**“Culture Bridge” Forges Paths for Global Understanding**

The pursuit of intercultural knowledge is nothing new to International House—it’s been fundamental to its purpose for nearly 80 years and touched the lives of more than 80,000 residents. This fall launched a new initiative that formalizes intercultural skills training at I-House as never before under the mantle of “Culture Bridge.”

“What we’ve discovered from resident feedback is that while the House still includes astounding cultural diversity, the number, length, and quality of conversations between residents has shifted over time...” says Executive Director Martin Brennan, who established the new initiative. “The average length a resident stays has shortened, and the competition for student time and attention has shifted in our vastly more technologically world. We realized we needed to chart new paths to connect residents to one another and to a deeper understanding of what defines culture. This is a new means to expand an appreciation for cultural differences and human commonalities — and to those seeking insights and practical tools to enhance competitiveness and efficacy in an increasingly competitive global marketplace,” said Brennan.

“The concept is to build a flexible curriculum in intercultural skills training that draws on the best of I-House: our residents, face-to-face cross-cultural conversations, and exposure to cultural traditions including music, food, and art from around the world. Role-playing and simulations are included to deepen engagement with cultural concepts and fellow participants, and always the need for respect as a basis for successful and peaceful cultural navigation is emphasized.”

**Gift Honoring Peter & Candy Robertson supports Culture Bridge**

A $500,000 contribution from Chevron honoring Peter Robertson, recently retired as Vice-Chairman, and his wife Candy, has underwritten $500,000 for Culture Bridge first-year activities including room and board awards for two resident scholars, Jennifer Jure-Steuck and Lisa Kamino. The scholars are charged with monitoring the progress of the initiative including auditing the first semester-long course while conducting background analysis to ensure the House is aware of intercultural resources and training best practices on and off campus.

Jennifer Jure-Steuck is a Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies Ph.D. Candidate who brings a unique perspective to her Culture Bridge role. “As a transracial and transnational Chinese adoptee who grew up in a multicultural American family in Laguna Beach, California, I learned during my early years how intercultural issues impact lives on a daily basis.” Jure-Steuck, who was born to a birth mother from Jiangsu Province, China, and is founder of Chinese Adoptee Links (CAL) International continues: “It’s easy to think that culture is ‘natural’—like the air that we breathe—but the truth is that culture is socially constructed. Without learning how to translate the science of different social codes, our ability to navigate cultures is severely limited.”

Lisa Kamino (left) and Jennifer Jure-Steuck are the Peter & Candy Robertson Culture Bridge Scholars.

**Fall programs explore international politics, responsible business and thoughtful travel**

An impressive series of fall programs engaged students, alumni, and community members in programs on topics of international significance.

Two Members of Parliament, a travel writer, and a business leader challenged audiences to expand their awareness of international politics, to promote understanding in their travels, and to support businesses that tackle environmental challenges.

Malalai Joya, elected to the Parliament in Afghanistan in 2005 and suspended for her critical views in 2007, spoke at I-House on November 10. She discussed elections, noting that democracy will never come to Afghanistan through the barrel of a gun and said, “The struggle will be long and difficult but the values of real democracy, human rights, and women’s rights will only be won by the Afghan people themselves.”

Sally Jewell, President and CEO of Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), explained how businesses can and must be part of the solution for problems such as environmental degradation and climate warming at a lecture on Creating a “Virtuous Cycle” of Business on October 1. She explored how “business as usual” must change when a company makes addressing these challenges instrumental to success.

Rick Steves, acclaimed travel writer and host of PBS travel programs, presented Promoting Global Peace and Understanding Through Travel at an International Career Symposium on October 27. The inspiring author of Travel as a Political Act told the crowd that travel connects people to people, inspires creative solutions to persistent problems, and promotes greater understanding of the interconnectedness of our world.

Anwar Ibrahim, Member of Parliament in Malaysia and Leader of the Opposition, addressed Islam and Democracy in East Asia on September 29. An ardent advocate for freedom and democracy, he was imprisoned and held in solitary confinement for six years before his conviction was overturned. In the 2008 elections, he forged a coalition that gained control of six of fourteen states, initiating a transition to a two-party system.

For information about future programs, visit http://ihouse.berkeley.edu.
A FRESH PERSPECTIVE: INTERNATIONAL HOUSE IN 2010 AND BEYOND

I used to go window shopping in San Francisco with my grandfather, Mansuettto Puccini. This vigorous activity involved visiting a string of produce markets where he would gently squeeze the fruits and vegetables as if they were grandchildren at a family reunion. Visual inspection did not suffice. We invariably ended up at the fruit and vegetable store at 22nd and Irving. There my grandfather would break into a wide smile as he held the oranges, tomatoes, lettuce and stuff I viewed with suspicion: “Look at this! See how fresh it is? Fresh! Fresh!” Frankly, looking at produce ranked right up there with mushroom growing in my panoply of exciting things to do – but I got the point: fresh is quality. Fresh is important. Fresh makes a difference.

Most of the 80,000 residents who made I-House their home since we opened our doors in 1930 thrived amidst the unique mix of cultures, growing in ways they had not imagined possible. Many have told us that their I-House experience was a transformational point in their lives. I am happy to report that residents still have life changing and life enhancing experiences at I-House.

And they are certainly a source of inspiration for me. Yet, some things have changed. We all live in a fast-paced digital age. Stays at I-House are shorter and residents are highly mobile. I-House resident Monica Farid observed in her weekly Daily Cal column how constant texting and twittering often take the place of meaningful personal exchanges among students. She discovered that lunch in our Dining Room provides a welcome opportunity for real interaction. For her, it was, well, refreshing.

After eight decades, our challenge is to discover fresh approaches to provide those opportunities in abundance. From a fresh new format for our overnight new-resident retreats to updating our weekly roster of programs and activities, we are increasing opportunities for residents to better experience this unique intercultural community. And, thanks to the generosity of Peter and Candy Robertson (please see article on page 1), we have launched the ambitious Culture Bridge Initiative to enhance our residents’ ability to bridge cultures and to help others across cultural divides.

Perhaps I hear my grandfather saying: “Fresh, fresh!” We need these fresh perspectives to meet the challenges of our time. The economic climate for the University of California challenges us to rethink – with a fresh approach – how to be most efficient and cost-effective in everything we do. And, regrettably, the economic shifts of the past year have significantly diminished I-House scholarship endowments at the moment we are experiencing a rise in scholarship requests from residents worldwide who are expressing real financial need.

We invite your support, your “fresh” ideas, and your participation in the events we are planning to celebrate our 80th anniversary year in 2010 (please see article page 4). After nearly eighty decades, the notion of a more compassionate and peaceful world are planning to celebrate our 80th anniversary year in 2010 (please see article page 4).
Gateway Scholarships Bring Promising Ph.D. and M.P.H. to Cal and to I-House

The Gateway Scholarship Program represents an unprecedented partnering of University and International House resources. Recipients receive room and board at I-House plus University awards for tuition and fees and a stipend. This full scholarship package brings some of the world’s most promising graduate students to Cal and to the I-House community. Eight Gateway Scholars, including the two students profiled below, are at I-House this year representing diverse talents and fields of study. I-House scholarships are funded by contributions to the Fund for International House and by named, endowed funds. More information is available by calling 510-642-4128 or at ihouse.berkeley.edu.

I-House Welcomes 2009-2010 Residents

For 79 years, International House has opened its doors to students and scholars from around the world. Some facts about this year’s residents:
• 579 residents represent 64 countries.
• 166 residents are from the USA.
• Men outnumber women, 58% to 42%.
• China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and the Netherlands are each represented by 20 or more residents.
• Our diverse community includes students from Belarus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malta, Poland, Trinidad/Tobago, and Uganda.
• 54% are grad students or visiting scholars.
• 46% are undergraduates.
• 15% receive I-House financial aid reflecting a 21% reduction in scholarship funding due to decreased earnings on endowed funds.
• 252 residents learned about the House and meet fellow residents by participating in full orientation activities.

Barbara Lynch Essays Capture I-House Experience

Each year, residents are challenged to describe their International House experiences in the Barbara Lynch Crossing Borders Essay Contest, named in memory of Barbara Lynch who touched the lives of thousands of residents during more than two decades as a staff member in the Program Office. Katie Bokan-Smith (USA) and Beat Schwendimann (Switzerland) teamed up to write Living Outside of the Box: Experiencing the Cross-Cultural Phenomena, the first place essay for the 2008-09. The complete essay is online at http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/peninsulahouse. Following are excerpts that may ring true for alumini of all decades.

“The moment that my overloaded suitcase thumped up the stairs and I walked into the sliding glass doors of the International House, I experienced a release of tension—I had found my second home, my home away from home. I quickly learned that Karen, my boisterous and tiny roommate from Cologne, Germany...and I both possessed a passion for learning about other cultures. You could even call us your international sponges, waiting to soak up new cultures, language, and people. It is undeniable how strong the I-House family continues to be, without my second home at I-House, I would feel lost and disconnected in Berkeley. I-House has created an inviting atmosphere and given me a family that openly accepts, respects, and celebrates my culture, along with the cultures of so many others. The sense of validation and tolerance in the I-House has successfully brought a diverse group together, a group that has taught me so much about the world and about humanity itself.”

Usree Bhattacharya, an I-House Berkeley resident and Ph.D. student in education received a “Davis Project for Peace” grant to implement a summer program she created for an orphanage near New Delhi, India. She aimed to improve literacy and enhance the children’s sense of belonging in the world by helping them reach out to the world through a social media site with their own messages of peace.

“As I think back,” says Usree, “I am overwhelmed by a sense of gratitude, promise, and a sense of collective accomplishment. We did not accomplish exactly what we set out to do, but I believe the true worth of the project...lies in the ineffable value of building a powerful sense of community, of being connected to the world in ways we had not imagined we were before. What we commenced with was potential, and the beautiful note we end on is promise.”

Resident Implements Summer Peace Project in India

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The Davis Projects for Peace were created by Kathryn Davis who celebrated her centenary birthday by contributing $1 million to I-House New York to fund $10,000 grants for summer Peace Projects around the world. After tremendous success, the program was extended to include students at International Houses worldwide.

Border Crossing Essay Contest winners (from left): Beat Schwendimann (Switzerland), Katie Bokan-Smith (USA), Pui-wai Li (Hong Kong) and Vinicius G.R. Vieira (Brazil).
Alumni Reunions held in Los Angeles & San Diego

Friendships decades old were rekindled when I-House alumni gathered in Los Angeles and San Diego in April 2009. Informal receptions hosted by I-House Executive Director Martin Brennan and his wife Giovanna, attracted alumni from the 1940s to 2007 and preceded “Discuss Call” lectures organized by UC Berkeley.

Former roommates Lee Bridges (IH 1989-90) from the U.S. and Mathilde Rottier (IH 1988-90), originally from France, were reunited in Los Angeles after many years only to discover they live in the same city and work in the same field. Dorina Bauer (IH 1978-79) brought her son Aaron, who enrolled in Cal this fall and aspires to live at I-House later in his undergraduate career. “It was great to introduce my son to a global I-House community—one that ultimately creates peace in our world, one relationship at a time.”

To re-connect with I-House alumni visit ihouse.berkeley.edu.

Crown Prince of Norway is Alumnus of the Year

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon Magnus of Norway and his wife Crown Princess Mette-Marit were recently forwarded a limited edition I-House silk tie and scarf made by noted Italian designer and fellow I-House alumus Ermengildo Zegna as a gift to commemorate the Prince’s designation as I-House Alumnus of the Year, 2009. His Royal Highness was selected by the I-House Board of Directors in recognition of his wide-ranging humanitarian work via the United Nations Development Programme and UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. “I accepted the invitation to become a Goodwill Ambassador for UNAIDS because I strongly believe that all people are equal and should have equal rights to realize their potential as human beings,” reports the Prince, who has long advocated for measures to reduce the gap between rich and poor worldwide and is a champion of achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and co-founded “Global Dignity Day.”

Haakon Magnus is renowned in Norway as something of an iconoclast for deciding to attend Berkeley in lieu of Oxford, the traditional choice of royalty. “I wanted to study abroad and see a different perspective of international politics. I chose Berkeley because it’s a brilliant university and its students are very diverse,” Magnus said. While living at International House, he turned down the chance to have his own room, opting instead to live with a roommate. As it turned out, his roommate was an American of Cuban descent who introduced the Norwegian prince to salsa dancing. Magnus, a political science major, has received significant attention for his work supporting Norway’s indigenous Lapplander population, as well for gay and women’s rights.

Although unable to receive recognition at I-House last April with his counterpart Alumnus of the Year 2009, noted Iranian-American author Firoozeh Dumas (IH1996-87), Martin Brennan reports, “We hope to celebrate with the Crown Prince a future gathering of I-House Alumni and friends in Europe.” View a statement from the Crown Prince about Global Dignity on our YouTube channel, linked to on our homepage at ihouse.berkeley.edu.

Golden Age Alumni Gather for Tea and Stories

The halls of I-House echoed again with familiar voices from the 1940’s and 1950’s when forty alumni of the “Golden Age” era returned for an afternoon tea in September. Executive Director Martin Brennan welcomed the group and praised their lifelong commitment to the ideals of the House.

“You epitomized the commitment to the greater good by welcoming a world of diversity and respect. Today we see the fruits of your efforts and I am just bowled over in the forecourt you were. Your acts of kindness and friendship to each other and your willingness to challenge the prejudices of the day demonstrated the potential of I-House to be a beacon of hope.”

Brennan shared reminiscences gathered by Jeanne Castello-Lin and invited others to share their memories. Ingrid Bergstrom Borland, originally from Sweden, recalled that many of the residents had been affected by war and were determined to prevent future conflict, “Everyone wanted peace, there was never going to be another war, we were going to work for world peace – that is why they call it the Golden Age.”

Paul Salz recalled the experiences of his late wife, Lottie Wallerstein Salz who escaped to Denmark from a concentration camp only to be interned because she looked German. “Then they unstriped the bandages from their arms and showed their concentration camp numbers. And then, they were free! I-House was Lottie’s home.” He remembered the sometimes raucous discussions: “The Arab-Israeli conflict was just over and tempers were flying high. But at 10 pm everybody would move to the café for a cup of coffee. We would cut off all debate and friendship was restored.”

Marian Coolidge O’Regan described her I-House experiences, “In Texas, I hadn’t met many people from other countries. Everyone took me in and educated me. You must go to this lecture, read this book to get me up to snuff... At I-House, you could talk to everyone.”

Bob Brewer remembered that singing was an important aspect of the life of the House. “After dinner, we would sing for hours and have the most wonderful time.” These alumni are still ready for a song. “When their 1950s I-House recording of a song written by Rafael Rodriguez, a fondly remembered friend and alumni, they repurposed it 85 years later.

The group plans to gather again next year at I-House on September 26, 2010. If you didn’t receive an invitation to this year’s event and would like to be included next year, please check off the item about the tea on the RSVP form on page 7.

Help Us Celebrate 80 Years!

August 2010 marks the 80th anniversary of the opening of International House in Berkeley. Special events and reunions are planned for our university’s celebration from June 2010 to August 2011 as we share perspectives on I-House experiences.

80 Perspectives for 80 Years
Share your I-House perspective—a memorable encounter, a special friendship, or a personal reflection. Contributions in any format are welcome: a story, poem, video, photograph, or artistic creation. To contribute your own perspective, use the enclosed envelope, visit http://ihouse.berkeley.edu or email ihalumni@berkeley.edu. Stories will be published as space allows on the website and in the I-House Times during our anniversary year.

Save the Date!
Please visit http://House.berkeley.edu and select “Alumni Relations” for information about these and other events.
June 6-12, 2010: Middle East Forum International House, see page 5
June 2010: I-House Berkeley Alumni Reunion
New York, NY
June 25-27, 2010: Worldwide Alumni Reunion
For Alumni of All I-Houses
Philadelphia, PA
September 26, 2010: Golden Age Tea Reunion of 1940s and ’50s Alumni International House
Tentative plans are also underway for a 1960s reunion at I-House in June 2010.
More information about 80th Anniversary events will be included in the spring I-House Times.

Plan your own reunion! We can help. Contact ihalumni@berkeley.edu

To learn about new developments, please send us your email address on the RSVP form on page 7.

Alumni News

Sign up for our award winning E-newsletter!

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

I-House Alumni

I-House alumni and residents are welcome to join the I-House@cal Online Community. Sign up at ihouseonline.berkeley.edu.
We also invite you to participate and join other social networks that celebrate I-house Berkeley. See you on the Web!

Whimsical Cat Cards drawn by renowned I-House alumus, Costa Rican betanot and artist Maeli Rodriguez, are now available for purchase thanks to the generous contributions from Golden Age alumni.

To view more images or purchase cards visit http://picasaweb.google.com/IHouseBerkeley or call (510) 642-4328.
Thanks to a generous matching fund established by the UC Berkeley Foundation Board of Trustees, a “New Alumni Challenge” will provide three matching fund dollars for every dollar donated to UC Berkeley or a specific campus unit, including I-House. Gifts thus quadrupled in value when allocated by alumni who graduated with a Cal degree between 2005 and 2010. “The match exponentially increases the value of every gift, however small, at a time when we are finding resident need for room and board scholarships as well as many basic operating costs are increasing,” says I-House Director of Development and Alumni Relations Shanti Corrigan.

To futher inspire first-time gifts, the House has adjusted the standard $500 rate to inscribe a brick in perpetuity on the I-House Cafe patio to the discounted resident rate of $300 - meaning a $750 contribution once quadrupled reserves such an inscription.

“Culture Bridge” Forges Paths for Global Understanding

Continued from page 1.

The Program fee of $753 includes accommodations, meals, classes (all at I-House), afternoon activities, and a coach trip to the new and spectacular California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The Berkeley Festival will be on campus during this same week, offering dozens of early music concerts.

I-House alumna and friends were among the 45 participants in the 2009 program. From left: Marcelle Schull (IH 1952), Hal Kerber (IH 1956-57), Joanna Griffin (IH 1952-54), Connie Fraser (IH 1943-64), Karen Wright, Ellis Russell, Bob Wright (IH 1947-50), Elaine Anderson and (seated) Betty Goren (IH 1951).

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I-House alumni Gaurav Moudgil, a Cal Structural Engineering graduate from 2006, originally from India and now working near Delhi at Global C-Inc., was one of the first donors to take advantage of the match. His gift will be commemorated on the I-House patio with the inscription:

If gratitude is the soul of nobles, you have made me a king.

– Gaurav Moudgil. I-House 05-06

Guarav reports: “Wherever I travel, I will run into a friend from I-House. I hope this legacy continues for all time and that many more students have the chance to experience what I did at I-House.”

The matching gift program was launched in the fall and will continue until June 30, 2010. For more information or to make a gift, see http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/newalumni.

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Celebrate Romance!

Did you meet your spouse at I-House? We know of more than 900 couples who met here and would love to hear from you. To find old friends or send a note to the Development Office and we’ll let us know when and how you met.

ihalumni@berkeley.edu

Send Us Your News!

Please send us YOUR news on the RSVP panel on page 7.

Photos will be published as space allows.

Staff News

Joe Luzie, I-House Executive Director Emeritus, held a career workshop tailored for I-House alumni in October. Joe is currently an executive coach, consultant, speaker and intercultural trainer, who also teaches groups and individuals how to navigate and network through today’s tough job market.

A retirement celebration was held in June to honor Nancy Becker (Accounting), Adil Elgaili (Purchasing), William Farmer (Dining Services), Luz Parker (Accounting), and John Vuong (Engineering). An Alumni gathered for a reunion tea in September to see article page 4.

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Dr. Marion Ross
Mr. Galen R. Fisher
Ms. Marisa L. De Leon
Ms. Sharon Yamamoto
Mr. Ralph Waldo Amerson
Lorraine Fletcher Elliott
Ms. Marion Acedo

followed by the names of the donors.

The gifts below were received between April 16, 2009 and September 30, 2009. The name of the honoree is listed in bold

Sierra Club, she had a feisty interest in politics and was an avid
Cal, and enjoyed living at I-House. A lifetime member of the
A native Californian, Marguerite grew up in Salinas, attended
as a psychiatric social worker, and as a therapist at Cowell Hospital
Born in Germany, she fled to the United States in 1938, worked
as a psychiatric social worker, and as a therapist at Cowell Hospital
Born in T okyo and raised in Yokohama, Japan, he earned a BS
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Calendar of Events

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

November 5, 2009 Native American Dinner
November 25, 2009 Thanksgiving Dinner
December 14, 2009 Holiday Celebration Dinner
January 27, 2010 Korean New Year Dinner
February 12, 2010 Lunar New Year
February 16, 2010 Mark Gra Lunch/Dinner
February 26, 2010 African American Night
March 5, 2010 Guest Chef Series Dinner- Culinary Academy/IA
March 17, 2010 St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
March 20, 2010 Nanney Persian Dinner
March 2010 Lodestar Dinner - date to be announced.
April 17, 2010 Edith Coliver Festival of Cultures & Cal Day
April 22, 2010 Festival de Souleh Dinner
May 5, 2010 Cinco de Mayo Dinner
June 6-12, 2010 Exploritas Program (formerly Elderhostel) on the Middle East See page 5.
June 2010 I-House Berkeley Alumni Reunion, New York, NY - date to be announced.

International House residents in May, 2009. Dozens remain as current residents “under the dome” this fall, while many more have joined our vibrant worldwide network of alumni.

Discover International House, Berkeley:
- home away from home to nearly 600 Cal students from the US and over 60 countries – with academic excellence in every field.
- global community of 80,000+ alumni, including international leaders in business, academia, diplomacy, and seven Nobel Laureates.
- site of hundreds of thought-provoking programs and events annually – including cross-cultural lectures, films, and festivals, open to the public.
- historic 240,000 square foot facility including a public Dining Commons and Cafe that welcome residents, the campus community, and the public.
- a purpose that has united thousands since our founding in 1930: fostering cross-cultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills to promote a more tolerant and peaceful world.

Sign-up for e-mail program announcements, connect with our Facebook and LinkedIn alumni groups, follow us on Twitter, or view our YouTube channel: ihouse.berkeley.edu.