

# Friends of the International Center of Princeton University

Vol. 3 No. 1

Fall 2006

*Creating Understanding through Conversation and Friendship*

## President's Corner



The Friends of the International Center has had another successful year in helping our international visitors at Princeton University feel more comfortable living in the United States. Through the dedication of our volunteers and board members, the Friends have provided graduate students, visiting scholars and their families with tutoring in English conversation and home hosting. We look forward to greeting our new international visitors this fall.

Our good work is possible through the generosity of our donors. Their contributions allow us to operate our programs, fund the Excellence in Teaching Award, and support the work of the International Center. **Thank you, all. Anne Bolick, President**

## A Look Back at 2005-2006

Since 1974, the Friends have been helping international graduate students and visiting scholars at Princeton University by offering them our friendship, guidance and support through English Conversation and Host Programs. The chart below illustrates the number of students and volunteers who have participated this past academic year.

### Program Participants

Total Participants – 246

Total Volunteers – 187

### Individual Conversation

69 students and scholars

71 tutors

### Group Conversation

104 students, scholars and spouses

22 tutors

### Host Program

73 students, scholars and family members

88 hosts

## Friends Install New Officers and Honorary Trustees

The Friends of the International Center functions so effectively as an organization through the dedicated guidance of the Board of Trustees, who meet regularly to oversee the activities and programs of the Friends.

In May, officers and trustees were installed and honorary trustees appointed. **Anne Bolick** continues as president; **Maryella Hannum** is vice-president; **Mel Bolick**, secretary, and **David Shinkfield**, treasurer.

Newly elected are Alison Hankinson, Catherine Mercer Bing, and Helga Wellhoefer. Irene Wynne and Sue Coale were installed as Honorary Trustees because of their exceptional and long service to the Friends.



*New Honorary Trustees: Sue Coale and Irene Wynne*

Retiring from the Board are Annegret Danspeckgruber, Henny Dekker, Amy Gimbel, Elissa Pearlman, Harriet Teweles, Dot Westgate and Irene Wynne.

Continuing as board members are Ruth Besser, Mo Chen '80, Francine Engler, Lee Gunther-Mohr, Hanna Hand, Carol Hoffman-Sweeten, Jan Klenert, Janina Issawi, Arianne Kassof, Rosalie Levine, Sunny Onish, Irene White, Lieske Wright and Paula Chow, Director of the International Center.

## Argentinean Wins Teaching Award

**Diego Manuel Hofman**, a Princeton University graduate student from Argentina, has won the 2006 Excellence in Teaching Award sponsored by the Friends of the International Center.

The award carries a stipend of \$1000 and is sponsored annually by the Friends in recognition of an international graduate student at Princeton for excellence in teaching undergraduates. Diego taught quantum mechanics and classical mechanics in 2005-2006.

Diego, 25, is studying for a Ph.D. in physics and hopes to complete his studies by 2009. He has excelled in his studies throughout his academic career, having won the Joseph Henry Prize in 2004, his first year at Princeton, an award sponsored by the Physics Department. He was first in his class at the University of Buenos Aires and San Andres University.

After graduation, Diego wants to pursue a post-doctorate and hopes to teach physics and do research in string theory. "The award money allowed me to stay in Princeton this summer and continue studying. I appreciate the Friends' generosity."

Funds for the Excellence in Teaching Award come from contributions by our donors. *Thank you!*



### **Former Winners of the Excellence Award**

- 2000 **Andromache Karanika, Greece**
- 2001 **Wilassa Vichit-Vadakan, Thailand**
- 2002 **Yaoping Ruan, China**
- 2003 **Hafize Gaye Erkan, Turkey**
- 2004 **Pedro Silva Goldbaum, Brazil**
- 2005 **Geoffrey Goodwin, Australia**

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## Friends in Brief . . . . .

- The **Group English Conversation Program**

holds a yearly luncheon that celebrates the completion of the program.



Here are some of

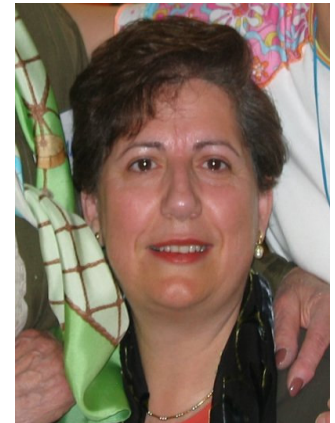
this year's participants enjoying the event.

- **Ann Merritt**, a Friends host since 1973, died in July. "She will be missed greatly," notes Hanna Hand, Host Program coordinator.

## Lebanese Participant Finds Love and Friendship with Tutors

**Abla Maalouf**, a recent participant in the Friends

Group English Conversation Program, has returned to her home, but leaves behind many friends and fond memories. Both she and her husband Georges Tamer were born in Lebanon but have lived in Germany for sixteen years. They spent the spring semester at the Institute for Advanced Study.



While living in Princeton, Abla was determined to speak English, something she had not done when she studied English as a child. She recounted how supportive her group tutors were and how they gave her confidence and encouragement. "They surrounded me with love and friendship. My dream is to create a similar conversation group at home for people who are first learning to speak German."

### **To Contact the Friends. . .**

To volunteer? Donate? Learn more about us? Call Hanna Hand, 609-258-1170, or email her at [hhand@princeton.edu](mailto:hhand@princeton.edu).

### **Let's hear from our Friends'**

**alumni:** Tell us about yourselves. Email Hanna.