Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is 2008 Alumna of the Year
Award-winning author and poet honored at I-House Gala

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an award-winning author and poet, whose work frequently explores cross-cultural themes. Her bestselling collection of stories, "Arranged Marriage," received an American Book Award and her novels, "The Mistress of Spices" and "Sister of My Heart" were made into films.

In recognition of her achievements in promoting cross-cultural understanding and thereby furthering the I-House mission, Chitra Divakaruni was honored as 2008 Alumna of the Year at the 20th annual International House Celebration and Awards Gala on April 16.

"I thank I-House," says Divakaruni, "for giving me the opportunity to live with and exchange ideas with people from other cultures whom I might have avoided under other circumstances. Some of them became my closest friends. They transformed my thinking and my beliefs."

Recalling her I-House experiences, Divakaruni says, "I learned to let go of preconceptions about different cultures. I learned to value and feel comfortable with people different from me. I met so many wonderful people from so many countries. I-House connected me with a wonderful host family with whom I still keep in touch. I had so much fun!"

Asked how her I-House experiences impacted her writing, she says, "Living at I-House made me sensitive to the challenges people face when living in a different country and how it changes people, makes them grow. These are major themes in my work." The author of fourteen books has been published in more than 50 magazines, including "The New Yorker," and translated into 16 languages.

(Continued on page 5)

Residents Launch Projects for Peace

Kathryn Wasserman Davis, an alumna of I-House New York, celebrated her centenary birthday in 2006 by contributing $1 million to fund 100 Davis Projects for Peace in 2007. "I wanted to use my 100th birthday to help young people launch some immediate initiatives—things that can do during the summer of 2007—that would bring new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world," said Mrs. Davis. Mrs. Davis and her late husband, Shelby Cullom Davis, US Ambassador to Switzerland (1969-1975), both lived in I-House New York while working on their master’s degrees at Columbia University in 1931-32.

After many creative projects were completed last summer, Mrs. Davis re-funded the program in 2008 and extended participation for residents to Switzerland. Four awards were reserved for I-House Berkeley residents who will receive grants of $10,000 to implement projects during the summer of 2008.

Dr. Liliane Koziol, Director of Programs, convened a review committee that selected the four recipients from among resident submissions. As a result, four dynamic residents will launch their peace projects this summer.

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (IH 1978-79), 2008 Alumna of the Year, says that I-House friendships transformed her thinking and beliefs.

Aya Erucumen from Turkey, who attended an Austrian high school in Istanbul, is working towards her Masters in Public Health and will conduct a clean water intervention project in Cambodia.

Sina Akhavan from the U.S. and of Iranian descent will work in Kosovo teaching employment education skills to Roma children.

I-House is exploring ways to make the Peace Projects a permanent part of the I-House experience.
Executive Director’s Message

Living Across Cultures in the I-House Village

It was winter of 1969 and I was spending my school break in my grandfather’s birthplace. At first, I was overwhelmed with how different things were. Mornings revealed foot-long icicles inside my room. Romilda and Bepe spent hours with their feet inside the oven of their wood stove. Rosa’s every fourth word was “eh-eh-eh-eh.” Carlo’s antics on his perilous Vespa on narrow mountain roads left me clinging for my life. Aldo lit his ever present cigars with embers pulled from the fire and always burned his sweater to the lamentations of Lucia. I could consume Mt. Everest in pasta yet the predictable refrain was: “Ah, you eat so little today.”

One night, a wizened stranger sidled up at Bar Centrale, dumped a pile of dubious mushrooms on the table and proclaimed: “Mangia! I fanno bene” (Eat! These are good for you). Yet, by the time I hopped on the train to return to the university, this warm and accepting community had become home. My relatives and friends had taught me the value of living across cultures.

On December 24, 2007, my family and I joined the I-House village for our holiday dinner. The gathering of former residents, visitors, and residents quickly became a familial setting. Thanks to the efforts of Farook, Momen, Mujeeb, and Jose Manuel, we ate to our heart’s content before a crackling fire in the Great Hall. Almost everyone was miles from home and yet everyone felt at home. This sense of being familial setting. Thanks to the efforts of Farook, Momen, Mujeeb, and Jose Manuel, we ate to our heart’s content before a crackling fire in the Great Hall. Almost everyone was miles from home and yet everyone felt at home. This sense of belonging was greatly strengthened the evening.

One of our residents shared this experience in a message I received recently:

“The center of my life in Berkeley has been International House. It has enlightened me in so many ways, has stirred my vocations, and inspired friendship with people I would have never thought I would become friends with. I cannot stress enough how deeply enriching and life-changing it has been to meet with people of such diverse backgrounds, and at the same time with such common will to understand, relate, and peacefully discuss any topic.

What great opportunities I have had to talk with Serbians and Kosovars of what is going on in their land while it is happening; or with Kenyans and their elections; or Turks and their conflicts with the Kurds; or with the Japanese and their economy and constitutional reforms. Or to be invited to go to pray in a Mosque, and invite a Muslim friend to go to my church. These are just some among many great things I’ve been able to do being in I-House.”

A couple of weeks ago, another resident confided that when he learned that I-House residents included historic enemies of his homeland, he grew concerned about the possibility of serious friction. To his surprise, quite the opposite has happened.

One of our residents shared this experience in a message I received recently:

“The center of my life in Berkeley has been International House. It has enlightened me in so many ways, has stirred my vocations, and inspired friendship with people I would have never thought I would become friends with. I cannot stress enough how deeply enriching and life-changing it has been to meet with people of such diverse backgrounds, and at the same time with such common will to understand, relate, and peacefully discuss any topic.

What great opportunities I have had to talk with Serbians and Kosovars of what is going on in their land while it is happening; or with Kenyans and their elections; or Turks and their conflicts with the Kurds; or with the Japanese and their economy and constitutional reforms. Or to be invited to go to pray in a Mosque, and invite a Muslim friend to go to my church. These are just some among many great things I’ve been able to do being in I-House.”

Students profile I-House Experience in Video Contest on YouTube

The Internet has dramatically expanded both the tools and means of sharing multimedia information. Drawing on this trend, the I-House Alumni Relations Office approached the Resident Council early last fall regarding co-sponsorship of a contest seeking resident created video submissions on YouTube to “vividly convey the I-House experience” and the House mission: to foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills. A prize of $1,000 was announced and ten video submissions were received. A panel of three I-House alumni selected the winning films including Kristin Weissman (IH 1989-90), a Board member and Google attorney, fellow Googler and I-House alumna Lisa McIntire (IH 2002-03), and Charles Ferguson (IH 1973-74), an Academy Award nominated documentary film-maker. Kristin graciously arranged a reception and tour of Google for video makers when winners were announced. All submissions are available for viewing at http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/videocontest.

1st place and winner of $1,000 prize:
“Life at I-House: A Glimpse” by Kirsty Buck and Eliana Capitani

“I am on the fifth floor, so all the guys up there are my roommates."

2nd place:
“Search and Find” by Usre Bhattacharya, Niels Hansen, Diogo Oliveira E Silva, Cristoph Roling, Tom Zimmermann

“What can you find in I-House? Music...good neighbors...tall German roommates...variety...chocolate chip cookies...inspiration...India Today magazine in the library...friends from many countries.”

3rd place:
“Citizens of the Planet” by Aditya Rametra

“I wanted to live in Berkeley and experience American culture here, and look through a mirror from other societies and see what they think of us.”

4th place:
“International House” by Deborah Cullinan and Ishbel Begg

“My favorite thing about I-House is that you can walk three feet and hear five different languages.”

“I like I-House because I love the community, and I love meeting people from all the different countries and talking to them in their languages, or at least trying to.”

5th place:
“House Planet” by Renato Fajardo

“When you see these people, such diversity, it’s like a dream, and a fantastic reality."

[At I-House,] we have received, somehow, an invitation and a fantastic reality."

Students profile I-House Experience in Video Contest on YouTube

The Internet has dramatically expanded both the tools and means of sharing multimedia information. Drawing on this trend, the I-House Alumni Relations Office approached the Resident Council early last fall regarding co-sponsorship of a contest seeking resident created video submissions on YouTube to “vividly convey the I-House experience” and the House mission: to foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills. A prize of $1,000 was announced and ten video submissions were received. A panel of three I-House alumni selected the winning films including Kristin Weissman (IH 1989-90), a Board member and Google attorney, fellow Googler and I-House alumna Lisa McIntire (IH 2002-03), and Charles Ferguson (IH 1973-74), an Academy Award nominated documentary film-maker. Kristin graciously arranged a reception and tour of Google for video makers when winners were announced. All submissions are available for viewing at http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/videocontest.

1st place and winner of $1,000 prize:
“Life at I-House: A Glimpse” by Kirsty Buck and Eliana Capitani

“I am on the fifth floor, so all the guys up there are my roommates."

2nd place:
“Search and Find” by Usre Bhattacharya, Niels Hansen, Diogo Oliveira E Silva, Cristoph Roling, Tom Zimmermann

“What can you find in I-House? Music...good neighbors...tall German roommates...variety...chocolate chip cookies...inspiration...India Today magazine in the library...friends from many countries.”

3rd place:
“Citizens of the Planet” by Aditya Rametra

“I wanted to live in Berkeley and experience American culture here, and look through a mirror from other societies and see what they think of us.”

4th place:
“International House” by Deborah Cullinan and Ishbel Begg

“My favorite thing about I-House is that you can walk three feet and hear five different languages.”

“I like I-House because I love the community, and I love meeting people from all the different countries and talking to them in their languages, or at least trying to.”

5th place:
“House Planet” by Renato Fajardo

“When you see these people, such diversity, it’s like a dream, and a fantastic reality."

[At I-House,] we have received, somehow, an invitation and a challenge to understand and act out what it is to live together.”

Iraqi Educators visit I-House

A delegation of twelve Iraqi educators, including officials from the Ministry of Education and Deans and Professors of Iraqi universities, came to Cal in early March and met with I-House Director Martin Brennan (back row, center) and current resident Omer Fekero from Iraq. The group was invited to the U.S. through the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program and was coordinated by the Delphi International Program for World Learning. The group was oriented to the history and mission of I-House before lunch with several residents prior to appointments and tours elsewhere on campus.
Residents and staff form “Green Team” to promote sustainability awareness and actions under the dome.

Concerns tied to the worldwide issue of climate change have sparked dialogue among staff and residents on activities to reduce the “carbon footprint” of I-House. The Resident Council has appointed a key member to coordinate student involvement in a “Green Team” which will partner with staff from every I-House department to promote greater environmental awareness and responsibility in I-House operations. The group also will examine how to promote and celebrate resident and alumni achievements in combating environmental challenges.

Julia Hassen, the I-House Council representative on greening issues, says, “When we have almost 600 students a day in a 240,000 square foot building, there are plenty of ways small actions can shape big improvements in how we use resources.”

Executive Director Martin Brennan says, “I hope we can make I-House a model on these critical issues. I know we can benefit from collaborating with UC Berkeley and drawing on the influence of I-House residents and alumni who are championing new best practices in sustainability. The lessons our residents take home can make a difference around the world.”

A few accomplishments and goals for the future are profiled below:

**Accomplishments**

- A $35,000 grant from Chevron is funding an extensive energy audit by Chevron Energy Solutions that will show what steps can be taken to increase energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and achieve certification as a “green” business.
- Resident Anna Harvey won a $1,500 grant from the UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CAS) to reduce electricity consumption. The grant helped fund motion sensors that turn off lights in empty public spaces.
- Low-flow toilets and shower heads are being installed each summer as the House enters the fifth summer of an eight-quarter restroom innovation program. The work also includes improvements in ventilation efficiency and installation of high-efficiency CFL lighting fixtures.
- Collaborations with other non-profits have been launched including an all-organic dinner in January in partnership with Focus the Nation (global warming solutions). Students also savored with SneaLife Conservation to explore joint projects in ocean clean-up.
- Used cooking oil from Dining Services is now recycled into biodiesel for biodiesel cars.
- The Dining Room has replaced “disposable” plastic cutlery and take-out dishware with “spud-ware” and “corn-ware” that are 100% biodegradable within 60 – 90 days.
- Recycling of paper, glass, and cans continues under the watch of the Green Team that is reviewing ways to improve implementation.
- All newly purchased printers are “Energy Star” models.

**Goals**

- Establish metrics from energy audit findings to shape conservation goals and create fun incentives to inspire sustainable practices by residents and staff.
- Complete restroom remodeling and building maintenance projects with attention to energy savings and the sustainability of materials used.
- Research opportunities for composting, rain water catchments, and rooftop solar panels.
- Explore ways to reduce waste in the Dining Room including smaller plates, trays and portions.
- Invite Cal’s newly appointed Director of Sustainability to address residents.
- Link the I-House Green Team to the campus-wide CAS program to replicate and share best practices in sustainability.
- Research grant opportunities, including those supported by Alameda County, to provide materials and equipment to facilitate “Greening” projects.
- Invite the campus recycling program director to review recycling operations and offer feedback for improvements.
- Conduct a Spring 2008 online pledge drive among residents and staff to commit to actions to reduce waste as featured at http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/pledge.html. Pledges are tied to small steps like turning off computer monitors, using both sides of paper, and turning off water while brushing teeth. These small actions add up!

Please visit our website for additional information on the I-House Green Team and ways you can get involved.

You can support The Green Team by sharing advice and the stories of alumni who are leaders in the sustainability field. You can also sign up to receive The I-House Times by email and reduce paper usage by contacting us at ihalumni@berkeley.edu.

**International Council of Women’s Day Tea at I-House**

Women from different cultures celebrated International Women’s Day on Friday, March 7, with an afternoon tea and stimulating conversation. Attendees included I-House residents, alumni and members of the San Francisco Consular Corps. Shereen Tapangoy (BH-2004-05) former Program Coordinator, donated funds to start the first International Women’s Day Tea at I-House in 2005. For more events, see http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/calendar.

**Edith Coliver Festival of Cultures**

Dance and musical performances, global cuisine, consular booths, an international fashion show, and crafts from around the world were highlights of the Edith Coliver Festival of Cultures on April 12 from 11 am to 6 pm. The event ended every spring on Cal Day.

**Cultural Programs**

- Bay Area Hosts Needed: Students and alumni of International House are invited to extend the hand of friendship to an international student far from home by offering a holiday meal, outings 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 ihalumni@berkeley.edu.

**Martin Brennan Teaches Crisis Diplomacy at International House**

Each week, twenty-three undergraduate and graduate students, twelve of whom are I-House residents, gather for a course in Crisis Diplomacy taught by Executive Director and former Ambassador, Martin Brennan. The seminar melds theory and practice as it examines analytical models of logic and decision-making in international crises contrasted with case histories. It is the first academic course in recent history to be held at I-House.

“As an individual who is looking to pursue a career in the foreign service, this class is of particular interest to me,” says Nina Rahimi. “One important aspect of diplomacy I have learned through this class is that although national security is the number one priority, bureaucratic interests sometimes cloud the judgments of decision makers. Furthermore, I have noticed that as a class, we often dismiss the moral imperative when drawing up our suggested courses of action. Martin makes a point to remind us that morality should be a part of the decision making process, although sadly, in practice, we have seen it is not often the case.”

Nima, an I-House resident and Treasurer of the I-House Council, will be graduating in May with a double major in Political Science and German. Then he’s off to The London School of Economics and Political Science for a master’s in Global Politics.

Martin Brennan describes the class, saying, “Students are expected to move beyond ‘what happened’, ‘why did this happen?’ and ‘what alternative outcomes were available?’ I am inspired by the creative thinking and the level of commitment of students in the class. They are indeed our next generation of international leaders.”

**Residents prepare tempting treats from around the world.**

The festival tradition originated in the 1930s at I-House. After a hiatus of 30 years in the 1970s, it was restored in 1991 and now continues to celebrate the cultures of the world, thanks to a generous endowment from the estate of Edith Coliver (OH 1940-43). Attendance is free for I-House residents and staff and $7 for the public.

**Council Hosts Board Member Discussions**

Contact between current I-House residents and members of the Board of Directors has been greatly enhanced by a recent Council initiated series of informal discussions over meals. Board members have been joining groups of 25-30 residents over breakfast, lunch or dinner and are invited to share their personal and professional life stories. The Board represents a diverse group of leaders and entrepreneurs and includes many I-House alumni. Speakers to date include Jawahir Gulakhan, Chairman and CEO of Newformcast, LLC, Andre Roussel, Managing Director, GrowthPlans LLC, Dick Palmer, Institute Director, Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management; Peter Robertson, Vice Chairman, Chevron Corporation, Ken Sugg, II, neurologist; and Vindu Wimsarn, Managing Counsel, Google Inc.

“Our Board members are an amazing group of people and we are fortunate to have them here with us, it is remarkable that they are willing to take time to meet with residents,” says Nathaniel Hse, Resident Council Chair. “They have shared their own experiences, their insights into career opportunities, their visions of the future, and their advice for us students and residents of I-House. We are looking forward to more of those meals and discussions.”
Sanjog Singh came to live at I-House twelve years ago after first visiting three years prior when her mother, renowned chef/chair Sukhi Singh, began contributing tasty creations to the House’s annual Diwali celebration. That first collaboration earned the House and Sukhi a local prize for best ethnic cuisine and launched a collaboration that continues even now as Sukhi graciously volunteered her talents in shaping the House’s Gala 2008 feast on April 10th.

Sanjog followed her studies at Cal with a position at eBay as European Marketing Manager but recently volunteered her talents in shaping the House’s Gala 2008 collaboration that continues even now as Sukhi graciously contributed to I-House’s 2008 Gala menu and Diwali dinners.

Sanjog writes, “I still remember the day I decided to apply for the scholarship at I-House. Sipping my latte at the I-House Café, a commonplace of people from all over the world, made me realize the opportunity that I had here. From toga parties to the Festival of Lights, I-House gave me a place to not only acquaint myself with other cultures but also to celebrate my own. A few years later, this experience played an important role in my decision to become a citizen of the United States, a country that has educated me and allowed me to be a citizen of the world. I treasure my memories of I-House and am so grateful for the scholarship that helped me live in this special place.”

Alumni News

Alumni and Friends Enjoy Lesson on Love over Tea

UC Berkeley psychology professor addresses “Love of Humanity” on Valentine’s Day

I-House alumni and friends were treated to a Valentine’s Day tea and an engaging lecture about the basic language of human emotions on February 14th. Dr. Dacher Keltner—a renowned social psychologist who teaches at UC Berkeley—is founder and co-director of the Greater Good Science Center.

Guests shared good food, good company, and Dr. Keltner’s presentation on the biological and cognitive systems that combine to form humanity’s common emotional foundation. Dr. Keltner explained the physiological systems, including the skin and nervous system, which generate feelings of compassion—what he likes to call the “love of humanity.” He discussed how people transmit these emotions through touch and non-verbal sounds, and went on to suggest the probable evolutionary advantages of these aspects of human nature.

I-House alumni, residents, and friends of the Greater Good Science Center came together for this event in the auditorium, which was decorated for the occasion with photos of dozens of I-House couples. Before introducing Dr. Keltner, I-House Director Martin Brennan and his wife, Giovanna, shared the story of their first meeting and “falling in love.”

Dr. Keltner spoke passionately to the audience about the evolutionary development of human compassion, and emphasized its role in our success as a species. Dr. Keltner interacted with the audience as a way of demonstrating points about human nature. The presentation ended with a series of questions from the audience, and all who attended expressed another human emotion for this collaborative event—gratitude.

In a testament to the bonds of affection formed at the House, five I-House couples came to the tea. Among them, Robert Apent and Evelyn Lowen Apent, and Tito Moruza and Magdega from Uganda were in attendance. These two couples recently celebrated their 66th and 55th wedding anniversaries, respectively, and together represent 121 years of I-House love!

“Lessons from Kenya” Draws Packed House

A timely discussion about political transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa drew a standing-room-only crowd of students, alumni, faculty in February. I-House Director Martin Brennan, who served as US Ambassador to Uganda and to Zambia, served as moderator.

Post-election turmoil in Kenya was the starting point of lively discussions. “Media coverage of Kenya’s recent turmoil has conveyed the subtext that violence and incitement are the norm in African politics and that orderly political transitions are beyond the continent’s reach. The reality in Kenya and across the continent is far more nuanced,” said Brennan.

Speakers included Joan Eisinger, Professor of Anthropology at Caltech, Ambassador Thengene Rudasingwa (BH 2005-06), former Rwandan Ambassador to the United States and VP of Global Affairs at the Pangea Foundation, and Leonardo Arriola, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley. Speakers represented on the possible socio-economic and political causes of Kenya’s rough passage and cited examples of African nations that have managed political transitions with relative success. Professor Arriola noted, “If democracy is going to work in Africa, you need multi-ethnic coalitions. In fact, we do see that happening, and when it does occur, it often leads to power sharing.” Additional programs on Kenya are planned for the coming year. See the online calendar at ihouse.berkeley.edu/calendar/.

Italian Night

Alumna Pooja Osvi-Bagnato (BH 1989-92) came back to I-House to be guest chef for Italian Night in November. More than 600 residents and visitors attended the special event of Italian cuisine which included Arancini di Maiso and Melanzane alla Parmigiana.

Silicon Valley Entrepreneurs from U.S. and Abroad Profiled at Lodestar Dinner Program

Angelika Blendingstrop, Ph.D. (IH 1970-72) spoke to a crowd of one hundred alumni, residents, and friends at a Spring Lodestar dinner on March 11th sharing insights into the way leaders in the Silicon Valley from different countries and cultures act and think, how these cultural differences have influenced Silicon Valley and the greater US, and personal and professional anecdotes from leading entrepreneurs.

She recently completed a book entitled They Made It! How Chinese, French, Indian, Israeli, and other foreign-born entrepreneurs contributed to high tech developments in America, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick’s Day, Australian, and alumni are invited to join residents for these special dinners. Times for residents and BH 25th for the public.

Suggestions for guest chefs and special menus are welcomed by Gary Britch, Director of Dining Services, at (510)643-3266 or gbeitch@berkeley.edu.

1-House alumni and friends were invited to join residents for these special dinners. Times for residents and BH 25th for the public.

Suggestions for guest chefs and special menus are welcomed by Gary Britch, Director of Dining Services, at (510)643-3266 or gbeitch@berkeley.edu.

Video Conferencing Links I-Houses and Expands International Learning Opportunities

I-House hosted its first-ever video conference in February in collaboration with International House at UC San Diego. Newly acquired digital video conferencing (DVC) equipment allowed speakers and I-House residents in Berkeley and San Diego to interact with one another. DVC allows people in two or more locations to interact via digital video and audio transmissions, making dialogue possible over great distances.

Executive Director Martin Brennan, who moderated the panel discussion, notes, “This is a terrific new tool for I-House. Imagine discussions with ambassadors in the Middle East, roundtable discussions with students in Pakistan, and dialogues with prominent alumni around the world. We are developing new programs that allow students to communicate with others in Washington, DC and with government officials, professors, and alumni in distant locations.”

The February conference, Non-Traditional Security Assistance and U.S. Objectives Abroad, provided insights into recent developments in American foreign aid and strategic capacity. J. Stephen Morrison, Director of the Africa Program at the Washington DC based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and Ambassador Mark Bellamy, former U.S. ambassador to Kenya, led the discussion at I-House, presenting CSIS Task Force findings on the increase of military control over formerly non-military international development assistance. They were joined by UC San Diego political science professor Clark Gibson. The event included participation by I-House residents and other students from Berkeley and UCSD.

According to Task Force findings, the Department of Defense share of U.S. development assistance increased from roughly 6% to 22% between 2002 and 2005. The Task Force evaluated the implications of the Department’s increased role for U.S. national security, foreign policy, and development objectives. This event demonstrates the promise of new technologies like DVC to connect I-House residents with experts, alumni, and other I-Houses worldwide to advance I-House’s mission of fostering a more tolerant world.
In late February, I-House honored Rebecca Hayden by dedicating her former room with a named plaque. Ms. Hayden lived in rooms 482 and 483 from 1941-42, and she came to I-House for a small ceremony to celebrate the room dedication. Dmitri Pavlov, a Mathematics doctoral student and current resident of room 482, was on hand for the occasion. The two residents, past and present, exchanged stories about their experiences at I-House.

As a resident of International House, Becky was very active on campus, including membership in the Pytanean and Mortar Board societies. From 1942 to 1955 she served as Cal as one of the first translators of English as a second language and co-authored three related texts. Later, between 1958 and 1993, she published communication textbooks, including Intercultural Communication, at Wadsworth Publishing Company. Room 482, her former room as an I-House resident, is named in her honor.

**LETTER FROM:** YUKI TAKAHASHI IN THE SOUTH POLE!

"Antarctica feels as peaceful as I-House, with over 40 countries participating in a treaty to use the continent only for peaceful purposes and to promote international cooperation. I had the chance to come to the South Pole for the third time to work with a telescope we built here two years ago for a study of the Big Bang. This time I’m here from November to February, with the sun always above the horizon. Because we come here through New Zealand, I was able to visit our friends Charlotte Cornell and Darrel Don Biddis (IH 2003) in Auckland, and Toshi Gunawan (IH 2002-03) in Melbourne and Sydney, where we had a little I-House reunion with Yvette Selin (IH 2002) and others."

Yuki Takahashi, (IH 2002-05) returned to Berkeley in March to continue work on his Ph.D. in physics focusing on experimental cosmology and researching how the Big Bang started. He hopes to use his experience in conducting research with an international team in an extreme environment as a model for human exploration. "I would really like to make it possible for many people to go to the moon and look back at the earth."

Yuki’s international background is extensive. He was born in the US, attended schools in Japan for nine years, earned a B.S. from Cal, a Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow, an M.A. from Berkeley, and lived in Russia and France for one summer each. He has presented at conferences including Toulouse, Nice, Berlin, Tokyo, Beijing, Valencia, and Hawaii. Yuki has more photos at http://cosmology. berkeley.edu/~yukishiki/.

**Letters From…**

**Are you working on AIDS prevention in Uganda? Studying Cichin in Prague? Working in the United Nations? Or do you know another I-House alum who is doing something interesting or even amazing? Send a message to the editor at johnsonb@berkeley.edu or visit a letter to Editors, I-House Development Office.**

---

**ROOM 482 DEDICATED TO BECKY HAYDEN (IH 1941-42)**

---

**PIONEERING FARMER JOHN ZUCKERMAN LEAVES I-HOUSE LEGACY**

John Stephen Zuckerman, who invented the first mechanical sugar beet harvester and pioneered the world’s largest certified organic farm, remembered I-House with a generous bequest in his will. Mr. Zuckerman was one of the House’s early residents, living in room 83T during those years, and he wanted all children to learn about our culture, become comfortable with it, to admire and enjoy the children who are the heroes and heroines of these books. He hopes this will lead to greater understanding and less prejudice and suspicion among cultures.

Followings the tragedy of September 11th and subsequent hate crimes against people of Indian origin, she says, “I wanted all children to learn about our culture, become comfortable with it, to admire and enjoy the children who are the heroes and heroines of these books. I hope this will lead to greater understanding and less prejudice and suspicion among cultures.”

**To learn more about Chitra Divakaruni, visit:** http://www.chitradivakaruni.com.

**LEGACY GIFTS TO I-HOUSE**

Friends who include I-House in their estate plans provide crucial support for our vital mission. Planned gifts can provide in- and lifetime benefits. Donors with such plans become members of the I-House Associates of Cal’s planned giving Sines are included in a list of donors of this type who are transferred. Mr. John Stephen Zuckerman was a member of the Board societies. From 1942 to 1955 he served as Cal as one of the first translators of English as a second language and co-authored three related texts. Later, between 1958 and 1993, she published communication textbooks, including Intercultural Communication, at Wadsworth Publishing Company. Room 482, her former room as an I-House resident, is named in her honor.

**Resident Room-Naming**

The Resident Room-Naming Project was launched during the 75th Anniversary Celebration and Campaign and has already inspired over 20 dedications via gifts from alumni and friends. Supporters of the Room-Naming Project enable critical preservation and recognition activities that help fund precious resources the I-House building. More than $400,000 has been raised to-date. For details or to review guidelines visit: http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/naming/.

**Chitra Divakaruni is Alumna of the Year**

(Much of Divakaruni’s work deals with the immigrant experience. Her book Bearer of the Night, winner of the 2003 Commonwealth Prize and a New York Times Notable Book, is an account of an Indian family’s experience. Her most recent novel, The Palace of Illusions, was shortlisted for Booker Prize and is a retelling of the Hindu epic The Mahabharata from the point of view of its most notable female character.

Divakaruni was born in Calcutta, India, and earned her B.A. from the University of Calcutta. She came to the U.S. at the age of nineteen and eventually earned a Ph.D. in English at Cal. While living in International House, she worked in the woodshop, the service center, and the Dining Room. “My favorite job was cutting up Jell-O,” the all-American delicacy that has baffled so many international students.

While a resident of I-House, Divakaruni became involved in the issue of violence against women. She now serves on the Board of Maitri in San Francisco Bay Area and on the Advisory Board of DAYA in Houston, organizations that help the South Asian American community fight domestic violence. She also serves on the Board of Pratham, which brings literacy to underprivileged children in India.

Divakaruni teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston and lives in Houston with her husband, Murthy, and their two sons. Her books inspired her to write Gauvetry of Calcutta. She came to the U.S. at the age of nineteen and eventually earned a Ph.D. in English at Cal. While living in International House, she worked in the woodshop, the service center, and the Dining Room. “My favorite job was cutting up Jell-O,” the all-American delicacy that has baffled so many international students.

Divakaruni teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston and lives in Houston with her husband, Murthy, and their two sons. Her books inspired her to write Gauvetry of Calcutta. She came to the U.S. at the age of nineteen and eventually earned a Ph.D. in English at Cal. While living in International House, she worked in the woodshop, the service center, and the Dining Room. “My favorite job was cutting up Jell-O,” the all-American delicacy that has baffled so many international students.

Divakaruni teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston and lives in Houston with her husband, Murthy, and their two sons. Her books inspired her to write Gauvetry of Calcutta. She came to the U.S. at the age of nineteen and eventually earned a Ph.D. in English at Cal. While living in International House, she worked in the woodshop, the service center, and the Dining Room. “My favorite job was cutting up Jell-O,” the all-American delicacy that has baffled so many international students.

Divakaruni teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston and lives in Houston with her husband, Murthy, and their two sons. Her books inspired her to write Gauvetry of Calcutta. She came to the U.S. at the age of nineteen and eventually earned a Ph.D. in English at Cal. While living in International House, she worked in the woodshop, the service center, and the Dining Room. “My favorite job was cutting up Jell-O,” the all-American delicacy that has baffled so many international students.

Divakaruni teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston and lives in Houston with her husband, Murthy, and their two sons. Her books inspired her to write Gauvetry of Calcutta. She came to the U.S. at the age of nineteen and eventually earned a Ph.D. in English at Cal. While living in International House, she worked in the woodshop, the service center, and the Dining Room. “My favorite job was cutting up Jell-O,” the all-American delicacy that has baffled so many international students.
1900s

Seiko Fujii is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Tokyo. Seiko attended the Sunday Supper and enjoyed conversations with fellow alumni.

Michaela Jedinak knows how important it is to project the right image whether for an interview or work. Her services are available by personal appointment in London, online consultations via email, interactive live web consultations for expert help at the touch of a button - just book a time slot, line up a web camera, and receive expert personal advice. www.joycool.com

1910s

Stephan Oldershaw (left) and Volker Schlatt visited Su-Shan Fang (right) in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Stephan and Su-Shan worked for Airbus and its mother company EADS since 2001 after finishing his engineering studies at the University of Berkeley. Stephan and Su-Shan I-House experience, I would probably have never dared to take such a step. But due to that great opportunity, I was totally lived to stay abroad again and learn a new language. I am working not only with people from the US and European countries, but also working with people from our international markets. I stayed in I-House during the academic years 99-00 (thus before 9-11) and the academic years 01-02 and I believe that I-House is my life so far.” He stays in touch with I-House friends—Helge Schmid, Volker Schlatt, and Hans Lost. They usually meet several times a year to spend evenings looking at old photos. Stephan has also visited I-House friends in the UK, and Canada, visits nearly 14 years at I-House.

Sandra Chang Wang writes with news of her friend and former I-House roommate—Jun-I-House in 1970. “I-House is currently working as an attorney at Morrison & Foerster in SF and previously worked at WIFO (World Intellectual Property Organization) at the UN in Geneva. She speaks French and Korean, as well as English. More importantly, besides her many accomplishments, she is a great friend!”

2000s

Patrick Riley writes, “I am back in California, focusing on my Ph.D. coursework and working at Brat Hall School of Law as a Graduate Researcher, after teaching and pursuing research at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit鋞 as a Fullbright Research Fellow in 2005-06. In Fall 2005, I pursue a variety of interests locally and looks forward to traveling in the coming months. During his tenure at the University, he also served as Chair of the Berkeley Staff Assembly and the Berkeley delegate to the Council of UC Staff Associations (CUCSA).

Send Us Your News! If you enjoy reading News & Notes, please send us YOUR news on the RSVP panel on page 7. Photos will be published as space allows.

Sniffing Camilo Cienfuegos Bay used the 2007 Global Investigative Reporting Project fellowship to write Non-Fiction for her book, Twenty-five Chickens and a Pig for a Bride: Growing Up in a Filipino Immigrant Family. (2009). The book is the poignant and inspiriting memoir of growing up in a Filipino immigrant family in Oakland in the 1930s and 40s. clerk Lemaire, I-House Business Manager and Corrigan. He wrote diaries of his family, and only lived there one summer because our family visited I-House in December. We spend evenings looking at old photos. Stephan has also visited I-House friends in the UK, and Canada, visits nearly 14 years at I-House.

Seiko Fujii is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Tokyo. Seiko attended the Sunday Supper and enjoyed conversations with fellow alumni.

Michaela Jedinak knows how important it is to project the right image whether for an interview or work. Her services are available by personal appointment in London, online consultations via email, interactive live web consultations for expert help at the touch of a button - just book a time slot, line up a web camera, and receive expert personal advice. www.joycool.com

2000s

Patrick Riley writes, “I am back in California, focusing on my Ph.D. coursework and working at Brat Hall School of Law as a Graduate Researcher, after teaching and pursuing research at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit鋞 as a Fullbright Research Fellow in 2005-06. In Fall 2005, I pursue a variety of interests locally and looks forward to traveling in the coming months. During his tenure at the University, he also served as Chair of the Berkeley Staff Assembly and the Berkeley delegate to the Council of UC Staff Associations (CUCSA).

Send Us Your News! If you enjoy reading News & Notes, please send us YOUR news on the RSVP panel on page 7. Photos will be published as space allows.

Sniffing Camilo Cienfuegos Bay used the 2007 Global Investigative Reporting Project fellowship to write Non-Fiction for her book, Twenty-five Chickens and a Pig for a Bride: Growing Up in a Filipino Immigrant Family. (2009). The book is the poignant and inspiriting memoir of growing up in a Filipino immigrant family in Oakland in the 1930s and 40s. clerk Lemaire, I-House Business Manager and Corrigan. He wrote diaries of his family, and only lived there one summer because our family visited I-House in December. We spend evenings looking at old photos. Stephan has also visited I-House friends in the UK, and Canada, visits nearly 14 years at I-House.

Seiko Fujii is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Tokyo. Seiko attended the Sunday Supper and enjoyed conversations with fellow alumni.

Michaela Jedinak knows how important it is to project the right image whether for an interview or work. Her services are available by personal appointment in London, online consultations via email, interactive live web consultations for expert help at the touch of a button - just book a time slot, line up a web camera, and receive expert personal advice. www.joycool.com

2000s

Patrick Riley writes, “I am back in California, focusing on my Ph.D. coursework and working at Brat Hall School of Law as a Graduate Researcher, after teaching and pursuing research at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit鋞 as a Fullbright Research Fellow in 2005-06. In Fall 2005, I pursue a variety of interests locally and looks forward to traveling in the coming months. During his tenure at the University, he also served as Chair of the Berkeley Staff Assembly and the Berkeley delegate to the Council of UC Staff Associations (CUCSA).

Send Us Your News! If you enjoy reading News & Notes, please send us YOUR news on the RSVP panel on page 7. Photos will be published as space allows.

Sniffing Camilo Cienfuegos Bay used the 2007 Global Investigative Reporting Project fellowship to write Non-Fiction for her book, Twenty-five Chickens and a Pig for a Bride: Growing Up in a Filipino Immigrant Family. (2009). The book is the poignant and inspiriting memoir of growing up in a Filipino immigrant family in Oakland in the 1930s and 40s. clerk Lemaire, I-House Business Manager and Corrigan. He wrote diaries of his family, and only lived there one summer because our family visited I-House in December. We spend evenings looking at old photos. Stephan has also visited I-House friends in the UK, and Canada, visits nearly 14 years at I-House.

Seiko Fujii is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Tokyo. Seiko attended the Sunday Supper and enjoyed conversations with fellow alumni.

Michaela Jedinak knows how important it is to project the right image whether for an interview or work. Her services are available by personal appointment in London, online consultations via email, interactive live web consultations for expert help at the touch of a button - just book a time slot, line up a web camera, and receive expert personal advice. www.joycool.com

2000s

Patrick Riley writes, “I am back in California, focusing on my Ph.D. coursework and working at Brat Hall School of Law as a Graduate Researcher, after teaching and pursuing research at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit鋞 as a Fullbright Research Fellow in 2005-06. In Fall 2005, I pursue a variety of interests locally and looks forward to traveling in the coming months. During his tenure at the University, he also served as Chair of the Berkeley Staff Assembly and the Berkeley delegate to the Council of UC Staff Associations (CUCSA).

Send Us Your News! If you enjoy reading News & Notes, please send us YOUR news on the RSVP panel on page 7. Photos will be published as space allows.
Calendar of Events

Please contact the Program Office (510) 642-9480 or Development Office (510) 642-4128 to confirm program information, or visit http://ihouse.berkeley.edu.

April 24, 2008   Festival de Seville, 6-8 pm
May 5, 2008     Cinco De Mayo Dinner, 6-8 pm
May 28, 2008    I-House Alumni Reunion in Washington DC 5-30 - 7:00 pm
International Students, and IU-IH House alumni, and http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/events
June 9 - 15, 2008   Elderhostel Program on Middle East (see page 5)
July 16, 2008    Bastille Day Dinner 6-8 pm
September 16, 2008 Mexican Independence Day Dinner 6-8 pm
October 4, 2008  Global Film Festival before the Cal vs. Arizona State football game
October 17, 2008  Oktoberfest Dinner 6-8 pm

Ongoing Programs:

Mon. 7 pm    Social Dance Class
Wed. 9 pm    Coffee hour open to residents, members and alumni
Thu. 7:30 pm  Globalization Lecture Series, Homeroom 7:30 pm
Mon & Wed. 5 pm  Fitness Class
Language Tables Weekly 5:30 pm Call the Program office for dates and languages featured, $10.00 for dinner.

For more information: http://ihouse.berkeley.edu
International House 2299 Piedmont Avenue Berkeley, CA 94720-2320

The Newsletter for Friends & Alumni of International House

International House Times
Spring - Summer 2008

Google Hosts Reception for I-House Video Contest
Award winning videos have been watched by more than 2,000 online viewers.

Residents gathered at Google for the announcement of the winner of a video contest that challenged residents to convey the I-House mission in YouTube videos. Residents Kirsty Buck and Elisa Capra won the $1,000 award for their entry: Life at I-House: A Glimpse. To celebrate their win, the two treated themselves to a trip to New York.

The contest was created to engage residents in multimedia documentation of the I-House mission: to foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills for the promotion of a more tolerant and peaceful world. Plans are underway for a second annual contest next year.

More than 30 residents enjoyed a tour and reception at Google for the announcement of video contest winners and screening of top selections.

Residents gathered at Google for the announcement of winner of a video contest that challenged residents to convey the I-House mission in YouTube videos. Residents Kirsty Buck and Elisa Capra won the $1,000 award for their entry: Life at I-House: A Glimpse. The Google celebration was arranged by Board member Kristin Weissman (IH 1989-90), a Google attorney and Lisa McIntire (IH 2002-03), a Google staff member. Kristin and Lisa joined alumni Charles Ferguson (IH 1973-76) to judge the entries. Ferguson’s own film, No End in Sight, was nominated for the 2008 Academy Award in the Best Documentary category. The Resident Council and Alumni Office collaborated on the contest and provided the $1000 prize. See page 5 for quotes and snapshots from the winning entries and view the films on I-House Berkeley YouTube channel, http://youtube.com/ihouseberkeley (also see page 5).

Residents Kirsty Buck (above left) and Elisa Capra, both from the U.K., were the happy winners of a $1,000 prize for their YouTube Video about living at I-House: Life at I-House: A Glimpse. To celebrate their win, the two treated themselves to a trip to New York.

Residents gathered at Google for the announcement of the winner of a video contest that challenged residents to convey the I-House mission in YouTube videos. Residents Kirsty Buck and Elisa Capra won the $1,000 award for their entry: Life at I-House: A Glimpse. The Google celebration was arranged by Board member Kristin Weissman (IH 1989-90), a Google attorney and Lisa McIntire (IH 2002-03), a Google staff member. Kristin and Lisa joined alumni Charles Ferguson (IH 1973-76) to judge the entries. Ferguson’s own film, No End in Sight, was nominated for the 2008 Academy Award in the Best Documentary category. The Resident Council and Alumni Office collaborated on the contest and provided the $1000 prize. See page 5 for quotes and snapshots from the winning entries and view the films on I-House Berkeley YouTube channel, http://youtube.com/ihouseberkeley (also see page 5).

Residents gathered at Google for the announcement of the winner of a video contest that challenged residents to convey the I-House mission in YouTube videos. Residents Kirsty Buck and Elisa Capra won the $1,000 award for their entry: Life at I-House: A Glimpse. The Google celebration was arranged by Board member Kristin Weissman (IH 1989-90), a Google attorney and Lisa McIntire (IH 2002-03), a Google staff member. Kristin and Lisa joined alumni Charles Ferguson (IH 1973-76) to judge the entries. Ferguson’s own film, No End in Sight, was nominated for the 2008 Academy Award in the Best Documentary category. The Resident Council and Alumni Office collaborated on the contest and provided the $1000 prize. See page 5 for quotes and snapshots from the winning entries and view the films on I-House Berkeley YouTube channel, http://youtube.com/ihouseberkeley (also see page 5).