Irving Tragen (IH 1943-47) served over 55 years in Inter-American Affairs. He was in the Foreign Service with diplomatic and development assignments in Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Guatemala, and Panama. He worked with the Central American market and helped found the Inter-American Foundation. He spent 15 years with the Organization of American States, initially in its economic development program and then, for nearly a decade, as the first Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Commission (CICAD) created in 1986 to combat drug trafficking and drug abuse from Canada to Argentina.

“My years at I House were pivotal. I met my wife, Eleanor “Bunny” Dodson, of 57 years. I made friendships that have lasted all my life. I chose a legal career dedicated to international relations and peaceful settlement of disputes. The exposure to people of different ethnic, racial, religious, and social orientation imbued me with a deep respect for others and a desire to understand how we can accommodate our differences.”
The idea for WattTime was sparked in the Dining Commons of I-House. It was founded by Berkeley students, including I-House residents: Executive Director Gavin McCormick (IH 2013-14); Margot Fried (IH 2013); Brenno Kenji (IH 2013); Vishwanath Bulusu (IH 2014-16); Giovanni Zenati (IH 2014-15); Sandeep Data (IH 2014-16); Allie Wang (IH 2015); Sebastian Benthall (IH 2013); and Justin Moon (IH 2014). WattTime is a revolutionary tech start-up and non-profit that produces cutting-edge technology to fight climate change, clean up the power grid, and empower energy users. Now it is a movement with over 200 activists, volunteers, and professionals that believe in giving people the freedom to choose their electricity provider. For more information, please go to watttime.org.