



Community Friends

of International Students

International Place of The Claremont Colleges, P.O. Box 1498, Claremont, CA 91711-5905

Fall 2018

<http://iplace.claremont.edu/community-friend/cfis/>

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CFIS Honors LINDA and PETER SAETA as Community Friends of the Year

Community Friend of the Year, 2018 by Joan and Neil Gerard

The Community Friend of the Year is our highest recognition for a volunteer in service to International students. It recognizes depth and breadth of service and usually recognizes decades of service. The selection is made by an anonymous committee, and the results are transmitted to the Co-Presidents for presentation of the award. CFIS is proud to announce this year's recipients, Linda and Peter Saeta.

The Peace Corps Volunteer program is often called life-defining for its volunteers. Our recipients can certainly attest to that as they met in Togo while serving in the Peace Corps and were married soon after. Linda and Peter have continued to demonstrate their commitment to promoting peace in the world and here in the Claremont community.

Peter holds a BS in Physics from Stanford University, and a PhD from Harvard University. Prior to coming to Harvey Mudd in 1995, he was a research fellow at AT&T Bell Labs and the National Research Council. His research interests include ultrafast laser spectroscopy, the physics of semiconductors and photovoltaics. He has done water and solar projects in Kenya and spent a year living and conducting research in Strasbourg France. On that much beloved website Rate My Professor Peter is identified as well-respected and a tough grader. Some comments from his students:

"Saeta is amazing with an engaging teaching style and snarky humor." "Extremely funny!"

"He's not going to give you the answer, he's going to make you work hard for it – making you actually think!"

"Simply amazing."

Linda holds a BA in history and mathematics University of Colorado at Boulder and a Doctor of Law from Georgetown. She has taught at Claremont High School for more than twenty years and was the founding Coordinator of the CHS International Baccalaureate Program. She has been active at the school site as a member of the Leadership Council, a WASC (Western Accreditation of Schools and Colleges) chairperson, and the Math Department chairperson for many years. Linda has served on many district committees. She is a valued member of the Common Core committee. In addition, she has been active in the Claremont Faculty Association. Her colleagues state that she does not shy away from challenges; for example, she agreed to teach Advance Placement Statistics with very little notice.

Linda and Peter have hosted many international students, enjoying the ties that are formed during that time. They have been members of the CFIS Board, recently serving as Presidents-Elect. In addition, they have been willing to step in when needed as shown by this year's hosting experience. When a graduate student was in an emergency housing need, Linda and Peter opened their home for months to help this student!



CFIS is proud to recognize Linda and Peter Saeta as the recipients of the 2018 Community Friends of the Year.

Co-Presidents Message

Linda and Peter Saeta

A hearty welcome to all new international students and welcome back to those returning to Claremont for another academic year. Thank you for joining our community to enrich the experience for everyone and we look forward to meeting you. There is a lot of excitement about the upcoming year as we anticipate a closer alliance between Community Friends and International Place.

Although both born in the U.S., we are an “international couple” since we met in Togo, West Africa, while serving in the Peace Corps. On returning to Claremont from Peter’s first sabbatical in Strasbourg, we began hosting international students in 2002 and have been involved with CFIS since shortly thereafter. Linda was the inaugural director of the International Baccalaureate program at Claremont High School where she has taught mathematics since our arrival in Claremont in 1995. Peter is Professor of Physics at Harvey Mudd College.

Without question, our enthusiasm for CFIS stems from the marvelous friendships we have made with those international students we have hosted in our home as they arrive in Claremont to advance their education. As the numbers of international students at the colleges have grown, the deans have largely felt the need to house the incoming students directly. This activity has reduced the opportunity to develop these friendships during a homestay.

Following some very productive meetings this summer with Interim I-Place Director, Chrystal Orozco, and CMC Dean of Students, Sharon Basso, we are excited to launch the first International Friendship Program this Fall which should facilitate making those connections between incoming students and families who hosted home stays. This program provides the chance for community members who cannot house students to make friends with international students. Interested students and community members are paired, starting in August, and will be invited to a first dinner during the New International Student and Scholar Orientation (NISSO). We hope that all those who enjoyed the host family program—and many new members of the 7C community who haven’t hosted before—will participate in this program to bring the warmest possible welcome to the incoming students.

Besides nurturing the International Friendship Program, we will be working with Dean Basso, Chrystal, and others to help shape the future of International Place and CFIS and to explore some new ways that the community can work with I-Place to improve the international student experience. One such opportunity is to offer brief homestays at graduation time for the families of international students. Perhaps you have other good ideas? We’re eager to hear them.

Members of the Board 2018-2019 Officers

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

Directors & Coordinators

Host Family: Barbara Rugeley
Membership: Jennifer Markovski
Fund-Raising: Shelva Pause
Newsletter: Sherry Breskin, Ann Hoch,
Claudia Lennear
Special Events: Debi Evans, Joan Gerard
Support Council: John Faranda
Conversation Partners: Katya Fairbanks

Members-at-Large

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Juan Matute, Mitra Nag, David Tanenbaum,
Rita Wodinsky

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Sandra Baldonado, Donna & Dave Bedell, Norma Blissett-Jacob, 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 Hagelbarger, 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

Interim Director: Chrystal Orozco
Program Coordinator: Jenna Bustamante
Administrative Assistant: Erika Hongo

I-Place Office: (909) 607-4571
Website: iplace.claremont.edu/community-friend/cfis/
Email: iplace@cmc.edu

CFIS Contact Information

E-mail: cfisclaremont@gmail.com

You may view the CFIS newsletter at
iplace.claremont.edu/community-friend/cfis/
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

Interim Director at International Place

Chrystal Orozco, who, having served as Assistant Director, is a familiar face at I-Place. She has stepped in as Interim Director and will take the reins to coordinate with CFIS and CMC Dean of Students Susan Basso to assist foreign scholars and students from each of the 7Cs in many areas beginning with NISSO. Chrystal's team includes Jenna Bustamante, who will continue to coordinate programs, and Erika Hongo, the newest I-Place team member and administrator, who will assist them. Welcome Erika!

Jessica Alampay, who has held the position as International Place Director in recent years, has left her position to accompany her family in Turin, Italy for two years as her husband embarks on sabbatical. All that you have done for the International community of students at the Claremont Colleges is greatly appreciated, Jessica. We wish you a great adventure in Europe! Arrivederci!!

Susan Kerns, who has held a post as Administrative Assistant at International Place for many years, achieved retirement this past June 2018 and has relocated with her family to Arizona. Thank you Susan for your dedication to the International Students enrolled at the Claremont Colleges. We hope you enjoy this new phase of your life!

To reach the I-Place staff please use the following contact information:

Chrystal Orozco, Interim Director	Chrystal.Orozco@cmc.edu
Jenna Bustamante, Program Coordinator	Jenna.Bustamante@cmc.edu
Erika Hongo, Administrative Assistant	Erika.Hongo@cmc.edu

Phone (909) 607-4571 /Email: iplace@cmc.edu

An Early History of International Place

by Charlene Martin

In 1969, there were 58 international students attending the Claremont colleges. As Assistant Director of Blaisdell Institute for the Study of World Religions and Cultures, Frances Drake convened a committee of campus and community people who met periodically over the next 5 years to discuss the needs of foreign students and the development of mutual cross-cultural opportunities. Blaisdell Institute, although affiliated with the Claremont Colleges, did receive a physical home in Blaisdell House on 10th Street, but no funding was transacted from the colleges.

By 1974, the number of students coming from abroad had grown to over 100, and Fran and her committee urged Blaisdell Institute to launch the "Office of Cooperative Services for Foreign Students." Louise Bell served from 1974 to 1977 as the first Coordinator of the fledgling office, at first from a desk at McAlister Center and, later, from a bungalow behind Blaisdell House.

Louise courageously set out to work with Deans of Students at all of the colleges to make incoming international students aware of the office and the services offered. She developed a **New International Student Orientation Program** and invited community volunteers to help. Later she assisted Fran Drake and Charlene Martin as they launched the Community Friends of International Students.

Louise Bell beautifully expressed the value of having an office which focused on welcoming and assisting new international students and developing programs that increase international understanding and friendship. She absolutely did groundbreaking work on formulating the rationale for the existence of what later became International Place of The Claremont Colleges.

CFIS Welcomes New Board Members

By Claudia Lennear



Among the new CFIS Board members is **Jennifer Markovski** who proudly serves as an Administrative Associate of Academic Affairs at Keck Graduate Institute. Prior to her job at the Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences at KGI, Jennifer was a Faculty Assistant to the Dean of Faculty at Pitzer College. In her CFIS Board position, Jennifer will manage the goals of the Membership committee while interacting with International Place and community members in order to support students' various needs.

Jennifer comes to CFIS as a well-versed volunteer who is active in grass roots community organizations. At Los Osos High School, she was an elected board member to the Football Booster Club. In addition, every year she participates in the High School's Annual Career Development Days event. Extending unselfish regard for the welfare of others, Jennifer, through the Community Engagement Office at Pitzer College, has taken part in programs which assist women in rehabilitation to design, implement, and reach educational goals whether academic or vocational. Finally, some of Jennifer's social work was attained while working as an intern at the Center for Criminal Justice Research. There, Jennifer acquired the skills necessary to take the initiative to become a mobilizing component in the organization "Shoes That Fit" for two women's shelters, one of which is located in Claremont. Last, Jennifer took that knowledge with her to KGI and applied it by becoming the point person at that institution of higher learning to acquire and distribute shoes to needy mothers and their offspring.

Jennifer, who is one of many bilingual CFIS Board Members, is the daughter of Macedonian immigrants. Her parents, Vangel and Liljana, originate from the villages of Ljubojno and Smilevo. They each set high standards for their daughter to develop a hard working class ethic and to remain committed to Macedonian heritage and values.

Jennifer earned her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State University San Bernardino. When she is not busy assisting faculty, students, or the community, she spends time with her husband Ljube and their two children Yasmina and Alexander. CFIS is delighted to welcome her to our endeavors.

Ann Hoch has resided in the San Gabriel Valley for many years, however, she is a native of Omaha, Nebraska. What does that have to do with Claremont? She has traveled the world extensively as an international teacher and is now serving her first year on the Board of the Claremont Friends of International Students. During the 2017 academic year, Ann attended a few special events for international students held at different venues of the Claremont Colleges in order to learn about the campus Community, and quickly she became interested in the myriad of ways CFIS reaches out to the student population. Ann now participates by transferring her teaching skills to a position in which her task is to oversee the editing of submitted articles for publication in the CFIS Newsletter.

Ann's entire career has focused on education, but it began domestically. She first spent three years teaching elementary school at home in Omaha. Later, while earning an MA, a global professional realm piqued her interest, so she parlayed her practical and academic experience into a position at the American School in Singapore and, later on, with the Department of Defense in Japan. Last March, Ann co-taught an applied linguistics class at the Southwest Universities for Nationalities in Chengdu, China where she also had volunteered to work with Chinese teachers during their educational tours to California. Her involvement with the Chengdu delegation included planning activities, one-on-one consultations with teachers and giving them seminar presentations on American educational practices. She has since earned a second advanced degree in International Business and for the past 20 years has worked with educational publishers, such as Pearson, in California. During that time, she has teamed up to work with schools, teachers and administrators throughout Southern California to meet the educational goals set between her company and its institutional clients.

Ann's educational résumé reflects the following achievements: BA in Elementary Education at the University of Nebraska, MA in Secondary Education also at the University of Nebraska, and an MBA in International Business at the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. Ann looks forward to interacting with Claremont's Community of Friends, the International Students, International Place, and the 7-Cs at large while turning that communication into informational newsletter articles. Amazingly enough, Hoch, who is also an entrepreneur, still finds time to visit with friends and family in the midwest on a regular basis.

Envirolab Asia Expands Global Learning at the Claremont Colleges

by Beth Jager



Albert Park, Associate Professor of History at Claremont McKenna, joined the Community Friends at the annual meeting in June to discuss a new five-college initiative that is expanding the college's international footprint.

Professor Park serves as the co-director of Envirolab Asia, a cross-disciplinary program that incorporates undergraduate classroom studies and experiential learning to foster understanding and action on or related to environmental issues in Asia. The Envirolab Asia program engages the Claremont Colleges community through four elements: a class and yearly clinic trip to Asia, course development grants, faculty research labs, and a yearly joint conference with the Claremont Colleges, Occidental College, and Whittier College.

Professor Park returned to Claremont from Thailand just days before his invited talk, having traveled to Southeast Asia with students and other Envirolab Asia faculty as part of the program's annual clinic trip. The clinic trip is the experiential learning component of the year-long Envirolab Asia course, through which students learn cross-disciplinary methodologies from faculty in the sciences, social sciences, and the humanities to be applied in field research. Each year, Envirolab Asia adopts a new theme and country of focus. This year, students studied agriculture, biodiversity, resilience, among other topics related to the environment in Thailand.

Envirolab Asia began in 2015-2016 with the support of a \$100,000 exploratory grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, through the Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE). Because of Envirolab Asia's initial success, the Luce Foundation awarded the program a \$1.4 million implementation grant in spring 2017. Upcoming research projects will explore issues in Japan (2019), Korea (2020), and China (2021).

For more on Envirolab Asia, visit <http://envirolabasia.claremont.edu/>.



CFIS 2018 Fall Walking Art Tour Features Bridges Hall of Music

By Claudia Lennear

Claremont Friends of International Students (CFIS) suggests an artful thing to do while taking a quick break from rigorous study. This Fall, the Walking Art Tour features “Little Bridges”, an architectural gem designed for visual appreciation and an acoustical treasure to experience aurally in concert as well. We invite you to embark on a free short walk along the Quad located on the Pomona College campus on Fourth Street at College Avenue. A ‘must see’ is the Mabel Shaw Bridges Hall of Music, but better known among the 7Cs as “Little Bridges.” It is among a few of the oldest campus structures which still survive from the first quarter of the 20th century when the Claremont Colleges were in its primary years of development.

Mabel Shaw Bridges, to whom the structure is dedicated, was a Pomona College student who found herself among one of the earliest candidates to obtain a conferred degree just at the turn of the century. Pomona College was then an up-start institution in infantile development by Harvard dissidents. A music enthusiast, Ms Bridges hailed from San Diego and was expected to graduate in the class of 1908. Unfortunately, Mabel fell ill upon nearly her senior year and passed away at the age of 22. Her father, Appleton Shaw Bridges, who had made his fortune in the mining industry, owned a successful ball-bearing manufacturing company in Ohio. He subsequently funded the construction of “Little Bridges”. Later, “Big Bridges Auditorium” was funded and erected by Mr. Bridges and his wife, at a paltry sum by construction standards of 2018, to perpetually honor their daughter Mabel for a second time.

The venue, designed by Pasadena architect Myron Hunt, was executed in the early 1910s, and christened in 1915. Hunt was born and educated in Massachusetts. He received a B.S. in Architecture from MIT in 1893, studied for three years in Europe, and returned to the United States to apprentice at a prominent firm in Chicago. Hunt is as well known as the architect of “Little Bridges” as he is for designing the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, the Mission Inn of Riverside, public libraries in Redlands, Palos Verdes Estates, Santa Barbara, and the Pasadena library which includes structures that make up the latter city’s Civic space. In 1934, Hunt designed a house for Henry Huntington which is now the main art gallery of the Huntington Library in nearby San Marino.

“Little Bridges” is a Romanesque structure situated adjacent to the eastern wall of the Thatcher Music Building. The façade is reminiscent of an eclectic mix of subtle historical decor. It denotes a basic Roman basilica design as it demonstrates a grated appliqué on the pediment, a tri-partite columned entrance, a portico, and huge wooden doors that, when opened, introduce a nave which can be filled with folding chairs for seating. The front row leaves enough space between itself and the elevated stage to suggest a transept with a limited causeway traversing the nave. On either walled side of the nave are narrower aisles which lead to partitioned seating made of wood on the ground floor. Above is a smaller balconied seating area, approached by staircase, offering a bird’s eye view of the stage which is accented by an enormous piped organ. The coffered ceiling is tiled in a variety of geometrically colored shapes.

Today the renovated “Little Bridges” showcases the most diverse concerts with a view to enable all college demographics, and the community at large, to become aware of world class music and to enjoy music for art’s sake. The programs represent a global genre of chamber music, chorale pieces, acoustic guitar groups, aria soloists, and many other types of musical ensembles and orchestras, including student and faculty recitals culled from the seven College campuses, the communities surrounding Claremont, and worldwide International guests.

For more information about free programs, please call (909) 620-2241 or visit the website at

www.pomonacollege.edu/bridges-hall-music

In Memoriam

Louise Bell

Anne Coppel

Ken Hunter

Marjorie Marth

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

2018 Comments from Host Families

CFIS Launches New Friendship Family Program

Barbara Rugeley, CFIS Board Member and Host Family Chairperson, coordinates with I-Place to house international students within the Claremont community just before they get designated dormitories. So many generous Claremont families have opened their doors with welcoming arms to new and returning students from abroad and to international scholars as well. Here are a few of the best responses Barbara recalls that reflect positive experiences of host Moms and Dads.

Thank you Barbara for contacting me to be a host family...I hope to host again in the future! Actually, one of my "sons," Fabio Blarasin, is coming to Claremont for a visit. I am very excited to see him again! Best regards, Genevieve

Barbara, I have three extra rooms so I am able to accommodate several students. I have received great hospitality while traveling the world. I want to return this gift! Cheers, A. Harley

Hi Barbara! I hope you received my reply. Yes, we accept the opportunity to be a home stay family. We will do all we can to make the student safe and comfortable. We look forward to meeting her... Sincerely, Vicky

Barbara, we last hosted a KGI student, Jay Mani, in January 2018. Jay is from India. He's delightful and we've been keeping in touch since the beginning of the year. He's currently working in New York for the summer, but will return for a final semester at Keck Graduate Institute this fall. Jay has already earned a PhD in England and is back in Claremont in order to learn the business side of Biotechnology. His interests are wide ranging, and he is thoughtful in all senses of the word. This characteristic makes him an excellent host "son" and an engaging conversationalist.

Best, Lissa

Hello Barbara! It's wonderful that you contacted me to be a host family. I really do like hosting international students, but my family and I will be away during this time. Please keep my contact on your list and thanks for connecting our community!!! Suzanne

Over the years, members of the Claremont Community have reached out to international students enrolled at the Claremont Colleges with smiles and overwhelming generosity. Students who have traveled far and wide to be educated in our city have, in turn, become lifelong friends, associates, and continued tourists to Southern California after graduation. Recently CFIS has surveyed students who participated in the Host Family Program to gather their perspectives on the value of establishing ties between international students and members of the local community. Their responses affirm the value of friendships between international students and community members. With inspiration from Barbara Rugeley and guidance from past presidents Neil and Joan Gerard, current CFIS Co-Presidents, Linda and Peter Saeta, have worked with Dean Sharon Basso and I-Place Interim Director, Chrystal Orozco, to develop a Friendship Family Program which is effective now since August 2018 and available to all international students within the 7Cs.

The purpose of the Friendship Family Program is to create additional opportunities for meaningful connections between international students and the local community. The commitment does not include a home stay—since undergraduates move directly into dormitories—but it coordinates community members with international students to partake in family activities when time permits and schedules allow.

In a nutshell, here's how it works: CFIS will match a registered community member or family with an international student(s) to become "Friends" for one semester or more. You are encouraged to get together once a month or so, for activities such as going out for a meal, taking care of errands, shopping, practicing a foreign language or English, sharing cultures and possibly celebrating holidays together. Your time commitment is just a few hours per month as fits your mutual schedules.

Since there is considerable student interest, we have signed up a wave of additional international students who would like to be matched with local "Friends".

For more details, contact either Linda or Peter Saeta:

linda.saeta@gmail.com

saeta@hmc.edu

SAVE THE DATE

I-Place International Gala

Saturday, November 3, 2018

Reception 6-7 p.m. Performances 7-9p.m.

“Big” Bridges Auditorium

Pomona College

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 2, 2018

2:00 — 4:00 p.m.

CGU President’s House

7th Street and Harvard

THANK YOU

On behalf of Co-Presidents of Community Friends of International Students, Linda and Peter Saeta, CFIS Board Members, Barbara Rugeley, Host Family Chairperson, and International Place, we extend our sincerest gratitude to those friends in the community who hosted students from abroad this Fall.

Cass Armstrong and Harold Dyke
Sandra Baldonado
Neva Barker
Virginia Bower
Corey Calaycay
Debra Clarke
Deb and John Corey
Enid Eckert
Katya Fairbanks
Joan and Neil Gerard
Robin and Mario Gottuso
Anne Harley
Brenda and John Hill
Judy and Will Kohnen
Steven Llanusa and Glenn Miya

Gwendolyn Lytle
Carol-Lee Marshall and Ben DeWald
Charlene Martin
Susan Lominska and Jack Mills
Mitra and Swapan Nag
Don Pattison
Wendy and Ardi Rashidi
Barbara Rugeley and Greg Shapton
Linda and Peter Saeta
Veronica and Bryan Speed
John and Chris St. Clair
Lori and Kirk Strobel
Judith and David Tanenbaum
Victoria Verches
Eric Wong and Susan Tam