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Joan Baez Honored as Global Citizen of Peace at International House, UC Berkeley Gala Celebration

BERKELEY, CA – Two hundred and fifty guests will gather May 3, 2012 under the iconic dome of International House Berkeley for its 24th Annual Celebration and Awards Gala. Musical legend Joan Baez will be honored as Global Citizen of the Year and Daniel Mouen-Makoua as 2012 Alumnus of the Year. The evening is the largest fundraising event of the year for non-profit “I-House” which for eighty-one 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 Chancellor Robert Birgeneau and I-House Board members will host the night which also features music by the Beatles tribute band “The Sun Kings”.

Joan Baez: Celebrated vocalist, songwriter, advocate, and champion of human rights, Joan Baez has brought awareness to the circumstances, cultures, and challenges of our globalized world. Her humanitarian efforts have included working with Dr. Martin L. King and the Civil Rights Movement, Southeast Asian "boat people" relief, ecological issues, anti-nuclear efforts and death penalty abolition. Locally, she is recognized for her work opposing the draft in Oakland during the Vietnam War. She founded the Institute for the Study of Non-Violence and Humanitas International Human Rights Committee, and has traveled around the world to sing songs of peace and freedom in such places as Vietnam, Chile, Northern Ireland, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Her distinguished career and life work draws on music as a source for promoting the principles at the core of International House: intercultural respect, understanding, friendship and peace. The Board, staff, residents and worldwide alumni community of International House is proud to recognize her as our 2012 Global Citizen of Peace.

Daniel Mouen-Makoua (’84): Originally from Cameroon and educated in Paris and at UC Berkeley, Daniel Mouen-Makoua (’84) is a London-based global investment executive, who in 2010 took a leap of faith to launch Bwamanga, a mission-driven public-private partnership and related investment fund. Through innovative collaboration across sectors, Bwamanga promotes sustainable agriculture, food security, and youth employment in Northern Nigeria. In just one year, this program has established more than 100 sustainable farming jobs in the Bauchi and Borno States of Nigeria, with plans to expand this workforce ten-fold by 2015. The collaborations Bwamanga has fostered are also advancing health care and education projects in the area. In 2008, Daniel established a scholarship at I-House that brought two doctoral students from Sub-Saharan Africa to Cal and I-House – students who otherwise would have been unable to benefit from or contribute to these communities. In light of his remarkable life and leadership, I-House is pleased to recognize Daniel Mouen-Makoua as Alumnus of the Year 2012.

All proceeds from the Gala will support the Fund for I-House which provides vital financial aid for promising students, and crucial maintenance in our 81 year old building. Approximately \$100,000 will be raised in support of International House and its mission of advancing a world of greater understanding.

The Gala takes place Thursday May 3, 2012 at 6 pm, at International House, Berkeley. In addition to remarks from honorees the night features musical performances, valet parking, and a delectable menu. Tickets for the event are \$275 and table sponsorship ranges from \$3,750 to \$15,000. Raffle tickets are \$100 for one, \$180 for two and \$400 for five. Raffle prizes include a 7-day/6-night stay in a Paris apartment and \$3,000 towards travel, an Indian dinner for four hosted by I-House Board member in their San Francisco home and a \$200 gift certificate to Fleur de Lys restaurant in San Francisco.

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.