

Friends of Davis International Center of Princeton University

Vol. 5 No. 1

Fall 2008

Creating Understanding through Conversation and Friendship

President's Corner



The Friends' programs for 2008-09 are well underway. **Carl Clough** and **Hanna Hand** are matching international students with individual tutors and host families, while **Sunny Onish's** Group Conversation Program has already begun. We will continue the new *Local Visits Program*, and **Brian Zack**, who again ran a successful summer English program, will continue his Fall classes.

As always, we try to reduce our administrative costs. To help do this, please let us send you this newsletter via email. Because each issue costs \$250 for printing/ mailing, we can save money **and** reduce our carbon footprint. If you don't have internet, we will, of course, continue to mail your copy. **If you agree, then email hhand@princeton.edu and say, "Yes, please email the newsletters." Thanks so much.**

We look forward to meeting more of you this year.

Alison Hankinson, President

New Tutors and Hosts Sought

Interested in making friends with international students at Princeton University and helping them become more comfortable speaking English? If so, consider becoming an English tutor or host for the Friends of Davis International Center.

Volunteers interested in working one-on-one can tutor weekly through the **Individual Conversation Program**. Those who prefer tutoring small groups can join the **Group Conversation Program**, which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., with tutors signing up for one or both mornings. If you would enjoy playing host periodically to international students, their spouses and families, consider the **Host Program**. *Interested? Call (609) 258-1170 or email hhand@princeton.edu.*

Friends' Honorary Trustee Irene Wynne Dies at Age 90

Irene Paris Wynne, Honorary Trustee of Friends of Davis International Center and one of the original supporters of the International Center at Princeton University, died August 1st in Princeton.



As one of the founders of the Friends of the International Center in 1979, Irene went on to serve as president, vice-president, tutor, and family host. She and husband **Hugh '39** hosted many international Princeton University students over the years.

In May 2007 Irene became an Honorary Trustee of the Friends because of her outstanding efforts on their behalf. **Paula Chow**, Director of Davis International Center, thanked her family "for sharing Irene with our international community for so many years."

Former English Conversation Student to Attend UMDNJ

Jung Sun Kim of Korea, who was formerly a participant in the Group English Conversation Program where she was known as Lux, is currently a visiting student at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Her husband **Kwan Chul Lee** is a researcher at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Before coming to the United States in 2006, Lux was an internist in Seoul, with a specialty in public health. At UMDNJ, she will study health education and public health policy. As for her time with the Friends' English Program, she had this to say: "The group program is the place where I could learn English and about American life, but at the same time make new friends from around the world." *Good luck, Lux!*

Albanian Wins Friends' Excellence in Teaching Award

Elidor Mehili, a Princeton University graduate student from Albania, has won the ninth annual Friends' *Excellence in Teaching Award*, which is presented to an outstanding international graduate student who teaches undergraduate courses at Princeton.



Elidor, a Ph.D. candidate in history, has been at Princeton for three years and expects to receive his degree in 2010. According to **Jeremy Adelman**, chair of the History Department, Elidor is highly regarded for his knowledge of modern Europe, as well as for his sense of humor. "His students worship him because of his special knack for motivating and challenging them. He is a deeply engaged instructor."

"I am very passionate about teaching," says Elidor, "but it is a lot of work and requires constant improvement. I think students pick up on that vibe and respond to it. What I love most about teaching is the mutual learning. It's a shared experience."

Elidor is currently embarked on a fifteen-month research project that will take him to five countries. He will use the \$1000 award to help in the research for his dissertation. After he graduates, Elidor plans to pursue a post-doctoral program or teach in academia.

Upon receiving the Excellence Award, Elidor thanked the Friends "for their work in recognizing international graduate students, because Princeton is now truly an international place. The Friends are definitely needed and appreciated." **Much success to you, Elidor!**

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Sunny Onish Celebrates her 90th Birthday at a Surprise Party



Sunny Onish, beloved chairperson of the Group English Conversation Program for the past fifteen years, celebrated her 90th birthday in May with one hundred of her students and tutors in a surprise party at Murray Dodge Hall. In an elaborate ceremony, Sunny was crowned 'Goddess of World Friendship' by Zeus, a.k.a. **David Shinkfield**. As explained by Zeus, "For her 85th birthday, we crowned Sunny as 'Empress.' We had to top that!"

The party featured testimonials from international students, including one from **Feng Lui** of China, who said that he had gotten married too soon—

before he had met Sunny. Entertainment included a Vietnamese dance created by **Van Tran** of Vietnam, a Turkish poem read by **Zeynep Bakiciol** of Turkey, a Sevelian dance by **Julia Calero** and **Victoria Macias**, both of Spain, and an amusing traditional reading of coffee grinds by **Gozde Ucar** of Turkey about Sunny's earlier life.



Paul and Kenneth Onish, Sunny's sons, announced a "Sunny Book Fund" in her honor, and an elaborate scrap book of messages and photos from her students and tutors was presented by **Helga Wellhofer**,



Sunny's assistant, and **Gozde Ucar**.

In an updated version of "You are My Sunshine," Sunny was serenaded by the guests at the party. An elaborate luncheon prepared by the students and tutors rounded out the day's happy events.

To Contact the Friends. . .

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