



April 1st, 2009

Foundation for International Understanding Through Students

Dear Donor,

The FIUTS office, in the middle of the University of Washington campus, is an unlikely place to find future global leaders. The worn couches and desks have been in use since the mid 1970's, and the shelves are filled with travel guides, maps, and trinkets left behind by generations of students. Young people drift in and out constantly, signing up for activities, sharing food, and discussing popular culture and current events in English and other languages.

Since 1948, the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) has been a meeting place for students and others who share curiosity about world cultures and interest in finding common ground and mutual understanding. FIUTS programs challenge students and members of our Puget Sound community to build bonds of respect and friendship that extend beyond borders, politics, and stereotypes and inspire a new generation of committed, creative leaders.

The FIUTS Student Board is one program that has a very direct impact on students, both before and after graduation. The ten-member group includes both graduate and undergraduate students from diverse disciplines and seven countries. The Student Board produces several student social events each year and works to promote international understanding and increase cross-cultural engagement on campus.

Marie Vanderbilt is a FIUTS Student Board member who grew up in Whidbey Island, Washington. She joined the Student Board because she had lived abroad in Norway as a teenager and wanted to continue to be a part of an international community. "Working with international students, befriending them, and seeing the friendships they make has made me realize there is no connection that is impossible, no cultural hurdle that is too large to prevent a friendship," Marie says. "Being a part of the board has taught me so much about myself and how to interact with others. And it's really pushed me to see my city, my country, and the world in new ways." After Marie graduates this spring with a double major in European Studies and Norwegian, she'll spend the fall in Iran, participating in an intensive Farsi program at the University of Tehran and putting what she has learned at FIUTS into practice.

FIUTS has played a role in Marie's engagement in the world because supporters like you have played an important role in funding FIUTS. **Make a gift in support of FIUTS and its work building tomorrow's global leaders!** Your contribution will:

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- Support programs, including International Student Orientation, leadership development, short-term community Homestays, Wednesday Lunch, and K-12 outreach that inspire respect, social responsibility and a critical understanding of issues at the national and the international level.
- Provide educational and social experiences that engage students in cross-cultural understanding and leadership.
- Connect students with local and global communities.
- Promote international friendship and understanding throughout the Puget Sound region and around the world.

Our world needs leaders that can bring people and opinions together and find common ground. FIUTS creates a safe place where students can learn from each other and build skills that will help them to meet our future challenges. FIUTS has engaged and inspired cross-cultural leadership for more than 60 years – your contribution will provide opportunities to a new generation of leaders and world citizens.

Thank you for considering a gift to FIUTS this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Era Schrepfer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Era Schrepfer

Executive Director