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Photos related to this release are posted at  
<http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/a/news/DavisPeaceProjects.html>



## **International House Berkeley Students Launch Davis Projects for Peace**

Berkeley, CA – Kathryn Wasserman Davis celebrated her centenary birthday in 2007 by contributing \$1 million to her New York former college residence hall – the original “International House” – thus funding one hundred \$10,000 grants to current residents for “Davis Projects for Peace” around the world. After tremendous success, the project has been generously launched anew by an additional \$1M grant to I-House New York from Ms. Davis in 2008, this time supporting a broader range of student proposals from International Houses worldwide, including four from residents of International House at UC Berkeley. Davis, who met her late husband Ambassador Shelby Cullom Davis as a fellow I-House NY resident in 1931, has said she wishes “to help young people launch immediate initiatives – things that they can do during the summer – that bring new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world.” The four students from I-House Berkeley who have been honored with Project for Peace awards show great promise for fulfilling these dreams in the summer of 2008. They are:

**Sina Akhavan’s** project is entitled **PROJECT SASTIMASA: EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION**. Sina is from the U.S., of Iranian descent, and will work in Kosovo teaching employment education skills to Roma children. **Ayse Ercumen** from Turkey, who attended an Austrian high school in Istanbul, is working towards her Masters in Public Health and will travel to Mumbai, India to conduct **SAFE WATER FOR A SAFE WORLD: A HEALTH INITIATIVE IN ASIA’S LARGEST SLUM**. **Ana Teresa Villarreal Montemayor**, a sociology Ph.D. from Mexico will work with Cambodian and Vietnamese children to promote cross-cultural sensitivity through sports and friendship in **THE PEACE CAMP: BUILDING COMMUNITY AMONG VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN CHILDREN IN PREK CHREY, CAMBODIA**. **Aaron Sorenson**, a Ph.D. student from the U.S. pursuing South and Southeast Asian Studies will conduct creative writing workshops in the Khmer language in Cambodia and publish resulting essays in both Khmer and English as he launches his project: **CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WRITERS WORKSHOP IN CAMBODIA**

These residents join more than 65,000 U.S. and foreign International House Berkeley alumni, including seven Nobel Laureates, who have come to live under the building’s iconic dome and to explore its founding purpose which was articulated in its founding 1930 slogan, “That Brotherhood May Prevail.” Despite hundreds of demonstrators protesting its opening, I-House went on to desegregate the East Bay hills. Its lessons of cross-cultural respect and understanding are carried forward by an alumni roster of more than 65,000, including seven Nobel Laureates and a thousand married couples who have affirmed their love blossomed at International House.

I-House Berkeley plans to profile project reports by student recipients in their fall I-House Times Newsletter and is exploring ways to make the Projects for Peace model a permanent part of the repertoire of learning opportunities available for I-House Berkeley residents.

*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 nonprofit organization with close ties to the University of California, Berkeley.*

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**INTERNATIONAL HOUSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY**

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