Martin G. Brennan, a Cal alumnus and former ambassador, took the helm of I-House on July 1, becoming the fourth Executive Director in the 77-year history of the House. “As a student at UC Berkeley, International House called me to a global arena,” recalls Martin. “I am honored to return to Berkeley in service to an institution that means so much to so many.”

Martin brings more than 30 years of diplomatic experience to his new role as Executive Director. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Uganda and Zambia and held posts in Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Taiwan, Portugal, and Ethiopia. Refugee work took him to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos.

“I-House is a powerful catalyst for promoting cross-cultural connections, as many of our alumnae can attest,” says Martin. “The pull of this powerful force for a more tolerant and peaceful world is what attracted me to I-House. I am deeply grateful to have been chosen to serve as I-House’s Executive Director.”

“I Came into this House a Kenyan, but Now I am a Global Citizen!”

Sarah Amugongo, a Ph.D. student from Kenya, described the profound impact of her two years at I-House to the audience attending the May gala. For Sarah, what began with a friendly welcome when she first arrived at I-House unfurled into a life-changing opportunity for a young woman who had never before left her home country. As she describes the experience, “I came into this House a Kenyan, but now I am a global citizen.”

Sarah acknowledges that without the financial aid she received from I-House, her Berkeley education would have been an impossible dream. Now in the third year of her Ph.D. program, she plans to pursue a career in biomedical research concentrating on bone diseases, especially osteoporosis.

Following are Sarah’s remarks:

“Thank you, my name is Sarah Amugongo and I come from Gisambai, a small village in western Kenya near Lake Victoria. I am a Ph.D. student in biology. It was on the 8th of August in 2005 when I first arrived in Berkeley. That was the first time I had ever left my home country. When I arrived at I-House, there was a student at the front desk named Kyle who worked in the Admissions Office and he said to me, ‘We are very excited to have you here!’ He then directed me to the cashier’s office and there I met a woman called Liz who said to me in a sweet motherly voice, ‘We are ready for you!’ I wondered how many places would receive such a warm welcome. As you can see, I have never forgotten about them. Since that day, weeks and months have passed, turning into two years. I came into this House a Kenyan, but now I am a global citizen. I would like to thank all of you who are seated here tonight for making this all possible.”

“By the end of my stay,” Sarah adds, “I would like to take with me the confidence that we can pursue our studies to the highest levels despite poverty, contribute to global development, and fight degradation. All this can be accomplished by sharing ideas, which is only possible through the unity that is cultivated in International House.”

Festival of Cultures and Cal Day are April 12, 2008. Page 3

Map shows global reach of I-House Website. Page 4

Golden Age alumni and Salz family dedicate Lottie’s room. Pages 1 and 4

Alumni are invited to Elderhostel programs on Middle East and Early Music. Page 4

Alumni News and Notes Page 10

In Memory Page 11

Golden Age Tea Welcomes Martin and Remembers Lottie

A alumna from the 1940s and 1950s gathered with members of the Salz family for an afternoon tea in July to meet Executive Director Martin Brennan and dedicate the room of fellow alumna, Lottie Wallerstein Salz, who lived in the House from 1947 to 1953.

Family and friends shared memories of Lottie, who was originally from Prague, Czechoslovakia. When she came to Berkeley, her family was arrested and her parents died in concentration camps. Lottie survived three concentration camps before escaping on a march to the fourth. At I-House, she became an active member of the House community and met her husband, Paul Salz. Lottie kept her I-House friendships very much alive throughout her life and is remembered with great warmth and affection.

Family members attending the event included Paul Salz (IH 1950-52), Dasha Salz Keg, her husband Dan Keg, and their daughters Annie and Janie (IH 2007). Janie followed in the footsteps of her grandparents, Paul and Lottie, by living in the House for the summer.

A plaque for Room #398 was unveiled with the inscription:

Dedicated to Lottie Wallerstein Salz, 1921-1989
An I-House resident from 1947-53. Lottie was born in Prague and arrived the Holocaust. Despite a concentration camp number tattooed on her arm, don’t let this dedication to the principles of I-House and promoted tolerance, understanding, and peace throughout her life.
Lottie met her husband Paul Salz at I-House who, along with fellow alumna Charles Clapp, have dedicated Room 398 to her memory.

(Continued on page 4)
At our Sunday Supper—my first ever—we explored forms of “welcome.” When I was an exchange student in Italy I met someone special, a university student named Giovanna. Three years later we proceeded to Giovanna’s small village near Padua to be married. The wedding was a family affair. Her brother, the village priest, performed the ceremony and her family filled the pews. Immediately afterwards, we overhauled the steps of the small church for the group photo. And then it happened. Giovanna’s family, all thirty of them, came forward one by one and kissed me Italian style on both cheeks. Each one looked me in the eyes and said, “Benvenuti in famiglia!” (“Welcome into the family!”) Before the wedding, I had wondered how I would be accepted. Their warm welcome said it all.

**Room Dedication Plaques Honor Alumni and Friends**

Residents arriving at I-House this fall found plaques honoring alumni and friends on a growing number of dorm rooms. Room Dedication Plaques Honor Alumni and Friends. Contact Shanti Corrigan at (510) 642-4128 or visit ihouse.berkeley.edu with questions or to get involved.

Martin Brennan accompanied I-House resident Nick Kardajlis of England, the first Elsdonky Gateway Scholar, to meet his scholarship supporters Aref Elsdoisky and his wife Fola, at their Woodside, California, home. Nick is pursuing his Ph.D. in History with an emphasis on Middle Eastern Studies after completing his Masters in Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford. He presented the Elsdoisky family with an I-House poster as a token of thanks for their support.

Room 464 is dedicated in memory of Arthur Strock (IH 1969-67). Room 745 is dedicated to Choon Koo Cho (IH 1955-58). Room 760 is dedicated to Wolfgang Homboker (IH 1950-51). Room 800 is dedicated in memory of Dr. Stuart Cheowhew (IH 1940-41). Room 817 is dedicated to Ron Olson (IH 1959-62). At least seventeen more rooms will be dedicated in the coming months as plaques are completed and will be dedicated in future newsletters.

**Scholarship Recipients Meet Gateway Sponsors**

Sponsor recipient Yangning Wang, Sofia, a statistics Ph.D. student from China, attended the fall Lodestar Program with Michele U and I-House alumnus and Board member Wei K. “It was so heartwarming,” she said. “I thank them!” The 2006-2007 U Gateway Fellow, Ray Liu, also attended Lodestar and shared their fellowship was launched in 2006. “The University of California Grad Division provides a greater than dollar-for-dollar match through awards of tuition, fees, and an annual $5,000 spending stipend,” said Brennan. “Thanks to the scholarship gifts from alumni and friends, gateways to new worlds of opportunity are opened.” Scholarships play a crucial role in maintaining and expanding the cultural, ethnic and economic diversity of International House. Contact Shanti Corrigan at (510) 642-4128 or visit ihouse.berkeley.edu with questions or to get involved.

**Room Naming Opportunities**

Naming a room in memory of a loved one or in recognition of your experiences at I-House leaves a permanent legacy while supporting the preservation of the House. To learn more about naming opportunities, including naming a resident room with a gift of $50,000 or more, contact Development Director Shanti Corrigan at (510) 642-4128, or visit ihouse.berkeley.edu.

**Martin Brennan**

As the new Executive Director, I wondered how I-House would welcome me. Much like Giovanna’s family, alumni, Board members, residents and staff have gone out of their way to embrace my arrival. I am grateful to feel so much at home in this unique community. I have been welcomed into the I-House family fold.

While in Bangkok, Giovanna and I had visited Sa and Woe, high school students who lived on a distant farm. They joined us each vacation to learn English. As often happens in cross cultural encounters, the teacher became the student. One of their visits coincided with Songkran, the traditional water festival. For two scorching days, the Thai outsmart nature by tossing cool water at one another. I studiously avoided participating lest I compromise my status as a presumably respectable diplomat. That is, until Sa and Woe asked: “You know Songkran?” “Oh, yes.” “Do you throw water?” “No. I watch.” “Doing is better. You will please come with us.” They handed me a bucket and gently nudged me out the door. The heretofore proper village girls and perennially uptight diplomat took position in front of our apartment building along a busy street. To my dismay, the girls pulled the hose from our building to our gate. I hoped upon hope no one would recognize me.

A taxi slowed before us. Two well dressed passengers peered through the open window. Before I could shout, “No them!” Sa and Woe tossed buckets of water with professional accuracy. I was in the process of apologizing when the two distinguished and drenched gentlemen pulled out water guns and let me have it. As the taxi sped off, Sa and Woe dashed across the street and shouted two policemen. As I wondered how to say “hail” in Thai the police roused with laughter. I finally got the message. Vehicles and water streamed nonstop for hours. We passengers returned the water with gusto. Sa and Woe then dashed across the street and handed me a bucket and gently nudged me out the door. The heretofore proper village girls and perennially uptight diplomat took position in front of our apartment building along a busy street. To my dismay, the girls pulled the hose from our building to our gate. I hoped upon hope no one would recognize me.

**I-House Scholarship**

Through Gateway and other scholarship funding, 17% of residents will receive financial aid from the House during the current year, through annual awards valued at nearly $600,000. Martin Brennan together with the I-House Board of Directors aspires to increase these awards to total $1,000,000 annually. “With the dramatic rise of tuition and fee expenses, the experience of studying at UC Berkeley and living at International House is becoming further out of reach for many deserving scholars,” said Brennan. “Thanks to the scholarship gifts from alumni and friends, gateways to new worlds of opportunity are opened.” Scholarships play a crucial role in maintaining and expanding the cultural, ethnic and economic diversity of International House.

**Martin Brennan**

Executive Director
Residents Challenged to Capture I-House Experience in Videos & Words

Day-to-day life “under the dome” is filled with thousands of daily interactions between residents across every imaginable boundary of cultural, religious, geographic, national and ethnic differences. Each year, the House challenges residents to capture these rich interactions through time-honored photography.

The Under the Dome contest encourages residents to submit photographs that capture the richness of these interactions through time-honored photography.

Residents Challenge to Capture I-House Experience in Videos & Words

Residents of I-House are challenged to capture the richness of these interactions through time-honored photography.

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Golden Age Tea Welcomes Martin and Remembers Lottie

(Continued from page 1)

Martin Brennan, who had been on the job as Executive Director for less than a year, shared anecdotes from his diplomatic career and outlined his thoughts on his vision for the future of the House. He encouraged alumni to educate him about the Golden Age which, indeed, was a special time in the history of the House. Residents of the 1946-53 era included refugees, resistance fighters, and Holocaust survivors who shared their deep dedication to promoting social justice and building a lasting peace.

In International House: An informed history, an alumni recalls the activism of the Housers who pushed for refusal of the war and challenged the U.S. military intervention.

Lottie Webster-Lai (IH 1947-55)

Through this example, and many others, I-House actions, the Berkeley department of history was recently integrated, as were the public rooms at the Claremont Hotel. Restorative covenants against minority ownership of residential property in and Berkeley. He earned a B.A. in music from Berkeley in 1978 and a Ph.D. in political science from M.I.T. in 1989. Originally a supporter of the war, Ferguson was trustworthy enough to gain the confidence of former top officials. Film critic Roger Ebert who, along with review partner Roger, gives the movie "two thumbs up," says, "Most of the people in the film were important to the Bush administration. They had top government or military jobs; they had responsibility in Iraq or Washington, they implemented policy, they filed reports, they labored faithfully in service of U.S. foreign policy and they still left the government….

The subjects in this film now feel that American policy in Iraq was flawed from the start. Several key obvious mistakes were not taken, that same advice was disregarded, that lies were told and believed, and that advice from people on the ground was overruled….

Film on Iraq War by I-House Alumni Features Current Resident

I-House alumna Charles Ferguson (left) and current resident Omar Fekki (right) from Iraq are respectively director and cast member in the award winning documentary End in Sight about the Iraq War. A free on campus screening with Charles and Omar is scheduled for December 6, 2007.

Elderhostel Programs Focus on Early Music and Middle East

I-House residents enjoyed a stop at Luther Gate during a campus tour.

Stay at I-House

Plan a stay in one of two guestrooms and re-experience International House Contact the Events Office (510) 642-9539 or email ihhouse@berkeley.edu. Guestrooms are popular so reserve well in advance.
Dear I-House Alumni and Friends,

When I accepted the position of Chair of the International House 75th Anniversary Campaign in early 2004, I knew that this responsibility would require significant energy. I am, after all, somewhat of an energy expert.

What I hadn’t anticipated was the terrific adventure that would accompany this effort. It has been a great pleasure to meet and engage with friendly and enthusiastic I-House residents and alumni from around the world not only “under the dome”, but in Bangkok, Korea, London, New York, and San Francisco. I was even welcomed in 2005 by I-House Alumnus of the Year Jan Egeland into the United Nations Headquarters for a memorable discussion during which he, like so many people I met during this campaign, professed his love of International House and his gratitude for its contributions to his personal and professional life.

To everyone that joined in this adventure: thank you. I offer special appreciation to the House’s Executive Director Emeritus Joe Lurie, whose dedication to I-House over two decades was fundamental to our success. Thanks also to our entire Campaign Committee and to the staff of International House. Together we have championed a cause that continues to be as vital today as ever: cross-cultural respect, understanding, friendship and tolerance for a more peaceful world.

With warm regards,

Peter Robertson
Vice-Chair, Chevron
Campaign Chair of International House 75th Anniversary

Friends,

I echo Peter’s appreciation to all who have shared their heads, hearts, and hands in shaping the International House 75th Anniversary Celebration and Campaign. Not only were truly critical financial resources secured over the past four years, but thousands of new friendships that keep our mission alive worldwide were formed. Alumni reconnected with long lost friends. Donors met current residents, some of whom would not have enjoyed all that I-House has to offer without generous scholarships from alumni and friends. Thousands of handshakes, hugs, and smiles have been exchanged, which is, at base, fundamental to what International House is all about. In every language of I-House: thank you. We look forward to welcoming you “under the dome” some day soon.

With best wishes from Berkeley,

Shanti Corrigan
Director of Development & Alumni Relations
It is here that the threads of our common humanity continue to be woven and honored.
Below are the names of donors who, between January 1, 2003 and March 1, 2007, made cumulative pledges, bequests, and/or contributions of $1,000 to $1,100,000.
Ms. Garamendi announced the launch of the Joe Lurie Returned Peace Corps (RPCV) Scholarship Fund. John Garamendi, the Lieutenant Governor of California, delivered a proclamation from the State of California in recognition of Joe Lurie’s service as Executive Director. Joe’s sister, Manon, was honored as Alumnus of the Year and Peter J. Robertson, Board Member and Chair of the House’s 75th Anniversary Campaign, was recognized as Alumnus Citizen of the Year.

Rich moments included a phone call from the Office of Southern African Affairs for the U.S. process while serving as Acting Director of the Peace Corps, giving a moving speech to the Board of Directors, and coming to appreciate how sworn enemies can witness the power of cross-cultural respect and harmony does not simply envelop us like a blanket, but is instead a bridge chasms of mistrust and misunderstanding,” says Martin. “I also learned that cross-cultural respect and harmony are the basis of living in a diverse community.”

Residents from Korea performed the traditional fan dance. Residents from Uganda and one in Ethiopia. The experience was a life-changing experience for me. I learned that cross-cultural respect and harmony are the basis of living in a diverse community.”

Residents from Peru were awarded and thanked heartily for their contributions. They heard at the Roast and Toast.

Former Ambassador Martin Brennan heads iHouse

“...As a diplomat in Africa, Asia, and Europe, I am very much one to honor you in this way. The celebration is also a tribute to all those who have contributed to the success of I-House during my years in residence. The House doesn’t work without its residents, without the support of its alumni, and without our very committed staff and Board of Directors. I have been extremely privileged to have served with all of you.”

Joe Lurie (IH 1988 - 2007)

“...It is wonderful to be home again,” adds Martin. “...I am very touched that you’ve all come to honor me in this way tonight. This celebration is also a tribute to all of those who have contributed to the success of I-House during my years in residence. The House doesn’t work without its residents, without the support of its alumni, and without our very committed staff and Board of Directors. I have been extremely privileged to have served with all of you.”

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Joe Lurie (IH 1988 - 2007)
**1930s**

Jacklyn Butler Melcher

Oakland, CA was one of the approximately 200 students who enjoyed the opportunity to be abroad again at the June Elderhostel program in 1982. It was truly wonderful! It was not only a great time but also a fantastic way to live in a new house where I had so many happy memories. The program was great, as it was always in Jacklyn's opinion.

Jen Born

Jen Born

**1940s**

Matthew Brady retired recently and lives in San Clemente CA with Marcy, his wife of 58 years. Their children live in California and Hawaii and a son is on his third tour in Iraq. He serves on the Board of his hometown's association, enjoys kayaking, and visits, “Great memories of I-House and I-House friends.”

Marcia Tillson Gedikan

(mom) charmed on the first steps after enjoying lunch in the Dining Room with our new Executive Director, Martin Benenson, and his godson.

Juan Barbara Matthai

“My brief stay at I-House during my winter year led to unforgettable impressions on me.” After graduation, she returned home to New York, worked for a session at Washington, and later worked for the U.S. economic aid program in Lebanon, USOS. "I returned to New York, married a Scrodian, and lived in Edinhall. Since 1999, we have lived in Denver, CO. International affairs remain paramount in our lives. We have been all around the globe!”

Ivy King was tinged with Sparkle and the Nerd: A Love Story...
The I-House Times is published periodically for alumni and friends of International House. President Chancellor Robert Birgeneau Executive Director Martin Brennan Editor-in-chief Shanti Corrigan Located at the University of California, Berkeley, International House is a separately incorporated, non-profit educational institution recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3).

Calendar of Events

Please contact the Programs Office (510) 642-4164 or Development Office (510) 642-4382 to confirm program information, or visit http://ihouse.berkeley.edu.

- December 6, 2007: Film screening of No End In Sight, 7pm Wheeler Auditorium (see page 4)
- January 19, 2008: Globalization Series Lecture - Emile Wallerand, Director of Engineering, Google (see page 5)
- January 26, 2008: Host Family Orientation, 7-9pm
- February 2, 2008: Lunar New Year Dinner, 6pm
- February 22, 2008: Alumni American Dinner, 6-8pm & Gospel Night, 8pm
- March 4, 2008: Host Family Dinner, 6pm
- March 17, 2008: St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, 6-8pm
- April 12, 2008: Easter Dinner, 6-8pm (see page 3)
- April 26, 2008: Festival de Seville, 6-8pm
- April 28, 2008: Annual Gala de la Raza, 6-9pm
- May 3, 2008: Cinco de Mayo Dinner, 6-8pm

Ongoing Programs:
- Mon. 7pm: Social Dance Class
- Wed. 9pm: Coffee Hour open to students, members and alumni
- Thurs. 7pm: Globalization Lecture Series, Homeroom 7:30pm
- Mon. & Wed. 5pm: Fitness Class
- Language Tables Weekly 5:30pm Call the Program office for dates and languages featured. $8.00 for dinner.

For more information: http://ihouse.berkeley.edu

Alumnus is U.N. Special Adviser

Alumnus Jan Egeland (IH 1983) was appointed by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon as Mr. Ban’s Special Adviser relating to the prevention and resolution of conflicts around the world. Following the March appointment, Egeland began to strengthen peacemaking capabilities and engage in conflict-prevention efforts.

As Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator from 2003-06, Egeland was acknowledged worldwide for his passionate leadership in seeking assistance for people caught in conflicts and natural disasters.

Honored by I-House as Alumnus of the Year in 2005, Egeland, a native of Norway, recalled: Living in I-House was like living in the United Nations without the bureaucracy. Every single day led to new friendships with engaging students and scholars from all over the world.

Preparing Global Citizens & Leaders to Shape a More Peaceful World

Residents gathered before welcoming guests to the 2007 Celebration and Awards Gala in May. Front row, from left: Liv Loebman (Norway), Micoley Butler (France), Kim Nguyen (USA), Adwoa Osei (Ghana), Cathleen Kim (Kenya), Eric Jabart (USA/France), Marianne Costa (Italy)

Back row, from left: Emilio Martinez del Amor (Mexico), Chimère Ramahantsoa (Madagascar), Genan Perinam (France)