

Executive Director's MessageOur Expanding Global Community



Tow solidly into another academic year at International House, I am filled with excitement and gratitude for our ever-expanding global community.

This summer, I had the privilege of traveling to Asia where we hosted I-House alumni reunions in Taipei, Singapore, Shanghai, and Tokyo. These were dynamic, uplifting gatherings that demonstrated the enduring connections and shared

values that bind I-House alumni around the globe and across generations. I look forward to more international events in the year ahead, so if you'd like to receive an invitation, please contact alumni@ihouseberkeley.org to update your address.

I've also been active on the media and podcast circuit, discussing International House's mission to foster crosscultural respect and understanding. At I-House, we believe that cultivating relationships and leadership skills rooted in diversity and inclusion is essential to building a more just and peaceful world. Be sure to check out our coverage highlights via: linkedin.com/in/shauncarver.

In August, we welcomed more than 620 residents from 82 nationalities—the highest numbers since I came to the House four years ago. This diversity fuels our efforts to create a special home where intrcultural exchange is part of everyday life. I'm eager to watch the new connections and exchanges that will shape our residential community this year.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are proud to highlight several stories that capture the essence of I-House. We

feature an article titled "I-House: A Place for Peace," which explores our long-standing commitment to being a sanctuary for dialogue and understanding in a world that often feels divided. We also share the inspiring story of the Siegal and Venning families, whose connection to I-House spans generations and I-House locations in New York, Chicago, and Berkeley.

The new Barbara Lynch and Art Flores Memorial Scholarship honors two individuals who were beloved, longtime members of the I-House staff. Recently established with the support of I-House alumni, this scholarship reflects the spirit of giving back that is central to our mission.

Finally, be sure to read the updates from the Robertson Resident Life and Intercultural Development Office, whose work ensures that the I-House experience is one of growth, learning, and transformation.

I-House is more than just a place to live; it is a community that shapes perspectives and lives. I look forward to the many exciting moments that lie ahead and to continuing our shared journey toward a more peaceful and connected world.

Sincerely,

Shaun R. Carver, Ed.D., MBA **Executive Director**



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I-House Residents on the Front Steps 2024



Board Member Transitions

Learn more and read their bios at ihouse.berkelev.edu/board

Welcome! **New and Returning Board Members**



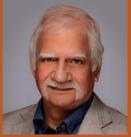
(IH 1974-76) Partner, O'Melveny & Myer's (ret.)



Newton Investment Management



Laura Hassner ED, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, UC Berkeley



Jawahar Gidwani (IH 1973-76) CEO, QuSwami, Inc.

Thank you for Your Service! Rotating Off/Departing



Ron Silva CEO. Fillmore Capital **Partners**



Kit Choy Lok (IH 1970-72) Winston and Strawn LLP (ret.)



Charles Guo (IH 2013-14) Sapphire Ventures

Resident Statistics 2024-25

Top 5 Areas of Study

Top 5 Countries

Computer Science

Economics

Law

Business Administration

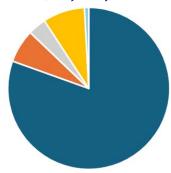
Electrical Engineering

United States China

France India Germany

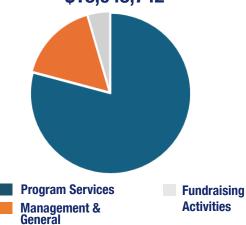
- 623 residents represent 82 countries
- 16% U.S., 84% International
- 264 graduate students
- 81 areas of study
- 337 undergraduate students
- 22 visiting scholar/post doc
- Average age is 22 (range 18-51)

FY 2024-25 Support & Revenue \$18,682,217



- **Room & Board (Net Scholarships & Allowance)**
- **Philanthropic Contributions**
- **Edmonds' Cafe**
- **Hospitality (Dining, Catering Events)**
- **Other Operating Revenue** (Includes Release from Restriction)

FY 2023-24 Functional Expenses \$18,048,742



Transcending Borders Robertson Resident Life & Intercultural Development Office



Fall 2023 Resident Orientation Retreat in Los Gatos

Fostering Global Leaders

International House has the honor of hosting some of the **⊥** world's most curious minds with a shared commitment to creating a better world—a rare combination in today's society. To stay true to our mission, we aim to foster an environment where cross-cultural collaboration and mutual understanding thrive, ensuring that our residents leave I-House as world citizens ready to navigate today's

complicated global landscape.

This goal is supported by the work of the Robertson Resident Life and Intercultural Development Office (RIO). From organic conversations at the dining table to a curated leadership curriculum for those residents seeking to develop their global leadership skills, RIO is intentional with every aspect of resident life and its influence and impact can be seen across I-House.

As a resident of I-House, I've loved working with RIO because it has allowed me to express myself and celebrate my culture through talk, song, dance, food and more. I think the support I-House provides through the RIO is essential to fostering community within our culturally diverse household. It makes these four walls feel like a true home; comforting and warm.

Paige Lyles, Resident Advisor 2023-24

leaders, including Resident Advisors, RIO Program and Marketing Leads, and Resident Community Council members, regularly take part in sessions on global citizenship, intercultural communication, and conflict resolution. In 2023-24, we also introduced a new program, the Global Leadership Program, open to all I-House residents with an

interest in developing their leadership skills. Participants completed a cultural intelligence assessment and received oneon-one coaching to better understand their values, leadership skills, and cultural competencies.

This approach to leadership development not only enhances personal capabilities but also strengthens I-House by cultivating informed and compassionate community members. Moreover, the work of RIO helps cultivate a generation of leaders who can help build a more just

and peaceful world, beyond borders.

Nayeli Vivanco, VP Robertson Resident Life and Intercultural Development Office

We believe leadership is a skill built on empathy and understanding. Thus, a key focus of RIO is enhancing cultural intelligence and developing cultural competencies among I-House residents. For example, I-House resident

RIO is looking for guest speakers who can offer real-world experience and information for I-House residents. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please let us know by sending a message to the Robertson Resident Life and Intercultural Development Office at rio@ihouseberkeley.org.

2023-24 Another I-House Year To Remember

L ast year, I-House residents experienced a combination of exciting "firsts" and many historic I-House traditions.

RIO hosted the inaugural "Experience Drag" panel discussion (pictured below) and a very popular I-House Comedy Night, featuring talented local performers. Our Executive Director's Lodestar Speaker Series welcomed I-House alum and Google founder Eric Schmidt (IH 1976-80), for a thought-provoking conversation on the promise and perils of AI in the context of the I-House mission. In collaboration with the Nordic Center at UC Berkeley and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General of San Francisco, we also had the honor of hosting I-House alum His Royal Highness, Crown Prince of Norway Haakon Magnus (IH 1996-97). His Royal Highness delivered welcome remarks for a panel discussion held in the I-House Chevron Auditorium on "AI and the Future of Work: Norway in Conversation with California." You can watch recordings of both events on *youtube.com/ihouseberkeley*.



Throughout the year, our residents enjoyed traditional

Sunday Suppers, weekly DiversiTEA and Coffee Hours, a Resident Benefit Concert, International Cultures Festival, overnight retreats, and social events like prom, a cruise on the San Francisco Bay, painting/craft nights, local hikes, and more. These events helped build connections between residents and provided



Eric Schmidt and Shaun Carver

opportunities to learn and grow as citizens of the world. 2023-24 at I-House was indeed another year to remember.

Save the Dates—You're Invited!

I-House Benefit Concert November 20, 2024

I-House Celebration & Awards Gala March 9, 2025

International Cultures Festival April 26, 2025

See more events at ihouse.berekeley.edu/calendar

Global Leadership Program

Meet the inaugural cohort of the I-House Global Leadership Program (pictured below)! This diverse group developed skills to navigate cultural differences, lead with empathy, and drive global impact through cultural intelligence, empowering them to become effective and inclusive leaders. Throughout the program, the participants attended weekend workshops focused on leading with cultural intelligence, participated in a community service program, supported the I-House Gala, planned and produced the International Cultures Festival, and more.

The program challenged my thinking about how global leadership can be most effective in promoting positive change for a more peaceful world. I will carry the cultural intelligence and professional skills I developed, particularly in collaboration, management, and public speaking, into my future career, where I aspire to address international affairs.

Ella Macallair (IH 2023-24)



International House A-Place for Peace

The mission of International House is to foster intercultural respect and understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills for a more just and peaceful world. These days when there is crisis around the globe, the vision of a "more just and peaceful world" may seem unattainable. And yet, I-House alumni across the generations still find hope for peace from their I-House experience.

Recently, I had the opportunity to chat with alumni to discuss the I-House vision. As an I-House alum myself, I found these conversations truly inspiring, reminding me of the profound impact the I-House experience can have on an individual's perspective, relationships, and behavior in the world. Here's what my fellow alumni had to say.

Melvin Pomerantz

Melvin Pomerantz (IH 1953-55) is a retired physicist who lived at I-House less than ten years after the end of World War II. He fondly remembers his time here, especially the folk dancing, Sunday Suppers, and language tables in the Dining Commons.

As do most I-House residents, Mel became friends with people from all over the world: "Iranians, French, Austrians, and then the Americans from the Midwest—to a kid like me who was raised in Brooklyn, it really felt like meeting people from a foreign country. Their lives and upbringings were so different from my own."

"I also got to know people from Germany and Japan at I-House," he says. "It was remarkable. People who eight years earlier were my 'enemies,' became my friends."

Mel remarks, "That's the thing about I-House. You have the opportunity to have first-hand encounters with people from different countries and cultures. As you get to know these people as individuals, it makes it so that you cannot fall for the nonsense of national, cultural, or racial prejudice."

Zahwa Amad

Zahwa Amad (IH 1982-86) lived at I-House for four years in the 1980s while pursuing her Ph.D. in infectious diseases at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She was a very active member of the I-House community—working at the front desk as a receptionist, in the mailroom sorting mail and delivering packages, in the Dining Commons, and even as a "librarian" in the I-House library. She also participated in the Host Family Program and remained close with her local host for many years after leaving I-House.

At one point during her stay at I-House, Zahwa presented to fellow residents a slide show about sites in Jerusalem that are considered sacred by Christians, Muslims, and Jews. "I was born in Kuwait, into a Muslim family, though my family was non-religious. I spent most of my

youth in Kuwait but I spent many summers with my uncle and cousins in Beirut, Lebanon. And sometimes I would go back to Jerusalem to see my grandmother. And all the while, I was a Jordanian citizen.

"I was nervous about giving the presentation, but I was relieved that I had the support of then I-House Director Mr. Sheridan Warrick. I just wanted to share with other residents some of the cultural sites from back home. And these sites were important to many faiths."

Zahwa spent her winter holidays at I-House and remembers cooking and eating with residents who had remained in town. "There were always other residents there, and we had such a wonderful time. I learned Christmas songs—I had never heard them before. And I really love the song, 'The Little Drummer Boy'!"

"I think finding community and commonality is really at the core of the I-House experience."



Evgenia Taranova

"To me, I-House is the place for increasing cultural literacy and understanding—not just between cultures, but between different viewpoints, perspectives, and backgrounds more generally," says Evgenia Taranova (IH 2023-24), a student of medicine and psychology.

Evgenia was born in Ukraine but moved to Norway when she was six years old. "I'm a Ukrainian-Norwegian. Both cultures are equally important to my identity. At I-House, people were curious about me as a person and about my background where I come from and what I have experienced in terms of living in Norway, of course, also because of the war in Ukraine ...

"I feel that while living at I-House I have supported Ukraine by letting I-House residents know about what's going at home. Just sitting at the table in the Dining Commons, I spoke to people from all different parts of the world, including countries that do not openly support Ukraine. But

everyone at I-House heartedly expressed their concern. I could see their kindness and their belief in justice for a better world."

"I think the special thing about I-House is the people it attracts to live there."

Evgenia also credits I-House for organizing programs and structured conversations about world issues and for offering a safe place to talk about war and conflict. "The coffee hours were important too. I-House gave us the time and support that allowed us to celebrate our countries and cultures. I helped put on the Ukrainian and the Norwegian coffee hours, of course. But I-House facilitates all of this sharing. I call it the 'I-House effect', which is really peace."



"It's not that I-House is without conflict or that everyone becomes best friends. There are definitely times when conversation can become heated," says Joseph Kouadio (IH 2023-24) from Côte d'Ivoire, a master's student in public policy and the 2023-24 Resident Community Council President.

The Resident Council works together with the Robertson Resident Life and Intercultural Development Office to help develop community at I-House and create an inclusive and safe atmosphere.

"With the conflict in Gaza, we had some residents who support Palestine sharing their concerns and, at the same time, we had people with connections to Israel. Of course, it is hard for these communities to talk openly about this topic. And there were protests on both sides of the conflict on the UC Berkeley campus and all over the place, actually. But inside of I-House, I was really happy for the way residents were respectfully sharing their thoughts, even though it wasn't always easy." "People seem to be intentional about remaining peaceful. That's what I really appreciated things didn't escalate at I-House. We worked on it, and people understood that we are a community that needs to stay strong." Joseph also notes that while at I-House, people change and grow. "You could see that a deep change was happening inside. People were genuinely learning, becoming more flexible." He continues, "When you live in a community like I-House, surrounded by so much difference, so much diversity—language, culture, background, even social class—you cannot help but to be affected by the experience. The people who live here go back to their home countries and cultures, and there will certainly be a change in how they

Margie Ryan (IH 1992-93) Director of Alumni Relations and Philanthropy

gives me hope for a more peaceful world."

interact in the world. A change for the better. This is what

Share Your I-House Stories

As we continue to explore the impact of I-House, we would love to hear your story. Submit your photos, captions, stories, and/or videos online here:

ihouse.berkeley.edu/stories

or by email to alumni@ihouseberkeley.org. Select stories may be featured on the I-House website, social media, videos, or in the I-House Times newsletter.

Philanthropy Matters

In collaboration with the UC Berkeley Graduate Division, International House offers Gateway Fellowships to a select group of graduate students at Cal. These fellowships cover academic year room and board at I-House, UCB tuition and fees, and a \$5,000 annual stipend provided by the Graduate Division. Gateway fellows are nominated by their academic departments for this prestigious award, and priority is given to incoming students with financial need. Congratulations to this year's Gateway Fellows!



International House and Berkeley Graduate Division 2024 - 2025 Gateway Fellows

SARAH GOMES Bangladesh

Chevron-Xenel Ph.D. Gateway Fellowship

ATANG PELOEWETSE

Botswana

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VERONICA SISON

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SOPHIE MANFREDI

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Open Gateway Fellowship XIANGYUAN (PETER) MA Canada

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China

Adrian Hao Yin Ü Gateway Fellowship

GITHMI KAVYA RABEL

Sri Lanka

Rafael Rodriguez Golden Age

For more information about the Gateway Fellowships and other named room and board scholarships at I-House or to learn how to establish a new scholarship honoring someone important to you, please visit *ihouse.berkeley.edu/financialaid.*

Corporate Matching Gifts

With a bit of extra effort, many of our donors were able to double their contributions through company charitable giving programs. I-House is grateful to the companies who have matched their employees' gifts this year and to our alumni and friends who have arranged for these generous matching donations.

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The Barbara Lynch and Art Flores Memorial Scholarship Fund



Barbara Lynch and Arturo (a.k.a. "Art") Flores worked at International House during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. Barbara worked in the Programs Office and Art was a member of the I-House facilities staff. In their daily interactions with residents, Barbara and Art supported the vision of I-House's first benefactor, John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,

creating "a community of students of different nationalities and backgrounds living together in friendship, harmony, and peace." Barbara and Art led by example and were good, wise friends of countless I-House residents from around the world.

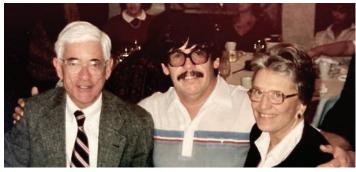
Juliana Roth Ordonez (IH 1967-70), a close friend of both Barbara and Art throughout their lives, remembers, "Barbara was a great communicator ... She didn't speak any language other than English, but she could understand anybody. She really took care of the international students and played a big role in helping them to find ways to engage, through trips with Rotary and through Lodestar retreats.

"And Art, well he had a great sense of humor. He was absolutely, downright funny. He was always around fixing things-doors, pipes, lightbulbs, whatever needed fixing. He was very handy and very friendly to everyone.

"Barbara and Art, they were both great contributors to the residents' happiness. They were not just there for you

at I-House, they were also there with you. I think that's what made them so special."

I-House roommates Louis Drouot (IH 1969-70) and Graeme Orr (IH 1969-70) filmed a black-and-white thriller titled The Vicious Circle, featuring fellow I-House residents and Art. "Art drives to the scene of the crime in my 1967



Art with I-House ED Emeritus, Sherry Warrick and his wife Betsey

Plymouth Valiant," says Graeme. "He was one of the villains of the story, which is funny in itself, because in reality, Art was a very good man!"

Joan Jenkins didn't live at I-House, but she and her husband, Professor David Ienkins, became part of the I-House community, in part due to Barbara. "I was fresh off the boat from England, and Barbara welcomed me as a "member" of I-House. She helped me settle into Berkeley and connected me to the University Wives Club [now the University Section Club]. She



knew how to rescue people, how to listen, and how to help. She was very good at recognizing when someone needed a helping hand."

In memory of Barbara and Art and as a tribute to the values they exemplified, a group of I-House alumni recently established The Barbara Lynch and Art Flores Memorial Scholarship Fund. This endowed fund supports an annual I-House room and board scholarship to benefit future generations of I-House residents and, thereby, the mission of I-House: to foster intercultural respect and understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills for a more just and peaceful world.

If you would like to help build the Barbara Lynch and Art Flores Memorial Scholarship Fund by making a gift of cash, appreciated securities, grant from your Donor Advised Fund, charitable distribution from your IRA, or by planning a legacy gift, please contact our Alumni Relations and Philanthropy Office staff at 510-642-4128 or philanthropy@ihouseberkeley.org.

Thank You Legacy Circle Members



The Florence and Harry Edmonds Legacy Circle recognizes the growing number of individuals who have chosen to include International House in their legacy plans. Their generosity ensures the future of I-House, supporting our global community and advancing a world of greater understanding. If you have planned a legacy gift and would like to be acknowledged as a member of the Florence and Harry Edmonds Legacy Circle, please let us know so that we can show our appreciation for your commitment to I-House and its mission.



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Kwei S. Ü

Laura Siegel Venning & Robert Venning

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Anders Chung Yang, J.D.

Anonymous (16)

Make a Difference Today and Save on Taxes with a Gift from Your IRA

Qualified charitable distributions, also known as "IRA charitable rollovers," are a great way for supporters 70 ½ years and older to use their IRAs to support International House. Charitable rollovers allow you to donate up to \$100,000 annually to qualifying charities, like I-House, without incurring income tax on your withdrawal. You can save on taxes, maximize the impact of your gift, and know that you are helping to support I-House's mission of peace.

To learn more, visit ihouse.berkeley.edu/waystogive.

Creating a Lasting Legacy at International House

aura Siegel Venning (IH-1968-70) and her husband ■ Robert "Bob" Venning describe their family as "an International House trifecta." The Siegel and Venning families have roots that span I-Houses (yes, plural!) around the country.

The Venning family's International House story started when Bob's mother, Corey Elizabeth Brown Sanderson Venning, resided at I-House Chicago while working on her master's degree in the mid-1940s. She became one of the first women appointed to the U.S. Foreign Service, and as a child, Bob traveled the world with her on diplomatic assignments.



Laura Siegel Venning and her sister, Maria Siegel Watt

The Siegel family's connection to I-House at UC Berkeley began in the 1960s with Laura's older sister, Maria Siegel Watt (IH **1960-61**). Maria and her spouse, Dennis Watt, participated in the Host Family Program to continue

the family's I-House connection as alumni. Laura followed in her sister's footsteps to I-House where she lived both as an undergraduate and while pursuing her master's in art at Cal. A generation later, in the mid-2000s, Laura and Bob's son, Daniel, completed the Venning and Siegel family's International House trifecta when he moved into I-House New York.

Laura's decision to include I-House in her will reflects their family's deep connection to the mission of International House and belief in the power of dialogue and cultural exchange as tools for fostering peace. She believes that "by talking to one another, you can get over the grievances."

Laura lived at I-House during a turbulent time in the world and on the UC Berkeley campus. Like many I-House residents of 1960s and '70s, she vividly remembers gathering around the television in the Great Hall to watch the news about the Vietnam War. "There was so much to think about and always lots of people to talk with ...

"I-House was, for us, a haven of sorts," contrasting sharply with the heated debates elsewhere on campus. "It was a safe place where discussions about things like the war could take place in a respectful and understanding environment." Though supportive of the spirit of much of the protest on campus, Laura was a firm believer in peaceful protest and used her artistic talent to help silkscreen the protest posters that are now iconic of that era.

Her time at I-House was a formative experience that shaped her worldview, her commitment to peace, and her interest in international cultures. In Bob-who had imbibed the I-House spirit from his mother and from his upbringing as the son of a diplomat-Laura found someone with similar values and interests. Together they have shared a life of service, nature, and a love of adventure and travel.

Laura and Bob have also chosen to support causes that align with their values, with I-House being a part of their philanthropy. Laura says, "We've included I-House in our plans simply because we want to make it possible for others to have the experiences and tools needed to create a more compassionate world. It's important to us both."



Bob Venning and Laura Siegel Venning sitting beneath her painting of the Li River in China installed on the 4th floor I-House Berkeley, resident lounge.

By including I-House in your will or trust, through insurance beneficiary designation or a life income gift, you, too, can leave a lasting legacy to help sustain I-House and its mission for the benefit of future generations. To learn more about planning your gift, please visit ihouse berkeley edu/legacygiving or contact our Alumni Relations and Philanthropy Office at philanthropy@ihouseberkeley.org or 510-642-4128.

Gifts to International House

International House is proud to recognize contributors whose generous support to

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etween July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 shape a world of greater understanding.

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Back to Berkeley

















- **1. Shabnam Balali (IH 2005-08)** dropped by with her husband, daughter, and their dog to show them where she spent time during her college years.
- 2. On a Thursday afternoon in July, **Domingo (Dom) Ho (IH 1970-72)** and **Delia Estacion Ho (IH 1970-71)** visited with their son Dale and granddaughter Madeleine, who is considering coming to California for college.
- 3. **Metin Sakarcan (IH 1979-82)** and his wife, Liz, stopped by to revisit his old home away from home. Metin couldn't resist showing off his old mailbox.
- 4. Maura Mack (IH 1976-78) and her partner, Benjamin Lopez, came to I-House for a tour and to sit down with Executive Director Shaun Carver to learn about his vision for the future of the House. Since coming back, Maura has decided to establish an endowed fund to memorialize her parents, J. Dale and Mary-France Mack, and support I-House intercultural programs for years to come. Thank you, Maura!
- 5. Now a professor at the University of Montpellier in France, **Pierre Mousseron (IH 1990)** and his mentee, Amar Laidani, visited Berkeley for a conference and stopped by I-House, where Pierre spent the "best year of [his] life."

- 6. **Sushil Patel (IH 1967-68)** and his wife, Gita, stopped by I-House for lunch. Sushil was particularly excited to visit Edmonds' (the old "I-House Café"), where he worked as a resident.
- 7. During Cal Homecoming weekend, **David Haviland** (**IH 1972-73**) came back to Berkeley and to I-House to share (and make) memories with his daughter Rebecca. He recalled long nights of studying in the I-House library as well as long nights of partying, including a particularly raucous St. Patrick's Day celebration.
- 8. Celine Smeets (IH 2011) stayed in the I-House Ambassador Suite while visiting from Amsterdam. Back at I-House, she visited her old room, had breakfast in the Dining Commons, and was particularly happy to see I-House staff member Larnie Macasieb, who worked in the Programs Office when Celine was a resident.

If you are planning a trip back to Berkeley, consider staying in our Ambassador Suite. See rates and details at *ihouse.berkeley.edu/suite*.

We were happily overwhelmed by the number of alumni who came back to visit last year. These are just some of the alumni we saw. If you'd like to come back to I-House, please email us in advance at alumni@ihouseberkeley.org so that we can plan to show you around.

















- 9. While visiting from Brussels, Jan Andersson (IH 1995-96), Stephanie Buus (IH 1992-93), and their daughters Stella and Zoe, stopped by I-House, where Jan and Stephanie lived while pursuing their Ph.D.s at Cal.
- 10. Sandhya Rao (IH 1990-91) visited from Boston and said that "staying at I-House my last year of UC Berkeley was an unexpected delight. I have such fond memories of sharing our personal stories over coffee at the cafe and at meals in the beautiful courtvard."
- 11. Antonio Hernandez (IH 1991-93) revisited I-House with his daughter Lola to show her where he lived 30 years ago. They danced together on stage in the Chevron Auditorium, where Sunday Supper and other I-House traditions continue to take place to this day.
- 12. Currently the Editor/Head of Service of BBC News Burmese, Soe Win Than (IH 2000-01) came back to I-House where he spent a "happy year" when he was a visiting scholar at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.
- 13. Guobiao "George" Zhang (IH 1990-91) visited from Shenzhen, China, with his wife and son and was happy to introduce them to his home of 30 plus years ago.

- 14. While on campus for an event honoring his Ph.D. advisor, Richard (Dick) Benson (IH 1974-76) and Leslie Brault Benson (IH 1972-76) accompanied I-House Philanthropy Advisor Samantha DePetro-Wysuph for a tour of I-House, where the couple met. While a resident, Leslie worked at the front desk greeting guests and lending out vacuum cleaners and board games. Dick deliberately borrowed something when Leslie was working, just to have a chance to meet her. And the rest, almost 50 years later, is history.
- 15. Francesca Gesualdi (IH 2001) came back to I-House after 22 years with her husband and three children while visiting California from Italy.
- 16. On his journey from New Zealand to New York, Burn Lewis (IH 1968-70) and his wife, Linda, stopped by San Francisco to visit their daughter in the Bay Area. Burn enjoyed showing his daughter where he used to live more than 50 years ago.

Continued on next page

Look Who Came To Visit!

















- 17. Dake Li (IH 2008-09) was passing by I-House with his wife and her aunt when he spotted Larnie Macasieb, Front Desk Coordinator, inside. Dake was a Programs Assistant when Larnie worked in the Programs Office—the two reunited after 14 years!
- 18. Now the Director and CEO of Sri Sri Tattva, Konstantin Dragov (IH 2003-04) and his wife visited I-House, where he stayed when he was a student studying construction and project management at Cal.
- 19. Before heading to a Cal/Stanford Basketball Game, Mark Jenkins (IH 1987) came back to I-House with his son Daniel. They revisited all the spots Mark frequented when he was an undergraduate at Cal. He shared how many of his firsts were at I-House, such as doing his own laundry for the first time (and accidentally shrinking all his clothes!). Mark is still in touch with his roommate, J.P., and other I-House friends.
- 20. Now a professor of International Relations in Turkey, Sener Akturk (IH 2003-04, 2006, 2008-09) came back to the House with his wife and two daughters. He hopes that they, too, may have the chance to live at I-House one day. Sener was one of the first recipients of the Gateway Fellowship at I-House.

- 21. While on a work trip, Urvashi Gupta (IH 2007-08) stopped by I-House where she met her very best friends and her husband, Usman Khalid, (IH 2007-09). Urvashi says that living at I-House was the best time of her life, and she plans to return for the 100th year anniversary in 2030.
- 22. Dhammika Dharmapala (IH 1993-97) started teaching at Berkeley Law in 2023. He has fond memories of his four-year stay at I-House and was delighted to see the many upgrades since the 1990s. He was kind enough to bring his own copies of the resident directories from his era, which we scanned and added to our online alumni directory archive.
- 23. Vinicius Rodrigues Vieira (IH 2008-10) visited I-House all the way from São Paulo, Brazil. While living at I-House, he stayed in three different rooms (two on the 7th floor and one on the 4th floor), and participated in many resident activities.
- 24. Eugenio Frongia (IH 1971-73) and Carmen Ochoa-Frongia (IH 1970-72) brought a prospective resident on their recent visit to I-House. Thanks to all of our alumni who help to introduce the next generation to I-House.

Then&Now





Mario P. Diaz (IH1976-77) and Abdelkrim" Karim" Salhi (IH 1976-77) were roommates at I-House. Mario writes, "We came from different parts of the world. He was a grad student majoring in chemical engineering, and I was an undergrad in humanities. It was an amazing life experience that I still cherish to this day ... The photos here capture us in our youth on the I-House volleyball team, and 46 years later!"





A group of I-House friends returned for a mini reunion last fall and enjoyed a tour led by IH resident Carina Samson (IH 2021-24). They were happy to re-create a photo that they posed for in the 1980s. The group still has that amazing I-House spirit (if not more!) as they did 40 years ago. Pictured above: Louisa Ho (IH 1978-81), her husband John Hwa (IH 1980-81), Daisy Loh (IH 1979-81), Jimmy Lo (IH 1980-81), Howard Leung (IH 1980-81), and Judy Chu (IH 1978-81).





Jill Van Zanten (IH 1978-79) and Hiromi Komiya (IH 1978-79) returned to I-House in May. They visited the library where Jill used to read newspapers from around the world and Hiromi played the grand piano in the Great Hall just as she did over 45 years ago. In the 1970s photo, from left: Kalyan Krishnan (IH 1978-79), Leigh Hunt, Kevin Whitley, Hoai-Thu Truong (IH 1978-80), Jill Van Zanten, Ira Batra Garde (IH 1979), Shrinivas Kulkarni (IH 1978-79), Hiromi Komiya, and Gnanalingam "Ari" Arjavalingam (IH 1970s).





While visiting the Bay Area for a conference, Dae Young Bae (IH 2012-13) and his lab colleague stopped by I-House. During the visit, he took a photo by the room where he lived with Melvin Kong (IH 2012-13).





Lennart Joos (IH 2013-14), carbon technology professional from Belgium, took a stroll down memory lane. Clearly Lennart's fashion sense has remained strong!

Alumni News & Notes

1950s



Herman Krieger (IH 1953-55) has had a remarkable journey since his time at I-House. He studied mathematics at Cal and went on to have a distinguished 30-year career as a computer programmer in Holland. After retiring in 1990, Herman returned to the U.S. and pursued his passion for photography, earning a B.F.A. at the University of Oregon. Despite the many

years that have passed,

Herman's love for bicycling, which began during his time in Berkeley, continues to this day. As his shirt reads, "Never underestimate an old man with a bicycle!"



Ron Olson (IH 1959-62) (left) and Jimmy Cusenza (IH 1959-61) met at I-House over 60 years ago and have maintained their cherished friendship. Ron writes, "Our lives have taken different paths but when we meet up, everything falls into place as though it was only yesterday. We have shared

our families and friends in so many places—Los Angeles, London, Rome, Tunis, Rio, Amazona, Lisbon. What a gift!"

1960s

Young-Key Kim-Renaud (IH 1963) and Bertrand Renaud (IH 1962-63), from opposite sides of the world, Korea and France, met at I-House over 60 years ago. They extend their heartfelt gratitude to I-House for its unwavering commitment to fostering good relations among countries and promoting peace and knowledge across the planet. Young-Key recalls, "It was a place of wonder, full of joy, creativity, and hope," and encourages prospective residents to "come and live your full potential there!"

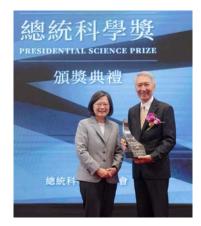
Dr. Ajit Sabnis (IH 1967-71) and Mrs. Marjorie (Moy) Sabnis (IH 1968-69) with Executive Director Shaun Carver at the 2023 Builders of Berkeley Ceremony. Ajit and Marjie initiated the Dr. Jayanta Roy Memorial Scholarship for



International House Room and Board in honor of their good friend Jayanta Roy (IH **1967-68**). We appreciate their ongoing support of the I-House mission and future residents. To learn more about the named scholarship, visit the I-House Financial Aid page on our website at ihouse.berkeley.edu/aid.

Spencer Bailey (IH 1966-67) fondly remembers his dear friend Audrey Stanley (IH 1967-70) and made a gift to I-House in her memory. He recalled that "Audrey always had dinner at the first table in the dining hall. Sharing an evening meal with Audrey was a memorable experience, as she knew everyone at I-House and made everyone feel welcome."

1970s



Chenming Hu (IH 1969-

71), pictured here with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen (left) was honored with the prestigious Taiwan Presidential Science Prize in October 2023. The award recognizes his significant contributions to advancing Taiwan's semiconductor industry, a critical sector in global technology and innovation. Chenming met

his future wife, Margaret (Leung) Hu (IH 1970-71), on the front steps of I-House. The Hu's were guests of honor at the 2024 I-House Awards Celebration & Gala where Chenming was presented the Global Impact Award. Learn more at ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala.

Kathleen Riley (IH 1971-74) shared, ". . . my I-House connections were major factors in my landing a college teaching position, running an archaeology club whose members could dig near Stonehenge, and even winning a game on Jeopardy! I-House is the best!" says Kathleen.

Please be sure to keep us up to date on your postal mail and email addresses at ihouse.berkeley.edu/stayintouch.

Alumni News & Notes



Ashok Gadgil (IH **1973-75**), was presented with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by President Biden at a White House ceremony. Ashok was recognized for "providing life-sustaining resources to communities around the world. His

innovative, inexpensive technologies help meet profound needs, from drinking water to fuel-efficient cookstoves. His work is inspired by a belief in the dignity of all people and in our power to solve the great challenges of our time." (Source: Berkeley Engineering News)

Jacquelyn Stanley (IH 1970s) and Kudret Oztap (IH 1970s) came back to Berkeley to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Jackie and Kudret's side-by-side bricks at I-House commemorate their exciting milestone.



Dedicated bricks are installed on the von Kaschnitz Patio located just outside of Edmonds' Café in front of I-House. If you would like to dedicate a brick (or two!) visit our website at ihouse.berkeley.edu/bricks or contact us at alumni@ihouseberkeley.org.

1980s

Ronald E. See (IH 1982-83) is now Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.

1990s

Sharlene Ratcliff (IH 1991-93) has embarked on a new journey as a Community Coordinator with PAX-Program of Academic Exchange. Embracing this role with enthusiasm, Sharlene is eager to connect with the I-House community. "I-House shaped the trajectory of my life, and I'm guessing for many of you as well," Sharlene reflects.

Simon Aqui (IH 1997-98)

reached out to us looking for his I-House friend Catherine from County Cork, Ireland. Alas, our Alumni Relations department does not have updated contact information for Catherine. If you know where Catherine from Cork is these days, please let us know!



Els de Graauw (IH 1997-2001) is a professor of political science at Baruch College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and is serving as interim director of the M.A. Program in International Migration Studies. Her new book, Advancing Immigrant Rights in Houston, coauthored with Shannon Gleeson, will be published this fall.



Dr. Victor Santiago Pineda (IH 1999-2000) was appointed Executive Director of The Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, bringing extensive experience and expertise in disability rights and accessibility issues to the role. He aims to enhance their mission of promoting independent living

and supporting individuals with disabilities through advocacy, services, and community engagement.

2000s

Vinicius Rodrigues Vieira (IH 2008-10) is an associate professor of economics and international relations at Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation, Research Associate at the University of São Paulo, and Secretary at the International Political Science Association. He published his book, Shaping Nations and Markets: Identity Capital, Trade, and the Populist Rage, which is based on his doctoral dissertation in International Relations presented at the University of Oxford in 2014.

2010s

Taeho Kim (IH 2014-15) is a Ph.D. student pursuing molecular biology at the University of Utah, building on the foundation of community and learning established during his time at I-House.

Vishnu Teja Chundi's (IH 2016) organization AasaanWill won the India semi-finals of the prestigious Global Scale-Up Competition organized by FintechHK and Invest Hong Kong.

Alumni News & Notes

2020s

Andrew Jiang (IH 2021-2023) is very excited to be taking a gap year and heading to Columbia University to pursue a master's in climate policy!

Navin Vijey Raj Jeyaselvan (IH 2023-24) joined Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company in Phoenix, Arizona, as an equipment engineer in July 2024, marking the beginning of a new professional journey in the United States. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have stayed at I-House and for the friendships he made here.

Check Out the New I-House Swag Store!

Want to show your alumni pride by wearing I-House merch? Check out our new swag store at *ihouse.berkeley.edu/shop* or scan the code featured here.



The 2024 Annual All Years Reunion

We welcomed more than 150 alumni back to I-House for our annual reunion. This joyous event brings I-House alumni from across generations for a leisurely brunch in the Dining Commons. Please stay tuned to the I-House Connection monthly email and social media for information about the August 2025 reunion.



I-House alumni from 2021-22 proudly wearing their I-House alumni hats at the All Years Alumni Reunion.

In Memory

1940s



Dr. David Altman (IH 1943-44),

a pioneering scientist in aerospace and rocketry, passed away on July 10, 2023, at the age of 103 in his Menlo Park, California, home. Born on February 13, 1920, in Paterson, New Jersey, Dave earned a B.S. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley by age 23. At Berkeley, he met his beloved wife, Beverly.

Dave's work in developing solid rocket fuel was crucial to the U.S. Air Force, NASA, and the Apollo space program, earning him NASA's Apollo Achievement Award in 1969. He also contributed to the Manhattan Project and investigated the Challenger Shuttle explosion. In 2020, he was inducted into the Schriever Wall of Honor. An avid tennis and golf player into his 90s, Dave was also a devoted member of Congregation Beth Jacob in Redwood City, California.

1950s



58), Professor Emeritus of History of Science and former

John L. Heilbron (IH 1956-

Vice Chancellor of UC Berkeley, passed away in Padua, Italy, on November 5, 2023, at the age of 89. He was born in San Francisco to Delphine (née Rosenblatt) and Louis Heilbron, a distinguished attorney who was the first to chair the California State University

Board and the first I-House attorney for approximately 20 years. John received his B.A. in 1955, his M.A. in physics in 1958, and his Ph.D. in history in 1964, all from UC Berkeley. He met his first wife, **Patricia (Lucero) Heilbron, (IH 1950s)** at I-House.

John also established the Office for History of Science and Technology at UC Berkeley. He welcomed scholars from around the globe and put his stamp on the field through editing the UC Press journal *Historical Studies in the Physical Sciences* (now *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*) for a quarter century. He is survived by his wife, Alison.

In Memory

1960s



Margaret (Margie) Smith Shetlar (IH 1960s) lived at I-House while working toward her teaching degree at UC Berkeley. It was at I-House that she met fellow resident Martin Shetlar (IH 1960-63), the love of her life, whom she married in 1966. Margaret taught mathematics at Walnut Creek High School and at Katherine Delmar Burke High School in San Francisco. She later taught at Forest Hill Preschool, served as

the treasurer for Portalhurst Presbyterian Church, and tutored privately in her home. She was also a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, and was very active in her local P. E.O. chapter. In her spare time, she was an avid artist, crafter, and calligrapher, and loved working on Sudoku puzzles. I-House is grateful to Margaret and Martin Shetlar, who left a generous gift in their trust to support the Open Gateway Fund, which provides room and board scholarships for graduate students living at I-House.

1970s

Takeru Oishi (IH 1975) was remembered by his I-House friend and former roommate Neil Hamilton (IH 1975) with a tribute gift made in Takeru's memory. Neil and Takeru's lifelong friendship began during a short six-week stay at I-House in summer 1975. Takeru, who received his master's in engineering from UC Berkeley, spent the summer at I-House enrolled in an English language course prior to beginning his master's. While at I-House, Takeru gave Neil a dried chrysanthemum flower, pressed onto green paper and protected in a glass picture frame. Neil still looks at this flower each day as it hangs on the wall in his office. He says, "It is a beautiful reminder of my friend Takeru."

Paul Steinberg (IH 1976-77), a research communications analyst at RAND, humorist, and crossword puzzle constructor, passed away at the age 69 on August 19, 2023. Paul received a B.A. in English from UC Riverside in 1975 and a Ph.D. in English from UC Berkeley in 1982. He met his wife, Karen née Matlaw, (IH 1976–77), at I-House, where he had a work-study job in the mailroom. Their romance blossomed amid the many boxes of books Karen shipped from Chicago. The two were married for 45 years and had one son, David.

1990s



Born in Jamshedpur, India, Uthara "Thara" Srinivasan (IH 1995-96) moved to Illinois with her family, and after doublemajoring in chemical engineering and creative writing, graduating summa cum laude, writing two senior theses, and playing the flute at Princeton University, she came to UC Berkeley for graduate school. While staying

at International House, she met her future husband, John Heck, (IH 1994-96) in the I-House Café (now Edmonds' Café). John recalls her introduction: "I'm Thara, my real name is Uthara, but my sister calls me 'Uthie.'" (Berkeleyside). Thara and John married at the Brazilian Room after they received their Ph.Ds. from Cal. After a brief stint in Silicon Valley working in the field of bio micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS), Thara returned to UC Berkeley to pursue postdoctoral research in ecology and environmental policy. She was a passionate environmentalist, scholar, yoga teacher, dancer, friend, and mother.

Friends



Narsai David, a celebrated Bay Area chef who served as the KCBS Food and Wine editor and was a beloved figure on KTVU's "Mornings On 2," passed away at the age of 87. Narsai served on the I-House Board of Directors for many years, generously supporting I-House Gala events with his culinary counsel and frequent wine contributions. Joe Lurie,

I-House Executive Director Emeritus, writes, "He leaves an enormous legacy for so many in the Bay Area and beyond. We at I-House were blessed to have known him and will forever cherish his memory."



Rafi M. Salem was a visiting scholar at Cal in the 1950s and spent many memorable hours at International House. Rafi had a long and varied career as a chemist, entrepreneur, businessman, and artist. Originally from Iraq, he traveled and lived all over the world, yet always held a special place in his heart for Berkeley.

Describing his connection to I-House, Rafi once wrote, "My friendship with I-House goes back to the fifties when I spent the summers of 1957, '58 and '59 as a summer student at UC Berkeley. I became a frequent visitor to I-House. It was the hub of my social activities. I enjoyed meals and refreshments at the coffee shop, meeting people from Iraq and all over the world, reading books, newspapers and listening to music at the Great Hall." Rafi's spouse, Lois Salem, has made a generous gift to International House in his memory.



Michele Anne (Radermacher) Ü, a dedicated nurse, mother, and beloved wife of I-House alumnus and former Board member Kwei Ü (IH 1961-65), passed away in January 2024. Michele and Kwei met while working in the open-heart surgery unit at Pacific Presbyterian Hospital (now part of California Pacific

Medical Center). Their first

date, flying a kite on San Francisco's Marina Green, marked the beginning of a life filled with love and adventure. In memory of their first son, Adrian, who passed away as an infant due to congenital heart disease, Michele and Kwei established the Adrian Hao Yin Ü Gateway Fellowship in 2006. This fellowship supports an I-House resident from Hong Kong, Taiwan, or China, and covers room and board for the academic year. Michele was a passionate supporter of the arts. She served many terms on the on the Board of Cal Performances and, with Kwei, helped to establish the American Bach Soloist Academy and host house concerts featuring the couple's two harpsichords. Michele's warmth and kindness touched all who knew her. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and the many lives she impacted.

Consider Making a Tribute Gift

Looking for a meaningful way to honor or memorialize an I-House friend or commemorate a special occasion? Making a tribute gift is a wonderful way to celebrate, while supporting I-House's ongoing mission to foster intercultural respect and understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills for a more just and peaceful world. You can learn more and make your gift at *ihouse.berkeley.edu/give* or by contacting us at (510) 642-4128 or philanthropy@ihouseberkeley.org.

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We are extremely grateful for gifts to I-House made in memory or in honor of someone special. Names of honorees are in bold, followed by names of the donor(s).

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Barbara Lynch

Michael O'Halloran

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Barbara Lynch & Art Flores Graeme S. Orr

Barbara Lynch & Art Flores J. Alan Peterson

Barbara Lynch & Art Flores Susan Klee & David Stoloff

Barbara Lynch & Art Flores Janis Takahashi-Kaas

Barbara Lynch & Art Flores Dai Watkins

Mrs. Mary T. Mar and Rev. Frank G. Mar

John T. Mar and Deborah Seo Mar

Joshua Angky Martin

David and Deborah Haviland

My father who encouraged me to live at I-House

Anonymous

Nazih Nahlus

Andy and Carol Magid

Albert Narath

Shanna S. Narath

Takeru Oishi

Neil R. Hamilton, III

Fernando Ortiz-Crespo

Enrique Merino & Consuelo Lopez-Morillas

Georgios Papadopoulous (my father)

Konstantina Papadopoulous

Saifullah Khan Paracha

Tariq & Cyra Paracha

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Dianne Walker and Marvin

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International House is a program center and campus residence for students from around the world, including the United States. Our mission is to foster intercultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills for a more just and peaceful world.

The I-House Times is published for residents, alumni and friends of International House. We strive to be as accurate as possible in this newsletter. If you have a correction or a submission for a future issue, contact the communications team at alumni@ihouseberkeley.org.

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We welcome your participation on our social networks and at ihberkeleyconnect.org where you can receive timely event announcements and the latest I-House news.













Executive Director Shaun Carver (center) with I-House residents at the 2024 I-House Celebration and Awards Gala. Clockwise from top: Leran Zhao, Paige Lyles, Natalia Stasik, Excellence Joshua, Sanidhya Rao, Essenam Dorkenu, Carina Samson, Victor Heller, Suvi Valtonen Kim, Krishna Shekhawat, Riko Okubo, Manal Siddiqui, and Mar Lasquetty.

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FALL/WINTER 2024-25



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