CFIS Honors CHARLENE MARTIN as Community Friend of the Year

CFIS is pleased to announce that Charlene Martin was named this year’s Community Friend of the Year. The announcement was made at the CFIS Annual Meeting on June 4, 2017.

Charlene has been involved with Community Friends since 1969, when Fran Drake, then Assistant Director of Blaisdell Institute for the Study of World Cultures and Religions, convened a committee of campus and community people who met over the next several years to discuss the needs of “foreign students” and the development of mutual cross-cultural opportunities.

Fran Drake conceived of a community organization of volunteers, committed to international understanding and friendship, to help with funding and staffing a larger program. She asked Charlene Martin to be the founding president of the new group and Community Friends of International Students was born.

Charlene literally put CFIS on the map of the Claremont Colleges. Her staunch advocacy of both the organization and I-Place remains highly admired among the 7Cs, its administrators, and the Claremont community at large. A retired CMC administrator, Charlene’s vision and sensitivity of the academic and social needs of students who study at the Claremont Colleges from countries abroad, laid the foundation for International Programs at I-Place and linked to it the support of CFIS.

Under Charlene’s leadership, CFIS created many programs of international education including Sunday Suppers, the International Banquet, and Thursday Lunch and Conversations. Charlene continued in this volunteer capacity as the founding president until 1977 when she applied to be director of the office, now renamed International Place, originally located in a garage bungalow at 1111 Dartmouth. Charlene served as the Director of I-Place until her retirement in 2008.

Charlene continues to be a vital contributor to our community. To name just a few of her activities since retirement: she has served as Vice-president and Program Chair of United Nations Association of Pomona Valley; served on the Board of the Claremont After School Programs including as a CLASP tutor; been on committees for League of Women Voters, and served as a host for numerous international students. In addition, she continues with an extension of the wives program, and carries on her desire to enhance international understanding and friendship.
From the Desk of the Co-Presidents

Joan & Neil Gerard

Greetings to all from your co-presidents. As the semester begins, we reflect on our opening and look ahead to this school year. This year saw the Colleges pilot a new program, with students from the 5 undergraduate colleges moving directly into their residence halls. The students from Claremont Graduate University, Keck Graduate Institute, and Pitzer Exchange took part in the Host Family Program; however, this had an impact on the number of host families needed. We thank and praise our host families who helped to provide a smooth transition to Claremont for those students. Community Friends is indebted to this wonderful cadre of families who are so warm and welcoming to our new arrivals.

CFIS Board members took part in the two Information Fairs, welcoming all international students to Claremont. We had over 80 students sign up to receive more information on our organization as well as a large number of students requesting a conversation partner. Please look for an email from Katya Fairbanks requesting volunteers to serve in this capacity. On August 20, Beth Jager, Special Events Chair, hosted an informal parents’ luncheon for parents accompanying their students to Harvey Mudd, Scripps, and CGU. Parents and families were able to socialize and spend a relaxing lunch hour with us.

The Board of Community Friends is working diligently on planning and programming for the year. We look forward to our next event, a Dessert and Ice Cream Social, planned for all host families, past and present, as well as for all the international students, to be held on September 24, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in McKenna Auditorium. If you have hosted students in the past or this year, this is a great opportunity to reconnect with them. Please watch for an email with more information on this event. The Holiday Party in December is already being planned and organized.

The CFIS budget has been approved for the year and a Long Range Planning Committee is being organized to examine the role of CFIS and its programs and services in light of the recent changes and the new focus of International Place.

Members of the Board 2017-2018

Officers

Co-Presidents: Joan & Neil Gerard
Vice-President: Linda & Peter Saeta
Secretary: Lindsey Sasaki
Treasurer: Todd Sasaki
Nominating Chair: Claudia Lennear

Directors & Coordinators

Host Family: Barbara Rugeley
Membership:
Fund-Raising: Bertil Lindblad
Newsletter Co-Editors: Helen Young, Claudia Lennear, Catherine D’Emilio
Special Events: Beth Hartnett Jager
Support Council: John Faranda
Conversation Partners: Katya Fairbanks

Members-at-Large
Renuka Balakrishnan, Juan Matute, Mitra Nag, David Tanenbaum, Rita Wodinsky

Community Support Council
Sandra Baldonado, Donna & Dave Bedell, Norma Bliss-Jacoob, Laura Bollinger, Deb and John Corey, Frank D’Emilio, Barbara and Vasu Dev, Emily and Michael Fay, Sandra Flores, Carol Gil, Helaine and Steve Goldwater, Betty Haglebarger, Brenda & John Hill, Anita Hughes, Sue Keith, Pat Lightfoot, Tamara & John Mark Lindvall, Susan Lominska, Charlene Martin, Marc Massoud, Dean McHenry, Swapan & Mitra Nag, Deede and Larry Olson, Claire Oxtoby, Lissa Petersen, Diann Ring, Marguerite Royse, Linda & Herb Scott, Greg Shapton, Judith and David Tanenbaum, Ellen and Marshall Taylor, Edie Young, Cindy Walkenbach

International Place Staff
Director: Jessica Alampay
Administrative Assistant: Sue Kerns
Assistant Director: Chrystal Orozco
Program Coordinator: Jenna Bustamante

Contact Information
I-Place Office: (909) 607-4571; 621-8344
Website: iplace.claremont.edu/community-friend/cfis/
E-mail: cfisclaremont@gmail.com
YOU ARE INVITED!
CFIS and International Student Reunion
Sunday, September 24, 2017
1:00—3:00 p.m.
CMC McKenna Auditorium

We invite all CFIS members and international students to join us for a special dessert reception in celebration of the vibrant international community here in Claremont. We hope this gathering will serve as an opportunity for CFIS members, conversation partners, host families past and present, and our international students to reconnect. Opportunity drawings, sweet treats, finger foods, and entertainment will be provided. Host families are encouraged to invite and attend with their students.

RSVPs are requested for this event. Please visit: http://evite.me/ksCs7zj2p9 to confirm your attendance by Friday, Sept. 15, 2017.

We hope you can join us as we honor more then 40 years of friendship with our international students.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Kaan Aydogmus, an Industrial Engineering student, has traveled to Claremont from Ankara, Turkey. He just completed a summer internship at Renault where his father works as an engineer. A one-semester exchange student, Kaan will spend the fall semester studying economics at Pitzer College. Board member John Faranda volunteered to serve as Kaan’s Host Family.

First time at Canter’s Deli
Ordering Matzo Ball and Chicken soup.

Above: Picking the perfect car to drive during a Pitzer semester abroad.
At right: At Grauman’s Chinese Theater, Kann photographs the footsteps of Johnny Deep.
The Annual Meeting and Dinner of Community Friends of International Students was held on Sunday, June 4, 2017. The locale of the event, Smith Center Campus at Pomona College, teemed with Board Members, international students, as well as supportive Claremont residents.

The agenda of the meeting highlighted the election of new CFIS Officers, new Board Members, approval of By-Law Amendments, grateful, but tearful, farewells to past Co-Presidents Neva Barker and Kristen Mallory, and the contributions of two illustrious Claremont Friends: Guest speaker, Lara Tiedens, ninth President of Scripps College, and Charlene Martin, a founding member of CFIS who was unanimously recognized as the 2017 Community Friend of the Year, an annual acknowledgement.

President Tiedens presented a range of interesting and forward thinking topics concerning international students which she and her administration are already addressing. At the top of her agenda, the audience was informed that proactive measures are on the table to ameliorate international student recruitment, to ensure a vibrant and competitive environment for students of international status, and to search for more amenable strategies to attract and retain world class professors.

Tiedens comes to the Claremont Colleges via a distinguished professorship at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business where she has taught an array of courses in the MBA program, Executive Education, and the PhD program, in addition to publishing widely many topics on Organizational Behavior.

Professor Tiedens, unanimously selected as President by the Scripps College Board of Trustees on June 21, 2016, holds the title of the W.M. Keck Presidential Chair, established in 1980.
The English Conversation Partner program of CFIS is a program in which international students at the Claremont Colleges sign up at I-Place to be paired with a community member to practice speaking English one-on-one once a week for one to two hours.

If you are interested, Katya Fairbanks, program coordinator, will match you with an International student who has requested a “conversation partner” and will email you the student’s contact information. You contact the student and you and the international student arrange where to meet 1 to 2 hours/week, usually at a coffee shop, the Honnold Library café, I-Place, or somewhere convenient to both of you.

Conversation Partners help international students improve their English fluency, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and ability to understand spoken English as they practice speaking with a native English speaker. These “conversations” give the international students a chance to learn about American culture and ask questions about their observations of interactions in class, on campus, in town, or on TV programs. This activity can make a huge difference over time in their spoken English and in their adjustment to life in a new culture.

Students like to learn new vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and American slang. You can suggest they keep a notebook and write down new words or idioms they hear people use in their classes, on TV, etc. and bring that to discuss every week.

Some possible topics to discuss are:
How is the student adjusting? Experiencing difficulties?
What interests does the student have?
What classes is the student taking?
Share about each other’s families
Holidays in both countries; world events; TV programs; music; travel; sports, etc.

You can also go to the following websites online.
Dave’s ESL Café  http://www.eslcafe.com/slang/list.html
Infosquares:
http://www.infosquares.com/americanslang/
Wikipedia has a good list of idioms:

Interested volunteers should contact: Katya Fairbanks at 909-624-6342 or at katyafair@yahoo.com

A Conversation Partner Experience
Shared by Joan and Neil Gerard

After years (decades actually) of serving as a host family, we offered to help as Conversation Partners. Katya Fairbanks, the CFIS committee chair, quickly assigned a Japanese graduate student Shigeki, who was here earning his M.B.A. Shige is a banker from Hiroshima and was here with his wife Yuki. After one meeting with Shige, Yuki joined in and the three of us met every week. We talked travel, politics, history, traffic laws, and everything else. Shortly we realized that the three of us shared a passion for both golf and sushi. From that point forward, some of our “meetings” were on the golf course and some at the sushi bar. More than conversation partners, they quickly became friends. They came to our house for dinner and even took part in the subterfuge as Joan planned a surprise party for me. As with hosting students, I think we gained and grew as much as our partners. May saw Shige, diploma in hand, heading home to Japan. Since then we have shared both on email and Facebook but miss our weekly sessions.

Shortly after I started meeting with Shige and Yuki, Joan was paired with Carrie, a first-year student from China studying at Harvey Mudd. She was trying to improve her already good English proficiency. The two met on campus, in dining facilities, went to supermarkets and other stores so Carrie could learn more about American food, idioms and phrases, and life. Carrie and Joan discussed this spring’s events at Harvey Mudd and Carrie shared her own unique perspective on her education and life on campus. This relationship was highlighted with Carrie’s mom visiting from their home in Nanjing. Runquing is a high school biology teacher with very limited English skill. None-the-less we had a delightful evening of fun and conversation with Carrie translating. While Joan and Neil made dinner, Runquing and Carrie brought two side dishes from their culture as a perfect complement to the meal.

As CFIS attempts to determine its future direction in light of the changes to the Hosting program, it is clear that Conversation Partners may be one of the key programs that will still be viable moving forward. If our experience is typical, it is both needed and greatly appreciated.
Thank You to Our Fall 2017 Host Families

The following families hosted international students this fall. We thank them for sharing their homes with these incoming students! All students were Pitzer Exchange students, here for 1 or 2 semesters, unless otherwise noted.

Virginia Bower, Keck student from India
Laura and Chuck Burt, CGU student from Russia
Corey Calacay, student from Italy
Donna Clarke, student from the UK
Martina Ebert and Andy Winnick, CGU student from Germany
John Faranda, student from Turkey
Neil and Joan Gerard, 2 Keck students from India and Brazil
Steven Llanusa and Glenn Miya, CGU student from China, and 2 students from the United Kingdom and France
Gwendolyn Lytle, student from Finland
Sandy Maldonado, student from the Netherlands with German citizenship
Carol-Lee Marshall and Ben DeWald, 2 students from France
John and Lynne Matute, student from Australia
Jody Mentzer, student from the Netherlands
Mitra and Swapan Nag, 2 students from Bhutan
Mary and Steve Nunez, student from Australia
Karen and Michael Rosenthal, 2 students from Spain and the United Kingdom
Barbara Rugeley and Greg Shapton, student from Germany
John and Chris St. Clair, student from Turkey
Judith and David Tanenbaum, student from Finland
Ellen and Marshall Taylor, CGU student from Taiwan
Victoria Verches, student from the United Kingdom
Aaron Whitham and Susan Brinkama, student from the Netherlands
Jan and Leslie Wilmott, student from Sweden
Eric and Susan Wong, CGU student from France

In Memoriam

Gordon Douglass  
Professor Emeritus of Economics, Pomona College.  
Tirelessly tutored several graduate international students for us and also was a member of CFIS.

Jim Merrill  
He and his wife Mary Jane had hosted many students.

We wish to convey our condolences to their families and to acknowledge their contributions to Community Friends of International Students.

Electronic News

You may view the CFIS newsletter on the I-Place website at http://iplace.claremont.edu. Click on the link for "Community Friends of International Students.”

If you want to receive the newsletter in print, or prefer not to receive the newsletter at all, please let us know by sending a message to: cfisclaremont@gmail.com
Pomona College Professor Joins CFIS Board

Returning recently to the Claremont Colleges from a collaborative research project in Barcelona, Spain, David Tanenbaum, professor of Physics and Astronomy at Pomona College since 1997, and Department Chair during the Millikan Building Project, accepted a position on the CFIS Board.

The city of Claremont, known for its backdrop of Mount Baldy, shaped the professor’s formative years as he not only grew up here, but also earned his Bachelor’s degree at Harvey Mudd College. Later, with another mountain range in the background, he pursued his masters and doctoral degrees at the University of Colorado.

Tanenbaum’s professorial published research covers a myriad of technical topics with applications in multidisciplinary fields. To name a few, he has penned papers on nanoscale patterning, microfluidics, carbon nanotubes, graphene sheets, and the fabrication and characterization of plastic solar cells.

A variety of requisite and elective courses offered by Professor Tanenbaum range from introduction to advanced Physics, including two specialized classes, A Critical Analysis of Energy Policies and Nanotechnology in Science and Fiction.

When not considering mass, trajectories, speed and gravity, David, an avid cyclist, enjoys outdoor environments in which his preferences tend towards mountains, rivers, and the wonders of natural coasts.

David and his wife support local institutions in the Claremont community such as public schools and libraries. Equally as admirable, David’s family, which includes two children, serves as a CFIS host family in welcoming international students and teachers into their home. We welcome David to the CFIS Board!

A CFIS ZOOM! FACTOR

Although Claremont is a city of many avid cyclists, Juan Matute, former President of the Pomona College Alumni Association, is one whom you can recognize zooming around town while making rounds on the multitude of safe bike paths provided in this area. At the 2017 Annual CFIS Meeting, Matute was sworn into the position of At-Large Member to the Board of Community Friends of International Students. Mr. Matute is a graduate of Pomona College class of 1963.

A Southern California native, Matute grew up in the South Bay area of Redondo Beach and Torrance. After completing his collegiate studies, he enlisted into the Army as a Lieutenant in the Corps of Combat Engineers.

After his perfunctory duties with Uncle Sam, Mr. Matute’s professional career began with Western Airlines in 1966. As American capitalism will have it, Western Airlines eventually merged with Delta Airlines in 1987, and he found his airport operations job description expanding to International Telecommunications. At this point, there was a corporate decision to move certain management to the Delta hub in Atlanta, Georgia, so his family lived there for 24 years until retirement.

Mr. And Mrs. Matute presently continue their leisure with world travels via cruise ships. When back home, between ports, in Claremont, Juan stays active with a local think tank, several discussion groups, and he maintains a Journalism / Political newsletter which is frequently published during a given week. On the same ringed finger, his Mrs. has recently joined a CFIS Special Council.

For many years, the Matutes have served CFIS as a Host Family. This year, the Claremont College community will also benefit from their additional participation on the CFIS Board.
SAVE THE DATE!

**CFIS and International Student Reunion**

**Sunday, September 24, 2017**

1:00 — 3:00 p.m.

**CMC McKenna Auditorium**

Host families are encouraged to invite and attend with their international students.

Please visit [http://evite.me/ksCs7zj2p9](http://evite.me/ksCs7zj2p9) to confirm your attendance.