



International House Fellowships Reception and Dinner September 21, 2016

Honoring the 2016-17 Gateway Fellows and Named Scholarship Recipients

The 2016-17 Gateway Fellows in Cooperation with the Graduate Division and Academic Departments of UC Berkeley

Rafael Rodriguez-Golden Age Fellow

Mustafa Yildiz, from Denizli, Turkey, is a new PhD student in History. Growing up in a small town cherished with nature and history, Mustafa was always amazed by languages and medieval history from an early age. As an undergraduate, he studied Translation Studies at one of the best universities of Turkey, which equipped him with a command of the English and French languages. He switched his field to Byzantine history when he decided to pursue academics, hence his study of Ancient and Byzantine Greek. While at UC Berkeley, he plans to further his knowledge of German and Latin – so what better place than I-House! Mustafa is also deeply interested in literature and theater, both as a follower and practitioner. Mustafa has written stories and poems and acted in several plays including founding a small theater company in Istanbul. He wrote about how excited he was to join this multicultural community and believes that the years he will spend at Berkeley will be among the most unforgettable ones in his life and will prepare him for an enriching academic career.

The Rafael Rodriguez Golden Age Fellowship was established in 1989 as a tribute to the late Rafael Rodriguez. Marion Ross was one of the leaders who established this fund. This Fellowship was a model for the following Gateway Fellowships established later.

The Chevron-Xenel Gateway Fellow

Kaitlyn Lieschke is from Wollongong, Australia and is a new Ph.D. student in Chemistry. She is following her passion for research while gaining knowledge to teach and encourage the next generation of scientists. She completed a Bachelor of Science Advance in Chemistry with honors. In 2013 she mentored Indigenous students in the 9th Grade through the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience. In the same year she organized and facilitated the *Students 4 Students National Leadership Conference* at the University of Wollongong. While an undergrad, she spent a year abroad in Germany studying chemistry and the German language. That experience may have fueled her desire to apply to Berkeley; she wrote that she is thrilled to be staying at International House where she'll have the chance to engage with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures.

This Gateway Fellowship was established in 2006 by the Chevron Corporation with support from Xenel International, USA branch. Priority preference is for incoming Ph.D. students from certain countries and majors, for which Kaitlyn's home country of Australia & major academic field qualifies.

The El Toukhy East-West Gateway Fellow

Zunaid Omair hails from an impoverished part of the capital in Bangladesh but this early environment did not daunt his determination and inner strength to pursue his academic goal as a researcher in the field of nanophotonics. He is a new Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. An appreciation and interest in science education runs in his family. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, (Summa Cum Laude) in the class of 2016. According to his Berkeley advisor, he was first in his class of 1,000 students and first in his department class of 178. Last year, he was selected to join a youth delegation to travel to India and had the opportunity to meet the honorable President of India. During this appointment, he was able to visit four states, taste delicious new foods and make new friends.

The Eltoukhy East-West Gateway Fellowship was established in 2006 by the Atef & Fofa Eltoukhy Family Foundation, with the goal of bettering and improving the relationship between East and West, and with the aspiration of furthering increased awareness of the principles and beliefs of Islam and the Moslem peoples. Certain home countries are identified as priority preference for this fellowship.

The EWJ I Gateway Fellow

Rosanna Neuhausler was born in Switzerland and is a new Ph.D. student in the Geography Department. Her family immigrated to the US, settling in Michigan. While at home, she speaks Swiss-German, eats Swiss food and celebrates Swiss holidays. Rosanna completed a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Resource studies at UC Berkeley. Her undergraduate academic work allowed her the opportunity to engage in two majors, allowing her to enter a field that has the application to simultaneously help the environment and people. As she wrote in her application, "Urban Studies has prepared me with strategies in tackling social problems through community involvement leading to structural and political solutions. Conservation and Resource Studies, an interdisciplinary major that allows courses to be taken across various departments pertaining to the students' topic of choice, has provided me with the applicable scientific knowledge. Specifically, given my focus on water systems engineering, it has given me a specific medium with which to help people." Her graduate interests lie in hydrogeology and climate change, specifically on the impacts that each has on the chemical composition of coastal systems. Rosanna is in the process of learning French, as it is one of the four native languages of her home country, and also needed for her academic field work.

Established in 2004 by Mrs. Elizabeth Jewell after her beloved husband passed away, this Gateway Fellowship is for an international student from any country or academic area and can be extended for a second year.

The EWJ II Gateway Fellow

Luke Patterson is from Dharawal Country in a south Sydney suburb in Australia. He is a second year graduate student focusing on Studies in Folklore, and has the wonderful opportunity to be a "repeat" EWJ Fellow. He is also a poet and educator of Koori descent. He received a Bachelor of Music with Honors in Classical Music and Musicology from the University of Melbourne, one of Australia's premiere universities. He trained in classical viola performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, and was selected to tour internationally as the lead violist with Chamber Strings of Melbourne. This educational path led him to explore connections between classical music and poetry, which then, led him as a poet into critical and literary theory. He then developed a keen interest in the exchange of cultural forms across borders, which ordinarily separates academic and performance, elite and vernacular cultural spheres. Luke also received a Graduate Diploma of Linguistics at the University of Melbourne. Luke's research focuses on bio-regional identities and consciousness expressed through cultural forms across borders, such as those ordinarily separating academics and performance, elite and vernacular cultural spheres and also borders of race and gender. His academic interests are grounded in his extensive work with Aboriginal and other community-based organizations across Australia.

The Carl & Betty Helmholtz Scholarship Endowment Fellow

Kara Kundert is an American incoming Ph.D. student in astrophysics with an interest in low-frequency radio cosmology and instrumentation. Over the course of her undergraduate career, she spent time living in California, Ohio, New Mexico, and Michigan and working for many esteemed research institutions, including NASA and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. Kara began her undergraduate education at Oberlin College, where she majored in Physics with a concentration in Astrophysics, carrying a high GPA. After five semesters, Kara transferred to the University of Michigan, where she graduated with honors in Physics and Astronomy. Through the course of her career at Berkeley and beyond, she hopes to both drive the frontiers of humanity's understanding of the early universe and to make the sciences and academia more inclusive to people of all backgrounds, particularly trauma survivors.

This endowed fellowship began in 2004 after Carl Helmholtz passed away, to honor Carl and Betty for their many contributions. Carl served as Chair of the Physics Department and Betty, who recently passed away, served on the International House Board of Directors for nine years.

The Joe Lurie Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Gateway Fellow

Austin Land is a new Ph.D. student in the Goldman School of Public Policy. He was born and raised in Ann Arbor and graduated from the University of Michigan in 2008 where he majored in Political Science and Philosophy, with a focus on political theory and ethics. Austin joined the Peace Corps in 2009 and served in the Commonwealth of Dominica until 2011. After returning to the US, he worked as an organizer with the ACLU of Michigan and as a research assistant in development economics at the University of Michigan. In 2012, he joined *Innovations for Poverty Action* (IPA), a non-profit research and policy organization. He also spent two years managing research projects with IPA in Zambia and Uganda. This past spring, he graduated from the Goldman School of Public Policy's master's program. He plans to study the early childhood determinants of socio-economic mobility. Austin has stayed very busy this summer, teaching a microeconomics course for the Public Policy and International Affairs Summer Institute and working with the Inter-American Development Bank as a consultant, performing analysis for an impact evaluation of a gender-based violence intervention in El Salvador.

This endowment fund was established to honor Joe Lurie's service as I-House's Executive Director from 1988 to 2007 and is earmarked for a returned Peace Corps volunteer. Joe previously served as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Kenya.

Daniel Mouen Makoua Gateway Fellow

Prosper Anesu Dzanwa is the first born in a family of four from Zimbabwe and just began as a Ph.D. student in Chemistry at UC Berkeley. Although he faced personal family loss and financial challenges prior to his arrival in the US in 2012, Prosper was offered and accepted a four year scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry with a minor in Math. Although his native language is Shona, he writes that he "can speak English fluently and Spanish rarely". Being at Morehouse had a profound effect on his viewpoint and helped made him into a global citizen.

This fellowship was established by Daniel Mouen Makoua, an I-House alumnus and current IH Board member, as well as other donors who have supported his vision of supporting graduate students from Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Norway House Gateway Fellow

Jonas Tungodden is a continuing PhD student in Economics and holds Norwegian citizenship. He did his undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Economics at the University of Bergen. As an undergraduate, he spent time on exchange at the University California Berkeley, University of McGill of Quebec, Canada, and Renmin University of China. During his undergraduate studies Jonas also worked as a teaching assistant and did fieldwork in Tanzania as a research assistant. He is specializing in Development Economics and Behavioral Economics, and applies insights from economics and psychology to shed light on real world problems in both developing and developed countries. Upon completing his degree, Jonas hopes to continue doing research at an academic institution. Jonas has been an active member of the International House, taking part in both formal and informal events. He has the special commendation of being a repeat Norway House Fellow.

The Open Gateway Fellow

Dennis Egger is from a small town near St. Gallen, Switzerland and is a new PhD. Student in Economics. Spending a year abroad on a Rotary Youth Exchange in Australia during high school, he experienced a new culture and forged longstanding friendships within an intercultural community. This prompted a truly cosmopolitan worldview. After a gap year of extended travels in Latin America, a stint as a journalist and as a German language teacher in a centre for asylum seekers, he embarked on his undergraduate studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. Throughout his studies, he engaged in activities relating to international development, which included attendance at the worldwide Model United Nations conferences as both delegate and director. As part of the Oxford Microfinance Initiative (a student-run pro-bono consultancy), Dennis conducted market analysis in collaboration with local students for *Manna Project International Ecuador*, an NGO. After completing his degree at Oxford, he worked in development policy research for the NGO *Bread For All*. Last summer he graduated with distinction from the MSc Economics at the London School of Economics and spent this past year as a full-time research assistant. His research interests include trade, economic geography and the economics of growth and development. Dennis speaks German, English, French and Spanish and desires to be an active and engaged IH resident.

The Open Gateway was established by multiple donors to support a term endowment fund for a US or international first-year incoming Ph.D. student with demonstrated financial need.

The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Gateway Fellow

Johannes Henriksson from Helsingborg, Sweden, has just begun pursuing a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. This past spring he completed a combined Bachelor's and Master's program at Lund University in Engineering Physics. His area of interest is photonics, an area which covers everything about light, such as cameras, lasers and optical fiber communications. Previously, Johannes was selected for an exchange program that allowed him to study at UCLA in 2014-15. This experience along with visits to the bay area, had an influence on his desire to apply to UC Berkeley's Ph.D. program.

This fellowship was established in 2004 as a term Fellowship for Swedish Ph.D. students.

The Allan & Kathleen Rosevear Gateway Fellow

Man-Yat (Jack) Chu was brought up in Hong Kong. As a child, he became interested in relativity through a TV documentary he viewed. He was amazed by the intriguing phenomena of black holes, time dilation and length contraction. Jack continued his childhood dream to pursue physical knowledge and has just begun the Ph.D. program in Physics. He shared that he is very grateful to be here. Although he had to work hard to accomplish all he has and to overcome hardship, his advisor wrote that Jack feels that education, and not wealth is the key to success. He is a 2016 graduate of the Chinese University of Hong Kong where he was on the Dean's list. He was at UC Berkeley as an exchange student in spring semester 2015 where he studied "core" Physics, quantum mechanics II, an introduction to statistical and thermal Physics in preparation of quantum field theory and explored a cosmological research project.

This Gateway Fellowship was established in 2007 by Allan Rosevear who lived at I-House in the 1960s while pursuing a Master's degree in Physics under the chairmanship of Carl Helmholz.

The Adrian Hao Yin Ü Gateway Fellow

Zihan Liu was born in Northern China and is a new Ph.D. student in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. She made her way to the Chinese University of Hong Kong for her Bachelor's degree where she earned numerous scholarships and awards. She spent a summer doing research at Caltech and has also worked on poverty alleviation and education with children and families in rural China. When at the university, she organized an activity inviting students from multiple cultural backgrounds to teach different types of dances; she is also a Kunqu Opera lover and has participated in stage performances to encourage this particular cultural heritage. She wrote that she thinks "I-House is blurring the boundary between groups of people so that we can get to know each other as individuals without tags."

Established in 2005 by International House alumnus Kwei Sang Ü and his Canadian wife Michele, this Gateway Fellowship is named in memory of their son who died in infancy. Kwei Ü's family has had a long and meaningful relationship with International House and with the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The Joan & Egon von Kaschnitz Gateway Fellow

Claire Harmange Magnani, originally from Chatenay-Malabry, France, is a first year Ph.D student in the College of Chemistry where she hopes to do research in total synthesis. She has spent some of her life in New England obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Physics at Harvard University where she received awards, and participated in rowing for the Radcliffe Varsity Lightweight Team. When at Harvard she served as a residential proctor and house manager. Last year, she was at the University of Cambridge pursuing an MPhil where she researched protein engineering with unnatural amino acids. However, Claire doesn't spend all of her time on the lab bench, but enjoys outdoor activities such as backpacking and running as well as inside activities such as sewing, knitting and cooking dishes from around the world. She is happy to be in California and to experience a much milder climate.

This Fellowship was established in 2011 by Joan von Kaschnitz and the late Egon von Kaschnitz. Mr. von Kaschnitz was an I-House alumnus, and served on the board for many years.

Key 2016-17 “Named Scholarships”

The 2016-17 Activism Era Scholar

Jeffrey Yamashita is a continuing Ph.D. student in Ethnic Studies. A US citizen, he grew up in Hawaii and earned a B.A. at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota and an M.A. at UC Berkeley prior to beginning his Ph.D. program here. This is his first year of residing at I-House. While in graduate school, he has called Japan, Virginia, and New York his home. He wrote that similar to his observations while growing up in Hawaii, he realized that each location had a romantic image that was projected into the mainstream. But through his lived experiences, he was able to locate difficult truths and hidden gems in times of inequalities and façades. After completing his Ph.D., Jeffrey hopes to pursue a career in academia. His dissertation understands how nonwhites have used the symbol and representation of the U.S. war hero to advance claims for citizenship, inclusion, and racial power.

I-House alumni and donors joined forces in 2015 to raise support for a new scholarship fund in honor of the activism era of the 1960s and 70s. The Activism Era Scholarship seeks to recognize deserving students with a demonstrated passion for impacting change in the world. This is the first year it has been awarded.

The J. Dennis Bonney Scholar

Dania Orta-Aleman, from Mexico, is in her second and final year of the Masters of Public Health at UC Berkeley. She has worked as a research assistant in the study of community-based diabetes interventions and food insecurity on older adults in Mexico City and has coauthored three papers. She is currently in the process of writing her research thesis where she is examining the inverse relation between sleep duration and weight status among children and adolescents and the potential mechanisms for this association, including stress, physical activity, diet, poverty and food insecurity. Dania is also collaborating on 3 projects at the UC Nutrition Policy Institute. The first project is evaluating the evidence about the effectiveness of interventions to improve food access and reduce food deserts in California; the second one is evaluating the evidence about the effectiveness of school-based interventions for improving nutrition and preventing chronic disease and obesity of children in California; the third one is interviewing low-income mothers of children under 5 years old that receive the WIC (Women Infants and Children) program in order to explore ways to increase enrollment rates among eligible women in San Jose.

The J. Dennis Bonney Scholarship was established by the Chevron Corporation in 1996 to honor Mr. Bonney on the occasion of his retirement as Vice Chairman. Mr. Bonney lived in I-House from 1954-55 as an international student and later served on the I-House Board of Directors.

The William J. & Florrie M. Milligan Scholar

Majap Singh was born in Oakland California to Punjabi-Indian parents who had immigrated to the US in the late 1980s. He is pursuing a Masters in Mechanical Engineering at UC Berkeley. Both of his parents worked hard at their jobs to provide their children with a sound upbringing and instilled in them the importance of a solid education. Manjap worked rigorously in high school, even graduating as Valedictorian of his class; he received admittance to UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, where he received two prestigious UC scholarships, hence completing his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Being the first generation in his family to attend college, Manjap has had the privilege of interning at the CA Department of Justice, NASA Jet Propulsion Lab and Apple. He hopes to use these industry experiences and his education and apply them to industry in a way that allow him to improve the quality of life.

This scholarship was established in 2014 by Marty Milligan, to honor her parents, William & Florrie Milligan. William J. Milligan was a resident of International House from 1947-49. After he married Florrie, a student of International Relations, they traveled widely and supported the purpose for which I-House stands.

Bernard Osher Foundation Scholar

Daniel Erdmann-Pham was born in Hanoi, Vietnam, grew up in Berlin, Germany and has since enjoyed spending time anywhere in between. He is a second-year PhD student, exploring bridges between mathematical biology, neuroscience and machine learning. The son of a Vietnamese political activist, writer and journalist, and a German psychologist, computer scientist and masseur, he was all over the place since young age—and still strives to be so. Dan took up biology in college, quickly got distracted by physics and computer science, only to get attracted by the bridging character of mathematics, in which he completed his Bachelor degree at Jacobs University in Germany. Dan also appreciates non-academic bridges: Having long practiced martial arts and piano alongside each other, he recently discovered that mixing both creates double the happiness.

Established in 2012 by the Bernard Osher Foundation and the UC Berkeley Graduate Division, this scholarship is earmarked for room and board support for a graduate student who demonstrates a high level of academic distinction.

The Sarin Scholar

Monimoy Bujarbaruah is from North-Eastern India, is a PhD student in Mechanical engineering, focusing on aerospace engineering. Monimoy earned a five-year dual degree program at the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, receiving a Bachelor of Technology and a Master of Technology in the summer of 2016. He has previously worked with various NGOs towards expanding rural education and also helped underprivileged senior citizens in India. After completing his graduate studies, Monimoy would like to work towards awareness and availability of services for the disabled in India and well as in many other developing countries.

Established in honor of I-House alumni Rumi & Arun Sarin this scholarship assists UC graduate students who have graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Arun's alma Mater.

The University Section Club Scholar

Yiyang Yu was born and raised in Guangzhou, China and is working on her Master of City Planning degree, expecting to graduate in May 2017. She did her undergraduate work at South China University of Technology, receiving the Bachelor of Architecture in July 2015. She is currently working as a research assistant at San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association, where she focuses on the impacts from the High Speed Rail that will connect San Francisco and Los Angeles. She resided at I-House in the 2015-2016 academic year and is excited to be returning to this vibrant community. She greatly enjoys meeting friends here and the various activities provided by I-House.

The UC Berkeley Section Club is a group of faculty spouses and community volunteers who are dedicated to helping international students adjust to a new environment and to make their stay easy and comfortable. The Club and I-House have been partners in service to international students at Berkeley for many years. This scholarship is in partnership with the Graduate Division.

Sheridan & Betsey Warrick Scholar

Selim Göncü, from Turkey, is a new Ph.D. student in musical composition. He started piano lessons at the age of eleven. After completing a degree in computer science, Selim went on to study at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music (Budapest, Hungary), then received a BA in composition at the Mozarteum University of Salzburg (Salzburg, Austria) with a minor in electronic composition. In 2011, he was invited as a guest lecturer to the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. His works were performed and recorded in festivals and concerts in Austria, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Turkey and USA. Since 2011 he also writes on contemporary art and opera for classical music magazines. He received an MA in composition in 2016 at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Graz, Austria) where he also received an MA in Music Theory in 2014.

This scholarship was established in 1987 by the Board of Directors in honor of the retirement of Sheridan Warrick, after 26 years as Executive Director of I-House. Many alumni and friends of I-House generously contributed to this scholarship that gives priority preference to music majors.