Alumna of the Year Firoozeh Dumas

Firoozeh Dumas lived in International House in 1986–87 and has since become a best-selling author whose work highlights her Iranian-American heritage. Ms. Dumas was honored on April 7th at the Celebration and Awards Gala for her efforts to promote understanding of Iranian culture and for reminding us – through her books, speaking tours, NPR commentaries, and articles – that our commonalities far outweigh our differences.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Dumas said, “Living in International House was the best experience of my life, certainly the best experience of U.C. Berkeley. In my second book, Laughing Without an Accent, I said that I felt that if every world leader could live here we would have far fewer wars, and I sincerely believe that. The first requirement of war is to dehumanize the enemy. When you see someone as a person, you see their humanity. You see that most people want the same things and that you can begin with the commonalities and work through problems.”

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf: Liberia’s Struggle for Peace and Justice

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa’s first elected female president, took office in 2006, and inherited a country devastated by 14 years of civil war, brutality, and “loss of hope – truly a failed state.” President Sirleaf spoke in the Chevron Auditorium on April 9th and captivated the standing-room-only audience with humor, advice, and her belief that Africa’s best days are ahead.

“Today, Liberia is recovering from that dark period of insanity,” said Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated economist who was once imprisoned in Liberia and twice forced into exile. Addressing the challenges Liberia still has to face, Sirleaf called on Liberian students at UC Berkeley. “When you’re done with your studies, come back home, help us rebuild the country.”

Continued on page 4.

William & Phyllis Draper Honored at I-House Gala

Phyllis and Bill Draper, longtime champions of awareness and involvement in international issues and peace, were honored as Global Citizens of the Year at the 21st annual Celebration and Awards Dinner on April 7th, also honoring Alumna of the Year Firoozeh Dumas (see article at left).

Bill Draper accepted the award speaking for both himself and Phyllis noting “the dire need for international cooperation and collaboration. Being that I-House provides a platform for students from all countries to study together, to learn about one another’s cultures, and to peacefully coexist, it serves as a microcosm of our increasingly interconnected world.”

Continued on page 5.

Kounalakis and Campbell Speak at Lodestar Programs

International journalist Markos Kounalakis and former Congressman Tom Campbell were the featured speakers at this year’s Lodestar Programs. Held every fall and spring, Lodestar programs bring alumni and residents together to share a meal, hear a distinguished speaker, and join in discussion.

International House alumnus Markos Kounalakis (I-House 1977-78) addressed The Future of News: A Journalists Perspective on Peril and Possibility in the Obama Era in March. Kounalakis, whose assignments as foreign correspondent included covering the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, is President and Publisher Emeritus of the Washington Monthly. He writes a regular feature for the magazine and co-authors the nationally syndicated program, Washington Monthly on the Radio. Kounalakis reflected on his own I-House experiences:

Those who have lived at I-House recognize that globalization is something we have lived on a daily basis and that society is now, in many ways, coming to understand what we have lived and understood vicariously. Discussing the future of the news, Kounalakis noted, “We shouldn’t fear what’s occurring, it’s just that we don’t really know what’s coming next because we are in this transitional moment.” He discussed the importance of technology, the impact of the bankruptcy of newspapers on foreign correspondence, and what it means for the government and the intelligence community if foreign news no longer comes from known sources.

Tom Campbell spoke on What the U.S. Election Results Mean for America and the World just two days after the election of President Obama. Campbell, who is considered a possible Republican candidate for the presidency, made a surprise visit to the University of California and spoke at a campus event.

Continued on page 6.

Continued on page 5.

Continued on page 4.

Continued on page 7.
Some years ago, my wife Giovanna and I journeyed in Africa to the Sahel mulls into the Sahara. We visited the Grand Mosque of Djenné, the largest mud structure in the world. Originally built circa 1350, the mosque has been rebuilt by its community several times, and in the last hundred years its preservation has been assured by an annual community ritual. Each spring, the people of Djenné pool their resources, gather around food, music, and dance and toil together side by side to re-plaster the mosque, attend to its foundation, and thus preserve its heritage. Without such effort, the mud mosque would have crumbled long ago.

I was reminded of this tradition as I gathered with my two predecessors and 250 residents, alumni, and friends at the 21st I-House Celebration and Awards Gala. By pooling our resources, sharing food, drink, and music, we re-dedicated ourselves to the mission of International House.

Recently at the Festival of Cultures during a particularly vibrant celebration of Turkish music and dance, an I-House alumna from Greece shared with me the sense of shock and discovery she experienced as a new resident when first encountering students from Turkey. She found them to be kind and welcoming. This breakthrough led her and a Turkish resident to become roommates and develop a friendship that continues to this day. Current resident, journalist Huda Al-Hamdani of Iraq, came to I-House at the recommendation of I-House alumna of the year, Firoozeh Dumas of Iran. “Firoozeh was really the first Iranian I came to know well - and her advice led me to I-House... a place and symbol of sanctuary, tolerance, humanity, and multicultural knowledge... a home for the whole world.”

Such remarkable stories abound at I-House. You can read more about Huda in the Inspiring Alumni section of our web site, or to learn more about the I-House team. This is part of the seven person I-House team helping manage the grant.

The I-House team met with the Taproot volunteers in March for a “kick-off” meeting. Taproot Volunteer Project Director John Philip Wyck is Executive Director of Strategies Consulting, which he founded in Brussels, Belgium in 1992 during his nine-year residency there. He speaks three languages and has worked internationally with industry leaders such as Nike, Keds, Ford, Foot Locker, and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, among others, and was Director of the Office of Strategic Research for Levi Strauss & Co. Dr. Angelique Augereau is an international consultant with McKinsey and speaks three languages. Arthine van Dayne, MBA, speaks four languages and has lived in Switzerland. Vince Bryant, MBA, has lived in Korea and Germany. Dylan Rivas spent two years in the Peace Corps in Honduras and is bilingual. And Rene Chong, MBA, is bi-lingual and served Habitat for Humanity in Costa Rica.

Together they bring more than fifty years of experience to I-House’s pre-strategic planning effort! The team will be conducting over a dozen internal and external interviews to shape an “environmental scan” and analysis of I-House strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

$100,000 Charitable Annuity Benefits I-House and Donor

An anonymous alumna of I-House recently established a $100,000 gift annuity with UC Berkeley that will provide her a robust annual income of over $6,000 per year for life and which will ultimately serve the future residents of International House. “Of course I’m happy to support I-House, but I also see this as a solid investment in a challenging economic environment, while offering tax benefits as well,” said the alumna.

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) are simple contracts often shaped within a few days. Gift annuities provide fixed payments annually for life to their donors, with rates that are set depending on the age of the donor. Donor gifts are eligible for charitable tax deductions in the year the gift is made.
I-HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: INSPIRING LEADERS FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

I-House is home to 585 residents, 115 of whom are able to live “under the dome” thanks to scholarships that help offset room and board expenses. The four recipients profiled below are representative of the diverse talents, backgrounds, and future promise of our inspiring residents. Scholarships are funded by contributions to the Fund for International House and by named, endowed funds. Profiles of scholarship opportunities and links to support this vital I-House aid program are online at ihouse.berkeley.edu.

**Huda Ahmed Al Hamdani**
Country: Iraq
Scholarship: Fund for International House
At I-House: 2008 to present
Field of Study: Master’s in Journalism
Accomplishments: Huda worked as Special Correspondent for the Arabic Daily Newspapers and the Washington Post in Baghdad. She was honored by the International Women’s Media Foundation and received the Elizabeth Kreffel Fellowship for research at the MIT Center for International Studies in 2006-2007. She received the Courage in Journalism Award for 2007 and a fellowship for 2007-08 in International Studies at Stanford. She was recognized by Knight Riders, Washington bureau for extraordinary bravery in covering combat during the siege of Najaf in Southern Iraq.

**Future:** Huda plans to return to the Middle East to work as a journalist. She hopes to transfer the skills she learned at Berkeley to a new generation of journalists, to expand new media technologies, and to promote a free, accurate, and fair press in the Middle East.

**About I-House:** “I-House is like a Mecca station where one can see the whole world without traveling. I didn’t expect that I would learn so much from my friends here at that they would learn from me. We just metted in one pot. I-House is a home for the whole world. I hope that the 1-House and McEveley world. All this would not have happened if it was not for the noble generosity of people who believe that no matter where you are from, there is a place for you in I-House.”

**Gathu Kirubi**
Country: Kenya
Scholarship: Fund for International House
Field of Study: Ph.D. in the Energy and Resources Group
Accomplishments: Gathu researched the connection between the decline in access to energy services and the rise in poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and explored the potential for community-based electric micro-grids as a strategy to accelerate off-grid rural electrification. He also helped organize the first UC summer course at Kenyatta University. In collaboration with the Bay Area’s Asante Africa Foundation, Gathu is working to improve the quality of math and science education in primary and secondary schools in Kenya and throughout Africa.

**Future:** Gathu has accepted a position at Kenya University where he will teach courses on energy, technology, and sustainable development beginning in the fall of 2009. In addition to teaching, he has accepted an offer to start and lead operations for a new solar energy company, Sun Transfer (Kenya), a sister company to Sun Transfer Germany.

**About I-House:** “I-House is not only a conducive study environment; it also offers a unique experience in terms of cross-cultural exposure and tolerance. An open mind in terms of culture and an open mouth in terms of food have made me appreciate the dining room a moment of Chernobyl and a moment to look forward to.”

**About his scholarship:** “I am grateful for the generosity of alumni who made this fellowship possible and who sent me congratulations. I believe the I-House experience will have more impact on me this year than it has on me so far.”

**Valentine’s Tea Celebrates “A love Affair with I-House”**

An audience comprised of more than fifty alumni and residents enjoyed a Valentine tea and reminiscences of I-House life at a pre-Valentine’s gathering in February. Three of the four Executive Directors who have served the House in its 79 year history were present and shared memories. Sue Blaisdell, Carroll, the daughter of the founding Director, Allen Blaisdell, was also present, and joined with family members in unveiling an oil painting of the founding Director, Allen Blaisdell, at a special dinner for students and friends from different cultures is the most impressive experience. Complete the 2009 Alumni Survey online at http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/survey.

**Sue Carroll**
At I-House: 2007
Field of Study: Bachelor’s in Environmental Science
Accomplishments: Sue Carroll joined with her twin grandsons to unveil an oil painting of the founding Director, Allen Blaisdell, at a special dinner for students and friends from different cultures is the most impressive experience. Complete the 2009 Alumni Survey online at http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/survey.

**About I-House:** “I am grateful for the generosity of alumni who made this fellowship possible and who sent me congratulations. I believe the I-House experience will have more impact on me this year than it has on me so far.”

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**Brian Halalburka**
Country: U.S.
Scholarship: Joe Lune Rackham Overseas Corps Volunteer Fellowship
At I-House: 2008 to present
Field of Study: Master’s in Environmental Engineering
Accomplishments: Brian served as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Namibia teaching math, science, and English to middle school students. During his two year service, he acquired hundreds of new books for the school library, initiated an IVES Club to teach students about prevention methods, and started a science fair that sent several students to compete in Namibia’s national science fair.

**Future:** Brian hopes to work internationally in water resources management and water quality.

**About I-House:** “When I learned that I had been accepted to Berkeley, I knew that the I-House would be the perfect place to live. My experience here has been excellent. It has only reaffirmed what I learned in the Peace Corps – that cross-cultural friendship promotes understanding, tolerance, community, and supports each other.”

**About his scholarship:** “I am grateful for the generosity of alumni who made this fellowship possible and who sent me congratulations. I believe the I-House experience will have more impact on me this year than it has on me so far.”

**Yuwei Liu**
Country: China
Scholarship: Rafael Rodriguez/Golden Age Foreign Student
At I-House: 2008 to present
Field of Study: Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science
Accomplishments: At Penn State University, Yuwei was the top ranking student in his class of atmospheric science majors and received the Outstanding Student Award for 2007.

**Future:** “I will complete my Ph.D. in five years, and hopefully find the causes of droughts in Africa in the last century, the topic I’m researching now. I hope to use my results to predict future climate patterns in Africa and offer suggestions to prevent extreme climate and corresponding famine from happening again. After graduation, I’d like to return to China and become a professor, transferring the knowledge I learned in Berkeley and researching climate change in China.”

**About I-House:** “I’m glad to live in I-House. Meeting friends from different cultures is the most impressive experience. I hope to continue the tradition and make a difference in the future.”

**Bay Area Hosts Needed**
Friends and alumni of International House are invited to extend the hand of friendship to an international student for home by offering a holiday meal, outing to local attractions, and most of all, friendship. To receive more information about the International Friendship Program, please return the RSVP panel on page 7 or email iprograms@berkeley.edu.
If you’re already plugged-in to social networking, look for @calcafe – with many fun devices while maintaining their wireless connections.

Sign up for the I-House Connection ENewsletter!
Keep your connection to I-House alive and help conserve resources by signing up for email updates. We’ll email you the I-House Connection and a notice when the latest edition of I-House Times is online. Sign up at ihouse.berkeley.edu.

I-House Goes Wireless
When residents returned from winter break, they happily discovered that access to a wireless network was available throughout the building. Residents can now roam with laptops or OUs, iPhones, and other wireless devices while maintaining their wireless connections. Due to the size and age of I-House, the design and implementation of the new service presented many challenges for the Information Systems staff who designed and installed the system. During the spring semester, the system’s performance will be monitored to balance the signal strength more evenly and more access points will be added in the months ahead. The system is based on the latest wireless technology and will serve residents for years to come.

Arun Sarin: Lessons on Leadership
I-House Alumnus Arun Sarin (IH 1975-78), former CEO of Vodafone, the world’s largest mobile phone company, was乃敬 when a cell phone ring interrupted his April, 2009 lecture on campus. He encouraged the audience: “Answer it! That’s revenue!” The laughter that followed belied the thought-provoking nature of his remarks which were enjoyed by Haas Business School students and invited residents of I-House. With typical charisma and insight, Sarin encouraged listeners to evaluate their own leadership skills along four key dimensions.

Leaders, he said, must have acumen for strategy, but strategic vision alone doesn’t distinguish a leader. Skills in operations are also critical, and these two skill sets can sometimes be mutually exclusive. Also critical are people skills: the ability to interact, motivate, and “read” people well. “People decisions are the hardest” said Sarin, who also underscored a fourth capacity he said takes on greater prominence today than ever: “Leaders today and tomorrow must be able to work cross-culturally.”

Sarin cited global economic growth statistics underscoring the roles such countries as China, India, and Brazil will have in our global marketplace, and encouraged everyone at the lecture to “go to the I-House – have coffee with someone from somewhere else and learn about their culture.” Sarin met his wife Rummili while both were I-House residents, and their Board leadership and support resulted in the dedication of the I-House Sarin Program Office in 2006.

Rooms, Benches, and Brick Dedication Honor Alumni
International House has been pleased to recognize members of our community whose generous support ensures the vitality of our institution.

Room Dedication:
Room 564 was recently dedicated by distinguished businessman Kazusue Konoike, President of the UC Berkeley Japan Alumni Association.

Dedicated to Kazusue Konoike
A resident of International House from 1974-76, Kazusue Konoike, originally from Japan, was dedicated to the purposes of International House in his personal and professional life. Room 564, his former residence, is named in his honor.

Forthcoming Bench Dedication:
A patio bench will be dedicated this summer in honor of George and Helen Break (see the obituary on page 7). In a 2006 note George wrote: “I-House played a very important part in our lives, as we met there when we were both residents. We made many friends there and it has always had a special place in our hearts.”

Brick Dedication:
Betty Everett (IH 59-62), pictured with her late husband, Robert, whom she met at I-House, recently arranged a brick inscription in Robert’s memory.

Sadako Ogata Returns “Under the Dome”
Sadako Ogata (IH 56-57) returned to I-House in November, 2008. She met with current residents over tea, reflected on her own time as an I-House resident, answered questions, and listened as residents shared personal stories. “It was indeed a great pleasure to have cheerful conversations with the students in the International House. Everything there brought back old memories to me,” she writes.

Board members Sao “Steve” Matsura and Martha Hertlendy were also in attendance to welcome Dr. Ogata home to I-House. Dr. Ogata is the former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and President of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency. She visited campus to keynote a Cal symposium on Japan’s International Relations: Diplomacy and Foreign Aid. “Learn more about Dr. Ogata and other notable I-House alumni at ihhouse.berkeley.edu/ notable.

Alumni of the Year
Continued from page 1.
"It is in places such as I-House that we learn to see beyond nationalities, borders, and religions and see instead our shared humanity. It is the only recipe for world peace. At I-House, I realized that I was not alone in the way I think about the world."

Ms. Dumas met her future husband Francois, from France, at International House, fueling her desire to serve as a professor.

Sadako Ogata, top left, pictured with I-House residents who attended his April, 2009 campus lecture.
**Justice Breyer at I-House**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, one of the world’s most powerful jurists, issued a modest plea for justice and reason when he spoke in April 16th at I-House, portraying the rule of law as “a subtle thing” that depends upon the willingness of citizens to follow it—and the determination of governments to enforce it.

The San Francisco native was appointed in 1994 and noted “We had nine justices” who signed the unanimous Brown decision, noted Breyer. “But they didn’t have the milita. It was Governor Faubus who had the milita.” It took President Dwight Eisenhower, he added, to send in the army’s 101st Airborne Division to enforce the court’s ruling. “That,” said Breyer, “was a great day for the rule of law.”

The biggest applause from the capacity crowd was drawn when Breyer discussed another important ruling saying “Hey, I didn’t like Bush v. Gore. I disented. All right!” Read more of Breyer’s remarks at visiting Cal’s The Berkeleyan newspaper online, from which this story draws.

**William & Phyllis Draper at I-House Gala** (continued from page 1)

William H. Draper III, served 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 U.S. He founded the Draper Richards Foundation, which has launched social entrepreneurial organizations such as Kiva, the Genocide Intervention Network, and Room to Read.

Phyllis Draper served for five years as Assistant to the Director for the Peace Corps, and has been involved with a myriad of organizations dedicated to women, children, and the arts, including The Asian Art Museum, The International Museum of Women, and The Kennedy Center—a testament to her conscientious global citizenship.

**Letters From...**

With the help of I-House friends, Artemes Smerees and Joan and Roland Rood, we became reaquainted with a phone call in June, 2004. This just proves that love has no age barrier. I am 83 and Joan is 81.

The happy couple, still active and busy, lives in Anaheim, California, and looks forward to many years together.

**Justice Breyer at I-House**

The Berkeley Forum: The Power Triangle of India, China and the U.S. May 31-June 6

International House will host an Elderhostel program open to seniors ages 55 and better, at which UC professors will explore the new geopolitics that drive relations among India, China, and the U.S. Co-sponsored by I-House, California Alumni Association, the UC Center for South Asia Studies, and the Berkeley China Initiative.

Field trips, classes, meals, and accommodations are included in the fee of $747 for the program, May 31-June 6. For more information, visit the I-House web page or sign up to receive a flyer on the RSVP panel, page 7.

**Resident Wish List**

The following list was compiled by residents as items that would contribute to the quality of life of residents of I-House. Contact the Development Office for details if you might contribute to help make their dreams come true.

- Film Projector and screen for Chemain Auditorium
- Wireless access technology for resident floors
- New concert grand piano for performances
- Natural gas line to allow fires in the Great Hall fireplace
- New sofas and drapes for the Great Hall
- More field trips, like the trip to Google

**Alumna Paula Goldman Speaks at International Women’s Day Tea**

Alumna Paula Goldman (IH 1996-97) presented her award-winning multimedia project, “Imagining Oursehves,” at the annual International Women’s Day Tea on March 6th. Goldman, a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard, is the founder and director of the Imagining Oursehves project for the International Museum of Women. She asked thousands of young women, “What defines your generation of women?” The result, “Imagining Ourselves,” documents the social change shaping a generation of women and helps connect young women around the world, inspiring them to create positive change.

**Celebrate I-House Romance!**

Did you meet your spouse at I-House? We know of more than 160 couples who met here and would love to add you to the list on the I-House Couples page: http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/ihalumni/couples.html. Let us know when and how you met.

**Alum Represents House in Poland**

Bart J. Tkaczyk (IH 2006-07) invited the U.S. Embassy’s deputy political counselor to Poland, Craig Conway, to speak on potential U.S. foreign policy under the Obama administration at the University of Economics and Innovations in Lublin, Poland. After Conway’s remarks, Tkaczyk, who was a Fulbright scholar at UC Berkeley and is the founder and CEO of ENERGIZERS, a performance consultancy, gave a presentation on I-House and showed the movie International House, The Visionaries.

Tkaczyk has also volunteered to be the I-House country contact for Poland. To find out more about I-House country contacts, visit http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/countrycontacts/
The News & Notes column highlights the diverse activities and experiences of alumni and friends of the International House community.
After graduating from Cal, he served in the South Pacific during World War II. He and his wife, Miriam, were married in 1944 and had two children. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century. He was also a world champion dominoes player. Survived by his wife, Carol.

<Question>1. What is the main topic of the text? The main topic of the text is the life and career of a man who graduated from Cal and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century and was also a world champion dominoes player. Survived by his wife, Carol.

<Answer>1. The main topic of the text is the life and career of a man who graduated from Cal and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century and was also a world champion dominoes player. Survived by his wife, Carol.

<Question>2. Who is the man mentioned in the text? The man mentioned in the text is Jack M. Feder, an attorney who graduated from Cal and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century and was also a world champion dominoes player.

<Answer>2. The man mentioned in the text is Jack M. Feder, an attorney who graduated from Cal and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century and was also a world champion dominoes player.

<Question>3. What is the date of the memorial service? The date of the memorial service is not mentioned in the text.

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<Question>4. What is the name of the man mentioned in the text? The name of the man mentioned in the text is Jack M. Feder.

<Answer>4. The name of the man mentioned in the text is Jack M. Feder.

<Question>5. What is the main event mentioned in the text? The main event mentioned in the text is the memorial service for Jack M. Feder, an attorney who graduated from Cal and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century and was also a world champion dominoes player. Survived by his wife, Carol.

<Answer>5. The main event mentioned in the text is the memorial service for Jack M. Feder, an attorney who graduated from Cal and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in San Francisco for half a century and was also a world champion dominoes player. Survived by his wife, Carol.
“Sunday Supper” is among the longest standing International House traditions, dating back to 1910 when founder Harry Edmonds and his wife Florence invited U.S. and international students to their home to foster cross-cultural friendships and understanding among scholars. The presumption was (and is) that such understanding enhances the leadership capacity of scholars who by virtue of their academic training may one day assume prominent roles in their native countries.

With the success of early suppers, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was persuaded to attend one such gathering, leading to his decision to fund the establishment of International House New York in 1924 and six years later International House, Berkeley. Proclaimed by Edmonds as an “occasion around which the life of the House is centered,” Sunday Suppers today are festive quarterly events featuring guest speakers, performances by multi-talented residents, and invited alumni guests.