International House Residents
and the Berkeley College Republicans Club D.I.V.E. into Conversation
Here at International House we try to emphasize and repeat the mission of our organization as often as possible so that our various stakeholder groups understand why we exist: "The mission of International House is to foster intercultural respect and understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills for the promotion of a more tolerant and peaceful world."

As much as we strive to promote this mission through our residential operations, our beautifully-renovated Dining Commons and the related programming now offered there, and through the outreach work of our Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership, we regularly confront societal, economic, and political forces that assail this mission. It would be far simpler to run an International House that is made up of people from nations that are largely similar to and friendly with the USA. But, as we all know, that is not what makes the I-House experience such a powerful and impactful period in our residents’ lives. What makes the experience so meaningful and enduring is that one is confronted by the enormous amount of global diversity in this place and has to then figure out how to make sense of it, come to grips with it, and use this comprehension of diversity as a fulcrum for understanding one’s own place in the global landscape. It is precisely for this reason that we have developed an admissions policy and a companion financial aid program that is designed to continually and consistently increase the academic, economic, and geographic diversity of our resident body.

The present circumstances highlight our challenge. Our national government’s most recent attempt to establish a travel ban on entry into the USA for individuals from six predominantly Muslim nations hinders us from achieving our goal of geographic diversity. At present, we only have two students from the affected nations — one from Iran and one from Sudan. Our overall representation of students from throughout the Middle East and Northern Africa is lower than it should be. Under the current circumstances, it is hard to imagine that these numbers will improve very much; the most likely scenario is that they will decrease.

It is for this reason that I believe that we have to stand up for the ideals that allow our mission to bear fruit. These are the values of access, mobility, and open doors to students and scholars from around the world who have the academic wherewithal to be successful in this particular university environment. If we don’t stand up for these values, we lose the opportunity to be the kind of place that truly challenges our residents’ mindsets about what the world is now and what it can be if people from different regions and cultural understandings learn to live together more productively and successfully.

I believe that the entire I-House worldwide movement is threatened by any measure that blocks individuals from realizing their academic potential because they can’t enroll and reside at universities that have accepted them for study or research. It is incumbent on all of us to promote the mission of I-House and that ultimately means standing up for the values that enable this mission to prevail.

Hans C. Giesecke, Executive Director

UC Berkeley Welcomes First Woman Chancellor Carol Christ

As of July 2017, Dr. Carol Christ, current interim executive vice chancellor and provost, will become UC Berkeley’s 11th chancellor, succeeding Nicholas Dirks who will be returning to teaching and research in history and anthropology.

Christ (rhymes with “list”) first came to Berkeley in 1970 as a professor of Victorian Literature, having completed her Ph.D. in English at Yale University. Since her arrival, she has become increasingly involved on campus and proved herself to be an invaluable administrator and academic on Berkeley’s campus, serving at various levels within the English Department and the College of Letters and Science.

“Berkeley transformed me, as it has transformed so many of us, and it transformed my understanding of higher education. I had never been in a place of such intense intellectual vitality, with as great a sense of the consequence of its research. There seemed no field of knowledge or endeavor that someone on the faculty did not know profoundly—and indeed was not working to extend its understanding. And I had never been in a place so deeply committed to widening the doors to educational opportunity.”

- Chancellor-Designate Christ

We are especially excited to welcome her as the first woman to become chancellor in UC Berkeley’s history, as she has maintained a passion for women’s rights and gender equality throughout her career in academia. Traditionally, the chancellor serves as Chair of the I-House Board of Directors, and we are looking forward to working with Christ to further encourage diversity and inclusion on campus.
Standing Up for I-House

In light of the current political climate in the US, alumni from around the world have sent messages of support for the I-House mission. Many shared stories of how their time at I-House strengthen their international friendships and cultural understanding. Email ihalumni@berkeley.edu to share your thoughts.

Three Days in December 1941

In a recent letter to Executive Director Hans Giesecke, Dr. Margaret Miller wrote:

“I am enclosing a short story of my experience as a student living at I-House on December 7, 1941. I am now almost 95 years old and feel that I am re-living part of my experience when I was 19.”.

Following is Margaret’s story...

The fall semester of 1941, I was 19 years old and had been living at the International House for almost a year. I left I-House Friday afternoon and took the F Train from Berkeley to our home in San Francisco. On Saturday night the whole family gathered to trim the tree that was set up in the front window so that the hundreds of lights would shine out onto the street.

On Sunday morning, December 7, I was sitting with my mother having a late breakfast. My father was in the living room listening to one of the local radio stations. A little after 11:00 am he yelled, “Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor!” The three of us huddled around the radio for hours listening to CBS and NBC interrupt their programs with continuous announcements of the attack on our fleet at Pearl Harbor by Japanese naval airplanes. The Western Defense Command reacted immediately. The West Coast of the United States was in danger. Vulnerable targets in the Bay Area included both bridges as well as shipyards in every county surrounding the Bay. We couldn’t believe what was happening.

I decided to go back to I-House that day instead of staying the night in San Francisco. As I walked up the hill, I was frightened. I-House was a model of the way that people from countries from all over the world could live together peacefully. How would the day’s events affect all of us who lived there? The I-House staff called a meeting to bring us up-to-date with orders from the War Board, which included blacking out all windows in the very large building. As I helped prepare I-House for blackout, I realized that my parents’ house would also be blacked out, and the tree with all the beautiful lights would not be visible from the street that year.

The next morning, on Monday, December 8th, we were called into the Great Hall, where we listened to President Roosevelt’s radio broadcast where he spoke before Congress these famous words: “Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 — a date that will live in infamy —

Continued on page 6
This winter, 14 residents participated in our Intercultural Leadership Initiative (ILI), a program of the Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership (CIL), here at I-House. As part of the program, residents formed small teams to conceptualize and present a final project. One team invited a group of representatives from the Berkeley College Republicans to I-House to engage in a facilitated discussion with residents. ILI participant Jeanette van der Lee writes about navigating opposing sides of the political spectrum on her journey of discovery.

I’m half Dutch and half American, but I was born and raised in the Netherlands and had never lived in the US during a presidential election. I knew the election was going to be emotional, but the amount of anger and even hatred that I saw around me before, during, and after the election truly shocked me. I observed people not understanding each other and not understanding each other’s fears. I noticed that people either didn't know anyone with—or distanced themselves from—others with different political opinions.

On social media, many people often saw a polarized image of the other party. No one seemed to see the supporters of the other party as human beings anymore. As much as I wanted to change this situation, I didn’t know what I could do on my own or where to start. However, my participation in the Intercultural Leadership Initiative (ILI) at I-House introduced me to methods and strategies that changed that.

In ILI, we were taught skills for working in an intercultural environment and how to lead an intercultural team. At the end of the course, our final assignment was to work in teams and teach the skills we had learned to a community of our choice. My fellow team members, Karen Elve Strand (Norway) and Mark Smith (USA), also wanted to increase understanding between people from different sides of the political spectrum. Suddenly it seemed at least possible to take a small step towards reversing the polarization of the election, so we decided to organize a meeting between members of the Berkeley College Republicans and residents of I-House.

“It’s hard to admit, but like others, I saw Republicans more and more as a group of people whose ideas differed from my own and less as individuals with their own ideas, their own personalities, and their own experiences.”

The skill we chose to teach during this meeting was how to DIVE. The letters in DIVE stand for describe, interpret, verify, and evaluate. “Diving” is a tool that can be used in situations in which people are unfamiliar with or different from one another. It’s a tool that helps people question stereotypes or assumptions they have and helps them avoid jumping to conclusions. Often when we see or experience something, we interpret it and jump straight to an evaluation before verifying our interpretation, especially when we’re experiencing a culture that’s different from our own. This is a common, often unconscious human reaction, and it does not happen just in intercultural situations. For example, think back to a time when you just assumed something about someone, based solely on what you saw, and later learned that your assumption wasn’t correct at all. Chances are you
weren’t even aware of what you based your evaluation on. Applying the DIVE model means first describing what you are experiencing (being conscious of the interpretations you make based on that experience), then verifying those interpretations and, only then, evaluating the experience. My team wanted to make both the I-House residents and the Berkeley College Republicans more aware of their assumptions about members of the other party and of whether those assumptions were true or not.

During this meeting we first taught the participants how to implement the DIVE model. Then we discussed assumptions that I-House residents had of Republican viewpoints, after which the Republican students addressed those assumptions. We also did this the other way around. We talked about topics such as immigration, diversity, gun laws, and climate change. We didn’t change each other’s opinion on these topics—that wasn’t the goal of the meeting. The goal was to teach people the skills to become aware of and verify their assumptions about others before jumping to conclusions. Another goal was to increase understanding between the members of the Berkeley College Republicans and I-House residents. Based on the evaluations we got afterwards, we met those goals!

The meeting had an important impact on me personally.

It’s hard to admit, but I viewed Republicans more as a group of people whose ideas differed from my own and less as individuals with their own ideas, personalities, and experiences. What really had an impact on me was hearing how one of the members of the Berkeley College Republicans had been pepper sprayed and another was punched in the face, just because they were standing at a table sponsored by the Berkeley College Republicans or wearing a Trump t-shirt. It made me realize that they were also experiencing negative consequences of their political viewpoint and were targeted just because of what they believed in. This shocked me and made me feel more compassionate towards them.

The I-House residents, for the most part, did not seem as experienced in defending their ideas, and at times it was hard for them to be heard. But what struck me was how several members of the Berkeley College Republicans responded to this. When they noticed other members of their group being a bit overwhelming or talking over one of the I-House residents, they would step in and tell the other to give the resident a chance to speak. Republicans are often portrayed in the media as though they don’t care about others, and this reminded me that the average Republican is very different from the negative image that is often portrayed in the media.

This meeting had a significant impact on the participants’ way of thinking about people on the other side of the political spectrum, too. About a month after this meeting, I listened to President Obama’s farewell address. His speech was excellent, but the one thing that he said that touched me the most was, “If you’re tired of arguing with strangers on the internet, try talking with one of them in real life.” The ILI mentors challenged the participants and me to do exactly what President Obama said. I recommend that everyone try this method. We were surprised by what we learned, and if you try it, you will be too.

The Student Leaders Retreat took place on January 28, bringing together Resident Council members, Resident Assistants (RAs) and Program Assistants (PAs) for a full day of community building and planning. Resident Council is an elected group of residents who work with the Program Office to fund and shape educational, cultural, and social activities and liaise with the administration on behalf of I-House residents. RAs are student live-in staff that help to build and maintain a safe and enjoyable living environment for residents. PAs plan and coordinate signature I-House events and its vibrant cultural programming, and support resident-initiated activities that aim to build community.

These vital and visual student leaders of I-House are charged with modeling and embodying I-House’s mission. Investment in their development is key because they influence the resident experience through their important leadership roles.
I-House congratulates Jeffrey Yamashita for being the first resident to receive the new Activism Era Scholarship for the 2016-17 academic year!

I-House alumni from 1960-75 envisioned creating this unique scholarship through which the recipients would carry on the spirit of activism they had embodied as UC Berkeley students: that of questioning the status quo, born from a passion for exercising our rights as US citizens to instigate change to improve our society.

Jeffrey is a high-achieving Ph.D. student in Ethnic Studies with a interest in community building and inclusion. Since high school graduation, he has been financially independent and has worked arduously to fund his education. Coming from Hawai‘i, an ethnically and socio-economically diverse state that many consider “paradise,” his graduate studies focused on the notion of “paradise and home.” He wrote, “If I took you to my neighborhood, you would see that Hawai‘i has one of the highest rates of houselessness for its indigenous population. I don’t use the word ‘homeless’ because Hawai‘i is ‘home’ to all of them.”

Jeffrey’s graduate fieldwork is being completed in both the US and abroad to enrich the breadth of his research.

Jeffrey expressed appreciation to the many donors who made it possible for him to discover “a new home” in the I-House community. This future leader’s passion for challenging surface-level images of society and striving to make a positive impact for change in the world truly embodies the spirit of the Activism Era Scholarship.

Three Days in December 1941

Continued from page 3

the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan.”

During the three short days that I was away, the US had gone from an anti-war, pacifist country to a one at war with Japan and its allies, Germany and Italy. The situation at I-House had changed. I had close friends there from Japan, Germany, and Italy, and now their countries were our declared enemies. I am grateful that, although our countries were at war, nothing changed between my friends and I because we lived at International House.

Margaret with her family at a women’s march in January 2017

Continued from page 3

The First I-House Activism Era Scholarship Awarded

Resident Statistics Fall 2016

- Resident Population:
  - 588 residents represent 76 countries
  - 42% Women / 58% Men
  - 77% are international students, 23% are US passport holders
  - 44% Graduate Students
  - 49% Undergraduate Students
  - 7% Visiting Scholar/Post Doc
  - Average Age is 23 (range 18-61)

- Financial Aid Statistics 2016-17:
  - 113 residents from 35 countries received financial aid for room and board
  - $701,626 awarded in financial aid

- Top Five Countries:
  - United States 134
  - China 43
  - Japan 33
  - France 31
  - Singapore & Germany (tie) 28

- Top Five Areas of Study:
  - Law 46
  - Mechanical Engineering 39
  - Economics 37
  - Civil & Environmental Eng. 34
  - Elect. Eng. & Computer Sci. 27
Greeting students as they walk up Bancroft Street, the new International House lettering displayed above the I-House Café was a particularly meaningful project that was completed last fall (August 2016). The letters, which are consistent with house-wide branding, replaced the previous awning. New UV-protective film was applied to the café windows and new signage was installed to enhance our curb appeal.

We’re always working to improve our public and residential spaces at I-House, and we are delighted to highlight a few of our recently completed projects and give you a glimpse of our upcoming summer projects!

Recent Improvements

The front corner and the Egon von Kaschnitz Patio Garden underwent new landscaping, re-leveling, and the installation of an additional bike rack open for public use (October 2016). In addition, a new path was made to provide better access to the parking lot.

We continue to update the Jewell Patio, which was renovated as part of the Dining Commons Transformation Project last year. New additions include two beautiful seating areas with wooden tables and benches overlooking the garden and Dining Commons interior.

Summer Projects

Two major renovation projects will be taking place this summer!

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), updates will be made to the Great Hall and Heller Patio to make them more accessible. A ramp will be constructed connecting the two, offering direct access via wheelchair and opening up the space for larger house-wide events.

The first floor offices will also be undergoing major renovation this summer, in an effort to increase efficiency and access to the services available for residents. The concept involves an open office environment, making it easier for students to directly interact with staff members. We look forward to collaborating with residents as we continue to promote diversity and inclusion throughout the house.
The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce declared a “Marian Diamond Day” on March 14, 2017. Professor Marian Diamond (IH 1949-52), was presented with the I-House Faculty Alumni of the Year award at the 2016 Celebration and Awards Gala. Professor Diamond was the first ever faculty honored in 28 years of the annual Gala’s history. A portion of the documentary My Love Affair With the Brain: The Life and Science of Dr. Marian Diamond, produced by Luna Productions, was featured at the Gala. The world premiere of the full documentary aired on KQED on March 22, 2017.

Marian found her passion in neuroscience at a time when very few women entered the field of science. Her groundbreaking work set the stage for new understandings of how the brain works, which continues to provide a scientific foundation in neuroscience education and research.
Thanks to our donors, on November 17, 2016, during the Big Give, UC Berkeley's 24-hour fundraising blitz, we raised over $30,000 for International House. We also won $6,000 in the Big Bang contest for ranking 4th in participation, and $2,000 in the Big Countdown contest for an international donation between 5 and 6 a.m.—proving that the I-House effect is strong in the world! See contest results on the leaderboards at biggive.berkeley.edu. We thank everyone who shared their I-House Berkeley effect on hand-written butterflies and posted photos on social media. We feel your love! See Big Give photos on Facebook and Instagram at: facebook.com/berkeleyihouse and instagram.com/ihouseberkeley

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Esther Rose
Zeph D. Rose
Piero Rosina
Robert J. Ross
Ajit Sabnis
John H. & Wendy Sagers
Rick Sanders
Andrea & Gopal Sankaran
Henry & Laila Schoenlein
Edmund & Teresa Schoolor
Roberta L. Schutz
Francois Schweizer
Hinrich C. Seeba
Bal Raj Sehgal
Sunil Sethi, CPA
Dorothy Shack
Nidhi Shah, Esq.
Shell Oil Company
Jo-Ann Shelton
Eiko T. Sheperd
Shy Subir
Albert J. Sievers, III
Professor Kirk R. Smith
Sylvia Smith
Ma Cecilia G. Soriano
Robert & Ellen Spahling
Darling Spengler
John A. Sproul
Frances Starn
Sally E. Stevens
Margaret Stromberg
Ulrich K. Stuever
Rod & Elaine Stutt
Srinivasan Subramanian
Paul & Audrey Suci
Z. Renee Sung
Teresa Tan
Andrew Tanenbaum
Doris Terswilliger
Madeleine Trilling
Linda Twilling
Tzou-Shin Ueng
Douglas Underwood
Carol Upshaw
Nico Van Klaveren
Robert & Laura Siegel Venning
Helena Vranich
Nancy R. Waldman
Dianne Walker
Mary-Anne Wallace
Janet G. Westbrook
Elizabeth Weston
Richard S. Wheeler
Derek White & Lisa Dominguez
Jennifer White
Rhita Williams
Professor Olly & Elouise Wilson
Marvin & Karla Wolf
Kiyoiko Woodhouse
Dolly Wu
Wayne & Keiko Yasutomi
Isami Yoshihara, PE
Grace Yu
Peggy & Lee Zeigler
Anonymous (2)

We strive to be as accurate as possible, however if you notice something in error please contact ihalumni@berkeley.edu or call 510.642.4128.
1. **Wayne K. Yasutomi (IH 1987-89) and Keiko Nakamura (IH 1988-89)** I-House couple Wayne and Keiko stopped by the alumni office in August while visiting from Japan to help their son, a freshman at Cal, get settled in. They shared with Director of Development, Joy Iwasa the story of how they met in the Great Hall. Keiko remarked that before they officially met, she always saw Wayne watching the Olympics in the Great Hall, so it was a treat to see residents watching the Olympics together during their visit.

2. **Ralf Kellermann (IH 1999)** and his family picked up their teenage son from Vancouver Island and came to visit Berkeley. They enjoyed staying in the Ambassador Suite at I-House.

3. **Richard Vondrak (IH 1964-66)** (pictured far right) and his wife Mary (IH 1963-66), reunited with fellow alumni, **Stuart Pawsey (IH 1964-66)** and **Glenda Pawsey (IH 1965-67)** while visiting UC Berkeley for Richard’s 50th reunion at Cal. Richard, an Emeritus Scientist for Lunar Exploration at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, presented Stuart Pawsey and Hans Giesecke with photos of the Pawsey Crater on the far side of the moon that is named after Stuart’s father, the Australian radio astronomer Joseph Lade Pawsey.

4. Andrea Eberly and her daughter Linnéa stayed in the Ambassador Suite while Linnéa was checking out colleges. Linnéa’s grandmother, **Ursula (Alf) Graebe (IH 1950-53)**, was an I-House alumna. They were delighted to receive the original copy of Ursula’s application.

5. **Manuel Schulze (IH 2013)**, the 2014 Davis Projects for Peace winner for **Recycle Up! Ghana**, visited I-House to share lunch and updates about his project with Hans Giesecke, Executive Director; Sulaiman Haruna, resident from Ghana; and Shirley Spiller, I-House Sr. Advisor for Business & Financial Affairs.

6. **Charles Foster**, former I-House Board of Directors member, met with Joy Iwasa and had an unexpected reunion with I-House Human Resources Manager, Deborah Preston. Deborah states, “Charles was the Executive Director of the Port of Oakland and was my mentor for many years when I worked at the Port. He truly helped propel my career in human resources and facilitated my exposure to the Oakland community.” Charles continues to mentor and support leaders in the community and has pledged his support of our financial aid program at I-House.
7. Zahwa Amad (IH 1982-86) (pictured right) and Bonu Ghosh (IH 1982-85) (center) spent an afternoon under the dome with a tour of recent I-House renovations and lunch with Director of Development, Joy Iwasa. Zahwa was the winner of the 2016 Global Homecoming I-House raffle prize that included two deluxe I-House goodie bags and a meal for two in our Dining Commons.

8. Philip Geier (center with tie), cofounder and executive director of the Davis United World College Scholars Program at Middlebury College, joined Hans Giesecke; the 2016 Davis Projects for Peace award recipients Hayden Shelby and Than Mai Bercher (center front); and UWC scholars for lunch and conversation of their shared vision of intercultural understanding. For more information on the I-House Davis Projects for Peace program, visit ihouse.berkeley.edu/davis. For background on the United World Colleges (UWC) scholarship program, visit www.uwc.org.

9. Laura’s daughter, Genie Bettencourt, visited I-House to see where her mother, Laura Burroughs Bettencourt (IH 1969-70) lived. Laura was in the Slavic language program and graduated in 1970.

10. Alexandre Bureau (IH 1996-98) and his wife Sylvie Marceau (IH 1995-98) visited I-House with their two daughters while on a vacation that included a visit to Disneyland.

11. Do Young Jeon (IH 1988 & 91) and his son, visiting from Seoul, Korea, met with Financial Aid Coordinator Bonnie Johnston to make a gift to I-House. Having received a scholarship when he was a resident, he was inspired to give back to help other deserving residents.

12. Michele Ü (left), Hong Liu (IH 1961-67) (2nd from left), and his wife Jenny joined fellow I-House alumni and their spouses for a 1960s reunion at the Fall Sunday Supper. The guests enjoyed a tour of the House and reminisced about their time under the dome, including Sunday Suppers, one of our longest held traditions.

Would you like to reunite with I-House friends?
The Office of Alumni Relations can help.
Email ihalumni@berkeley.edu
or call (510) 642-4128.
1940s

David Lowenthal (IH 1947-1949) was awarded the 2016 British Academy medal for his book *The Past Is a Foreign Country-Revisited*. The medal honors landmark academic books that transform understanding in the humanities and social sciences. His book is available on Amazon.com.

Mason Gaffney (IH 1947-49) just released a new book, *Beyond Brexit: The Blueprint*, which covers a topic of timely interest. Mason writes, “Wish more of my old pals were around to see it. But the key to life is making new friends, while still cherishing and nurturing great memories with the survivors, like those from International House’s ‘Golden Years’.”

Mason Gaffney included a poem he included with his update:

> Golden days, in the sunshine of a happy youth,
> Golden days, full of gaiety and full of truth.
> In our hearts we remember them all else above
> Golden days, days of youth and love.

How we laughed with the joy that only love can bring,

Looking back through memory’s eyes,  
We will know life has nothing sweeter than its springtime,

Golden days, when we’re young  
Golden days.

1950s

John (Mike) Corley (IH 1953-54) writes, “There was a Hans Kaiser at I-House in the early ’50s who was a key player on the I-House soccer squad! We correspond frequently, and I visit him in Culemborg [The Netherlands] whenever I go to Europe. We are both in our 80s. I shall be 87, still hale and hearty.”

Donald M. Platt (IH 1953-54) has published a new book, *The Sorceress and the Skull*, about a female descendant of Nostradamus who has his gifts of prophecy. Hidden since birth, protected by aliases, an aunt, and a gargoyle, Michele has become a fugitive at age 13, fleeing across Europe and Canada before finally arriving in San Francisco in 1946. Donald’s books are available on Amazon.com.

She also shared her memories of students gathering in the Great Hall to follow major world events on TV, and she was pleasantly surprised to learn they still do.

1960s

Jamsed K. Fozdar (IH 1946-48) is a scientist by profession and a theologian by passion. At the age of 22, he was the recipient of a letter of commendation from Albert Einstein for his paper on the Fourth Dimension. He just launched a new book, *The Last of the Conquerors*, his magnum opus depicting the trajectory on “terra firma” of a uniquely long life where science and theology have intermeshed. His years at I-House with Terje Jacobson (IH 1946-48), Piloo Mody, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto are featured on pages 74-84 of this 600 page tome. Scroll through the flipbook or purchase a copy at jamsbedfozdar.com.

Ines R. Gomez-Monreal (IH 1963) returned to I-House to have lunch in the Dining Commons and to share photos from her time at I-House. The photo below was of herself (left) with fellow alumni Bertrand Geraud de Galassus (IH 1963-64) and Huynh Kieu-Dung (IH 1963-64), pictured in front of I-House before going out on the town.

1970s

Andrew W. Harrell (IH 1971-74) writes, “I was able to have a wonderful trip to the South of France and Italy for 30 days this March and April. A blog at ourprayergroup.blogspot.com chronicles the whole trip.”

Karen E. Lowe (IH 1979-80) and Joseph Matthews (IH 1977-80) I-House couple Karen and Joseph wrote a note to Bonnie Johnston after their recent visit: “We feel very fortunate to be part of the International House family, and we treasure our friends and experiences of these wonderful years. We were delighted to meet you and your team, and we look forward to future visits to I-House.”

If you enjoy reading News & Notes and would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please send your news and photo to us at ihannaledui@berkeley.edu.
Andrew Young (IH 1983-85) President Obama nominated Andrew Young as the next United States Ambassador to Burkina Faso. Ambassador Young writes, “At International House, I saw firsthand how people from multiple cultures could live together in harmony while building bridges across vast cultural gaps that had erupted in violence in their home countries. I left with a stronger commitment to pursue cross-cultural understanding as a powerful tool to help make the world a better place. As I take on the responsibilities as ambassador in Burkina Faso, I will carry with me the lessons of community that fellow students from International House shared with me.” Ambassador Young joins the growing list of ambassadors on our Notable Alumni page at ihouse.berkeley.edu/alumni/notable/

Mark Kierlanczyk (IH 1982-84) Alex Kierlanczyk, an incoming UC Berkeley student, came by to visit I-House, where his father, Mark, lived. Alex said that the only reason his dad was able to escape communist Poland in the 80s was because a mathematics professor at Cal accepted him into a Ph.D. program when other US schools declined. Alex could see why his father liked I-House so much, and he might apply for residency himself!

1990s

Mashape Todd Lethata (IH 1992) writes, “I had the time of my life while staying at I-House. It exposed me to diverse cultures, traditions, and technology. I-House is larger than life and offers remarkable opportunities. Most of my I-House alumni friends are diplomats of their countries and many more have branched into businesses of their own. In South Africa, I work as a facilitator for a government economic development agency known as Gauteng Growth Development Agency (GGDA). In a way, I am also a diplomat. My dear colleagues and fellow alumni, next time you are in South Africa, please contact me.” Todd is the official Country Contact for South Africa. Visit our Country Contacts page for details: ihouse.berkeley.edu/alumni/
Amy Merrill (IH 2004) created the impact travel community JOURNEY.

Amy writes, “Fueled by experiences of cross-cultural learning, like at I-House, plus nearly a decade of tackling social change from the inside of nonprofit organizations, my co-founders and I set out to unite and collectively solve our world’s social and environmental challenges. A JOURNEY is a 6-day trip—part-service, part-mindfulness and adventure. Groups of 30 to 50 people spend two days doing impact work (projects include building homes, revitalizing schools, and refugee aid) and three days of integration (mindfulness, shared meals, yoga, and surfing). For videos and photos from a recent Journey, visit wejourney.co.”

Robert Sepeda (IH 2006-07) was back in the Bay Area in November for the Education Pioneers Conference in San Francisco. He was one of ten honorees for an EPic Alumni Award for transforming education. His work with Families Empowered in Texas helps support immigrant, refugee, and low-income families. Learn more about his work at: educationpioneers.org/what-we-do/meet-our-pioneers/robert-sepeda

Bartosz J. Tkaczyk (IH 2006-07) Dr. Bart Tkaczyk, MBA, won the Global Human Resources Development Research Excellence Award, presented by the International Federation of Training and Development Organisations (IFTDO). Dr. Tkaczyk was honored at the opening ceremony of the 45th IFTDO World Conference held in the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the patronage of His Royal Highness, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. IFTDO represents the human resources profession through its affiliation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN).

Elisabetta Tollardo (IH 2007-08) writes, “I am happy to announce that, following the completion of my doctorate in history at the University of Oxford, I have published my first book, titled Fascist Italy and the League of Nations, 1922-1935 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). By uncovering the traces of the Italians working in the organization, the volume investigates Fascist Italy’s membership of the League, and explores the dynamics between nationalism and internationalism in Geneva in the interwar years.”

Catalina Moncada Cano (IH 2015-16) writes, “I’m doing well back home in Colombia, and I enjoy my work a lot! I’m currently working as senior associate for a multinational law firm called Dentons, Cardenas & Cardenas. I work on infrastructure, telecommunications, and public procurement issues. I hope everything is going well at I-House Berkeley. I still miss that place so much!”

Welcome new I-House Staff:
Ivan Barrios, Cook
Rovelyn Diaz, Sr. Food Service Worker
Andrew Edlen, Business Tech Support Analyst, Information Systems
Bobby Henderson, Custodian
Hirona Hona, Public Events Specialist
Miranda Loos, Marketing Specialist, Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership
Giovanni Morisco, Events Specialist, Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership
Jacqueline Trovato, Custodian
Ricardo Willis, Chef

Farewell Staff:
John Avots Smith, Associate Director Development
Nicole Callis, Events Supervisor
Liliana Cardile, Events Specialist
Jess Delegracia, Intercultural Training Specialist, Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership
Arnulfo Gomez, Cook
Kelly Kurtenbach, Catering and Dining Team Lead

Welcome new Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership Staff:
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Farewell Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership Staff:
John Avots Smith, Associate Director Development
Nicole Callis, Events Supervisor
Dining Services - Catering
Liliana Cardile, Events Specialist
Events and Rentals
Jess Delegracia, Intercultural Training Specialist, Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership
Arnulfo Gomez, Cook
Kelly Kurtenbach, Catering and Dining Team Lead
1940s

Anne Frolik Adams
October 18, 2016
Anne got a degree in music from UC Berkeley, then spent four years in Paris. But she had to return to Berkeley, where she met Ernest Adams, a professor of philosophy at UC Berkeley, whom she married in 1957. They had two sons, Jim (born 1962) and Bill (born 1964). The family moved to Soquel 1969, living there for nearly 40 years. Anne was a violinist in the Santa Cruz Symphony and wrote several plays. Anne was a lifelong lover of music, books, swimming, travel, and trips to the beach. Anne and Ernie moved to Lakewood, Colorado, in 2006 to be near Bill’s family. Ernie passed away in 2009, a deep blow to Anne. During her residence in Colorado, Anne wrote her autobiography From There to Here, a fond reminiscence covering her first 90 years. Anne brought joy to her family and to her many friends.

Louise Ahern
May 26, 2016
Born in Roundup, Mussellshell County, Montana, Louise moved (with her parents) to California at the age of 8. While living at I-House, she was getting not only a degree in English from UC Berkeley but also a teaching credential and a fiancé! She and George Ahern, a naval officer, married in 1945. She lived in Modesto, Sonora, Turlock, and finally lived in Oakland for 70 years. She had many lifelong friends as bridge partners and belonged to the same book group for over 30 years. She was known as an avid reader, a deep thinker, and she was “the center of [her] family’s universe.” She is survived by her sister, Betty Ann Guy of Turlock; and her 3 children, Carol Andersen, Thomas Ahern, and Gail Ahern of Oakland; her son-in-law, Richard Andersen; her daughter-in-law, Beverly Ahern; five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Grace Merriman Thompson Altus
September 13, 2016
Grace came to UC Berkeley to obtain a Ph.D. in Psychology. A post-doc at Columbia led to a career as a school psychologist. Grace married William (Bill) David Altus, a psychology professor at UCSB. Nepotism laws meant no faculty position was available to her there, so she mentored interns and co-authored papers with her husband. Her research included factors that influence school achievement and test patterns in children. She became a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Psychological Association, and was listed in Who’s Who of American Women. She set swimming records into her 70s. She was a volunteer for Santa Barbara organizations and a life member of the Sierra Club. She was a voracious reader and delighted in taking her children and grandchildren to Chaucer’s Bookstore to choose gifts. When Grace was a youngster, her family could not afford music lessons, so she nurtured her children’s musical interests and ensured that they had the lessons for which she had yearned. She stayed in close touch with her Norwegian roommate and the two of them took a fjord trip together as older women. Bill and Grace had three daughters and three grandchildren.

Barbara Francis Beetem
September 17, 2016
Barbara Francis Beetem passed away on Sept 17, 2016. She always spoke fondly of her years living at I-House and of the many friends she made there.

Noorudin A. Billawala
July 9, 2016
Noor came to the United States in 1947 as the trail blazer among his six siblings. At UC Berkeley, he received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, an M.S. in Physics, and an M.B.A.. He was enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Stanford until family obligations required him to leave. He worked at Sylvania before becoming a real estate broker and property developer in many communities in the Bay Area. Noor’s was a life of development of not only property but also of friendship and support networks for anyone in need. He reached out to the Muslim community and to Hindu friends. He operated Santa’s Village (among many other enterprises). Noor is survived by his wife, seven children, and eleven grandchildren as well as siblings, nephews, and nieces.
Robert H. Feinberg  
March 19, 2016  
Robert was born in Chicago and earned a B.S. at Northwestern before coming to UC Berkeley for a Ph.D. in biochemistry. He worked in Oklahoma and at Vanderbilt, before teaching biochemistry at the University of Tennessee Knoxville for many years. Retirement gave him the time he needed to pursue his love of art and history. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ruth Feinberg; his sister, Helene Pier; his daughter, Susan Feinberg; his daughter-in-law, Cindy Feinberg; and his grandchildren, Neil, Pete, and Sasha Feinberg.

Marcia Tillson Gedanken  
April 21, 2016  
Marcia was Class of 1939 at the University of Rochester, and received her M.A. in Social Work from UC Berkeley. At Cal, Marcia met her husband, Bernard, who was getting his master’s degree in mathematics. She had a career in child welfare, foster care, and international adoptions. By the time she retired, Marcia was Assistant Chief of the State of California Independent and Inter-country Adoption Bureau; and she had completed editing the first department publication on Inter-country Adoption. Marcia’s years at I-House, 1947-48 and 1951-52, led her to underwrite the construction of an I-House ski lodge at Lake Tahoe. Not that she could ski: she wanted a place away from academic life to gather with friends. The lodge was later incorporated into the UC family camp, Lair of the Bear.

Joy Wade Moulton  
June 30, 2016  
Joy graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Physical Education after being active in many aspects of campus life. She subsequently got an M.S. in Physical Education at Wellesley. In 1973, her interest in genealogy became professional, and she published books, wrote a regular column, and lectured. She taught courses on the topic at Ohio State and elsewhere. The 120th General Assembly of the Ohio House of Representatives recognized Joy for her many contributions to the field of genealogy with a Special Citation in 1983. Her genealogical collection of nearly 1,000 volumes was donated to the State Library of Ohio, and has been transferred to the Columbus Public Library.

Ione Marie Minore  
July 24, 2015  
Ione Marie Minore, born in Muenster, Saskatchewan, began studying the piano at a very young age, and music became a life-long passion. After a year in Vienna and several years back in Canada, she made it to UC Berkeley, studying musicology, and living at I-House. There she met Don Minore, also a graduate student. When their degrees were in hand, they moved to Corvallis, OR. Ione played the organ at St. Mary’s church, went to concerts, and the family took trips to the beautiful Canadian Rockies. Don and their children, Anna and Tim, are still in Corvallis.

Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich  
July 31, 2016  
Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich was a fourth generation San Franciscan who continued her family’s tradition of contributing to the cultural life of the city. Her grandfather, Herbert Fleishhaker, was the first treasurer of I-House. Delia was the eldest child of Mortimer Fleishhacker, Jr. and Janet Choynski, who both served on the I-House Board of Directors. Delia spoke at the Gala in 1995 when the Fleishhakers and Fleishhaker Family Foundation were honored. Delia’s brother David was a former resident and board member, playing a key role as one of the leaders of the 75th Anniversary campaign.

Erwin Louis Hahn  
September 20, 2016  
Erwin received his Ph.D. in 1949 at the University of Illinois. During a post-doc there, he made his seminal discovery of spin echoes, leading to the development of MRI/Magnetic Resonance Imaging, which changed the world of medical diagnostics. From Illinois, he went to Stanford, the IBM Watson Lab in New York, and the Columbia Physics Department. In 1955 he became an Assistant Professor at UC Berkeley, in 1961 a full Professor, and finally Professor Emeritus in 1991. Erwin’s colleagues and the wider scientific community, will remember him as a brilliant scientist and a gregarious personality with an extraordinary sense of humor.
International House is a program center and campus residence for students from around the world, including the US. Our mission is to foster intercultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills to promote a more tolerant and peaceful world. The I-House Times is published in the spring and fall for alumni and friends of International House.

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Gifts in Memory: March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

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Guheen Margaret
Barbara F. Beetem
John F. Beetem
Nancy Brewer
Mary Ann Fisher
Adeline K. Cassettari
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Gifts in Honor: March 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

International House
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Marissa Maciel
Leslie B. Benson
Stephanie Benson
Evangeline Buell
Bethann & Dave Johnson
Olivia A. Burgos
Anders C. Yang
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Maura D. Mack
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John Killeen
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Charlie Cho
Yong Joon Kim
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Dr. William Crain
Richard & Judy Fiset
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Eva & Alexander Glazer
Dr. Marion Ross
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Chris Chan
Linda Clifford
Linda Yip

International House Times 19
International House Celebration & Awards Gala
Thursday, April 27, 2017

Honoring:

Sir Desmond Rea (IH 1966-67)
Global Ambassador of Peace and Inspiration

Dr. Arlene Blum (IH 1967-68)
Alumna of the Year

Dean S. Shankar Sastry (IH 1977-78)
Distinguished Alumni Professor of the Year

For details and tickets, visit ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala

I-House residents welcome guests at the red carpet Gala entrance.