The Federal Reserve Speaks at I-House

International House made history on Thursday, April 7, 2016, when, for the first time, all four living Chairs of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank gathered together for a public discussion.

“When the Federal Reserve Speaks…The World Listens,” was a live panel discussion where former Chairs Alan Greenspan, Paul Volcker and Ben Bernanke joined current Chair Janet Yellen in Davis Hall. The capacity audience included residents, alumni, trustees and luminaries from New York’s diverse business communities, and the event received unprecedented media coverage from outlets around the world.

The panel was moderated by CNN international affairs expert and I-House Trustee Fareed Zakaria. The discussion ranged from the pressures faced in making difficult decisions that have global impact, to the values espoused by each Chair in doing so, to how they faced the impact of their decisions.

I-House residents played a special role as the exclusive audience members invited to ask questions of the panelists.

“What is the Fed’s responsibility with regards to minimizing economic turmoil in other countries?” asked Murat Bilgincan, a resident from Turkey studying financial journalism at Columbia University. Alan Greenspan responded, “Even though statutorily and legally we are responsible only for the monetary policy of the United States, it would be foolish to believe that we can act in an isolated manner from the rest of the world...there’s no way that can happen, and especially in recent years where the integration globally has been so extraordinary.”

In addition to being one of the highlights of the residents’ spring programming, this historic event also served as the launch of the Paul A. Volcker Speaker Program, a series of talks on business and economics. Volcker served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for I-House from 1998-2012 and continues to actively serve as an Honorary Trustee.

Event sponsors included Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan Chase and Co., BCG Henderson Institute, Peter G. Peterson, UBS and BNY Mellon. Proceeds from the event will support resident scholarships that will help I-House maintain the socioeconomic and cultural diversity that is so essential to the experience it provides.

“What’s it like to be the Chairman? You’ve got a board, you’ve got a public, you’ve got Reserve Bank presidents…You can’t exactly do what you want without a lot of people being encouraged to agree with you. And some of them sometimes disagree. So it’s not quite so absolute…”

– Paul Volcker

Watch highlights from the Fed Event at www.ihouse-nyc.org/FedEvent
Letters to My Father
James Gorman ’87

James Gorman, Chairman and CEO of Morgan Stanley, and a 1987 alumnus of International House, shared letters he sent home to his father during his first days at International House and in the United States. Gorman cites International House as one of the key influencers that led him to pursue a career in finance. Here are excerpts from his salutation at “When the Federal Reserve Speaks...The World Listens” on April 7, 2016.

On Unique Opportunities

“I was accepted to International House, very lucky to be so, and arrived here on the 7th of September, 1985. It was a hot and humid day. I can still feel it. Like so many other foreign students who lived here, I was tremendously relieved to have such a safe and welcoming community to move to in New York City.

That week I began a tradition of writing a letter to my family in Australia, something I continued for many years after I arrived in the U.S.

My father passed away several months ago. Before he did, he gave me several shoeboxes filled with my letters, each numbered and each kept in their original envelopes.

So I thought just very briefly I would touch on extracts from those letters, a paragraph on each, capturing some of the essence of the life I experienced and was welcomed to in International House...

Read the full transcript of Gorman’s remarks at www.ihouse-nyc.org/Gorman

On Career Advice

I was lucky to be assigned to a trustee as part of the student-trustee link program, with each trustee matched to one student. Mine is Shelby Cullom Davis, a legendary Wall Street banker. Mr. Davis took me to lunch at a fancy club in Midtown New York and at the end of the lunch he turned and pointed at me and he said, “You, son, should pursue a career in finance.”

And so I did.

Thank you, International House, on behalf of myself and so many others who’ve benefited from your welcome, your warmth and your worldliness.
President’s Letter

Calvin Sims
President of International House

Over the past year, I’ve had the pleasure of visiting and hearing from our alumni groups around the world. They plan wonderful events, heartfelt reunions and enriching outings, truly symbolizing I-House as a valuable lifelong experience.

On a visit to Taipei last year, I had lunch with a very enthusiastic group of 30 I-House alumni that included Ya-chin “Catherine” Chang ’90, a leading television news anchor in Taiwan. Catherine was so moved by the reunion that she mentioned I-House to East Africa as he pursues a career as a foreign correspondent. “The financial support made it possible for me to pursue my dream,” he said. “I can’t thank them enough for doing that.”

We all serve as stewards of the great vision of I-House which Harry Edmonds conceived, and was realized through the generosity of the Rockefeller and Dodge families. Each of us can play a role in making sure that the best and brightest families. Each of us can play a role in making sure that the best and brightest students bound for New York to apply. Catherine continues a long tradition of world-class journalists who are affiliated with I-House, including Flora Lewis, the first female foreign affairs columnist for The New York Times.

The environment and programs we offer at I-House add up to much more than just a memorable living arrangement. They cultivate values that our residents will need to meet the ever-changing demands of our globalized world. Learning to navigate numerous cultures while sharing the things you love about your own, and feeling safe, respected and welcomed as you do, is an experience that is more rare than it should be.

I am pleased to report that our alumni community is stepping up and helping us make the I-House opportunity accessible to more bright young people coming from some of the world’s most difficult regions.

For example, the Friends of International House UK (FIHUK) has raised tens of thousands of dollars in financial assistance, which most recently made it possible for students from conflict regions to live at I-House during the 2015-2016 academic year. Keeping true to the spirit of Harry Edmonds, since 2014 this small but dedicated group of UK alumni has organized concerts and fundraising drives to provide access to the safe haven and self-enrichment I-House has always offered international students.

Modupe “Moe” Odele had been working as a lawyer in her native Nigeria when she cofounded Stance Against Rape. In running the fledgling nonprofit, she realized she needed a deeper understanding of human rights laws and issues, and decided to pursue an LL.M. (Masters of Law) in Human Rights at Columbia Law School.

Although Moe received a scholarship from the government of Nigeria, the amount was greatly reduced due to political turmoil in her country.

“We speak of this as a global family,” Moe said. “For the 750 residents and the world around them, this is a unique opportunity to learn and grow and become the great leaders of tomorrow. It’s an opportunity for 750 residents each academic year, but despite their desire to join our extraordinary community, there are many applicants who are unable to accept our offer of admission simply because of the limited means and difficult circumstances they face.

And we hope she, and more of our alumni, will commit to doing so.

Hassan Santur of Somalia recently completed his master’s with Columbia University’s School of Journalism. As an I-House resident, he was able to meet U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, the featured guest at our Winter 2016 Sunday Supper.

“She spoke with us about finding solutions to some of the most vexing problems facing the world today, from terrorism to global pandemics such as the Ebola crisis in West Africa.” It is an experience he has taken back with him to East Africa as he pursues a career as a foreign correspondent. “The financial support made it possible for me to pursue my dream,” he said. “I can’t thank them enough for doing that.”

While I’ve spotlighted FIHUK in this newsletter, there are many other alumni groups that are extraordinary fundraisers, led by Freunde des International House, whose Board recently hosted a Pan-European Alumni Reunion & Annual Meeting, and selected 13 deserving residents for scholarships.

As we approach our centennial year, I invite you to join me in building on our core values, and finding new ways in which we can offer our residents and alumni a lifelong experience. Together, we will continue to ensure I-House is a premier destination not only for the great thought leaders of our time and next generation’s leaders, but the true crossroads of where both of those important perspectives meet, share, and learn from each other.
Join us this fall for an exciting roster of speakers, films and events, including:

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016**
A screening of the documentary *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble*, followed by a discussion with Kinan Azmeh ’04, who is featured in the film.

**Friday, November 4, 2016**
Fall Fiesta – Just as fun and amazing as you remember it!

**Monday, November 14, 2016**
Trustee Adam Quinton moderates a discussion on women and sexism in the tech industry with controversial software engineer Tracy Chou.

*Email alumni@ihouse-nyc.org for info about attending Fall Events. See full calendar at www.ihouse-nyc.org/events.*
Kathy Gallagher de Meij Joins I-House as Vice President of Development, Alumni Relations & Communications

In March 2016, International House welcomed Kathy Gallagher de Meij to its senior leadership team. A skilled fundraising and communications professional with a wealth of global commercial and non-profit experience, Kathy spent the last eight years at The Children's Aid Society, helping build their development and communications efforts, most recently serving as their Senior Director of Development. Prior to that, she founded her own consulting firm which focused on international business development and expansion, and served as Assistant VP of International Membership at National Geographic Society.

“The past eight months have been an absolute whirlwind, starting with the Fed Event followed by our Annual Gala this past Spring, the Freunde Weekend in September,” she shared. “But everyone I’ve met, from Trustees to staff and alumni, are so engaged in the wonderful mission of I-House – it’s exciting and inspiring! I am also increasingly impressed by our extraordinary residents, their discourse and accomplishments. I am so looking forward to working with all of you, and continuing to build the lifelong network that defines I-House.”

Contact Kathy at kgdemeij@ihouse-nyc.org

Trustees Spotlight

Since October 2015, the International House Board of Trustees has elected five new members to its ranks, bringing greater diversity in professions, expertise and national origin as we continue to build toward our upcoming 100th Anniversary.

Mona Aboelnaga Kanaan (Egypt)
A successful serial entrepreneur and investor for more than 25 years, Ms. Aboelnaga Kanaan was named an International House Trustee in June 2016. She is currently the Managing Partner with K-6 Investments, LLC. Ms. Aboelnaga Kanaan also serves on the boards of Siguler Guff Small Business Credit Opportunities Fund, Inc. and the Arab Fashion Council, is Chairperson of ABANA, and a Trustee of The Chapin School. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Golden Seeds, the largest angel investor network in the United States.

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo (United States)
U.S. Ambassador Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Ret., was elected to the International House Board of Trustees in October 2015. She is President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, as well as a Senior Fellow and Lecturer at Yale University’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. A career Foreign Service Officer, she held positions at the U.S. Department of State, National Security Council and the U.S. Information Agency. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Women's Foreign Policy Group and Women in International Security, and serves on the advisory board of Global Cities.

Darren Fogel (United States)
Darren Fogel ’98 was elected to the Board of Trustees in October 2015. Mr. Fogel is Managing Director and a Portfolio Manager with Neuberger Berman, a private investment firm. He also serves on the boards of The Graduate Center at the City University of New York and Blythedale Children's Hospital.

Shubh Saumya (India)
Shubh Saumya ’92 was elected to the Board of Trustees in October 2015. He is Partner and Managing Director at The Boston Consulting Group, focusing on capital markets, risk management and financial regulation. Saumya served on the alumni committee of the 75th anniversary capital campaign and has regularly participated in the annual I-House Professional Interest Night.

Yasushi Takahashi (Japan)
Yasushi Takahashi was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc. as of April 1, 2016, succeeding Mr. Motomu Takahashi. With this transition, and continuing its long-standing relationship with International House, Mr. Takahashi now formally represents Mitsui USA on the International HouseBoard of Trustees. He most recently served as Chairman and CEO of Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd. and Chairman, Mitsui & Co. (N.Z.), Ltd., which is based in Melbourne, Australia.

Contact Kathy at kgdemeij@ihouse-nyc.org

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo with her husband Thomas Graham

Calvin Sims with Yasushi Takahashi of Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.)
Alumni on Broadway

David Hein ’03 and Irene Sankoff ’02

Penned by Sakura Sweethearts, the new musical Come From Away is touring North America, and will debut at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre in February 2017.

Class Notes

Sigrid L. Snell ’52
“International House support made it possible for me so many years ago to continue my studies in International Affairs at NYU and its special program of United Nations studies. It led to lifelong friendships with fellow residents!”

Nelson A. Borelli ’59
Published Psychiatry and Other Enterprises in August 2015.

Deniz Gelenbe ’67
Head of Piano and Keyboard at Trinity-Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance at the Old Royal Naval College, King Charles Court, London, UK.

Meriemil Rodriguez ’67
Serves as a volunteer board member of the International Film Festival of San Juan.

Nimat H. Barazangi ’68
Published Woman’s Identity and Rethinking the Hadith in 2015. Serves as a Research Fellow at Cornell University where she works on Muslim and Arab Women’s Education, Identity Development and Belief System, as well as Feminist and Gender Studies.

Henry J. Drewal ’68
Named the Eunice-Bascom Professor of Art History and Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching African and African Diaspora Art History and Culture.

Dr. Edward “Ed” Gingold ’68
Managing the combined federal campaign at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for an unprecedented 12 years in a row.

Dr. Sally Ross ’72
Retired as professor of the social sciences and currently teaches T’ai Chi Chuan in upstate New York. Her latest book, Adventures for the Heart, appears under her pen name, Sally Rose. She is the great-niece of Harry Edmonds.

Machithol P. Prabhakaran ’78

Eudora Price ’80
Received the Weltmensch Earth People Award for her life’s work in music.

Ross B. Novgrad ’82
Coordinator for the 2015 Jazz Camp at the Community Music School of Springfield in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Dr. Sondra J. Fogel ’83

Mitchell Ross ’83
Principal trombonist for the Oratorio Society of Queens since 1994.

Michele H. Herman ’85 and Jonathan L. Kuhn ’85
In March 2015 Michele and Jonathan celebrated the 25th anniversary of their wedding, which took place at I-House. Since then, they have performed together at famed cabaret Don’t Tell Mama in New York. Jonathan also curated the exhibition Living Landmarks at Central Park’s Arsenal Gallery, and Michele won the Willis Barnstone Translation Prize for her translation of a Jacques Brel song.

Geoffrey L. Tassinari ’85
Serves as chairman of Madagascar Development Partners LLC (MDP), a pioneering venture capital/private equity company investing in the Indian Ocean region.

Ivan Schouker ’87
Elected to the board of the Abraham Path Initiative, a long-distance walking trail across the Middle East, whose mission is to support partners in developing the path as a catalyst for socioeconomic development and empowerment through sustainable ecotourism.

Enrico Borger ’98
Founded the world’s first fashion brand based on wild-growing natural cotton, free of additives and with zero impact on the ecosystem. The brand is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Alexa Fairchild ’03
Appointed local program director for Turnaround Arts: New York City, a White House initiative using the arts to create success in struggling schools. She also serves on the WIL Advisory Council for I-House.

Alumni on Broadway

David Hein ’03 and Irene Sankoff ’02
Penned by Sakura Sweethearts, the new musical Come From Away is touring North America, and will debut at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre in February 2017.
**Rev. Peter Heltzel, Ph.D. ’04**
Appointed to Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Clergy Council which creates a new forum for faith leaders and the administration to work together for a just and sustainable New York City.

**Kathryn L. Janssen ’04**
Married in Sakura Park to Cade Calder on July 23, 2015, with a reception in the I-House Home Room. The wedding was officiated by Peter Heltzel ’04.

**Dr. Him Lal Ghimire ’07**
Awarded a PhD on Pilgrimage Tourism and Lumbini (the birthplace of the Buddha) from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Also received the “Nepal Bidhya Bhusan Padak ‘Ka’” (the top academic award in Nepal) from the Rt. Hon. President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav at a special event in September 2015. Currently serves as the Director of Ullens Education Foundation in Nepal.

**Aagje K. Ieven ’07**
Since January 2016, has served as Secretary General of the European Federation of Associations of Families Affected by Mental Illness.

**Najwan Stephan-Tozy ’08**
Married Bojan Dulabic on July 17, 2015, in British Columbia.

**Almaz Ahmed-Falol ’09**
Named Chair, Eritrean Muslims Council (EMC) for the 2015-2016 term.

**Florian Hoefner ’11**
Received the Stingray Rising Star Award at the Montreal International Jazz Festival in 2015 for his piece Newfound Jig.

**Tim Mank ’11**
Welcomed daughter Emma Catherine Mank with wife Marie on April 3, 2016. Emma weighed in at 6 lbs. 12 oz., and 19.5 inches.

**Timothy McCracken ’11**
Published a book, Dumfriesshire in the Great War, in 2015.

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**Sarah J. Holland-Batt ’12**
Published her second book of poems, The Hazards, in June 2015, featuring works written during her time at I-House.

*Read an excerpt from “The Hazards” at [www.ihouse-nyc.org/Hazards](http://www.ihouse-nyc.org/Hazards)*

**Dimitrios Dogas and Jivan Nagra ’12**
Married on October 1, 2016, in Windsor, Ontario. The happy couple met during an I-House welcome fair in 2010, and have been inseparable ever since.

**Minata Kone ’12**

**Christine Tran ’12**
Received the 2015 Congressional Hunger Center Alumni Leadership Award and is currently a Program Officer with First 5 LA, a leading public grantmaker and early childhood advocacy organization.

**Karl P. Ellerbrock ’13**
Co-curated the exhibition Dante, An Open Book in the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, Weimar, Thuringia, Germany, to celebrate the 750th birthday of the Italian poet.

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**In Memoriam**

- Mary Harriet Turner, ’42
- Herbert J. Schwarz, ’51
- Wilton S. Dillon, ’53
- Carol Harari, ’53,
- Masako Yamatani, ’54
- Enrique J. Bermudez, ’60
- Matilda M. Mendez, ’60
- Clyde W. Brockett, ’63
- Chandra K. Vajpai, ’63
- Dimitris T. Gomez Argyriou, ’67
- Harry M. Rosen, ’70
- Rosalyn E. Reiff, ’71
- Steadman H. Westergaard, ’80
- Rachelle F. Bradt, ’81
- Gillian Kempster, ’04

**Board Leadership**

- Walid Ahmed Juffali
  International Trustee
- Kenneth D. Taylor
  International Trustee

**Share your class notes at alumni@ihouse-nyc.org**

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**Remembering Herman “H.R.” Rottenberg on what would have been his 100th birthday this year.**
Share your memories with us on Facebook!
International House 2016

Awards Gala

More than 200 trustees, residents, alumni and friends joined International House President Calvin Sims at the Rainbow Room in New York City for the International House Awards Gala on June 7, 2016.

Highlights included a heartfelt address by resident Srikar Chinam of India about the impact I-House has had on him.

“My journey at International House has led me to appreciate cultures, different professions, and help me think like a global citizen,” he said.

The evening celebrated three individuals who exemplify excellence in leadership. American Express Chairman and CEO Kenneth Chenault, a former International House Trustee, was presented the Edmonds Award for Global Leadership by Trustee Anthony Spikes ’96. International House Board Chair, Ambassador Frank G. Wisner, presented Japan Society President and former Ambassador and Consul General of Japan, Motoatsu Sakurai, with the Edmonds Award for International Understanding. Longtime International House Trustee Kathleen Burns was presented the Dodge Award for Distinguished Trustee Service by Trustee William Dodge Rueckert.

I-House has been part of Ms. Burns’ world since childhood through stories shared by her late uncle Bill Frohlich, who lived at I-House in the 1930s. He went on to serve on the Board of Trustees and played a key role in the creation of the I-House World Council of Alumni.

A new scholarship for residents was also introduced at the Gala. Named in honor of Kathleen Burns for residents studying healthcare, it will be endowed by Trustee Barbara G. Heyman and her husband Stephen Heyman.

Photos by Julie Skarratt ©2016