

Friends of Davis International Center of Princeton University

Vol. 5 No. 2

Spring 2009

Creating Understanding through Conversation and Friendship

President's Corner



The Friends currently have 156 volunteer tutors and host family members who give their time to befriend international graduate students, visiting faculty and spouses. Of these, seventy-two tutor in the Individual English Conversation Program; eighteen tutor in the Group English Conversation Program, and the rest are members of the Host Program. *We salute these unsung heroes.*

We also thank our contributors, whose generosity will enable the Friends to continue working on behalf of the international community at Princeton. Our efforts have long-lasting and far-reaching effects on those who have participated in our programs—students, as well as tutors and hosts.

We again ask that you help us to save money on printing and mailing costs by allowing us to e-mail you our newsletters. Just e-mail hhand@princeton.edu and say, "Yes, e-mail the newsletters." *Thanks so much.*

Walking Tours of Princeton

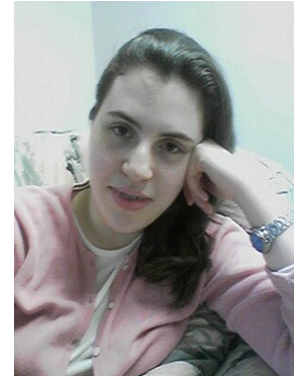
Fleurette Wallach and **Anne Bolick**, volunteers in the Group English Conversation Program, have initiated a series of **Walking Tours of Princeton** for students in the program. The purpose of the tours is to better acquaint international students with the Princeton community and to provide additional opportunities to practice speaking and understanding English.

The 2008-2009 schedule has included trips to Princeton Borough Police Station, a Christmas tour of Morven, the historic home of New Jersey governors, and a tour of the Peter B. Lewis Library, the new science library on the Princeton University campus.

Plans call for trips to the Princeton cemetery and another trip to Borough Hall. Other members of the Tour Committee are **Marilyn Gerstein**, **Ilsa Lazovick**, and **Helene Schwartz**.

WW-P High School Senior is Friends Youngest Tutor

Maya Brandon, at seventeen, is the youngest volunteer the Friends of Davis International Center have ever had. Maya is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and since last September has been tutoring **Li Xu** of China and **Juliana Pungiluppi** and **Orlando Trujillo Iurita** from Colombia.



Having read about our tutoring program, Maya decided she wanted to extend her support and friendship to help others develop confidence in their English language skills. Through tutoring, she believes her own knowledge of global culture is being enhanced.

As to whether her students care about her age, she says, "My age is not relevant; we talk about their lives in their native countries and in Princeton."

Maya is "passionate" about the Spanish language and takes two Spanish courses at Princeton University. Her college plans include continuing her study of Spanish and starting a new language — Chinese.

Group Conversation Students View Obama Inauguration

Among those listening at the Princeton Public Library to Barack Obama's inaugural address on January 20th were five international participants in the Friends' Group English Conversation Program.

Jin Tao of China, **Heiki Reinhart** of Germany, **Aneta Malecka** of Poland, **Gozde Ucar** of Turkey, and **Helga Wellhoefer** of Germany were excited to take part in this momentous day. It was especially interesting to Aneta, who worked in the Obama campaign, helping other canvassers communicate with residents of Trenton's Polish-speaking community. "It was all a great experience," she said.

Notes about the Friends

We note with regret the passing of **David Stuart Dodge** (1922-2009). An alumnus and international leader of higher education, he was a long-time friend of the International Center. "For the past 34 years, he offered us unconditional support and advice," said **Paula Chow**, Director of Davis International Center.

Lee Gunther-Mohr resigned recently from the Board of Trustees of the Friends after twenty-three years. Lee served as the Friends' president, as well as chairperson of the Host and Individual Conversation Programs. *Thank you, Lee, for your many years of devoted service.*

The Spring Tutor Luncheon will be held April 22nd for individual conversation tutors and their students and tutors in the group program. The speaker is Professor Eric F. Wieschaus, the Squibb Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton and co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Three new members have joined the Friends' Board of Trustees: **Shachi Gewande**, **Sheila Sideman**, and **Ada Wong**. *Welcome aboard!*

Shachi Gewande currently manages Student Systems in the Office of Information Technology at Princeton University where she has worked for the past twenty years. She is a native of India and has traveled extensively.

Sheila Sideman, who was formerly on the Board of the Friends in the 1980s, was in educational publishing until her recent retirement. She specialized in mathematics textbooks which she wrote and edited and ran her own publishing companies.

Ada Wong is a senior corporate marketing executive at Joulé, Inc., a staffing solutions company. She was born in Hong Kong and educated there, in Japan, the United Kingdom, and in the United States. She and her husband William Yung are active in community service.

New Tutors and Hosts Sought for Fall 2009

Are you interested in making friends with international students at Princeton University and helping them with English conversation? Contact Hanna Hand at (609) 258-1170 or e-mail hhand@princeton.edu

Visit us on the web
princeton.edu/icfriends

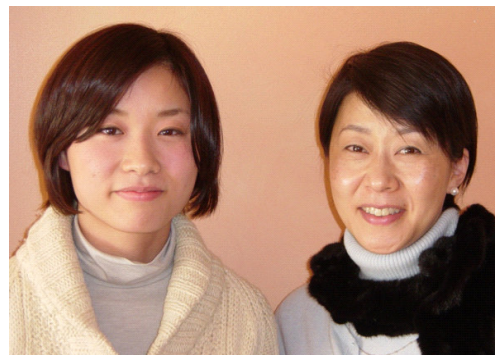
Former Japanese Student Visits Her Conversation Tutor and Host

Sachiko Kishimoto of Japan was a participant in the Friends' Conversation and Host Programs from 1996-1999, while her husband **Shuhai Kishimoto** was a Visiting Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School, teaching the Japanese economy.

Sachiko recently returned to Princeton with her daughter Anna, now twenty-two, on a sentimental tour to visit her former tutor, **Sunny Onish**, and her host family, **Janet Stern** and **Georges Theodoridis**.

She has remained in touch with all three volunteers.

Sunny also tutored husband Shuhai as her first individual



Anna and Sachiko Kishimoto

tutoring student. She recalls that he could not speak any English at first, but could read and write in English—"not unusual for foreign scholars," she notes. Now he speaks fluent English and understands the idiom: "Long time no see." He is currently a senior advisor at Toyota and a candidate for the Japanese House of Representatives.

While living in the United States with her husband and two children, Anna and son Youska, now 25, Sachiko earned a Master's degree in Social Research at the New School in New York City. When she returned to Japan, she founded a non-profit public research and development organization that funds organizations that help foreigners in Japan. "This is my way of giving back to foreigners the help the Americans gave to me." When she retires, Sachiko wants to volunteer to help foreign visitors adjust to their new country. "I want to help them learn Japanese, but I also want to offer them friendship."

Anna recalls her welcome at Riverside School. She also remembers that Sunny encouraged her to draw. Today, she is an industrial artist and her brother is a lawyer—not the dancer he wanted to be at age 13.

"In 2009, there will be no more wars because of the Friends' English and host programs." So predicts Sunny Onish, age 90, Group English Conversation Chairperson. Let's hope so!