Newly established scholarships at International House Support Incoming UC Berkeley Graduate Students

Three $250,000 endowed scholarships were recently established at the non-profit International House on the UC Berkeley campus, helping to successfully conclude its unprecedented $10 million dollar 75th Anniversary campaign. The endowments provide significant new resources for the unique cross-cultural experiences “I-House” fosters for students from around the world and throughout the United States to promote greater global understanding and peace.

Each of three “Gateway” fellowships will generate annual income for International House room and board scholarships for qualifying first-year graduate student recipients, matched by University tuition, fees, and a $5K stipend courtesy of the UC Berkeley Graduate Division. This unique partnership between campus and the self-supporting non-profit “I-House” provides mutual benefit as it opens proverbial gateways to both campus and I-House for students with financial need. The partnership enables Cal to better compete for students with other Universities offering “total package” tuition and housing awards, while I-House is assured of continued socio-economic as well as continuing diversity among its nearly 600 residents from the U.S. and abroad. With I-House private room and board costs in the range of $11,500 annually and Graduate Division matches providing a value of up to $40,000 plus, donors to such endowments may receive a better than three to one match for their contributions.

The Carl and Betty Helmholz Scholarship Endowment will support an entering first-year doctoral student, preferably in physics. The endowment was funded by more than thirty donors who wished to honor the late Carl Helmholz, nuclear physicist and former Chair of the UC Berkeley Physics department from 1955 to 1962, and his wife Betty, who served with distinction on the I-House board for nine years. Each shared a dedication to the principles of International House and the fund that bears their name will provide support in perpetuity for a doctoral student to continue the Helmholz legacy of contributions to the campus community.

The Chevron-Xenel Fellowship in Public Health was established jointly between Chevron and Xenel International Corporation to support an entering Master of Public Health student with financial need. Eligibility preference is offered to first to students from Saudi Arabia and thereafter to students from other Middle Eastern countries, with a principal goal of bettering relationships between East and West and furthering awareness of the principles of Islam and Moslem peoples.

The Eltoukhy East-West Gateway Fellowship established by the Eltoukhy Family Foundation also with the goal of bettering the relationship between East and West, specifically to further understanding and tolerance of cultural and religious differences. The fellowship provides priority preference for first-year doctoral students from Egypt, with subsequent preference to students from other Middle Eastern countries or ultimately any appropriate candidate from outside the United States.

These fellowships are among a total of ten similar scholarship funds established in conjunction with the International House 75th Anniversary Campaign. These newly established funds will enhance the over $500,000 that I-House allots annually in room and board awards for students demonstrating financial need who wish to experience life at International House. The historic $10 million dollar 75th Anniversary campaign also generated crucial resources for building renovation, programs, and technology at International House. Although the campaign formally concludes March 1, 2007, International House hopes to establish further Gateway opportunities before July 1, 2007 when the current matching opportunity with the graduate division expires.

International House is a residential and program center at the University of California at Berkeley, dedicated to fostering understanding and friendship among the peoples of all nations, races and cultures. Its active program schedule, ranging from cultural festivals to discussions on world issues, enhances global understanding in the community and on the Berkeley campus. International House is a separate and self-supporting non-profit organization with close ties to the University of California, Berkeley.