrebirds, and countless other animals, and the geography was simply astounding. Even just walking in the Sydney public parks, there were thousands of exotic birds such as ibis, cockatoos, and countless others.

Seeing the science and research aspects were also very helpful, especially with the level of collaborative research done between UCSD and Queensland University, which we toured.

Overall, this was a remarkable and life-changing journey, and I am so thankful to everyone at the Friends of the International Center who made it possible, not only for me but for hundreds of other students over the years. It has touched my life in so many ways, and I will never look at the world in the same way again, incorporating a greater world perspective and continuing my quest for further travel. In this spirit, this Spring, I will be joining a service trip to Belize through the ERC Break Away Global Service (BAGS) program. By giving to others less fortunate across the globe, I hope to give back a little of what has been so generously offered to me. To everyone at FIC, thank you, with all my heart.

Robert Walter
Eleanor Roosevelt College, Neuroscience major

Liver Cancer Research
It was a great honor to receive the Friends of International Fellowship in 2017 and become part of the Friends family. The fellowship encouraged me to more confidently pursue my research in bioengineering.

My research project on building a microscale fibrotic liver platform is coming to conclusion and has been submitted for journal publication. I have found that liver cancer cells in a stiff environment have higher invasive potential, i.e. are more likely to have metastasis. These findings can be used to explain the clinical observation of high liver cancer occurrence and progression in cirrhotic liver, where unusually stiff matrix is present. In the future, such platforms can be used to test for anti-cancer and anti-metastasis drugs on human liver cancer cells outside of the body.

In addition to research, I have been actively involved in helping new UCSD students, both out-of-state and international. I helped with new graduate student admission to the Bioengineering Department and helped new students and international visiting scholars explore their research interests and match these with our lab. Furthermore, I have been mentoring high school students coming to explore science work in university. I enjoy these sharing and mentoring experiences a lot!

In summary, the past year has been very fruitful. I really appreciate the encouragement and support derived from the Friends of International Center Fellowship.

Michelle Xuanyi Ma, China
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Bioengineering
Diane Lin Scholarship
Coral Bleaching
I am very grateful to the Friends of the International Center (FIC) for providing me with funds that helped support my fieldwork at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Caribbean Panama, where I conducted six months of studies on coral bleaching. Coral bleaching is the phenomenon of corals turning white in color due to the loss of their metabolically significant dinoflagellate endosymbionts (Symbiodinium).

While bleaching is increasing in frequency and severity and is known to impact coral health, very little is known about how coral bleaching directly affects the metabolism of the coral host. The research that the FIC Scholarship helped support examined the effects of coral bleaching on coral metabolism, and led to important findings that suggest the susceptibility of different coral species to bleaching is linked to their intrinsic metabolic responses.

Receiving the FIC Scholarship helped cover necessary research expenses for my fieldwork, contributing to my short-term goal of conducting top research, as well as my long-term goal of working at the intersection of science and policy.

Because of my FIC scholarship and other funds, I was able to complete my fieldwork on time, which constituted the last chapter for my Ph.D., which I completed in the late fall. I am currently working for the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee on ocean policy, as a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow.

Lauren Linsmayer
Ph.D. Candidate, Marine Biology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Dear Friends of the International Center,
I’m so grateful for having been a recipient of your fellowship. As a graduate student, pursuing a career in writing, opportunities for developing my own line of research are not common, but thanks to the Friends of the International Center, I was able to start my journey to what is going to be my MFA thesis: the manuscript of a novel, to be precise. Such support makes you confident about your intellectual labor and the value of your imagination.

Thanks to the funds provided by the Friends of the International Center fellowship, and the support of my department, I had the opportunity, during the 2017 summer, to focus entirely on my project, that means that I was able to travel back to my home country, do some research relevant to my novel, and write almost everyday.

Now my novel—that is in the early stages—is not just an idea, but also a reality. I do believe in the power of making ideas real, especially when you are young and full of ideas.

My hopes now are on finishing this project, and I hope one day, when it gets published, to publicly thank the generosity and kindness of the Friends of the International Center. The financial help a young fiction writer receives is rarely forgotten—you just have to open a book and see it for yourself in the acknowledgements page.

¡Muchas gracias!

Valentina Calvache,
Colombia
Department of Literature

Dear Friends,

My background is a B.A. (Hons) in Theatre from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. I am currently a 3rd year MFA acting student. As the only foreign actor in the program at the moment, I have an extra task of learning American English. Speech work has been my main focus since I first arrived at UCSD.

I was awarded a Friends of the International Center scholarship the 2nd year of my MFA. The award allowed me to participate in the Voice and Speech Trainers Association 31st Annual Conference in Singapore in the summer of 2017. At the conference, I had a chance to attend lectures, panels, and workshops by renowned keynote speakers and experienced artists from all over the world, including being one of the speakers in the panel, Global Clarity!

The conference opened up my world once again and I learned so much. I was so inspired by each and every section I attended that I remembered why I wanted to become an artist/actor in the first place. I wish to thank the Friends of the International Center for this opportunity—it has had profound impact on me as a person, an artist, and an MFA student/actor.

Kittiporn (Mo) Rodvanich
Department of Theatre & Dance

Medical Mission in Peru
After completing my clinical clerkships, I was eager to put my newly-learned medical skills towards a meaningful purpose. I chose to pursue my passion for public health abroad in Peru as part of Kaiser Permanente’s Global Health Program.

I went to a rural village in Andahuaylillas, Peru and was able to interview and assess nearly 100 patients under the supervision of licensed physicians. I was also able to hone my minor procedural skills by providing dozens of shoulder and knee injections. More importantly, since many of our patient
Dear Friends

When I was a young child, I grew up reading the Grimms’ fairy tales and was fascinated, like many, with castles and forests. This sparked an interest in Germany that led me to take German as a second language and ultimately led to an opportunity to study on EAP in Germany.

The Friends of International Center Scholarship allowed me to travel and stay in Berlin throughout the past summer. Even though it was more expensive to do a home-stay visit, your scholarship allowed me to have that immersive experience. Being surrounded by German and exploring that city with locals turned my summer into one of the most significant times of my life!

The atmosphere of being in that other country, making friends from around the world, enjoying great beer and tasty food really broadened my appreciation for life.

One of the touching moments of this trip was visiting the Holocaust Memorial. It was a very somber reflection on Germany’s efforts to remember and to repair a rather scarred history.

On a lighter note, attached is a photo of me standing in front of the DDR Museum, while I was being a tourist.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity that you, the Friends of the International Center, have provided me. I will forever cherish the memories and the friends that I made studying abroad.

Joel Erberich
Muir College, Human Biology major

encounters took place in homes and abandoned facilities, this mission helped me realize the importance of taking a good clinical history and performing a thorough physical exam—skills that will be extremely useful throughout my medical career.

Susan Seav, School of Medicine, M.D. Candidate, class of 2018

My present research interest includes investigating the continuum mechanics of deformable bodies particularly in slender rod-like structures. The idea is to model the rod or cable-like structure by means of a framed space curve. My research focus is on developing and improving the kinematics (geometric description) of rod-like objects using Cosserat rod theory, as well as certain applications that we have developed in this regard.

I received the Ruth Newmark Fellowship at a time when I did not have a research grant. Not only did the fellowship help me financially, but it also was a great motivation and confidence-building factor. The efforts put by Friends of the International Center to promote research, international diversity, and multi-culturalism is very impressive, and it definitely is a key factor in my societal growth. I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of the FIC family.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Ruth Newmark and the President of Friends of the International Center, Mrs. Katya Newmark, for being such encouraging and supportive personalities. I am also thankful to my advisor, Professor Michael Todd for his support and guidance.

Mayank Chadha,
Nicobar Islands, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Structural Engineering

Among the acknowledgments at his March 6, 2018, Ph.D. qualifying exam, Mayank listed the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for funding a large part of his research, and also the Friends of the International Center “for awarding me with the Ruth Newmark Fellowship and their constant support.”

EAP in Yokahama

“Thank you so much for your scholarship and the opportunity of letting me explore Japan without having to worry about the financial ramifications. I know that for a lot of people this is something that is easily overlooked, but it really meant the world to me.”—Daisy Velasco, Global & International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University, Eleanor Roosevelt College, majors in Political Science and History

Australia on EAP

My study abroad program was amazing. How fortunate I am to have been able to see so much of what I have seen: things like parrotfish grazing on the Great Barrier Reef, koalas sleeping in the heat of the day, and mother kangaroos carrying their Joeys in the mist of the morning. I was also able to research on the Great Barrier Reef, which was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

I used your scholarship to take every opportunity I could to make my experience as rich as I could, and I couldn’t have asked for a better one. Thank you for the doors this scholarship opened up for me.

Dylan Sarish
Sixth College
Marine Biology major
Dear Friends of the International Center,
As a beneficiary of a 2017 Friends of the International Center fellowship, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who are involved in supporting research of international students at UCSD. The money that I received for the FIC allowed me to accomplish my research goals by giving me access to computing resources, as well as by giving me a boost in confidence by acknowledging my efforts.

My research in the Bioengineering Department is focused in using engineering methods to try to understand the chain of events that allow a cancer cell to spread to distant organs. This process of spreading is known as metastasis and it accounts for the large majority of cancer related deaths. Thus, the understanding how a cell is capable of leaving the initial site of tumor occurrence and travel all the way to a distant organ [from the breast to the lungs, for example], is of critical importance to find novel treatment strategies for different cancer types. To tackle this problem, I use novel 3-dimensional cell culture techniques combined with microscopy to dissect the strategies used by cancer cells to move and invade.

As a result of our investigations, I was able to identify a mechanism by which the density of the environment in which cancer cells grow can determine their transformation to a highly invasive prototype known as vascular mimicry. It is believed that cells undergo this transformation to hijack the host tissue vasculature, and therefore be able to more effectively get into the bloodstream and travel to distant organs. This result was published in the publication Nature Communications and was widely reported by several news outlets.

I certainly think that a key determinant for me to be able to accomplish goals like these is the highly supportive research environment at UCSD, which in my case was strengthened by the Friends of the International Center fellowship.

Daniel Ortiz Vélez from Colombia
Ph.D. Candidate, Bioengineering, Luna Fung Scholarship
May 2018

Friends of the International Center
Friendship • Scholarships • Hospitality
Supporting international education at UC San Diego
and the International Center for 57 years

PROXY STATEMENT
Please complete and e-mail to Friends of the International Center, c/o Parliamentarian, icfriends@ucsd.edu, in time to be received by Friday, May 18, 2018.

I/We, (please print)___________________________________________________, hereby state that I/we am/are members in good standing (our dues are paid), and give Katya Newmark, the current President of the Friends of the International Center, or (print)__________________________, a Friends member in good standing, permission to vote my/our vote at her/his discretion for the proposed slate of officers at the May 22, 2018 Friends of the International Center Annual Membership Meeting.

Signed ____________________________________________  Date ____________________

If you have no access to e-mail, please be aware that it may take 2-3 weeks for your vote to reach our campus address if you use the U.S. postal service: Friends of the International Center, c/o Parliamentarian; University of California, San Diego; International Center #0018; 9500 Gilman Drive; La Jolla, CA 92093-0018.