NEW STEPS ADVANCE “CULTURE BRIDGE” PATHS AT I-House

Contributed by I-House Culture Bridge Scholars Lisa Kamino and Jennifer Jue-Struck

O n the heels of the unprecedented four-unit Navigating Culture course last fall, new workshops reaching residents, campus, and the local community are expanding formal training in intercultural skills at International House. Such formal trainings have been launched under the mantel Culture Bridge, with preliminary learnings from this first year of classes and workshops intended to shape future pathways to extend the House’s service as a hub and resource for acquiring intercultural skills.

A pilot one-day workshop, Bridging Cultures: Enhancing your Cross-Cultural Skills for Personal and Professional Growth convened Saturday, February 27, 2010, led by I-House Executive Director Martin Brennan, Director of Programs Liliane Koziol, Intercultural Trainer Breidi Truscott, and Executive Director Emeritus Joe Lurie. The workshop utilized interactive exercises and simulations to help empower sixteen resident participants with tools to effectively bridge cross-cultural communication differences so that they will succeed in working and living with people across cultures.

Participants, both undergraduates and graduates from a range of countries including the USA, Japan, Germany, Italy, China, Korea, and Norway, noted that the workshop provided them with insight into cross-cultural communication challenges and strategies to communicate effectively. “I chose to participate in the workshop because I thought I might be doing something international in the future and I did not want to make mistakes when meeting people from different cultures,” said Hyo Jin. “Lucy” Lee enjoyed “hearing about other participants’ experiences and cultural differences.” Resident Nico Raff commented

Continued on page 5.

I-House Residents Give “Thanks to Berkeley”

Several current and former residents of International House have joined in Cal’s “Thanks to Berkeley...” Photobooth project, expressing campus pride and gratitude through portraits and words. Since its launch in September, 2008, over 2000 portraits have been made by San Francisco photographer Christopher Irión, who has created portrait installations in more than 25 communities across the U.S. Visit campaign.berkeley.edu for more Photobooth images. Many students have also given thanks to campus via the New Alumni Challenge sponsored by U.C. Berkeley Trustees, which provides a three dollar match to every donated dollar from undergraduate or graduate students from the classes of 2005-10 to benefit Cal, its units (including I-House) and its mission of research, innovation, and public service. The matching challenge ends June 30, 2010. Eligible gifts of $75+ entitle donors to inscribe a brick on the Cafe Patio! To participate in the New Alumni Challenge visit ihouse.berkeley.edu/newalumni.

This is the time a place where our dreams are sold.

Brenda Salm 2000

Berkeley is a fantastic place to explore, potential!

Lisa Tom 2004

MUSIC FOR PEACE

I-House halls have been ringing with the sound of music and discussions about its ability to unite people across cultural divides. Two events in January organized by the I-House Program Office addressed the theme Music for Peace. Internationally renowned pianist Shai Wosner, originally from Israel, joined Mark Feldman, CEO of the Sacramento Philharmonic, in conversation on January 23st and three days later Nader Assadi, celebrated Conductor of the Cairo Symphony joined I-House Board member Michael Morgan, highly respected Music Director of the Oakland East Bay Symphony, to further explore the power of music for peace.

Residents have made beautiful music on their own this year, with a self-initiated Music Club gathering regularly for informal “jams” around the House, and organizing in conjunction with I-House Council a benefit concert for Haiti’s earthquake survivors that raised $700. “Music is certainly international and an amazing force to bring people together, so eventually some of us thought a re-make with residents of the classic song We Are The World would be very appropriate for I-House,” says resident Ernesto Tejeda-Yeomans. Look for the We Are The World and other videos online at ihouse.berkeley.edu.

Breaking Trail: Mountains & Molecules

Alumna Arlene Blum spoke to alumni and residents at the spring Lodestar program.

Mountaineer, author, and biophysical chemist Dr. Arlene Blum spoke at the March Lodestar dinner program attended by alumni, friends, and residents. Blum reflected on her deep ties to International House. Not only did she live in the House in 1967-68 but her parents met at I-House Chicago.

In her presentation, Breaking Trail: Mountains and Molecules, Blum combined her two fields of interest: climbing mountains and fighting the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products.

Continued on page 3.

FISCAL CRISIS IMPACTS I-House & Residents

In January, 2010, California Governor Schwarzenegger triggered headlines by citing a $13.9 billion dollar budget gap projected over 18 months. This news followed a 32% undergraduate tuition increase approved by UC Regents in November 2009 – a move responding to state budget cuts. UC President Yudof says left only half as much state support per student as in 1990.

The campus and I-House have been severely impacted by the fiscal crisis. Berkeley employees – including the I-House staff – are experiencing mandatory furloughs requiring cutbacks in hours and in salaries. Students are dealing with the personal impact of the global economic downturn combined with unexpected tuition and fee increases at Berkeley.
Executive Director’s Message

I-House Bridges: Spanning Cultural Divides and Connecting to a Future of Promise

Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of hosting a high level delegation from Meiji University (Tokyo). With more than a modicum of pride, I escorted our visitors to the Home Room balcony and exclaimed, “Look at our spectacular view of the Golden Gate Bridge!” One of our distinguished guests remarked how appropriate it seemed that I-House should have such a stunning view of the gateway to the Pacific since – like the Golden Gate – we bridge worlds apart. His insight rings true. Founder Harry Edmonds sought a location for I-House in Berkeley that would face west, just as I-House New York looks east: establishing two pillars for understanding that would bridge a more tolerant and peaceful world.

Bridges occupy my thoughts these days. Our residents find it increasingly difficult in this age of rapidly rising tuition to bridge the gap between means and expenses. One international resident (I could cite many!) told me: “I love living in I-House. The community and sense of friendship are like nowhere else. But, my circumstances have changed and I cannot afford to live here.” To quote another resident: “I feel I live precariously by the month.” It is painful to see how the current economy is making I-House a bridge too far for many current and prospective residents. We are grateful to the alumni and friends, old and new (see Thanks to Berkeley article page 1), who are helping extend the reach of some residents as we witness the increasing importance of scholarship dollars.

As we approach I-House’s 80th anniversary we welcome alumni involvement in celebrating our unique history through reunions around the world. Our Board of Directors is deep into developing a strategic plan to guide the House towards its centennial and beyond. Questions of affordability are certainly in focus, and we are freezing room and board rates this fall with this in mind. A strategic plan is akin to a bridge, spanning the divide from where we are to where we want to be. We lay the span for our journey into the age of instant global connectivity and beyond. The Board, alumni and staff seek to anticipate residents’ needs on the horizon as we preserve the uniqueness and relevance of the I-House experience for new generations.

This brings us to the Culture Bridge initiative. As the article on page one conveys, the UC Berkeley Navigating Cultures course that I-Houseconcerted, housed, and which Program Director Dr. Liliane Koutol and I taught last fall (with resident and Board participation) was greeted with enthusiasm by participants and campus. Workshops this spring have helped us evaluate how best to deliver intercultural skills content to meet the career needs of residents – and non-residents – in the future. Thanks to the good offices of Joe Lurie, who connected us with internationally recognized Cultural Detective workshops, this spring we are helping expand intercultural trainings beyond the resident and campus community.

Where does this work lead? We will continue to draw on the best traditions of I-House in how cultures are explored: face-to-face dialogues, interactive exercises and role-playing scenarios that yield smiles, laughter, friendship, and understanding. And we seek to evaluate how to partner with academic units across campus – including not only Peace and Conflict Studies and Education Abroad, but also the Blum Center for Developing Economies, the Haas Business School and Built Law, where clusters of students are committed to international endeavors in their academic work. Clearly, the I-House experience could enhance and multiply the success of this work, resonating across cultures and continents worldwide. We look to alumni and other friends to help us expand these dreams and meet opportunities.

Providing concrete skills to better analyze, interpret, and deploy cultural knowledge speaks to the original purpose and promise of International House: the opportunity to infuse cross-cultural understanding in the lives and work of many to the benefit of the world we share.

Shortly after I became Executive Director I was driving across the Bay Bridge with then Chair of the Resident Council Nathaniel Rice. As we queued in an endless line before the toll booths he asked: “Don’t you have Fastrak?” It’s automatic and gets you onto the bridge much faster.” I continue to learn from our residents as we together work to bridge the gap between means and expenses. 

Joanne Griffith (HR 1952-54) holds the House plaque dedicating her former room in honor of Joanne and her late husband Ladd Griffith (HR 1952-53) with room’s occupant, Thomas Pfoffer of Germany.

Paul Salz (HR 1950-52) and his granddaughter Janie Knig (HR 2007) at the 2007 dedication of the room of Paul’s late wife, Lotte Wallenstein Salz.

Alphonso Robin Berry (left) dedicated a room in honor of fellow alumnae Meta Bowman Berry, her aunt (center), and Joan Bowman, her mother.

“33 Resident Rooms Named by Donors”

A resident room naming program launched five years ago has established thirty-three such designations securing philanthropic support that maintains our historic building while establishing plaques that honor former inhabitants and inspire current residents.

“Inspired by the example of International House, New York, we created this program to help raise critical financial support to care for our facility which makes everything about I-House possible. Each gift of $20,000, payable over four years, reserves a room dedication and establishes a permanent connection between generations of I-House residents,” says Shanti Corrigan, Director of Alumni Relations and Development. “We’ve been able to literally link residents from years back to current residents of I-House, and it is rewarding to see those connections made across the years and spanning generations.” For questions about the room naming program visit ihouse.berkeley.edu or contact Shanti at (510) 642-0124 or shanti@berkeley.edu.

3rd Place ($400 award)
INCEPTION: THE I-House Experience
by Cindy Hwang
Diane Dwyer joined a judging panel also including Martin Brennan and Directors of the Programs and Alumni Relations offices. The panel assessed submissions for their ability to portray life at I-House and the mission to foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills for the promotion of a more tolerant and peaceful world. Although all four of the four-minute entries were deemed to have merit, the winning submission and recipient of a $1,000 prize jointly sponsored by the Resident Council and Office of Alumni Relations, was Cindy Hwang’s film, which included diverse perspectives from residents around the world on their favorite I-House spaces, activities, and why they value the friendships made in the place they call home. All videos are posted on ihouse.berkeley.edu/dedication/ . Alumni video submissions on I-House are now being sought to honor the House’s 80th Anniversary (see page 4).

Top Prize ($1,000 award)
The I-House Experience
by Candy Hwang

2nd Place ($250 award)
Live Actually
by Jimin Lee & Sung Hwan Chun

Most Artistic ($125 award)
A Timeless I-House, A Timeless Memory
by Pui-Wa Li

Most Humorous ($125 award)

Most Social ($125 award)
“I love my time at I-House...walking through this beautiful house and meeting people in the corridors, in the Great Hall, in the Cafe at night...and feeling at home.”

Most Creative ($125 award)
“I think I-House is the best place for networking and making friends.”

Residents from around the globe put their hands together in the shape of hearts in this photo taken on the I-House steps. With alumni support and through new intercultural skills trainings, I-House works to extend empathy and understanding (and sometimes love!) across cultures.
A Board of Directors and Senior Management retreat session on February 12, 2010, examined strategic considerations affecting I-House today and helped shape the initial outlines of a three year Strategic Plan, which is expected to be refined and presented to the Board later this year. The dialogue was informed by research that spanned more than six months in 2009, thanks to a grant from the Taproot Foundation which enabled I-House to evaluate resident and alumni satisfaction as well as market and economic conditions that may affect I-House’s success in the near and long term.

Recognizing the impact of the economy on residents’ financial circumstances, I-House decided not to increase room and board rates over the next 12 months. These challenges offer the House an opportunity to better communicate the “added value” of living at I-House in terms of community, programs, amenities, and purpose. The new Calhoun Bridge initiative (see story page 1) is part of this work, for the first time formalizing trainings at I-House in intercultural skills.

Two major themes of the plan focus on refining customer service while enhancing the quality of the I-House experience for residents and guests, as well as evaluating ways to operate with greater efficiency in using resources, including staff and time. The fall I-House Times will provide an update on the final plan and related actions.

Resident Bagassi Koura Reports for Frontline/World on PBS

I-House resident and Frontline/ World reporter Bagassi Koura from Burkina Faso screened Côte d’Ivoire: Up in Smoke, his documentary film about air pollution, rising rates of asthma, and the efforts of Africa’s first “green cops” to reduce dangerous levels of pollution. The film was viewed by residents at I-House in February.

Bagassi’s documentary reveals that 80% of the vehicles in Côte d’Ivoire (the Ivory Coast) are discarded from other countries, especially from France. Known as France as Bresil (Goodbye France), these vehicles produce thick, black, throat-burning smoke that has become a serious health threat. A graduate student in the School of Journalism, Bagassi is working on a new documentary about alleged victims of toxic waste in Côte d’Ivoire.

“Living at I-House has been truly a life-changing experience,” says Bagassi who is enjoying his second year in the House. “The warm atmosphere will be the first thing I will miss after I graduate.” Bagassi worked as an I-House Program Coordinator last year and now serves as a Resident Assistant. He notes that both positions allowed him to interact more with his fellow residents.

After graduation, Bagassi hopes to produce more stories on African affairs for an international audience. His numerous films can be viewed online on youtube.com and a roughcut of Côte d’Ivoire: Up in Smoke is available on pbs.org/frontlineworld by searching on “Bagassi” on those websites.

Cal Professor Marian Diamand (IH 1948-50) at right, enjoyed the evening with fellow professor and IH Board member, Amy Slater (left) and Shanti Corrigan. Prof. Diamand will speak at the Early December Reunion Tea on Sept. 26. See page 4.

Bay Area Hosts Needed Friends 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 ihfriends@berkeley.edu.

European Youth Leaders Visit I-House I-House hosted the Youth Leaders Dialogue with America delegation from the European Union in February during their visit to the Bay Area as guests of the U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education. Sixteen young leaders representing Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Ukraine traveled to San Francisco following a week in Washington DC that launched the program under the theme of “Tolerance and Diversity.” The future leaders enjoyed lunch at I-House where they met with students from the Rotary Club Scholars Program, UC professors, and I-House staff.

Under the Dome Nobel Laureate Yuan Lee addresses residents

World renowned pioneer of the “molecular crossed beams technique” and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Cal alumnus and former professor Dr. Yuan Lee visited I-House and addressed residents in March 25, 2010 on “The UC Berkeley - Nobel Connection.” A festive reception in the Great Hall accompanied his remarks, which garnered enthusiasm among the dozens of inspired residents in attendance.

Strategic Planning Underway at I-House

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Three decades later, Arlene Blum is back in the fight. She returned to Berkeley in 2006 as a visiting scholar in the Chemistry Department and began tracking toxins again. As she searched for the cause of her cat’s illness, Blum found high levels of fire retardants in the cat’s blood and in house dust traced to the foam cushions in her furniture. Blum noted the dangerous impact of California’s fire retardant requirements on toddlers who crawl in dust and put their hands in their mouths and the global impact on countries including China where many consumer products containing fire retardants are produced.

Dr. Blum received the 2008 Purpose Prize, awarded to those over 60 who are solving society’s greatest problems. She used the $100,000 award to found The Green Policy Institute to provide scientific data about toxic chemicals to policy makers. To learn more, visit greensciencepolicy.org or arleneblum.com.

Staff member Susanne Siegfried (center, in purple) orchestrated the I-House tour and lunch enjoyed with European Youth Leaders studying tolerance and diversity.

Stay at I-House

Plan a stay in one of two guestrooms and re-experience International House! Contact the Events Office at (510) 642-0589 or email ihevents@berkeley.edu. Guestrooms are popular so reserve well in advance.

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BREAKING TRAIL: Mountains & Molecules

The indefatigable Dr. Blum helped organize the first team of women to reach the summit of McKinley in 1970, becoming the expedition leader during a life-threatening crisis. She went on to lead the first all women’s expedition to climb Annapurna in 1976, one of the most challenging Himalayan summits.

Dr. Blum’s first book, Annapurna: A Woman’s Place (1978) was chosen by National Geographic Adventure Magazine as one of the 100 top adventure books of all time. Her memoir, Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life (2005) describes how she accomplished her mountaineering goals, her research goals, and most recently, her goals for impacting public policy.

Dr. Blum, who received her Ph.D. in chemistry at Cal in 1971, researched tris, a fire retardant, and found that the carcinogenic chemical was absorbed by children from their sleepwear. Her research led to her first public policy success: a ban on the use of the chemical in 1977.

Breaking Trail: Mountains & Molecules

of asthma, and the efforts of Africa’s first “green cops” to reduce dangerous levels of pollution. The film was viewed by residents at I-House in February.

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Plan your own I-House Reunion

August 2010 marks the 80th Anniversary of I-House. While I-House plans a few celebrations of our own near and far (see calendar back page), we encourage alumni to arrange their own gatherings and celebrate this milestone!

Whether assembling 5 or 50 alumni, the Office of Alumni Relations is here to help!
We can:
• Connect you with alumni in your area and help you find past friends
• Assist with emails to alumni
• Identify times at I-House you might gather if you aim for a reunion on-site
• Provide blank name tags and I-House pins and newsletters
• Advertise and document the fun online via the I-House website and in the I-House Times

For more information email ihalumni@berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-4128.

Fiscal Crisis Impacts House & Residents

Continued from page 3

UC President Mark Yudof said of the protest, “I salute those who are making themselves heard today in a peaceful manner on behalf of a great cause.”

“As a result of the financial difficulties students face, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of applications for financial aid,” says Executive Director Martin Brennan. “Our supporters have provided crucial funding that assists some, but unfortunately not all, of those who qualify. At a time when need has increased, our available funding has decreased due to diminished revenue from investments.”

The campus and I-House are responding to the fiscal crisis by developing creative solutions for coping with cutbacks, including completing the I-House strategic plan to define the future course of the House in this challenging economic climate. For more information, see the Strategic Plan article on page 3.

Letter From: Marion Biermans (IH 2002) in Santiago, Chile

After living in I-House for a wonderful semester in spring 2002, I’ve had the opportunity to live, study and work in a great variety of places! The Netherlands, Spain, Malawi, Belgium, the U.S., Chile … I-House alumni are everywhere; it’s great to have this shared experience!

I started working for the United Nations in May 2008; after cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar, I spent a few months working for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New York. It was stressful and hard work, but I loved it! From there, I was recruited by the UN’s regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based out of Santiago de Chile.

At first I was a programme officer, responsible for the implementation of a variety of projects and programmes, donor relations and reporting. As of January 2010, I’ve been working on sustainable development issues, which is a whole new field to me, making it all the more challenging and interesting. Working for the UN is an amazing experience. I’ve been wanting to work for the organization since I was little and I am fortunate enough to have been able to make it come true. And the best thing is, working for the UN is a little bit like living in I-House (without the Wednesday coffee house though, unfortunately…)! It would be great to meet I-House alumni that happen to be roaming around the end of the world, so please stop by and say hola when you’re around.

UPDATE: I’m sure you heard that Chile was struck by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake this past Saturday morning, the epicenter was near Concepción, the second largest metropolitan area in Chile. Tsunamis struck the south coast of the country with devastating consequences. 1.5 million people have been displaced after the quake. 452 people died, many are still missing and 2 million people have lost their houses. There is urgent need for clean water, food, housing, and medicine.

Letters From…
Do you have a unique I-House story or do you know an I-House alum who is doing something notable or amazing? Send a message to the editor at johnsonb@berkeley.edu or send a letter to Editor, I-House Development Office.
Gala Soirée With Robert Reich

UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau joined the I-House Board of Directors to host a Gala Soirée fundraising evening on April 7, 2010. Noted economist Robert Reich provided a keynote address to delighted guests. Instead of a traditional seated dinner with award presentations and resident performances, the 250 guests mingled and sampled delicacies at eight cultural display and tasting stations highlighting the cuisines and cultures of native countries of I-House residents including China, Italy, India, Peru, Mexico, Japan, Spain, and the Mediterranean.

Chefs of local restaurants La Mar Cebicheria Peruana (Peru), Medjool (Mediterranean Fusion) and Yoshi’s Jazz Club (Japan) provided delicious "small plates" distributed by resident volunteers in cultural dress. The I-House evening department assembled offerings from around the world at stations with participants interested in international issues. The schedule includes two morning lectures; afternoon tours; three evening lectures, films or special programs; and a trip to the California Academy of Sciences on Wednesday. Opportunities for independent activities include The Berkeley Festival, held on campus during the same week and featuring dozens of early music concerts. Register with Exploritas at 1-800-454-5768 for Program #18888. If the program is full, add your name to the waiting list as there may be cancellations. A fee of $756 includes accommodations, meals, lectures, activities, and the trip to the Academy of Sciences. Exploritas programs are open to adults over the age of 21. For more information, visit Exploritas.org or ihouse.berkeley.edu/explo or call 510-642-2664 for a brochure. 

Continued from page 1.

New Steps Advance “Culture Bridge” Paths at House

that the workshop provided him with a unique experience, I think the workshop was very useful and I think it lived up to my expectations. I’ve had a lot of experience living with people from other cultures through living at I-House, but I think the workshop gave me a concrete take that was different from my experience.”

Highlights included special guest speaker Sebastian Teunissen, Adjunct Professor and Executive Director, Programs in International Management Education and Executive Director, Programs in International Management Education at Haas School of Business. He shared his cross-cultural experiences working in Papua New Guinea in a multi-year set of negotiations between locals and Western business investors, and the many cross-cultural miscommunications that affected their process. Other learning experiences included exercises on personal space, intercultural competence with college students. Had such a class been available when I was at I-House, it would have only enhanced an already positive experience.

- Deborah Seidl Sipe (IH 1971-72)

workshop. Even body language and words can be very misleading in different cultural contexts.

“This has been a remarkable new venture for I-House,” remarks Executive Director Martin Brennan. “We are finding interest among residents for the ways in which intercultural skills are important professionally in an increasingly competitive global employment market. By providing this service we better articulate the unique benefits of the diverse cultural experience that comprises life at I-House.”

Partial room and board scholarships were provided to two Culture Bridge Scholars for 2009-10 who have worked with management to develop the initiative, monitor success, and provide recommendations for the future. Martin Brennan adds, "Jennifer and Lisa have brought to this initiative invaluable insights shaped by their experience as I-House residents. We look forward to identifying residents for 2010-11, will help us further refine this vision in service to the I-House mission.”

intercultural trainer and I House Events Coordinator Breidi Truscott leads a discussion at the Bridging Cultures Workshop: Enhancing Your Cross-Cultural Skills for Personal and Professional Growth.

As an I-House alumnus, I applaud the new Culture Bridge program. My experiences at I-House were key to my later focus on international education and intercultural competence. I have used that information to inform my college teaching and my work in international exchange, encouraging intercultural competence with college students. Had such a class been available when I was at I-House, it would have only enhanced an already positive experience.

- Deborah Seidl Sipe (IH 1971-72)

Workshop leaders Martin Brennan and Lilian Koziol with some of the participants.

Board Member builds school in Egypt

I House Board Member Atef Eltoukhy is establishing a K-12 school in Sharkia, Egypt, 50 miles northeast of Cairo, in honor of his father. The Helmy Eltoukhy School will include a library and computer room and serve local school children of all ages, including, perhaps, future residents of International House Berkeley. The school is slated to open in late 2010. Atef and his wife Fofa have also established a room and board scholarship at I-House.

Edith Coliver Festival of Cultures

The Edith Coliver Festival of Cultures at I-House is held annually each April in conjunction with UC Berkeley’s “Open House” known as Cal Day. Resident sponsored culturally themed tables sharing crafts, food, and artifacts from around the world complement a variety of vendors and five stages with a diverse assembly of traditional dance performances, music, an international fashion show, poetry, and a special "kids room“ for younger visitors.

View photos and video highlights at ihouse.berkeley.edu/springfest. This year’s Festival of Cultures on April 17, 2010, includes a country theme of Mexico.

Student-Athlete Center Construction

A “Go Bears” sign adorns the arm of a construction crane helping retrofit Memorial Stadium and build UC Berkeley’s High Performance Athletic Center adjacent to I-House. While construction noise and brief shut-downs of water or electrical power at I-House are an occasional inconvenience for current residents, the completed Center, slated to open in 2012 will benefit residents with improved access to sporting and special events. It will also provide enhanced public awareness of I-House, it’s building, amenities, programs, and mission.

International House Times

Alumni & Friends Are Invited to Exploritas Forum on the Middle East

June 6-12, 2010

International House will host a week-long lecture and discussion series entitled The Berkeley Forum on the Middle East: Can the Obama Administration Forge Lasting Peace? The June 6-12 program is co-sponsored by UC’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and the California Alumni Association under the auspices of Exploritas (formerly Elderhostel). Dr. Laurence Michalak, a cultural anthropologist and Vice Chair Emeritus of CMES will be our primary speaker. Afghani, Iranian, Israeli, and Palestinian scholars will join him to present a diverse program.

Participating in this program is a great way to return to Berkeley while enjoying classes
and different kinds of ice made the historic travels legendary albatross. Wandering around icebergs from seeing thousands of penguins to the trip to Antarctica, “It was an amazing experience, generations American of French Basque origin. had an international orientation being a first wrote a fun paper of memories of railway journeys and lunched in the House of Lords. “In the fall, I enjoyed a family trip to Bhutan last October and climbed up to Tiger’s Nest on Raj’s 81st birthday!” Helen Crane Desai writes, “Raj and I met at a non-governmental counterpart, The Council for Development resulting in the Climate Treaty. My husband and I recently returned from Beijing and Xi’an, China, where we saw and studied the Terracotta Army, the 3,000 clay soldiers discovered in 1974. I recommend such a trip to everyone!”,

Boostie Charon, Ron Olson, and Helga Moldenhauer enjoyed getting together again. From Ron, “Just wanted to share this photo with other I-House friends of 50 years ago – could it be that long?” Andrew Tantumbaum writes, “While some of my classmates have retired, I just got a 2.5 million dollar grant from the European Research Council to develop a highly reliable operating system, so I’m covered for five more years. I also have a lovely newborn grandson born on what would have been Martin Luther King’s 80th birthday. I’m expecting great things from him!”

Edith Borschardi, Professor of German at the University of Minnesota, Morris, published a translation of Charles Chin’s book, Future for Women (Women in the Shadows), which deals with the lives of five women born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Available at amazon.com. Joffy Canin writes, “Since 1995, I have been living in the Seattle area with my wife Susan, and children Matthew and Anna. I have had the opportunity to travel extensively for pleasure and business and fortunately got to the Bay Area frequently. I have been working primarily in recent years with startup companies in the cleantech sector, including some very promising university commercialization spinouts.” Chitra Banerjee Divakaran’s new book, One Amazing Thing (2010), tells the story of strangers trapped together after an earthquake. As the hours pass and their fears increase, one of the members of the diverse group suggests that each tell “one thing” about themselves that they have never told anyone before. Read the first chapter at chitradivaikan.com. Eugenio Pongra and Carmen Ochoa-Pongra met at I-House in 1972. Eugenio received his Ph.D. in 1976 and Carmen received her M.P.H. in 1975. They have two daughters who are both third-year medical students. Eugenio retired in 2008 from CSU Chico, after 33 years of teaching and 10 years in Department Chair. Carmen retired in 2008 at Dameron Health Education in Chico, CA. At I-House, Eugenio directed the week-long Camp Lodesta programs in 1974 and 1975. Ashok Gadgil and Kirk Smith were honored for their efforts to create a cleaner and more sustainable environment. Both professors received $100,000 awards from the Heine Family Association. The foundation honored Ashok as a researcher, inventor, and humanitarian, citing his work on airborne and pollutant transfer in buildings. Kirk was honored for his research exposing the relationships among air pollution, household fuel use, climate, and health.

Celebrate Romance! Did you meet your spouse at I-House? We know of more than 100 couples who met here and would love to hear from you. To list your spouse, please visit the I-House couples page: http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/news/ihouse/couples.html and let us know about and where you met.

Fumio Jayeazz Doma’s bestseller, Funny on Fire: A Memoir of Growing Up Fascist in America, was selected by ABC for a possible TV series. Fumio says, “This is the first step in a long process. If they like the pilot, it will become a series. A sit-com based on Funny on Fire would be truly groundbreaking. It would change how Americans view Middle Eastern immigrants and would balance the constant negative press we receive.” Through her books, speaking tours, NPR commentaries and writing, she underscores, with great humor, how our commonalities outweigh our differences. Visit firoozehdumas.com for more info and to join her on Facebook for updates.

Housie – A Family Tradition? Have multiple generations of your family lived in I-House? Share your story and a photo of the generations.

SEND US YOUR NEWS! Please send us YOUR news on the RSVP panel on page 7. Photos will be published as space allows.

6
R.S.V.P. WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your news for the next newsletter:

Stay involved in International House! Additional funding for I-House.

- Send me information about hosting students (see page 3).
- Send me news and announcements at the email address below.
- Include me in the mailing list for future alumni Loderest programs.
- Include me in the mailing list for 30s, 40s, 50s Reunion Sept. 26, 2010.
- Send me an Elderhostel flyer for June 6 - 12, 2010 (see page 5).
- Add us to the list of I-House Couples (see: ihouse.berkeley.edu/available/notable/couples.html)
- I can identify potential corporate/foundation sponsors. Please contact me for details.
- Send me the I-House T-shirt. $15 US / $28 International.
- Enclose my check drawn on a U.S. bank or credit card number, postage date, and security code.

Women’s V-Neck __S__ M __L__ XL

Men’s Crew Neck __S__ __M__ __L__ __XL

Child/Youth __2__ __4__ __6__ __8__ __10__

Baby Onesie __3__ - 6 mo. __6-12 mo. __12 - 18 mo.

- Please send information on charitable estate and gift planning.
- I have included I-House in my estate plans.

Please Update your record

Please circle: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Prof./other:

First name        Middle initial/maiden name        Last name
__________________________________________

Years at I-House 19/20_______ to 19/20________

City State/Province Postal code Country
__________________________________________

Name when enrolled, if different

Street address (if not printed on reverse)

Phone

Email

Years at I-House 19/20_______ to 19/20________

Occupation __________________________________

Employer ____________________________________

Spouse title: Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Prof./other:

First name        Middle initial/maiden name        Last name
__________________________________________

If applicable, his/her years at I-House: 19/20_______ to 19/20________
We Are The World

I-House Music Concerts, Benefits for Haiti and Chile, and Resident Video Celebrate Peace and Global Understanding

I-House musical performers and volunteers posed for a group photo in March during a resident-initiated benefit concert featuring I-House talent that raised $700 for Haiti earthquake survivors. Members of the I-House Music Club include (from left) Minh Nguyen, Christian Niebuhr, Pierre Darpeix, Jacqueline Barin, Ignacio Ramirez, Tina Leinenweber, Brit Moller, Owen Dobbers, Roel Dobbe, Tony Lin, Sebastian Meinert, Alana Mailes, Marina Romani. Another fundraiser was organized by the I-House Resident Council to raise money for Chile.

"Music is certainly international and an amazing force to bring people together, so eventually some of us thought a re-make with residents of the classic song "We Are The World" would be very appropriate for I-House," says resident Ernesto Tejeda-Yeomans, who also serves as a Resident Assistant. When completed, the "We Are The World" video will be posted at ihouse.berkeley.edu. For more, see story page 1.

I-House Times is published periodically for alumni and friends of International House.

President
Chancellor Robert Birgeneau

Executive Director
Martin Brennan

Editor-in-chief
Shanti Corrigan

Editor
Bethann Johnson

Designer
Laurie Ferris

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

International House
2299 Piedmont Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94720-2320

Calendar of Events

Please visit http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/calendar to view details and more programs and events.

April 17, 2010
Edith Calvert Festival of Cultures & Cal Day

April 22, 2010
Festival de Seville Dinner

April 23, 2010
I-House Berkeley Reunion Lunch in Ithaca, New York

April 24, 2010
I-House Reunion in New York with Ambassador Ken Taylor & Patricia Taylor

May 5, 2010
Cinco de Mayo Dinner

May 28-29 & June 4-5, 2010
Cultural Detective Facilitator Certification: Two day workshops

June 6-12, 2010
Exploritas Program (formerly Elderhostel) on the Middle East See page S.

June 10, 2010
Eastern European Dinner

June 26-27, 2010
Worldwide Alumni Reunion For Alumni of All I-Houses, Philadelphia, PA

July 4, 2010
Independence Day Branch Barbeque

July 14, 2010
Bastille Day Dinner

September 16, 2010
Mexican Independence Day Dinner

September 18, 2010
Alumni Reunion at Yoshi’s San Francisco

September 26, 2010
Early Oceans Reunion Fox with Marian Diamond, 2-4 pm

September 30, 2010
Tour of South America Dinner

October 6, 2010
Oktoberfest Dinner

November 2010
Worldwide Alumni Reunion For Alumni of All I-Houses, Philadelphia, PA

January 16, 2011
1990s Reunion at I-House

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Spring Summer 2010

The Newsletter for Friends & Alumni of I-House Berkeley