Building a Foundation for Global Fellowship

1. The iconic I-House Dome
2. The Great Hall ceiling and its original architectural drawing
3. The Chevron Auditorium ceiling and its original architectural drawing
4. Residents on the front steps, 1930
5. Residents on the front steps, 2019
As we review our past and consider how we will move into the future, International House is constantly self-assessing its activities and operations to ensure that we are in tune with our historical mission but also adapting our offerings to new student service paradigms. We are not only assessing our program needs, but also the preservation of the architectural heritage and physical infrastructure needs of our historic home, a highlight of this issue of the newsletter. We are on a perpetual drive to evaluate our historic identity and to translate this assessment into meaningful action strategies that we can implement to improve our offerings even more.

As we undertake this effort, it is important to step back and review what I-House has been to the more than 95,000 individuals who have resided here since our opening nearly 90 years ago.

I-House Berkeley has been (and is today):
- Independently operated, but closely tied to the University of California, Berkeley;
- Self-sustaining with a self-governing Board of Directors;
- Focused on serving a highly diverse resident body from around the world;
- A laboratory for international fellowship;
- An incubator of talent;
- A convivial place where residents feel a sense of belonging;
- A home away from home in a well-loved and well-used architectural marvel;
- A place unlike any they have ever experienced before;
- An environment where residents feel both challenged and supported;
- A center for learning about intercultural leadership, respect, and understanding.

All of these amazing attributes combined with a natural spontaneity are part of the magic of I-House as one never knows what (or whom) one is going to encounter here on any given day. We want everyone who comes through our doors to have the opportunity to 'meet the world' in this place. Our enduring task is to tailor the experience so that this actually happens for the majority of our residents.

Toward this end, we offer Sunday Suppers, theme dinners, cultural coffee hours, excursions, and intercultural leadership training for our residents to gain significant cultural exposure. When we mix together these planned activities with residents' natural curiosity to learn as much as they can about the world, I-House realizes and extends its mission in profound ways. We strive to be a vibrant community that provides many opportunities for this kind of engagement with the world to occur. We thank you for supporting its continuance over nine decades of service here in Berkeley.

Hans C. Giesecke, Executive Director

Board Transitions

On May 8, 2019, the I-House Board of Directors unanimously elected four individuals to serve as new members of the Board effective July 1, 2019: Lisa Garcia Bedolla, James Lichau, Cynthia Murphy-Ortega, and Jordan Tse.

Lisa Garcia Bedolla is vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the Graduate Division. Dr. Garcia Bedolla’s body of research focuses on understanding the causes and consequences of political and educational inequalities in the United States, using multidisciplinary approaches to examine disparities that cut across lines of ethnicity, race, gender, class, and more.

James Lichau is senior manager, assurance at BPM LLP. With nearly a decade of experience in public accounting, Lichau has provided accounting and audit services to both public and private companies. His industry focus is primarily on technology and financial services firms.

Cynthia Murphy-Ortega is manager of university partnerships and association relations at Chevron Corporation. Her organization manages Chevron’s relationships with universities and professional societies and institutes around the world. Murphy-Ortega joined Chevron in 1991 and has held various engineering, maintenance, operations, financial, business planning, and process safety management positions.

Jordan Tse serves on Facebook’s sustainability team where she focuses on working with internal and external partners internationally, promoting responsible practices in Facebook’s data center and consumer hardware supply chains.

We thank board members who rotated off the I-House Board of Directors as of June 30, 2019, Fiona Doyle and Judith Dunbar, for their years of dedicated volunteer service and support of the I-House mission.
Since 1930, the I-House mission has served as a powerful beacon to people from all over the world to gather in fellowship under the dome. At the very center of this mission has always been providing our residents with the most impactful experience possible. This means constantly innovating and improving how we deliver on this promise to our residents.

The best people to ask about how well we are doing are the residents themselves. Therefore, we completely revised our resident survey in spring of 2018, aiming to streamline it and to attain a higher participation rate. We found that the 60 percent of residents who responded (a significant response rate) gave I-House an overall satisfaction rating of 95 percent (45 percent very satisfied, 50 percent satisfied). While these numbers are strong, we knew we could do even better, and so we set out to improve these results for 2018-19. We were happy to find that our efforts bore fruit: a similar percentage of respondents yielded a 97 percent overall satisfaction rate (56 percent very satisfied, 41 percent satisfied).

While we are pleased with these numbers, we know that residents’ needs and wants are constantly evolving, and we are committed to adapting to these changes. Toward that end, several constituent groups are working to ensure continuous improvement of the resident experience into our ongoing operations. These include the newly created Resident Experience Committee (a standing committee of the I-House Board of Directors), the Resident Experience Staff Group, and resident leaders including Resident Council, Resident Assistants, and Program Assistants.

Additionally, we have been working towards making it easier for residents to provide feedback directly to I-House staff and responding quickly to their needs.

We are also pleased to note that the Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership (CIL) is continuing to expand its leadership development offerings to residents in 2019-20. These include a set of brief online modules to help our residents prepare for their arrival to I-House, to help them get the most out of their time while here and to equip them to be impactful leaders in their careers after they leave.

- 583 residents represent 76 countries
- 42% women, 58% men
- 79% are international students
- 21% are U.S. passport holders
- 44% are graduate students
- 52% are undergraduate students
- 4% are visiting scholar/post doc
- Average age is 23 (range 18-52)

Photos from the Resident Orientation Retreats, Point Bonita, CA
Fostering intercultural respect, understanding, and lifelong friendships to promote a more peaceful world has been International House Berkeley’s mission for almost 90 years. How does one design and construct a building that would support such an inspiring mission and withstand the test of time? This was the challenge facing Harry Edmonds, the founder of the International House movement.

The success of the first International House in New York enabled Edmonds to secure significant financial support from John D. Rockefeller Jr. to look for a location and to establish a second I-House. Berkeley was selected in 1926 because the Bay Area was the U.S. point of entry from Asia and claimed the largest number of foreign students on the West Coast. The site was also chosen because it looked to the Pacific, just as I-House New York looked to the Atlantic. It was envisioned as the largest co-ed dormitory west of the Hudson River. Many protested the shocking plan to house students under a policy of racial integration, as well as to house students from other lands, not to mention men and women together under one roof. Edmonds sought to build I-House in the most conspicuous and influential location possible to counter such prejudice and racism. The site next to Memorial Stadium was chosen because it was at the nexus of the many fraternity and sorority houses on Piedmont Avenue, which at that time excluded foreigners and people of color. In those early days, I-House became the most prominent building at UC Berkeley other than the Campanile. The iconic dome has served as a symbol of I-House’s values ever since.

Edmonds hired architect George W. Kelham who was responsible for many buildings on the UC Berkeley campus and in San Francisco. Kelham and Edmonds decided, through the influence of Mrs. Abigail Rockefeller, to design I-House Berkeley based on a Spanish Colonial Revival style. This style was reflective of California history, and was popular in Santa Fe and Santa Barbara. The architectural details are what make I-House truly stunning. The Moorish influence upon Spanish culture is illustrated in the extensive ironwork featured in the chandeliers and staircase railings. The distinctive domed tower, balconies, the sunken Heller Patio and the extensive painted tile that adorns drinking fountains, stairs and floors throughout the building are amazing. Yet it is the intricately hand-painted ceilings and moldings, above the common spaces of the building, adapted from cathedrals in Spain, that are the crowning glory of the interior design.
The soaring Great Hall space is constantly in use for international coffee hours, receptions, and resident gatherings. Its welcoming fireplace, glorious ceiling, and tapestries have recently been complemented by new furniture and carpets as their well-loved and well-used counterparts have been replaced.

Among the most distinctive features of I-House is its dining culture. The beautiful Dining Commons, with its recent restoration made possible by Eric and Wendy Schmidt and other generous gifts, remains at the heart of social life at I-House.

The Chevron Auditorium has served as a versatile setting for concerts, festivals, talent shows, formal dinners, dances, plays, films, discussion series, and other special events. Generations of I-House residents have experienced cultural festivals and performances, the annual I-House Celebration and Awards Gala, and Sunday Suppers that feature the time-honored Candlelight Ceremony marking the end of the year and the launching of the next generation of I-House Alumni into the world.

The Home Room is just that, a smaller more intimate space that is just as beautiful as the other gathering spaces, but has the aura of a living room, with a fireplace and sofa. Below is an architectural drawing of the Home Room ceiling design and a photo of what it looks like today.

The I-House Library is open to I-House residents only. A grant from Andrew Carnegie ensured that current newspapers and books from around the world would always be available there. Originally, this space was divided into a women’s and a men’s lounge. In 1968, the wall separating the two was removed and hidden by the residents in protest. Sherry Warrick, the Executive Director at the time, decided that it was the appropriate time for the wall to go, and so the rooms were combined!

The world has changed radically since 1930, yet International House is more relevant than ever. The physical infrastructure - and the building itself - are the foundations upon which I-House will continue to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world. With your support, I-House remains committed to preparing the next generations with the ability to understand other cultures - and one’s own culture through others’ perspectives.

The I-House Architectural Heritage Fund

The House Committee of I-House, consisting of board members, executive staff, and experts in the field of architecture and facilities management meets frequently to ensure that the decorations, furnishings, and ongoing care and preservation of the House are true to the original design intent. The generous support of alumni and friends of I-House has steadfastly provided the financial means via the I-House Architectural Heritage Fund and through special gifts. After nearly nine decades of service to some 95,000 residents, this architectural treasure requires ongoing capital improvements to ensure its service to future generations. Nothing is more critical to our operations than our most fundamental resource: our home. Costly upgrades periodically occur to maintain the complex plumbing infrastructure, help improve energy and water efficiency, and to enhance access. In addition to routine maintenance and equipment replacement projects, over $25 million has been invested in construction and renovation since 1990. As I-House enters its 90th year, an extensive plan is being made to address seismic safety and other improvements while maintaining the architectural integrity and Spanish Colonial Revival style.
The I-House Café
A Place To Meet and Mingle Since 1930

The International House Café, as it is known today, is a small eatery offering espresso, wine, and beer. Originally an international bazaar, it became The Soda Fountain with an Art Deco style, and in later years, Ye Olde Coffee Shop. Although it has gone through several metamorphoses, it remains an important gathering place for residents and members of the community. It is also one of the many iconic spots throughout I-House famous for being one of the places where the more than one thousand married couples who met at I-House cultivated and declared their love for one another.

The Café Patio was constructed in the 1970s to emphasize “meeting and mingling” between the residents and community members, and to illustrate what was happening inside I-House to the Berkeley community. An extensive Café renovation plan is being developed to maintain its charm while enhancing access and the exchange of ideas.

The I-House Café has recently re-opened after a change of management. The menu features Thai Curry mac and cheese, salads, and other delicious fare. Enjoy coffee, pastries, and refreshing drinks while taking in the view and the digital displays of today's headlines from around the world.

“One summer in the mid-1980s, the Olympics were going on, and people were in and out of the Great Hall and the Café. When I got tired of studying, I would get a snack and play the Donkey Kong video game that was built-in to the table. It was a fascinating place with the most interesting vibe of any place I have ever been to.”
Christopher Falcone (IH 1980s)

“A kind-faced gentleman walked up to me and some classmates in the Café, bowed his head, and asked if he could sit with us. He talked to each of us and asked what we were studying. He thanked us for spending time with him. As he left, everyone turned to us and asked if we knew ‘that was the Dalai Lama!’ Yes, we did.”
Erin Andrews (IH 1989-91)

“In the Fall of 1990, I remember having a joint birthday party with some Cal friends in the front section of the Café (pictured right). We made such fond memories!”
Anders Yang (IH 1990-91)

“As an I-House alumnus from 1990-94, I loved being able to wander down from my room to get a drink or to hang out with friends who were fellow residents as well as outside friends at the Café. It was a great place to host discussions, especially on the patio, with its gorgeous view of the Golden Gate Bridge.”
Raymond Yee (1990-94)

“My favorite memory of the Café was after the Big Game in 2008 when Cal took back the axe! After we were done flood-ing the field, I-House residents from around the world met up in the Café to celebrate the big win, talk about football, and drink beer, of course. It was a highlight of my life at I-House.”
Sherri “Syd” Sotoodeh (IH 2008-09) Pictured right.

I-House couple Rachel Spiegel (IH 2010-11) and Jens Kristian Holmen (IH 2010-11) enjoyed returning with their new baby, Henry, to visit the I-House Café, where they met, and the table where Jens proposed. They also came to see the brick that their family purchased in honor of their wedding in 2017.

Share your I-House Café memories with us at ihalumni@berkeley.edu.
How long have you been at I-House? What are your responsibilities and how have those changed over the years?

I have been at I-House for 29 years. I started as a senior building maintenance worker. I was part of a three-man crew that made sure all the repairs were done in the resident rooms, public areas, and offices for ten years. I got to know the building very well. I was then reclassified as a carpenter for 12 years. Next I became the assistant director of physical operations. I went from slinging a tool bag to managing a maintenance crew of three and a custodial crew of 14. In 2017, I was promoted to the director of physical operations position and serve in that capacity currently.

What are some of the features that are particularly unique about I-House architecturally and structurally?

I am a fan of the Spanish mission style architecture. Lots of arches, rounded corners, and painted tile. The painted ceilings in the Great Hall and Auditorium are amazing! I’m also a huge fan of the wooden wainscoting and the hand-carved wooden scarabs over some of the doorways. Structurally, this building is impressive. Solid concrete and rebar construction with hollow clay-tile partition walls covered with plaster. This was top-of-the-line construction for its day. They don’t build like this anymore.

What have been the key renovations and ongoing maintenance projects during your tenure?

The biggest key renovations have to be the seismic upgrades to the resident rooms, the phased renovations of the resident restrooms and showers, the complete ADA upgrade for accessibility to the house, the upgrade to the fire alarm system, and the Dining Commons renovation. The residents are our top priority. I know it sounds cliché but it’s true. Every project we embark on is to ensure resident safety and to improve the resident experience.

Which projects you are most proud of?

My first project when I started working here was the Hall of History. We made all the wooden display frames and wooden signs above them. Having that as my first project really helped me appreciate I-House and its mission. I got to see the photos of its construction and read the stories of how this house originated, and it made an impact on me. If you have the chance to spend some time in the Hall of History and really read and look, I’d highly recommend it. It’s pretty impressive.

How do you interact with the Board House Committee?

I am one of four I-House staff members who serve as support to the House Committee. The House Committee is made up of I-House board of director members, and staffed by my colleagues and me plus consultants, architects, developers, accountants, and Resident Council members. Their primary function is to preserve and improve the International House structure. They determine what capital projects are necessary to improve and preserve the building. We spend countless hours discussing pros and cons, reviewing renderings, and putting together proposals to take to the full board of directors for their approval.

I-House Berkeley is now celebrating its 90th year. Many alums remember the Loma Prieta earthquake. Since being on the Hayward Fault is a key element of planning, how do we look structurally and in case of emergency?

I-House sustained no significant structural damage during the 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. The Emergency Planning Committee meets regularly to ensure that safety procedures are in place and that staff and student staff are trained in the event of an emergency. I-House is equipped with an emergency generator in the event of power loss and emergency first aid, fresh water, and rations to accommodate 600 residents for three days. I believe we are the only building on campus that has these provisions. I hope we never have to tap into these supplies, but we are prepared if necessary.

What is on the horizon for key repairs, restoration, and renovations going forward?

A Great Hall refresh has now occurred and residents are already enjoying the new furniture. We’re completing our maintenance elevator modernization. We will be renovating the Sproul Kitchen, Gamble Lounge, and Café next summer, along with power pole removal and front-entry landscaping. A major campus-wide seismic safety program, including a detailed plan for I-House now under development, will require significant attention. We’ve got a very busy year ahead of us!

What are some “fun facts” about the building, architecture, and physical plant?

The building has changed in many ways over the years. Most people don’t know that the front-entry doors were originally where the front desk is now, so you would enter directly into the Great Hall! There were glass doors on the north and south walls with wooden wainscoting and columns like the Dining Commons has. Also, the third floor rooms 344 – 361 used to be the laundry area.

It’s been a great privilege to be a part of the I-House legacy.
The I-House Financial Aid Program provides room and board support for students from around the world who otherwise would not be able to afford living at International House. Students with financial need from diverse national and socioeconomic backgrounds can apply for financial aid scholarships so that they can become a part of the I-House community. International residents learn about the ethnic and economic diversity of the United States, and U.S. students gain the same kind of understanding about cultures from all around the world.

To help meet the cost of room and board at International House, financial aid scholarships are available to graduate and upper-division international students, U.S. citizens, and permanent residents. Applicants must be registered in a degree-granting program at UC Berkeley, and hold a reservation for residency at International House for the coming academic year or academic semester.

Through the generous financial support of alumni and friends, 134 residents (approximately one-fourth of all I-House residents) received full or partial room and board financial aid awards this past fiscal year. An additional 51 scholarships were made possible through two major programs funded by the Mastercard Foundation and Nanyang Technology University.

Key financial aid programs include: 11 Gateway Fellowships providing full I-House room and board funding for doctoral candidates, a stipend from the Graduate Division, and tuition and fees paid by the academic department; 28 named scholarships providing partial room and board funding to U.S. and international students.

In addition to annual and recurring gifts to the I-House Scholarship Fund, named scholarships are made possible by major and legacy gifts and pledges from donors and alumni who want to pay it forward. During the academic year, I-House provides opportunities for donors and scholarship recipients to meet, which often lead to long-term fellowship and friendships around the globe.

To learn more about supporting financial aid scholarships to preserve and enhance diversity at I-House, please visit our website or contact the I-House Development team.

“I don’t need to tell you how wonderful I-House residents are along so many dimensions! I wish that my I-House experience turns out to be the degree in diplomacy that I never had.”

Chittaranjan Prasad
Computer Science & Economics, India

“Although racism is getting stronger all around the world, I am sure that we are capable of building a supporting and inclusive community where we learn and grow with each other’s differences.”

Yuriria Avila Guzman
Journalism, Mexico

“Sitting on the von Kaschnitz Patio, feeling the warmth of the sun while playing guitar and singing, Casper, Takashi, Linnan, Maria, and I are looking back at our first year at Berkeley. None of us could have imagined that we’d live side by side, interact with, and learn from students from all continents. None of us could have imagined that every meal would feed not only our bodies, but even more, our souls with friendships, insights about foreign customs, mentalities, and languages. None of us could have imagined that after only a year we’d be in a community that feels like home.”

Marius Wiggart
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Germany
What happens when students from five countries and four continents spend two intensive weeks together in an immersive learning experience at I-House? Culture shock and a healthy dose of chaos of course, but also the cultivation of leadership skills and lifelong friendships across cultures. The Global Leadership and Innovation course is CIL’s signature leadership development program for external clients. Since 2016 CIL has welcomed international students each summer and winter for this course, providing a transformative educational experience.

Summer 2019 marked a high point for this course. With students from China, Chile, Turkey, Egypt, and Russia, it was a truly global experience. This diverse student body became a living laboratory for students to experience in real-time the challenges and opportunities of working in global and multicultural teams.

A telling example arose in a dynamic discussion about how different concepts of time and ways of managing time impact levels of trust and respect in the workplace. One student from Chile explained, “If you want us to arrive at 10:00 a.m. then say the meeting will start at 9:45 a.m.” In contrast, a student from China expressed, “If you ask us to show up at 10:00 a.m. we will show up at 9:30 a.m.” The facilitators used this and other instances of culture clash as ripe moments to emphasize “It’s not right or wrong, it’s just different,” and connect these challenges to the skill of managing global meetings effectively and building inclusive teams.

One of the hallmarks of the course is a “learn by doing” approach. Students engage in a variety of simulations. In one such simulation, a leader must uncover the preferred leadership style of a group and motivate them to accomplish a task together (in this case building an innovative structure out of Legos). Much more than just playing with Legos, this simulation brought out students’ gut reactions and feelings about “the way things should be done.” Through critical reflection and discussion about this and other experiences, students gained self-awareness and insight into the different values that drive their preferred styles of leading, communicating, and working with others. They also developed greater awareness of others’ cultural norms and values, and practiced effective skills to adapt their behavior to build bridges across difference.

During the second week of the program, students dove into the topic of innovation. The week began with site visits to local startups and companies across a range of industries, from Berkeley’s Citris Foundry, to QuSwami, to Google. After seeing innovation in action at these sites, students put it into practice through a Design Sprint using the methods and mindsets of Design Thinking. In less than 36 hours, students developed prototypes for creative solutions to the challenges associated with traveling to the U.S. as an international student.

At the end of the two weeks, many students expressed how this program was both meaningful and unforgettable for them and helped them become not only better leaders but better people. For the CIL team, the benefits are mutual—working with this incredible group of students has made us a stronger team and organization.
At International House’s 31st Annual Celebration and Awards Gala on May 9th, **UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ** and Executive Director Hans Giesecke honored **Baroness Oona King** by presenting her with the **2019 Alumna of the Year Award** for her 30 years of public service. It was an epic night under the dome.

The evening began with a festive red-carpet welcome by our resident hosts (pictured below), followed by a reception and an elegant three-course meal prepared by I-House Executive Chef Todd Koenigsberg.

The highlight of the evening was the Honoree Q and A moderated by Chief of Strategy and Director of the Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership (CIL), Jason Patent. Baroness King shared many incredible insights and some practical advice on how to become a successful leader today. Here are a few wise and inspirational thoughts that she shared:

"Turning people’s insecurity into a positive attribute is a gift. This mind-set allowed me to believe that I could be whatever I wanted to be growing up.”

"Highlight discomfort in your life, as it is a critical threshold, and without discomfort, you cannot achieve much that is meaningful.”

"You do not need a title to be a leader. Identify your sphere of influence and make yourself useful—you are going to do a lot better in the long run.”

"If you’re going to be successful, you need to turn that traumatic event from a catastrophe or failure in your life into something that has a silver lining. Make it into an opportunity that’s better than what you had or equal to it—that’s the key for me.”

Save the Date!
The 32nd Annual Celebration and Awards Gala will be in Spring 2020.
Over thirty I-House alumni who lived at I-House from 1976-79 and their loved ones returned in March to celebrate their long-standing friendships and rekindle old memories. The group enjoyed having brunch in the Dining Commons and visiting their old stomping grounds.

I-House hosted its annual Persian New Year Theme Dinner in the Dining Commons on March 20, 2019. The alumni who returned to celebrate with us are: Ruth White (IH 1973-74) and Robert White; former Programs Assistant Reika Saito (IH 2007-08) with her daughter; and Linda Sarkis (IH 1970-73) with her friend.

I-House New York hosted a Bay Area Alumni Reception in the Home Room on Saturday, September 7th. Karin Johnson (IH 1946-52), Ann Shin (IH 1988-89) Roshan Gujjar (IH 2003), Jasneet Hora (IH 2014), and Jian-Chu Chen (IH 1969) were among the 25 guests. All five lived at both I-Houses during their collegiate careers. Current I-House Berkeley resident Eric Planz played the electronic keyboard for the gathering. A special day was had by all.

While visiting Singapore in July, Board Member Eugene Yano and his wife Professor Candace Yano had the pleasure of meeting I-House alumni Lim Kok Ching (IH 2006-07), Chian Choo (IH 2001-02), and Ken Yeo (IH 1986) at a Haas reunion event at Vatos Urban Tacos.

I-House New York Visits I-House Berkeley

Reunion in Singapore

Alumni Visitors Enjoy the Annual I-House Persian New Year Dinner

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We strive to be as accurate as possible; however, if you notice an error, please contact ihalumni@berkeley.edu or call 510.642.4128. Thank you for your generous support!
Look Who Came To Visit!

1. Attending a professional conference in the Bay Area, Dagmar Saschek (IH 1989) was thrilled to see I-House again and visit with Executive Director Hans Giesecke. Her visit invoked many memories, including the evening the Berlin Wall came down. On that epic night, a friend told her to go to the Great Hall, “you need to see what’s happening!” The room was filled to the brim with residents watching the news coverage from Germany. Someone loudly announced, “She is German; let her through.” The crowd magically parted, and she was able to sit near the TV with the other German residents. Experiencing this historic event with her I-House community is something she will never forget.

2. On a beautiful February day, Kathy Rai (IH 1990-91) took the opportunity to show her two daughters the Great Hall and her favorite spots in I-House. After a tour, they ended their visit with lunch in the Dining Commons.

3. While visiting from Southern California, author Dr. Wendy Treynor (IH 2006) was eager to see I-House again and relive the same joy and happiness she experienced when she lived at I-House in 2006.

4. After being announced as one of Forbes’ 30 under 30 Europe in Science and Healthcare, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Rochester Satya Gontcho A Gontcho (IH 2012) took the opportunity to attend a Dark Matter Conference at UC Berkeley and experience I-House again by staying in the Ambassador Suite and meeting with our new Director of Philanthropy Bill Howley.

5. In honor of her parents Florrie and William Milligan (IH 1947-48), Marty Milligan established a named scholarship in their memory. Marty had the pleasure of meeting this year’s scholarship recipients, Shizhan Zhu and Feng Ji, and have lunch with them in the Dining Commons.

6. Award-winning journalist Sylvie Brieu (IH 1991-92) was able to visit I-House on her way back to her home in France. She is currently working on a new editorial project about the American West.

7. On a family trip traveling throughout the U.S., Marie Etchamendy (IH 1989), pictured front row, enjoyed showing her family where she lived during the summer of 1989 when she was an exchange student from France. She was amazed by how I-House still looked like she remembered it many years ago.
8. I-House couple Janet and Steve Rosen (IH 1976-77) enjoy leaving Minnesota for a few weeks every year to visit family in the Bay Area. It is an annual tradition to come back to where they met in the Chevron Auditorium at a New Resident Orientation Retreat where they sat next to each other.

9. A native Texan, William Maina (IH 1970-71) was overjoyed when he received an invitation from friends to visit the Bay Area and stay at Sea Ranch. He could not pass up seeing I-House for the first time since he graduated from Berkeley in the 1970s.

10. While she was waiting for her eldest daughter at day camp, Rashmi Shukla (IH 1995-96) could not pass up the opportunity to show her youngest daughter her favorite room in I-House—the library.

11. Traveling from Mumbai, India with his wife Sarbaree, Ashish Mitra (IH 1973-77) came to visit I-House and stay in the Ambassador Suite. He enjoyed showing her where he lived throughout his academic studies and to have the opportunity to meet Executive Director Hans Giesecke.

12. After visiting friends in the Bay Area, Patrizia Bartolini (IH 1977-79) was able to stop by I-House before her flight back home to Italy. She enjoyed seeing the floor that she lived on for two years while she was studying for her master’s in mathematics.

13. While Virendra Shah (IH 1962-63) was visiting his niece and her family in Berkeley, he was thrilled to see I-House again for the first time in 57 years. He recalled traveling from Mumbai, India when he was 17 years old and seeing the dome for the very first time as he walked up Bancroft Way.

14. On a visit with Joy Iwasa, Associate Director of Philanthropy, Leland Peterson (IH 1970-72) made a generous donation to dedicate a resident room.

15. While visiting from the Netherlands for a wedding in Half Moon Bay, Robert Noest (IH 2011-12) came back to I-House to have a meal in the Dining Commons and to see the Great Hall.

If you would like to come back to I-House for a visit, please contact the Alumni Relations Office to schedule a time at (510) 642-4128 or ihalumni@berkeley.edu.
16. Returning to visit the Chevron Auditorium where they met at an I-House welcome dance, Beat and Katie Schwendimann (IH 2007-09) were thrilled. They have been married for six years and have a five-month-old daughter.

17. Former I-House Board Member and I-House alumnus J. Dennis Bonney (IH 1954-55) brought his daughter and his grandchildren to see where he lived when he attended Berkeley in the 1950s. He hopes this visit will be an inspiration for his grandchildren to attend UC Berkeley and live at I-House someday.

18. Former Program Assistant Camille Sayous (IH 2013-14), Jim Austboe (IH 2013-14), and Thomas Chevrier (IH 2013-14) while on a road trip across the U.S., had to stop in to see the newly renovated Game Room and to visit Larnie Macasieb from the Program Office.

19. While attending a conference in San Francisco, Andreas Heine (IH 1986-87) visited I-House before his return flight to Germany that evening to revisit his former home. He enjoyed reminiscing and seeing I-House once more.

20. On a visit with Joy Iwasa, Associate Director of Philanthropy, Nancy Tivol (IH 1965-67) enjoyed seeing her old stomping grounds again!

21. Artist Laura Siegel Venning (IH 1968-70) came to visit her painting, “Li River China” that she donated in 2010 to I-House.

LaRue Evans (IH 1965-66) turned 100 years old in May. She was a teacher on a fellowship when she came to I-House and became dear friends with Nancy Tivol (IH 1965-66). She has been a teacher, a historian, a leader, and a writer, both of books and for The Daily Reflector Newspaper. She has been honored as 2011 Winterville Citizen of the Year, had an award named after her, and received several fellowships.

Graeme Orr (IH 1969-70) wanted to pay tribute to former I-House staff member Art Flores, “a lovely guy and friend to all. Art appeared as a ‘villain’ in I-House resident Louis Drouot’s short movie Vicious Circle, shot around Berkeley. My old Plymouth Valiant car also starred!”

I-House couple John Sharp (IH 1963-65) and Sara Sharp (IH 1963) write, “We are upping our usual donation to I-House this year given the horrendous news about the terrorist attack in New Zealand. We met in 1963 as residents of I-House, and we have been married since 1966. We are convinced that the mission of I-House is one of the best answers to such atrocities.”

Professor Noriko Matsui (IH 1968-70) shared, “Long after my studies at Berkeley, I went to study in England, earning a Ph.D. at Bristol. There, I met students with culturally different backgrounds and found myself enjoying communicating with them. For this, I feel I owe so much to my experience of international living at I-House, Berkeley. The mention of I-House also reminds me of Sunday Suppers. That memory warms my heart. I’m proud of the fact that I once lived in a place where the I-House movement has been carried on. I’m a senior now, and am still teaching English at a private university which educates health professionals, i.e., nurses and physiotherapists.”

Bill Newell (IH 1970-71) writes, “I am a retired public high school teacher and active civil rights advocate.”

Christopher Barry (IH 1971) presented at The International Community for Maritime and Ocean Professionals Conference in Washington, D.C. His work on various processes of oceanic carbon sequestration, especially by enhancing existing biological pathways, may be a critical step in preventing catastrophic climate change.”

Kathleen Riley (IH 1971-74) shares, “I’m working as a volunteer transcriber of Latin baptismal records from the 1780s in the archives of St. Augustine, Florida for the La Florida Project at University of South Florida, St. Petersburg under the direction of Prof. J. Michael Francis.”

Nancy Horn (IH 1972-73) earned a Ph.D. in anthropology in 1988 and is currently writing a book on epigenetics and family history.

Lorraine Bleise Wardlaw (IH 1973-74) writes, “I retired in June of 2018 from being an elementary school teacher for 25 years. It was a wonderful career. I am thoroughly enjoying retirement in Mendocino, CA.”

Joan Fischer (IH 1979-1981) announces, “I recently took a position as a writer in Development and Alumni Relations at UC Davis.”
Alumni News & Notes

1980s

Nanette Chadwick (IH 1982-83) remains active in International Women for Peace and Understanding (IWPU), an east Alabama group who raised funds this year for a scholarship at Auburn University. The IWPU scholarship funds a graduate student in the ESL program to promote the linguistic integration of immigrants into the U.S.

Renia Corocoto (IH 2003-05) writes that she “is currently working at the National Security Council in the Philippines as the Assistant Director-General.”

1990s

Roman Yorick (IH 1999-00) After five years working on HIV/AIDS research in Ukraine, Roman moved to Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2018. Currently he is the lead for USAID’s Feed the Future project on maternal and child health and nutrition combatting childhood stunting.

Robert Sepeda (IH 2006-07) Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP) is pleased to announce that Robert is amongst the 31 outstanding Latinx Líderes that have been formally invited to be part of the Líderes Fellowship! HIP’s Líderes Fellowship cultivates mid-career Latinos working in philanthropy and non-profits by gaining knowledge, learning new practices, and building relationships within a network that supports their ability to advance and thrive. Líderes are chosen based on their commitment to working for racial equity to achieve social justice.

2000s

Claudia Guedes (IH 2000-02) is now the Director of the Integrated Teaching Education Program in Physical Education at San Francisco State University.

Gah-Yi Ban (IH 2007-09) is currently a professor at the London Business School. Gah-Yi’s research is in big data analytics; specifically, decision-making with complex, high-dimensional, and highly uncertain data with business applications. Gah-Yi is a member of the World Economic Forum Expert Network, a board member of M&SOM Society, and an associate editor of a top academic journal, Management Science.

Recently, Gah-Yi gave a TEDx talk on “The Power and Perils of Algorithms” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYCq3K_XxZY), where she discussed the role of algorithms in our lives and how we can shape their role in the future.

Professor Luis Gordo Peláez (IH 2006-07) This former resident assistant is pleased to announce “I joined the Department of Art and Design at California State University Fresno in Fall 2017 as an assistant professor of art history. And my wife, Kathleen Adams and I are expecting a Californian baby, our first, (we still don’t know the gender).”

Jolet van Erum (IH 2009) writes, “I am an innovation consultant and recently started entrepreneuring.”

Do you have a memory, a story, or an update to share? You may be featured in the I-House Times Newsletter or on our I-House Stories web page.

Contact us at (510) 642-4128 or ihalumni@berkeley.edu
Elmar Diederichs (IH 2010) writes, “In 2010, during my first year at the Department of Statistics at Berkeley, I spent a wonderful summer at I-House with its open and inspiring academic atmosphere. This extraordinary experience helped me to understand the role of networking. I learned to profit personally and scientifically from intense co-operations with other people, such that I decided to join the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology for a few years. After this time, I founded the mathematical think tank ‘Elements of Euclid,’ that invites highly educated people to participate in creating a fruitful academic sphere. Having this pool of experts today allows us to create and monetarize advanced projects in Machine Learning and AI, that probably would never have come to reality without my initial experience at I-House.” For more information, please visit http://elementsofeuclid.org.

Praveen Paranjothy (IH 2011) shared that “the Europe India Centre for Business and Industry has named him one of EU-India’s top 40 Under 40 EU-India Leaders. Praveen is an entrepreneur and venture capitalist, who advises tech-driven VC/PE funds and companies, and invests in scalable innovations built by great teams.”

Satya Gontcho A Gontcho (IH 2012) is proud to share that she has been selected as one of Forbes’ 30 Under 30 Europe Class of 2019, in the Science category. Satya is studying the distribution of matter in the universe in the era following the formation of the first stars and galaxies. One of her more recent discoveries has used quasars to examine the presence of carbon in intergalactic clouds 10.8 billion years ago.

Ben Chen (IH 2015-16) is now a Ph.D. student at The European Organization for Nuclear Research, otherwise known as CERN.

Kaiqi Hua (IH 2015-16) taught as a professor in religious studies for Semester at Sea, the cruise university traveling the world from September to December 2018. He got engaged to his fiancée on the ship! He currently lectures in asian studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

Negin Shahiar (IH 2016-18) shared “I interned at the United Nations, and I’m starting a master’s program at Oxford this fall.”

Cris Plunkett (IH 2017-19) is the proud recipient of the 2019 Gold Congressional Award from California’s 12th Congressional District representing San Francisco.

Olivia Cappelletti (IH 2018) has received an advertising internship at Publicis Communications in New York.

R.J. Lee (IH 2018-19) writes that he is “going to be working for IBM as a Data Scientist!”

Amy Wang (IH 2018-19) shares, “I’m starting my teaching career in August 2019!”

Maria Otero (IH 2018-19) writes, “I just graduated in the top 1 percent of the senior class from Berkeley!”

If you have moved, changed email or mailing addresses, or want to tell us what you have been up to since you left I-House, please let us know!

Contact us at: ihalumni@berkeley.edu.
In Memory

Betsey Warrick, First Lady Emeritus of I-House and an influential resident of Berkeley for 60 years, died at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland on June 26. She was 95. Betsey was born in Norwood, Massachusetts, and studied sociology at Smith College. It was here that she met her husband, Sheridan “Sherry” Warrick, and the two were married in 1945. After living together in Amherst and Chicago, the Warricks moved to Berkeley in 1959 with their three children. Sherry was appointed Executive Director of International House in 1961.

Betsey served on the board of directors of the University YWCA for 26 years. She started by teaching English at the Y before getting a master’s degree in education from the University of San Francisco. She spent the next 13 years teaching English as a Second Language at Berkeley Adult School. She also founded the Laotian Handicraft Center with three local women to help Laotian women acquire language and business skills with traditional needlework while supporting their families.

With her husband Sherry, Betsey helped make her home a welcoming place for students, visitors, and immigrants from around the world. She was a humanitarian and a lover of people. She joined her husband at countless I-House functions greeting students and visiting scholars, most of whom thereafter counted her as a lifelong friend. Betsey was an inspiration to every person she befriended. She was sharp and engaged, curious about peoples’ lives, and devoted to the music, art, and cultures of the world.

Betsey is survived by her husband, Sherry; older brother, David; daughter, Becky, and her husband, Ron; son, Dan, and his wife, Karen; son, Doug, and his daughter, Ali; as well as by grandsons, Morgan and Tom, and their wives, Christina and Jeanetta; and great-granddaughter, Maya. She is deeply missed by all.

Betsey suggested memorial contributions be made to International House, for the Sheridan and Betsey Warrick Scholarship Fund, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, CA 94720.

Betsey Warrick Remembered

Eleanor “Elly” Bade writes, “Betsey Warrick was a big part of my husband’s and my lives. I still maintain fond memories of I-House, from the days of Dr. Blaisdell to the present.

I have the pleasure of talking about I-House with Vangie Buell (who lives at Piedmont Gardens with me) and who worked with Betsy Bacon and the other wonderful I-House staff. Little drops of water make large circles, and I-House has been sending the world good vibes for years. The Warricks are the ambassadors in an important part of this process.”

Reeve Gould (IH 1946-48)

Reeve passed away quietly in his sleep on March 13, 2019 at the age of 98. He studied architecture at UC Berkeley, earning his B.A. and M.A. in 1943 and 1948.

Reeve’s incredible eye for detail, beauty, and elegance was manifested in all he touched, from his beautiful home in the Berkeley Hills to the many private homes and public buildings that he designed throughout the Bay Area. Reeve was a lifelong supporter and served on the board of many cultural arts institutions.

Warren Unna (IH 1941-43)

Warren Unna died February 9, 2019 at a retirement community in Mitchellville, MD, at the age of 93.

Warren was born in San Francisco on Sept. 14, 1923. He graduated in 1943 from UC Berkeley with a degree in international relations. He worked at the San Francisco Chronicle before joining the Washington Post, where he served as a correspondent in India, and later became Washington correspondent for the Statesman, an English-language newspaper based in Kolkata.

He was one of many journalists whose names appeared on President Richard M. Nixon’s enemies list in the early 1970s, presumably for his reporting on the Vietnam War for The Post and for a short-lived public television program, “Newsroom.”
In Memory

Graydon Shaw Staring (IH 1948-49)

Graydon died peacefully at home in Oakland on July 25, 2019 at the age of 96. He studied at Hamilton College and earned his law degree at UC Berkeley in 1951. It was at International House where he met Joyce Allum-Poon, a student from Trinidad, whom he married on September 1, 1949. They were married less than a year after the California Supreme Court struck down California’s anti-miscegenation law, which would have prohibited their marriage.

Graydon was known for his intellect and love of books. As a lawyer, he developed an international reputation in maritime law and marine insurance.

Graydon is survived by his wife Joyce, daughter Diana (Larry), and son Christopher (Gail). He is also survived by his brother Lynds, and eight grandchildren: Mark (Caroline), Alex, Hilary, Felicia (Cameron), Graydon, Emily, Derek and Elizabeth. He is predeceased by his brothers William and Merlin.

Darril Hudson (IH 1950-1954)

On May 3, 2019, Darril Hudson died peacefully at the age of 87 at his home in San Francisco, surrounded physically and in spirit by the many people who loved him dearly throughout his life.

Darril graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cal with a degree in international relations. After serving as an officer with U.S. Army Counterintelligence, Darril earned his master’s degree and doctorate from the London School of Economics. He retired as Professor Emeritus with Cal State East Bay in the early 1990s.

Darril was a great lover and supporter of music, the arts, and educational and humanitarian organizations, including Doe Library and International House at UC Berkeley, and the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank.

Estelle Pau-On Lau (IH 1952)

Dr. Estelle Pau-On Lau passed away peacefully at home at the age of 95 surrounded by her loving family on May 11th.

She was a devoted professor of education at the University of the Pacific from 1977-2000 where she specialized in multicultural education and women’s studies. Dr. Lau was awarded the prestigious Order of Pacific for her outstanding contributions to UOP.

She is survived by her son Bradford Gaffney; daughter Ann Gaffney Shores, son-in-law Tom Shores, and granddaughter Meredith Shores; son Stuart Gaffney, and son-in-law John Lewis; and many loving family members and friends.

Anita Gregory (IH 1953-62)

Anita passed away at the age of 80 at her home in Sierra Madre. She was born on September 12, 1938 in England and then moved to Pasadena with her family in 1947. She earned her B.A. in history at the University of Southern California and later came to UC Berkeley to earn an M.L.S. in library science.

Anita spent her life working as a children’s librarian for the public libraries of San Diego and Pasadena. She later was an adult reference librarian at Occidental College (while working on an M.A. in history), Immaculate Heart College, UC Irvine, and the Los Angeles Public Library.

Anita is survived by her loving brother Tim, cousins in England and America, and many friends across the country.

Arthur Stonehill (IH 1959-62)

Arthur was born in New York City in 1931. He began his academic career at Andover, and continued on at Yale, where he earned his B.A. in 1953. He later earned his M.B.A. from Harvard and his Ph.D. from Cal in 1965. It was in June of 1964 that Arthur met Kari Kvam in Oslo, Norway. They moved to Berkeley where Arthur became an assistant professor at UC Berkeley. In 1966, he accepted an offer from Oregon State University in Corvallis in the field of international business and retired in 1990.

Arthur spent his leaves and sabbaticals at the Copenhagen Business School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, before moving permanently to Hawaii with his wife in 1991. He is survived by his wife Kari, and daughter Inger; granddaughter Ivana; daughter Wence, and her companion Ed Pieterick; and son Sverre Kvam.

Stay Connected to I-House!

We welcome your participation on our social networks. Followers receive timely event announcements and the latest I-House news. Visit ihouse.berkeley.edu for more ways to connect with us.
Barry Rees James (IH 1964-65)

Barry Rees James passed away at Saint Luke’s in Duluth, Minnesota on March 31, 2019 with his family by his side. He was born in 1942.

Barry earned his Ph.D. in statistics from Cal in 1971. At Berkeley, he met Kang Ling, the love of his life, whom he married in 1972. The couple went on to teach at the Instituto de Matematica Pura e Aplicada in Rio de Janeiro until 1987, when they both joined the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Barry is survived by his wife, Kang Ling James; sister Sally (Pete) Hassemer; Ta-Yung (Marjorie) Ling; Jane (Bobby) Ling; and Helen (Mike) Ho. Nieces and nephews are Scot Jones, David Jones, Tara James, Amy Hlavacek, Albert Lee, Maggie Kley, Lita Martinez, Benjamin Ling, Alan Ling, Theresa Ling, Mike Ho, and Jill Ling. He leaves behind cherished friends and colleagues.

Clara Chen Liou (IH 1976)

Clara died on November 5, 2018 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, she studied architecture at Cheng Kung University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in 1973 and then attended UC Berkeley for a master’s degree in architecture. She met her husband-to-be at International House. She became a registered architect in California in 1986 and a certified LEED AP BD+C in 2009. Her works include the Bellevue Hotel in Chicago and the Reef Hotel in Guam. Highlights of her East Coast experience include the renovation of Wachovia Main Tower and design of Morrison Place Buildings. Clara is survived by her husband Donald Liou, and two children.

Ellen Spaethling

Ellen died peacefully in her home at the age of 88 on February 23, 2019 surrounded by her family. She married her husband, Robert Spaethling (IH 1952-53), and the couple moved to the East Coast and settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts to raise their three children.

Danielle Marie de Fontaine

Danielle Marie de Fontaine passed away unexpectedly on February 3, 2019, one day after her 81st birthday. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Didier de Fontaine, and their three sons, Stéphane, Michel, and André de Fontaine, their spouses and seven grandchildren. Her passing was marked by an outpouring of grief, admiration, and love from not only her family, but also from numerous friends in the Bay Area and in Europe.

After her marriage, she and Didier traveled extensively and ended up in Berkeley where they lived for 39 years. Danielle became president of the Alliance Française of the East Bay and later formed her own organization, “Les Amis de la Culture Française.” Danielle also was an active member of the UC Berkeley Section Club, eventually becoming its president.

She will be dearly missed and remembered as a beautiful, gracious, and generous woman who enriched the lives of her family and friends.
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 to promote a more peaceful world.

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

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Upcoming Signature I-House Events:

**GLOBAL HOMECOMING 2019**
**Sunday October 20th**
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Berlin Reunion**
November 8, 2019, 6-8 p.m.
Contact us at ihalumni@berkeley.edu

**BIGGIVE**
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**32nd Annual Celebration & Awards Gala**
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE BERKELEY
Spring 2020

**Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and the Passion Play**
July 20 – 30, 2020
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