Love is in the air at I-House! 

On Valentine’s Day 2013, I-House launched a new webpage that features stories of couples and friends who met at I-House. The effort inspired more alumni to share their stories, so we kept the love alive by adding to the page and by featuring couples and friendships on our Facebook page! Here are just a few of these remarkable stories of cross-cultural love and friendship. See more at house.berkeley.edu/love. Contribute your story via email to ihalumni@berkeley.edu. Share the love! ♥

I-House Alumni Couple of the Year 2013
Ambassador Ken Taylor & Dr. Patricia Taylor

“It was about 7 am and we were the only two residents in the dining hall for breakfast...” began Ken Taylor, when reminiscing about meeting his wife of 55 years, Pat, at I-House in October 1958. Ken and Pat were interviewed in April, 2013 as part of I-House’s 25th Celebration and Awards Gala at which they were recognized as I-House Alumni Couple of the Year. “She was getting a PhD in bacteriology plus was a violinist and ballet dancer...” thought there must be three or four of her to be doing so many things,” continued Ken, who at Cal earned his degree in Business at Haas. The couple then embarked on many overseas assignments linked to Ken’s service in his country’s diplomatic corps, while Pat continued her scientific research. The recent Oscar-winning film Argo is a fictionalized account of their real-life heroism in Iran during the 1979 hostage crisis—while Ken was Canadian Ambassador to Iran—harboring American would-be hostages to safety in a Canadian-led rescue.

“The lessons of I-House have been such an important part of our lives since—and of course we wouldn’t have each other if it weren’t for I-House,” says Pat. Their inscription brick on the I-House Café patio (pictured at right) says it all.

Nicola Szbbro & Troy Reinhalter
Nicola, a Canadian, and Troy, an American, met in 2008. They loved hanging out at I-House and attending holiday meals in the Dining Hall, Coffee Hour, formal dances, hiking and attending Cal games with other international students. In August 2012, Nicola and Troy married in San Francisco, where both their families from Vancouver, BC and from Washington, DC traveled for the big event. They attended the April 18th Gala to which they were recognized as I-House Alumni Couple of the Year. “It was about 7 am and we were the only two residents in the dining hall for breakfast...” began Ken Taylor, when reminiscing about meeting his wife of 55 years, Pat, at I-House in October 1958. Ken and Pat were interviewed in April, 2013 as part of I-House’s 25th Celebration and Awards Gala at which they were recognized as I-House Alumni Couple of the Year. “She was getting a PhD in bacteriology plus was a violinist and ballet dancer...” thought there must be three or four of her to be doing so many things,” continued Ken, who at Cal earned his degree in Business at Haas. The couple then embarked on many overseas assignments linked to Ken’s service in his country’s diplomatic corps, while Pat continued her scientific research. The recent Oscar-winning film Argo is a fictionalized account of their real-life heroism in Iran during the 1979 hostage crisis—while Ken was Canadian Ambassador to Iran—harboring American would-be hostages to safety in a Canadian-led rescue.

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Alicia De Bryun & I-House Friends
Alicia writes: “I lived in I-House for only one semester, in Fall 2011, but it was the best semester of my life. I met some of my best friends there, including my roommate, Laura Hertz. This is a picture of all of us on a trip to Lake Tahoe, in a weekend of September 2011. That’s the weekend where we all really got to know each other. Thank you for the amazing times, and my friends across the world!”

Yevgeniy Grechka & Justine Lan
Yevgeniy writes, “It all started in fall 2011. I spotted a beautiful girl dancing in the middle of the room...as fate would have it, the next semester she moved into I-House...Now, Justine studies in Germany for her master’s degree, and although we are half the world away we try to be together as often as possible. International bureaucracy doesn’t make things easy, with me being Russian and her being Indonesian. We have very few countries we can go to where we don’t need visas.

Nonetheless, we’re pulling through, and we owe it all to I-House!”