



## I-House Alumni Spotlight:

### Dr. Marian Diamond (IH 1949-52)

Pioneering Neuroscientist & UC Berkeley  
Professor Emerita of Integrative Biology

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Marian Cleeves Diamond was a pioneering neuroscientist, renowned for proving neuroplasticity. Her work showed for the first time that the brain can change with experience and improve with enrichment, and she passionately advocated for the importance of mental and physical activities that enrich the brain. Diamond's breakthrough transformed approaches to learning and parenting, and sparked global efforts to promote early nurturing and education for children. Additionally, she made history as the first woman ever admitted to UC Berkeley's Department of Anatomy.



She achieved celebrity in 1984 when she examined preserved slices of Einstein's brain, finding that he had more support cells in the brain than average. Her work put a spotlight on this understudied cellular population and paved the way to a new area of neuroscience study — Glial Biology.

As a Professor emerita in Integrative Biology, Marian was loved by all students. For decades she could be seen walking through campus to her anatomy class carrying a flowered hat box containing a preserved human brain. Her YouTube lectures were the second most popular college course in the world in 2010, inspiring generations to come.



Diamond was honored at the 2016 International House Gala, and received the first ever Alumni Faculty award; a much-deserved award for her contributions to the scientific community and her 55 years as a professor at UC Berkeley.

*The ideals and reality of Berkeley's I-House are living proofs of people of all races being together daily in successful harmony. ~ Marian Diamond*



Watch her  
documentary:  
My Love Affair  
with the Brain