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Rita Moreno



John S. Chen

Rita Moreno helps launch 75th Anniversary of International House, Berkeley

April 26, 2005 - Award-winning actress Rita Moreno will be honored with John Chen, President and CEO of Sybase, at a Celebration and Awards Gala on May 5th in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of UC Berkeley's International House. The evening will feature musical and dance performances by International House residents from around the world, a lavish meal with recipes selected by renowned chef Narsai David, and will pay tribute to the distinguished history and purpose of "I-House" in promoting cross-cultural understanding worldwide.

Founded in 1930 with a gift from John D. Rockefeller Jr., the controversial proposal to house male and female students of differing ethnic, racial, and religious ties under one roof initially met with protests from residents of Berkeley. Since then, more than 60,000 students and scholars from every continent have resided at "I-House" and helped to further its purpose to foster international friendships as a foundation for a more tolerant and peaceful world. Distinguished alumni include seven Nobel prize winners, former California Governors Jerry Brown and Pete Wilson, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, and former Chair of Amnesty International Julianne Cartwright Traylor. Both Google and Vodafone's respective CEOs Eric Schmidt and Arun Sarin also resided at the House and enjoy an additional benefit secured by generations of past I-House alumni: they met their spouse within its walls. The Gala formally launches a series of reunions and events to honor the House's 75th anniversary and a multi-million dollar campaign to protect its future through preservation, scholarships, programs, and technology.

Moreno, the only American woman to have won the Oscar, Tony, Emmy, and Grammy, will be honored for her contributions to combating ethnic stereotyping in the entertainment industries and John Chen will be honored for his contributions to Sino-American relations.

Peter Robertson, Vice-Chairman of ChevronTexaco is Chair of the 75th Anniversary International House Campaign, and will host the evening. Says Robertson "The principles that International House champions—sensitivity and respect for different cultures and an underlying regard for our common humanity—are critical if this planet will avoid a future dominated by discord and conflict. This Anniversary is a time to celebrate this purpose and make sure the House has what it needs to continue this work everyday in service to future generations."

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For high resolution photos and event details, visit: <http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala2005>



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.

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