

Friends of Davis International Center of Princeton University

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Creating Understanding through Conversation and Friendship

President's Corner



As the incoming president of the Friends, I want to thank **Anne Bolick**, who was such an outstanding president for five years. I have big shoes to fill!

The recent gift from the Davis family to the International Center and the Center's subsequent name change

have necessitated our own name change to **Friends of Davis International Center**. Apart from having to order new stationery, we're not sure yet what the impact of the gift may be on the Friends, but, as always, we are ready to support the Davis Center in any way we can.

Meanwhile, new international graduate students, visiting scholars, and their spouses have arrived on campus, and our volunteers are in action, offering tutoring and hosting. I look forward to working with the Friends and welcome any suggestions or ideas that might enhance our programs.

Alison Hankinson, President

Director Looks at Impact of Gift on International Center

"I am most grateful to the Davis family," says **Paula Chow**, Director of Davis International Center, "for its generous gift of \$5 million to the International Center." Now officially called the **Kathryn W. and Shelby Cullom Davis '30 International Center**, "the Davis Center will be collaborating with student groups to see how the infusion of funds can best be used to serve the students at the University," adds Paula.

In regard to **Friends of Davis International Center**, Paula notes: "I am delighted that we no longer need financial support from the Friends. They have enriched our programs throughout the years, and for that we are most grateful."

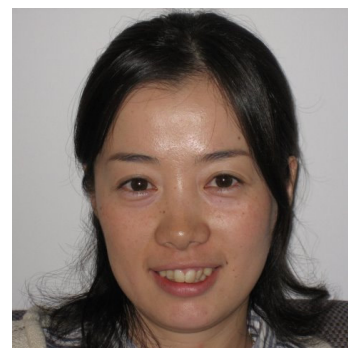
Students Practice English at Summer Conversation Group

The Summer English Conversation Group was a popular program for international graduate students and spouses. Under the direction of Friends volunteer **Brian Zack**, the participants met twice a week to Reinforce vocabulary, readings, and conversation. Many from the group are also enrolled during the academic year in the Friends Group Conversation Program and were very happy to continue practicing their English during the summer months.

Says Brian, "The summer program has given all of us a chance to get to know each other better, and to see both the cultural similarities and contrasts. I have been extraordinarily impressed by how much more alike than different the earth's peoples are. If only we could get the world's politicians to learn the same lesson." Brian retired after twenty years as a physician at McCosh Health Center on campus. He also volunteers for ESL tutoring at the YWCA.

Former Student Revisits Group

Hiromi Sumi and her husband Takahiro, an assistant professor at Nagoya University in Nagoya, Japan, and a former post-doctoral student in astrophysics at Princeton, returned here this summer for a month. Hiromi wasted no time in joining the summer conversation program.



Hiromi Sumi

"I know how valuable it is to practice English." She had formerly participated in the Friends English Conversation Program for four years. When she returned to Japan last year, Hiromi was able to get a job as an English translator for Toyota in Nagoya. "Thanks to my tutors, I am comfortable speaking English and can even think in English."

Romanian Wins Friends *Excellence in Teaching Award*

Mihail Amarie, a Princeton University graduate student from Romania, has won the 2007 *Excellence in Teaching Award* sponsored by **Friends of Davis International Center**. The award carries a stipend of \$1000 and is presented annually to an international graduate student for excellence in teaching undergraduates.

Mihail, a Ph.D. candidate in physics, teaches a course in physics for non-scientists and has this to say about his experience: "I most enjoy seeing the students' faces after they have just understood a difficult physical concept. I also like when they are amazed by simple physical demonstrations and then get motivated to understand the principles that made it possible. To me, teaching is not only about passing on information, but about forming individuals. It allows me to contribute towards the formation of new generations."

A winner also of the Physics Department Teaching Award in 2005, Mihail studies cosmology, with particular interest in the evolution of the universe from 100,000 years after the Big Bang up to the current age. He will receive his Ph.D. by 2008, at which time he hopes to study for a post-doctoral degree. "My goals get a bit fuzzy as I look longer ahead, but I would like to teach physics in Europe. I could also see myself working in finance in the United States."

Good luck, Mihail, in all your efforts!



Mihail Amarie is shown with his thesis advisor, Professor Paul J. Steinhardt, Albert Einstein Professor in Science.

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Meet the New Executives



Executive Committee of the Friends Board of Trustees: Marc Wallach, Treasurer; Alison Hankinson, President; and Linda Sippelle, Vice-President.

Lisa Ball, Secretary, was unavailable for the photo.

President Alison Hankinson, formerly a vice-president of the Board of Trustees, is English by birth and American by citizenship. Alison is retired from American Boychoir School, where she served as coordinator of the Music Department and the choir tours. She and her husband Richard now spend part of the year in Corsica, where they have owned a home for thirty years. Alison is a certified ESL instructor.

Vice-President Linda Sippelle was born in Romania and grew up in Chile and thus knows first hand the challenges facing the international students she tutors as they adjust to a new country. She and her husband Dudley lived in many foreign countries while they worked for the United States Government. Linda holds numerous U.S. track and road running records and has also won several medals at world championships.

Secretary Lisa Ball has been a Friends tutor for four years, assisting international graduate students and visiting scholars. As Assistant to the Chair of the Department of Art and Archaeology, Lisa is the Friends' link with the University staff.

Treasurer Marc Wallach, a tutor for two years, has gained a greater understanding of different cultures. Through his tutoring, he recently met a man whose young life in Belgium paralleled his as a "child of the Holocaust." Before retiring, Marc held several senior positions in the apparel industry in New York.

To Contact the Friends. . .

To volunteer, make a contribution, or learn more about the Friends, call **Hanna Hand**, (609) 258-1170, or e-mail her at hhand@princeton.edu