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<http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/a/gala2009/index.html>

(photo of Phyllis & William Draper III and Firoozeh Dumas at link above)

International House Berkeley Gala Honors and Celebrates Phyllis & William Draper III, Author Firoozeh Dumas

BERKELEY, CA – Two hundred and fifty guests will gather April 7, 2009 under the iconic dome of International House Berkeley for its 21st Annual Celebration and Awards Gala. Renowned philanthropists Phyllis & William Draper III will be honored as Global Citizens of the Year and celebrated author Firoozeh Dumas as 2009 Alumna of the Year. The evening is the largest fundraising event of the year for non-profit "I-House" which for seventy-nine years has promoted cross-cultural respect and understanding in the local community and to its residential community of nearly 600 students from around-the-world and across the U.S. UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, special guest NBC Anchor Diane Dwyer, and I-House Board members will host the night which also features music and dance performances by I-House residents.

For their shared advancement of the central ideas of I-House: peace, tolerance and understanding, International House is proud to recognize Bill & Phyllis Draper. Phyllis Draper will be recognized for her tireless efforts as a Peace Corps administrator and as a champion of international causes. William H. Draper III, will be honored for his work with the United Nations and global community service groups. Best selling author and columnist, Firoozeh Dumas, will be celebrated for her work promoting cross-cultural understanding through her critically acclaimed literary works.

Phyllis Draper served for five years as Assistant to the Director for the Peace Corps, and serves for over a decade as a member of the Board of Save the Children -- testament both to her dedication to advancing service learning worldwide and to caring for the health and well being of children around the globe. Her involvement with organizations including the Institute of International Education, the Commonwealth Club, The Asian Art Museum, the International Museum for Women, and the American Prairie Foundation, as well as board service with the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Charles Armstrong School, the Children's Health Council and the Kennedy Center, reflect the ways in which she has worked to advance appreciation of cultural and natural resources and children's issues as a conscientious "Global Citizen".

William H. Draper III, one of America's leading venture capitalists, is widely respected for his accomplishments as Administrator/CEO of the United Nations Development Program from 1986-93 as well as President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the US under President Reagan. His current service on the boards of the World Affairs Council of Northern California, the Atlantic Council, and the United Nations Association-USA points to the breadth of his dedication in promoting cross-cultural understanding. He continues to serve the global community with innovative, high-impact solutions through his founding role and leadership of the Draper Richards Foundation, which has launched widely acclaimed social entrepreneurial organizations such as Kiva, Genocide Intervention Network, Grassroots Soccer and Room to Read.

Firoozeh Dumas is a noted author whose work highlights her Iranian-American heritage. Her bestselling memoir, [Funny in Farsi: Growing up Iranian in America](#), is featured on recommended reading lists for schools nationwide, and the Persian translation is a current bestseller in Iran. ABC has just announced it will be producing a pilot for Funny in Farsi. She was the first Middle Eastern woman to be a finalist for the Thurber Prize for American Humor. Through her books, speaking tours, NPR commentaries and writing in the NY Times, LA Times, Wall Street Journal, Gourmet, Good Housekeeping and Lifetime Magazine, she underscores, with humor, how our commonalities outweigh our differences.

The Gala takes place Wednesday, April 7th, 2009, at 6 pm, at International House, Berkeley. In addition to remarks from honorees the night features talented musical performances by I-House residents, valet parking, and delectable menu selections. Tickets for event are \$275 and table sponsorship ranges from \$3,750 to \$25,000. For more information, visit <http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala> or contact I-House Development Office at (510) 642-4128.

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Founded in 1930, International House is a self-supporting non-profit 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.