



World

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WINTER 2013

New President Challenges Residents to Live the Ideals of International House



Calvin Sims speaks to a packed Sunday Supper crowd.



President Calvin Sims with resident members at the Welcome Reception in his honor.



The new president at his first Board meeting, with Chairman Frank Wisner.

“We ask that you respect and uphold the sanctity of an open and free discourse in a space that values more than anything else the right of all people to live their truth and to express who they are.”

—President Calvin Sims

In his first major address to the International House community, President Calvin Sims urged resident members to take advantage of their many opportunities and to practice the values of mutual respect and open-mindedness that are at the core of the I-House experience.

Sims, three weeks into his new role, reminded the capacity Welcome Sunday Supper audience on September 22nd that residents are surrounded by “astonishing resources” including fellow residents, staff, the facilities and physical environment of I-House.

“You will have chances to expand your horizon, to widen your scope of vision, and to see the world from many perspectives,” he said. “You will be challenged in your thinking like never before; you will be challenged in your interpersonal relations, you will be challenged in your self-critique.”

Sims said that the residents’ decision to be part of a “diverse community of international people” came with special considerations.

“We ask that you come to I-House with an open mind and respect for our conventions of tolerance, understanding, and acceptance,” he said. “We ask that you respect and uphold the sanctity of an open and

free discourse in a space that values more than anything else the right of all people to live their truth and to express who they are.”

Quoting Chinese author Liu Xiaobo, prevented by authorities from personally accepting the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, Sims said it was his belief that “freedom of expression is the foundation of human rights, the source of humanity, and the mother of truth.”

Sims stated that membership at International House also comes with responsibility for its well-being.

“This marvelous building—and the programs, fellowships, and opportunities that come with it—are supported by the generous gifts of those who came before you,” he noted.

Sims, accompanied by his wife Patricia Baptiste and special guests, was introduced by longtime I-House Trustee Kenneth M. Kramer to the audience of more than 300 residents and staff in Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Hall.

It was a highlight of the new president’s first weeks in office. One month after his unanimous election by the Board of Trustees, Sims officially assumed responsibility on September 1st as the new President of International House.

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Four Honored With Service Awards at 2013 International House Gala

Distinguished individuals in four service categories were honored at the 2013 International House Awards Gala which took place June 4th at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City.

More than 200 trustees, alumni and friends attended the black-tie event, which recognized notable individuals who have made significant contributions to cross-cultural understanding and cooperation in the International House community and on a global scale, and raised more than \$428,000 for the Scholarship Fund.

Honored were Shelby M.C. Davis, recipient of the Rockefeller Award for Philanthropic Service; Klaus P. Moessle '85, honored with the Soros Award for Distinguished Alumni Service; Russell S. Reynolds Jr., who received the Dodge Award for Distinguished Trustee Service; and Trustee Fareed Zakaria who received the Harry Edmonds Award for Promoting International Understanding.

In accepting the Rockefeller Award from Trustee Peter M. O'Neill '92, Davis paid tribute to his parents, the late Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis '32.

“I got the business genes from my father and the humanitarian genes from my mother,” said Davis. “Both of them believed that part of education growing up was travel. Little did I know that many of the people we met on international trips were from International House.”

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Gala Honorees Shelby M.C. Davis, Russell S. Reynolds Jr., Fareed Zakaria and Klaus Moessle '85 in the St. Regis ballroom.

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Office of Development & Alumni
Relations
500 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10027

STAFF

John A. Wells
*Director of Development & Alumni
Relations*

Daniel Blakemore
*Assistant Director of Development for
Individual Giving*

LaTrinnia Braxton
Database Manager

Nicole Davidson
*Assistant Director of Development;
Director of Alumni Programs*

Philip Greven
*Assistant Director of Development for
Institutional Giving*

Carey Tan
Development Coordinator

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michael Dames
Erica Fugger
Heather Liebensohn
Alfred Miller
Yasmin Nooreddin

TO REACH US

Phone: 212-316-8423
Fax: 212-316-8416
Email: alumni@ihouse-nyc.org

Phone: 212-316-8438
Fax: 212-316-1827
Email: programs@ihouse-nyc.org

Phone: 212-316-8436
Fax: 212-316-1827
Email: admissions@ihouse-nyc.org

Guest Suite Accommodations
Phone: 212-316-8436

Public Room Rentals
Phone: 212-316-8465

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is truly an honor and a privilege to be leading International House into its ninth decade of promoting cross-cultural understanding and preparing leaders for the global community. I look forward to working with the entire I-House community – residents, alumni, trustees, staff and friends—to assure that this dynamic institution remains as relevant and attractive as when it opened in 1924.

As you surely know, to get the most out of the I-House experience, our residents must come with open minds and respect for our convention of tolerance, understanding and acceptance. In the safety of our international community, open and free discourse can occur, which when paired with our dynamic programs, unique living arrangements, and leadership activities, cultivates the cross-cultural perspectives needed to confront the world's most pressing issues.

In this issue of the *World Newsletter*, you'll get to read about and see all of the exciting things that have been happening here at the House and around the world with our friends, alumni and supporters in the last few months. Whether it's the 25th anniversary of our German alumni chapter, the accomplishments of our most recent class of Davis Peace Project grantees, or recognition of the impressive 2013 Awards Gala honorees, all of these activities strengthen what I have already found to be a particularly strong institution.

As we prepare to enter our 90th year, I am committed to maintaining the impactful programs and services that we provide, while also raising greater public awareness of our community and our work, increasing our technological capabilities across the institution, and continuing to add value to the resident experience.

Since joining the International House community as President & CEO on September 1, the warm reception that my wife Patricia and I have received has been a testament to the caliber of people, like you, who I hope will help us steer this institution into its next chapter of excellence.

May Brotherhood Prevail,

Calvin Sims

2013 Davis Peace Projects Focus on Environmental Change as Key to Lasting Peace in Rural Cambodia and Rio de Janeiro



Tabea Weitz with children and their sunflower solar art projects during her Peace Project.



Amanda Bradshaw works in the garden and green space for her Peace Project.

The Davis Projects for Peace Program provides grantees with the opportunity to apply their own personal definition to the word peace. Two of last summer's I-House New York projects did so through the prism of environmental action.

Tabea Weitz and Lukas Schepp, both from Germany, helped bring solar energy to rural areas of Cambodia that had no access to the national power grid and Amanda Bradshaw, originally from the United States, created a community garden and "green space" in one of Rio de Janeiro's most infamous *favelas*.

Weitz and Schepp's goal was to employ solar energy to autonomously and sustainably improve the circumstances of the selected Cambodian communities by creating electricity locally. To reach the widest audience, they held educational sessions for children in the mornings, exposing more than 1,500 to programming about solar energy, and informational events for adults in the evenings that reached more than 1,300 individuals. They also installed solar powered electricity in the public spaces of 12 villages.

The children created art projects incorporating tiny solar panels and were shown the vast potential of power from the sun as they made flying airplanes out of old soda bottles. In the villages, the central pagodas, around which rural life revolves, were outfitted with solar panels to provide continuous and uninterrupted power for the very first time. Both the children and adults came away with a new understanding of solar possibilities.

The benefits of the project will continue into the future. Their partner NGO PicoSol will return to each village to check the function of the solar power units. They will also provide two days of training to local "entrepreneurs" on how to install and maintain the systems. Using local people to continue the effort is important as outsiders are

often viewed with suspicion in these agricultural communities.

The community garden and green space that Amanda Bradshaw's peace project built contributed to peace in the short term by reclaiming a neglected lot for the community and making it usable once again, but more broadly by helping to counteract the deeply embedded process of social exclusion which exacerbates the patterns of violence and public insecurity faced by the people living in the *favelas*.

While overcoming many obstacles, both physical and cultural, Bradshaw was pleased to see how much of the community rallied around the project. Many local people joined the effort and those living directly around the space volunteered to act as caretakers. The dedicated teamwork produced not only a community garden to grow vegetables, but also demonstrated the power and effectiveness of community organization.

In reflecting on her project, Bradshaw also noted an even larger impact on perception. By partnering with both local NGOs and the municipal authorities to complete her project, the community gained newfound respect for the local government as they saw firsthand the benefits of public-private partnerships. Additionally, Bradshaw feels that the fact that this peace project was organized and implemented by a woman changed the perspectives of many participants about the ability and potential of female leadership.

By relating the concept of peace to the environment, both of these projects brought concrete benefits to the populations they served.

Other I-House New York Peace Projects took place this summer in Pakistan, Ghana, South Africa, Bolivia, Haiti, Colombia and Burma/Myanmar. To read more about these projects, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/p4p2013.

Tesler, Whitehead Corporate Visitor, Emphasizes Self-Confidence, Teamwork



Marianne Tesler with resident members before her talk.

Marianne Tesler, CEO of Art Partner Inc. and International House's October 1st Whitehead Corporate Visitor, is not the type of person to shy away from a tough challenge. While introducing her to the audience of mostly I-House residents, Trustee and longtime friend Peter O'Neill '92 illustrated this aspect of her personality by recalling a time they went whitewater rafting together—despite the fact that she didn't know how to swim.

This "must be why she is such a good CEO," said O'Neill: "She's willing to try new things, even if it's scary."

That willingness, Tesler went on to explain, has played a large role in her rise through the corporate ranks to lead several global brands in various industries.

For example, she told the audience that when she began her career as a market researcher at a company in her native France, she quickly had to confront the difficulties that came with being a young female in a workplace dominated by senior male colleagues. After being disrespected by one such colleague on multiple occasions, she finally took a stand and walked out of the room on him.

"It was a defining moment," she recalled. "Even at that moment, I knew that if I found someone who made me think I was not as good as I was, I could not accept it." It was a lesson that she encouraged the audience to internalize.

"You have to be confident in yourself. You have to know what you are strong in, and if someone makes you believe that you are not as good as that, I always say, 'Too bad for you!'" She added, "If you can, surround yourself with people who you aspire to be, and who trust you and believe in you."

While stressing the importance of believing in oneself,

Tesler also encouraged the audience to recognize the importance of humility and of reaching out to others for help, particularly when immersed in a risky or unfamiliar environment. When a new job as Controller at American manufacturer Whirlpool required her to move to the American Midwest, she faced a constant stream of unfamiliar situations.

"It was humbling," she said, "and I learned a lot about culture – about respecting culture." Recognizing that the I-House residents in her audience were likely facing similar challenges in adapting to foreign environments, she offered some advice: "Just be aware—be open to—the culture, and listen and be appreciative."

After working her way up to the position of Vice President of Supply Chain for Whirlpool Europe, Tesler – who is an avid marathon runner, mountain climber, and all-around sports fan – switched gears again and accepted the position of CEO of Nike France. She was the first woman to lead the company.

Four years after joining Nike, Tesler decided to tackle a rather different industry – high fashion – by becoming the CEO of Givenchy. She recalled the excitement and nervousness she felt at the time.

"I love fashion, but I came from sports," she explained. "Imagine the people doing haute couture, looking at me coming from sports!" She was all too aware of her outsider status in the industry, but she dove in headfirst anyway. "It was another defining moment," she reflected. Her perseverance further cemented her belief that when faced with such an unfamiliar or risky challenge, one should "always think, 'What's the worst that can happen?'"

"When you have this in yourself, you really feel free," Tesler explained.

She soon discovered that her favorite part of working in the fashion industry was "getting to work with incredible talent." Her enduring passion for working with creative people, she explained, is what eventually led her to her current role as CEO of Art Partner Inc., the fashion industry's leading artists management and creative content agency.

"I'm extremely happy in this new position," she declared with a smile. She called out some of her creative colleagues in the audience and stressed the importance of her strong relationships with them.

"You need to surround yourself with great people," she advised. "I think you need to surround yourself with people who are better than you. [...] Every time you do that, they bring you to another level."

Bayer HealthCare Renews Sponsorship of WIL Program

Bayer HealthCare, based in New Jersey, has generously recommitted to a third \$50,000 grant for lead sponsorship of the Women's International Leadership (WIL) Program in the 2013-2014 academic year.

In addition to financial support, Bayer HealthCare will continue to collaborate with International House on the programming for WIL including the direct involvement of a number of its employees and executives.

Executive Vice President Tricia McKernan has remained on the WIL Advisory Council and has offered to act as a mentor. WIL grantees were invited to attend Bayer HealthCare's Women's Leadership Initiative's national event where I-House Trustee Sharda Cherwo served as a guest panelist.

Other Bayer employees will return to the House in the spring to offer their personal branding seminar which will be open to the entire community. Additional visits to the Bayer corporate campus and expanded networking opportunities for the grantees are currently being scheduled.

"International House is indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic partner as Bayer HealthCare," said I-House President Calvin Sims. "The WIL Program is a vital component in our effort to foster intercultural respect, understanding, lifelong friendships and leadership skills for the promotion of a more tolerant and peaceful world."



Pooja Merchant '10 and Tricia McKernan from Bayer HealthCare.

Climate Change in Cities Topic of Andy Darrell's Meet Your Trustee Program



I-House Programs Committee Chair Andy Darrell spoke to residents at the Meet Your Trustee Program on October 7th. Darrell, Chief of Strategy, Energy and New York Regional Director at the Environmental Defense Fund, talked about how climate change, especially the rising sea level and increased hurricane activity, is impacting cities. He cited examples of success in combating climate change, such as in New York City, where government, business and engineers have worked together to upgrade buildings to cleaner fuel leading to a 69 percent drop in sulfur emissions over a four-year period.

New President Challenges Residents to Live Ideals of International House

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After the announcement of his appointment on August 1st, Sims, a former *New York Times* correspondent, participated in a series of transition meetings with outgoing President Donald L. Cuneo, office directors and key staff while wrapping up his six-year stint as a program officer at the Ford Foundation.

At Ford, Sims focused on the development of a free and responsible press worldwide. His work helped foster new and innovative models of reporting, disseminating and financing news, with a concentration on social justice issues, diversity of voices, standards and ethics, and press freedoms.

During his time at *The New York Times*, Sims was a director, producer and foreign correspondent and played a central role in the newspaper's expansion into television, documentaries and the Web. He anchored the *Times's* nightly television news program, hosted a weekly podcast on foreign affairs and produced an acclaimed documentary for PBS on the rise of radical Islam in Indonesia. As a foreign correspondent, he was based in Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Seoul and Jakarta.

A native of California, Sims is a 1985 graduate of Yale University and has held the Edward R. Murrow Press Fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations and the Ferris Professorship of Journalism at Princeton University.

Sims's international experience has included conducting workshops and cultural exchange programs for journalists in Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of an effort by American University and the U.S. State Department to resolve historical conflicts. He speaks Spanish and conversational Japanese.

At the time of his appointment, Sims said he looked forward to working with the Board and staff to ensure that I-House continues to fulfill its mission.

"I am honored to join this esteemed institution which for nearly 90 years has stood as a beacon of international harmony and understanding, proving that humanity can surpass the barriers of race, nationality, color, culture, and traditions that have so long divided the world," he said.

ALUMNI THROUGH THE DECADES

1950s

Ophelia Hicks '53 was honored recently as a Silver Soror for 25 years of dedicated service to Alpha Kappa Alpha.

1960s

John Dartigue '64 co-authored a book with and about his late mother **Esther Dartigue '35** titled *Forging Ahead: Recollections of the Life and Times of Esther Dartigue*. It serves as a companion piece to her 1994 book about her late husband **Maurice Dartigue '31**, *An Outstanding Haitian, Maurice Dartigue*.

Helen Benham Kim '65 is a retired professor of music at Brookdale Community College. She continues to work as a pianist and performs frequently at assisted living centers and nursing homes. She and her husband, **Samuel Kim '63**, have an adult daughter.

Shizue Matsuda '65 has retired from Indiana University Libraries after 14 years as Asian collections librarian.

George Leeson '69 is the president and owner of Image Conscious, a San Francisco-based publisher and wholesale distributor of open-edition fine art.

1970s

Saeko Ichinohe '71 is the founder and artistic director of the Saeko Ichinohe Dance Company, which just celebrated its 35th anniversary.

Rafael Martinez-Margarida '71 was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of OFG Bancorp, a financial holding company headquartered in Puerto Rico.

Karel Vosskuhler '72 has ended his career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. He last served as Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Anthony R. Watson '73 is a designer at BMH Architects in Wilmington, NC. He also serves as pastor at Mt. Olive AME Church.

1980s

Margalit Fox '80 is author of *Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code and the Uncovering of a Lost Civilization* (Ecco Press, May 2013).

Paul Brantley '83's PSALM 89 was premiered on November 10th by the UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus with organist Jonathan Dimmock.

Gini Sikes '83 is a writer and producer for the film *Equal Means Equal*, about the state of women's rights around the world.

Regina Helcher Yost '86 performed as a flutist with Chamber Music Charleston in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on May 22nd to a nearly sold out audience.

Benedict Sannoh '87, the former head of the human rights section of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, was appointed Liberia's Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs on May 1, 2012.

Emma Marcegaglia '89 is president of Business Europe, the region's largest lobbying association.

Alwyn Scott '89, a 2010 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, is editor of aerospace, airlines and defense for Reuters.

Cezary Stypulkowski '89 is CEO of BRE Bank and co-chairman of the Emerging Markets Advisory Council of the Institute of International Finance in Washington, DC.

1990s



Philip Eisenbeiss '90 first book, *Bel Canto Bully – The Life and Times of the Legendary Opera Impresario Domenico Barbaja*, has been published by Haus Publishing of London with a companion CD issued by Naxos Music.

Jesco von Kistowski '90 has been managing director at EconGas GmbH, based in Austria, since August 2006. He is an expert in liberalised energy markets.

Jamie Linton '91 has been appointed Professeur Invité at Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense at the Academy of Versailles.

Laura Culberson Knapp '93 joined Benjamin Historic Certifications, where she works on historic preservation projects in the Chicagoland area.

Pietrojan Gilardini '93 is managing director of Nur Energie Italia and CFO of Nur Energie Limited, a solar power plant developer focused on the Mediterranean.

Philip Apostol '94 '00 is the founder of Green Frog Transport Corp., which aims to transform public transportation in Metro Manila through its eco-friendly, hybrid diesel-electric bus system.

Sergei Mikhelson '94 '00 has been promoted to math department head at Little Red School House in New York City.

Martin Boer '96 has been named secretary general of the European Financial Services Round Table (EFR), a Brussels-based industry organization representing the largest banks and insurance companies in Europe.

Bonnie Horbach '96 is now the Netherlands' consul general in Cape Town, South Africa.

Alice Rhee '96 was hired by *The Washington Post* in April as senior producer of shows.



Sarah Perry '96 and husband **David Humphrey** welcomed son **Spencer Nicholas** in September.

She previously spent more than 15 years at NBC News and MSNBC, most recently working in tandem with chief foreign affairs correspondent **Andrea Mitchell**.

Kiran Desai '98 was awarded the 2013 Holtzbrinck Berlin Prize by the American Academy in Berlin as well as a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.



Alma "Lorena" Barreno-Zertuche '98 and **Michael Zertuche**, as well as their daughter **Isabella** (age 4) welcomed **Marc Alexander Zertuche** (8 lbs, 21") on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013.

2000s

Adrian Relu Coman '00 directs The Arcus Foundation's international human rights program for the development of a global movement around sexual orientation and gender identity.

Saifuddin Bantasyam '02 is Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies at the Syiah Kuala University (UNSYIAH) in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

Sanja Miliwojevic '02 is a lecturer in criminology at University of New South Wales, School of Social Sciences.

Stephanie Grancharov '03 married **Donald Ainscow** on June 1, 2013.

Sam Quiah '03 is currently working for the Center for Education Research and Evaluation at Columbia University Medical Center.



Luc Jansen '04 '07 married **Jennifer Kim** in Montlouis-sur-Loire, France this summer. Several I-House friends were on hand to help them celebrate including **Nizan Geslevich Packin '07** and **Bert Denolf '07** (pictured here with the couple), as well as **Craig Beaumont '04** (not pictured).

George Mathew '04 is featured in the documentary film *Following the Ninth*.

Katia Tiutiunnik '04's work "Jehanne" for soprano and viola was included in the Asian Composers League Festival 2013 program.

Freya Baetens '06 completed her Ph.D. in law at Cambridge University in 2009 and is now associate professor of law and director of studies (LUC The Hague) at Leiden University in The Netherlands and visiting professor at the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Berne, Switzerland.

James Makor '06 has served as Executive Director of Save My Future Foundation since 2003.

Emily Duffill '05 and **Kaju Lee '05** (known as Duo Element) have released their first album, entitled *100 Years of Music for Cello & Piano*. It is currently available on Amazon and CDBaby.



Joey Silayan '06 and his wife **Marj Salanga-Silayan** welcomed their first daughter, **Murielle Felicity**, into the world on February 26th.

Pascal Archer '07 is the artistic director and founder of Exponential Ensemble, a chamber music ensemble influenced by music and mathematics. In its 2012-2013 season, the ensemble completed its first international tour to Santo Domingo, where they gave music and math lessons to elementary school students, performed an educational concert, gave free masterclasses, appeared on Dominican television, and performed at the National Theater.

2010s

Agnes Atim '10 is the founder of Hope Development Initiative (HDI), a humanitarian and development organization that advocates for women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa. Agnes is also working on her Ph.D. in International Development at the University of Reading.

Colette Lespinasse '10 received the 2012 Richard C. Holbrooke Award from Refugees International for her work as Coordinator of the Support Group for Repatriates and Refugees (GARR).

Glenda Muzenda '10 is currently a Ph.D. student in Sociology at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa, researching sexuality and the role of agency among young women in South Africa.

Simon Hanukai '11 is currently directing *Don't Be Sad, Flying Ace!*, a multidisciplinary performance developed in collaboration with climate scientists from Columbia University's Earth Institute. Simon is also creating/directing *The Fall*, a multimedia theater performance co-written by **Saviana Stanescu '04** which examines the world's relationship to the moment of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Scott Hartley '11 was named a presidential innovation fellow by the Obama Administration in June 2013. He is working with the Office of Social Innovation, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House, and USAID's Development Innovation Ventures to bring Silicon Valley innovation models to different US Federal Agencies in Washington, with a focus on tiered funding and evidence-based approaches.

Elvis Mbembe Binda '11 was named one of this year's "Top 99 under 33 Foreign Policy Leaders" by *Diplomatic Courier Magazine* and *Young Professionals in Foreign Policy*. He earned this distinction for (among other things) his work as president and co-founder of Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (IPHR), a Rwanda-based NGO.

Salima Namusobya '11 is founding executive director of the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights.

Ayanna Witter-Johnson '11 is currently performing with Anoushka Shankar on her world tour. Dates at www.ayannamusic.com.

Javor Bracic '12 played a solo recital at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall on October 22. The concert was a result of his first place

win in last year's New York Concert Artists Competition.

Ozge Dogan '12 is the creator of *The Sacred*, a 2012 documentary film about Downtown Manhattan's "Little Syria" neighborhood and its residents, available at <http://vimeo.com/53138485>.

Bryan Wagorn '12 will serve as assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera this winter for its production of *Falstaff* with James Levine.

Kemal Pervanic '12 is a producer and subject of *Pretty Village*, a documentary feature film about the 1992 massacre of Bosniaks in his home village of Kevljani, which examines his and other survivors' ongoing struggle to rebuild their lives and search for still-missing victims. More information and a trailer at www.indiegogo.com/projects/pretty-village.

David Ragazzoni '12 completed his Ph.D. in Political Theory at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy in July 2013. He is currently in the midst of a one year, post-doc research program funded by the Einaudi Foundation.

Sabrina Mahtani '13 has been selected as a 2013-14 Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School.

Emily Joy Sullivan '13 is starting a new youth choir in New York City, a continuation of her South Africa-based Davis Project for Peace, Common Chords, in affiliation with Queens Community House. She plans to then build a partnership between Common Chords and Ubuntu, the I-House choir she started three years ago.



It was a hot summer day when **Helena Dona '10** arrived in New York City from Colombia. Feeling a bit down and missing her family, she decided to attend that evening's ice cream social on the Abby O'Neill Patio. While sitting with another girl from Colombia, Australian resident **Mitch Hayes '10** and another friend approached and asked if they could join them. They agreed and engaged in conversation. Time passed and everyone had left the patio except for Mitch and Helena. Three years later, they returned to that same table where Mitch asked Helena to marry him. She enthusiastically said "yes!" Pictured here are Helena and Mitch shortly after the proposal in August.

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Soros '51, Shipping Magnate and Benefactor, Dies at 87



Paul Soros '51, whose life story encompassed Nazi and Soviet persecution, athletic feats, phenomenal business success and a legacy of personal philanthropy, died on June 15th at his Manhattan home. Soros, who with his wife Daisy was one of International House's most significant benefactors, transformed the international port-building industry in the second half of the 20th century. Together, they have been patrons of major New York cultural institutions, such as the New York Philharmonic.

A native of Hungary, Soros survived the Nazi invasion of Budapest in 1944 and escaped Soviet captivity a year later. The country's number two tennis player, he defected in 1948 to the west, subsequently enrolled at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and moved into International House where he met Daisy in February, 1950. They married the following year. He later founded Soros Associates, which became a leading international provider of port planning, engineering and installations.

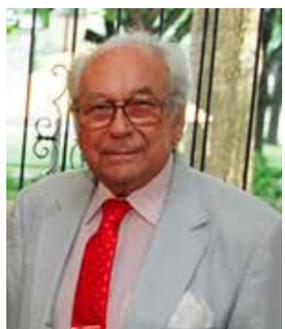
Paul Soros strongly supported Daisy Soros in her role as I-House Trustee beginning in 1981, and the two co-chaired the House's successful 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign in 1999-2003. At the 2003 Candlelight Sunday Supper, then-Chairman Paul A. Volcker said Daisy and Paul Soros "have distinguished themselves with their contributions to the civic and cultural life of New York City, and their lives have been characterized by their generosity to others in New York and beyond."

"From the summertime dancing on the plaza at Lincoln Center, to providing fellowships to talented new Americans, to name just two significant endeavors, they have enhanced the quality of our lives, and provided priceless opportunities for young people to achieve their full potential," said Volcker.

In recognition of their leading the Anniversary Campaign, which raised more than \$21 million, and their generous support through the years, the Mural Room was refurbished and named in their honor in 2005. Upon Paul's death, the family asked that contributions be made in his memory to International House, resulting in more than \$10,000 in memorial gifts.

Soros was remembered at a memorial service at Alice Tully Hall on June 26 by speakers including sons Peter and Jeffrey, grandchildren, and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. I-House Chairman Frank G. Wisner and President Don Cuneo, in a notice in The New York Times, paid tribute to his "his brilliance, character and generosity."

World Council Member Gustav Szabo '51 Passes Away at 92



Dr. Gustav Szabo '51 died peacefully in his sleep at his residence in New York City on October 2nd.

A native of Budapest, Szabo became the youngest individual at age 18 to have a seat on the Budapest Stock exchange, succeeding his father upon his death in 1939. After graduating from the Business School at the University of Budapest, he arrived at Ellis Island on Valentine's Day, 1949.

Fluent in four languages, Szabo attended Columbia University where he received his Ph.D. in Economics. It was while there that he lived at International House where, his family said, he formed many of his lifelong friendships. At the time of his death he was a Life Member of the World Council of Alumni, and for decades attended alumni events and programs at the House, often in the company of his contemporary **Zlata Paces '52**.

Szabo founded Progress Unlimited Inc. and Live Leads Corporation. He was also an interpreter for the U.S. State Department and introduced invited Hungarian groups to his adopted home. "Full of life and love," his family wrote in a New York Times notice, "he was always happy skiing or swimming, playing tennis or bridge, reading and traveling or just talking with old friends and family being sure to always end with a funny story or anecdote."

A memorial service was held October 7th in Manhattan. Szabo is survived by his three children, Pia and Thomas from New York City and Paul from Mamaroneck, NY.

Former Staff

Grace Cullen, 91, who worked as a receptionist and switchboard operator at Claremont Reception from 1960 until her retirement in 1986, died September 3, 2013, in Latham, NY. "Gracie" was fondly remembered by more than one generation of I-House residents, many of whom stayed in touch with her after her retirement.

Michael H. Cook, Technology Manager from 1995 until 2010, died October 19, 2013, in Westminster, CO, where he had retired with his wife, at age 69. Mike, whose earlier career had been in telecommunications, helped usher I-House into the Internet age, and assisted many residents with telephone and computer issues.

Alumni

Harriet T. Daams '40
Ravenna, OH

Joe W. Neal '42
Austin, TX

Ruth S. Phelps '44
Durham, NC

Mary J. Klopp '48
Waynesville, NC

Adeline T. Magol '50
Morristown, NJ

Florence Nightingale '53
Toronto, ON, Canada

Naomi S. Denenberg '54
Radnor, PA

William McNie '64
East Lothian, United Kingdom

Enrique Cury '70
Santiago, Chile

Friends

Anna Mapp
New York, NY

As this issue of the *World Newsletter* was going to press, International House learned of the passing of Life Trustee, longtime benefactor and friend Herman "HR" Rottenberg. HR died at the age of 97 on November 4th. Full coverage of HR's life and death will appear in the Spring issue of the Newsletter. A memorial service will be held on February 8th at 2:30 pm at International House. Details will be emailed to the alumni community. To share your memories of HR, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/lbrc.

Art Connects and Inspires New York Area Alumni on Lower East Side Gallery Tour



Alumni listen intently at the NYAAC Lower East Side Art Tour.

Wonderful," "inspiring," and "terrific" were just a few of the words used by I-House alumni to describe the October 14th New

York Area Alumni Chapter (NYAAC) walking tour of Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Led by Caroline Sodenkamp and Jo-Anneke Van Der Molen of the boutique art tour company Artigo Tours, the two and a half hour walk introduced 32 alumni and guests to the hugely diverse array of art on display in the ever-changing neighborhood.

The Lower East Side art district is relatively newer and not yet as well-known to outsiders as those of SoHo and

Chelsea, but it has boomed in recent years and (as the tour's attendees discovered) is now packed with world-class galleries

and exciting exhibitions. From detailed, fantastical paintings of post-apocalyptic New York City to conceptual video art, the wide variety of works on view made it possible for each tour attendee to find plenty of art to suit his or her taste.

The tour was far more than just a survey of current exhibitions, however. Van Der Molen and Sodenkamp took time at each of the nine stops to give in-depth explanations of the artists' backgrounds, their artistic approaches, their influences, and the galleries that promote them. They even made arrangements for the group to meet personally with several of the galleries' owners and curators, who provided additional, behind-the-scenes information on the artworks and the art industry.

"I enjoyed the wide range of media and

artistic styles that we saw on the tour," reflected attendee Annie Wang. "Our tour guides, Jo-Anneke and Caroline, were both knowledgeable and added valuable insight to the presentations of the gallery representatives."

Eager to continue the discussion, some of the tour attendees decamped with Van Der Molen and Sodenkamp afterward to a nearby beer garden, where they made new friends and chatted about their favorite discoveries of the afternoon.

"The fellowship with I-House alumni and the tour group leaders afterwards was really very special," said attendee **Katherine Hendry '69**, adding that she is already looking forward to the next NYAAC event with Artigo Tours.

Freunde Returns to Berlin for Pan-European Alumni Reunion



Alumni in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin during the 25th Anniversary Pan-European Reunion and Annual Meeting in September.

It was a record-breaking last weekend of September in Berlin. Wilson Kipsang set a new world record in winning the Berlin Marathon, and for the first time in recent memory the Freunde Pan-European Alumni Reunion and Annual Meeting was sold-out.

In total, over fifty alumni and guests from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, the United Kingdom and even the United States along with alumni from across Germany, joined their Berlin counterparts for a packed weekend of sight-seeing, reminiscing, friendship and learning.

The weekend began with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to tour the Federal Chancellery, arranged by Heidi Seltmann '03. Later that evening, a large crowd gathered at the famed Brauhaus Lemke for traditional German fare and beer.

The following day, Freunde got down to business at its Annual Meeting. Following a welcome by Freunde President Astrid Nierhoff '05, Director of Alumni Programs Nicole Davidson gave an update on life at I-House.

She also read a message from new I-House President Calvin Sims, in which he thanked Freunde for their ongoing support of scholarships for residents and networking among alumni.

Said Sims, "as alumni, you are part of the I-House legacy both because you embody the House's mission and because you help extend the House's reach by bringing what you learned at the House back to your families, your work places, your local communities and countries. I look forward to working with and learning from you in the months and years to come."

Freunde's Treasurer Gloria Pfaue '99 gave her report, announcing that twenty-nine donors made gifts ranging from 15€5,000€ in the prior year, resulting in a gift to I-House of \$14,800 including a \$3,300 gift from Frontiers Management Consulting for its two named scholarships.

She noted that "Freunde has always been an open community," where everyone can participate and stressed the importance of the membership program as a means to encourage donors to give every year.

In a lively discussion, Freunde designated \$11,500 in scholarships to ten new and returning residents from Germany, Romania, South Africa, India, Colombia, Pakistan, Panama and Malaysia, who have been active in the I-House community or show the propensity to be so.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Freunde, the idea of which was born at the 1986 World Council of Alumni Meeting in Berlin. Three of the original founders, Eckhart Gouras '87, Christian Trillhaas '87 and Klaus Moessle '85, the chapter's longtime former president, were in attendance at this year's Annual Meeting.

Moessle provided some history on how the chapter was founded, noting that from the beginning, its primary goal had been networking among alumni.

"The strength of this group is its diversity," he said, before imploring those in attendance to continue the work of Freunde. "You carry the torch now. Do it as long as you can."

Astrid Nierhoff reviewed Freunde's other activities over the past year including two local events, one in Frankfurt organized by Pfaue and original Freunde member Andreas Huebner '86 and one in Berlin, organized by Deputy Frauke Thielecke '03.

Freunde, she said, hopes to continue these smaller local events and stressed that the alumni in attendance are "our advocates" and can help encourage other alumni to "get back into the community," whether it be through attending an event, or making a gift.

That afternoon, despite street closures due to the Marathon, alumni navigated their way through some of Berlin's most historic and culturally important sites including the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Luftwaffe Headquarters and the Topography of Terror on a guided city tour.

In truly international fashion, alumni later gathered for dinner at the Long March Canteen, an Asian fusion tapas restaurant. Over dumplings, edamame, sticky buns and sashimi, alumni discussed corporate governance, Berlin's neighborhoods and culture, their families, and of course, their time at International House.

"What I love about Freunde," said President Nierhoff is that it is all "about human relations and the human experience."

The following day after a relaxing brunch, alumni received an introduction to Anish Kapoor, the Indian-born British sculptor, from Frauke Thielecke, the weekend's primary organizer. Armed with a thorough background on the artist, participants toured an exhibit of his massive work in wax, mirrors and cloth at the Martin-Gropius-Bau.

As alumni made their way to trains and planes home, others stayed on to enjoy each other's company over coffee and sweets in the Museum's café before saying goodbye.

Freunde plans to host next year's reunion in London. If you would like to get involved in the organization, please contact Nicole Davidson at ndavidson@ihouse-nyc.org.

1980-85 Reunion Brings Back Former Residents from Around the World



Erika Howard '86, Patricia Hamzahee '83 and Mami Urano '87.



Alumni following the Candlelight Saturday Supper during the Reunion.



Betty Wong '82 and speaker Dirk Vandewalle '82.

Traveling from as far as Bolivia, Singapore and Iceland and as near as Claremont Avenue, alumni returned to International House June 14-16 for the 1980-1985 Alumni Reunion.

The weekend kicked off officially on June 14th at a welcome reception with retiring president Don Cuneo '69, who expressed joy at seeing alumni hug and squeal on seeing each other for the first time in thirty years.

"It is as if we haven't seen each other in two weeks, not 25-30 years," noted David Tyler '84, who had travelled from Southern California for the reunion. "The sense of oneness and sharing is amazing."

Cuneo thanked the Reunion co-chairs, Erika Howard '86, Patricia Hamzahee '83 and Mami Urano '87, all of whom had travelled from the United Kingdom, for their work in putting the reunion together.

Following cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, alumni moved into the Home Room for a sentimental slide show. Set to 1980s music, alumni exclaimed in delight (and sometimes in horror) as images of themselves and their friends flashed before them.

As the lights came up, conversations about whatever happened to so-and-so continued as alumni made their way to the pub for a party deejayed by Majed Halawi '85.

The following day under beautifully sunny skies, alumni relaxed on the Abby O'Neill Patio for a picnic.

"I think the phrase over the doors to the O'Neill Patio says a lot: 'That Brotherhood May Prevail,'" said Tyler. "By

becoming brothers and sisters as I-House residents—as youths on the cusp of adulthood—I-House gave us the chance to carry forward this brotherhood, not just as individuals, but as citizens of the world."

That evening, the festivities took a more formal turn at the Saturday Supper. Alumni enjoyed a three-course meal and a talk by one of their own, Dartmouth College Professor Dirk Vandewalle '82, who led the team that created the Libyan assessment document for the UN Secretary-General during the Arab Spring.

After describing his work at the UN, Vandewalle said he is optimistic about Libya's future, and while acknowledging ongoing problems with militias and a weak government, cautioned alumni to not believe everything that is reported.

"If you look very carefully, and from the perspective of my specialty, which is how state institutions get built over a long time, Libya has done remarkably much better than we could have anticipated," he said.

Vandewalle said that despite its problems, within 10 months of the removal of Qaddafi, Libya conducted national elections judged fair "by just about any organization," is moving toward a constitution, incorporating the militias into the state, and is a country where "the bureaucracies of the state are starting to work."

As the evening concluded co-Chair Hamzahee thanked everyone for attending from near and far, noting that "whatever that journey was that brought you back here this weekend, I think it just shows what this place means to each of us."

"I took so much of who I am today from what I got from International House," she said, "I know that's true for most of you."

The following morning, Director of Development & Alumni Relations John Wells led alumni on a walking tour of the neighborhood, which has changed greatly since the early 1980s. Alumni visited the West Harlem Waterfront Park and saw the site of Columbia's new Manhattanville campus.

At a leisurely champagne brunch where alumni took photos and reflected on their time at the House and the weekend, Svava Bernhardsdottir '86 recalled how she came to International House after a childhood lived in many places.

"If you are a citizen of the world, you belong everywhere and nowhere," she said, but "coming to I-House helped make sense of it all, meeting other people from those cultures or people who grew up internationally was a healing process: making something whole."

She later reflected, "and just like moving to I-House was a process of making sense of my life, the reunion was also a process of making a whole of the memories and emotions, to see and touch and feel: yes we were there and we still are here for real!"

With the reunion concluded, alumni made their way back to their own homes and families, their relationships having been rekindled and their bonds strengthened, and as Tyler said, they "became family once again."

New Board Member Named, Two Elected as Life Trustees in June



Curtis Arledge (right) with International Trustee Klaus Moessle '85 at the June Board Meeting.

The Board of Trustees elected Curtis Y. Arledge, Vice Chairman of BNY Mellon, to join the Board, and named longtime Board members Paul D. Carter and Hans W. Decker as Life Trustees at its meeting on June 13th.

Arledge is also CEO of Investment Management, which includes the BNY Mellon's asset management and wealth management businesses, and is a member its Executive Committee. Prior to joining BNY Mellon in November 2010, Arledge was the chief investment officer for fundamental fixed income portfolios at BlackRock, Inc.

A graduate of Princeton University, Arledge began his career as an analyst with Salomon Brothers in 1987. He is a member of the U.S. Treasury Department's Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee and a director of Autism Speaks, the largest autism science and advocacy organization in the U.S.

The Board also elected two longtime members to Life Trusteeships. Paul D. Carter, a senior administrator for more the 30 years at Columbia University, was elected to the I-House Board in 1977 and has served as Chairman of the House and Personnel Practices Committees, and for many years on the Executive Committee. Hans W. Decker, former President of Siemens Corporation and an adjunct professor at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, was first elected in 1990 and served for nearly 20 years as Co-Chair of the House Committee.

Chairman Frank G. Wisner welcomed Arledge to the Board, and commended Carter and Decker for their many years of dedicated service to International House.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

International House recently received the proceeds from the estate of Kathryn W. Davis '30, originally pledged to challenge other donors to support our 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign some 14 years ago.

This \$5 million bequest in support of programming at the House will have an enormous impact on our capacity to deliver top-notch programs to the community for decades to come, and caps the formidable legacy of the wonderful Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis here at 500 Riverside Drive.

Indeed, the most effective way to make a truly lasting impact on International House is to provide for its endowment fund through an individual's will, living trust, life insurance policy or retirement assets. Bequests and other legacy gifts of all sizes help by providing permanent support to the House and future generations of resident members. With time, all of these gifts will grow in size and positively impact our diverse community of future global leaders.

Such support need not be at the level of Kathryn Davis. In the mid-1960s, alumna Mary Senior '54 made a bequest to the House in her will to support the travel program. In the nearly 50 years since, that originally modest gift has grown—along with a bequest from the estate of her sister—to now provide income that we expect will fully cover the I-House Travel Fellow's annual stipend and partially subsidize the cost of outings in and around New York City. In 1993, Jean S. Dobrzenksy '45, an I-House World Council member, bequeathed a residential property in California to the House, the proceeds of which established a named fund supporting outreach scholarships to resident members from developing countries. Each year, undesignated bequests of all sizes also provide important ballast to our Annual Fund campaign.

You may support scholarships, programs, improvements to our historic building, or general operating support, all of which benefit our community of 700 residents from more than 100 countries. Whichever you choose, you will help enhance I-House's excellence, and support our mission or promoting cross-cultural understanding and leadership. For more information on including International House in your will or living trust, please feel free to contact my office at (212) 316-8440 or alumni@ihouse-nyc.org.

John Wells

SAVE THE DATE

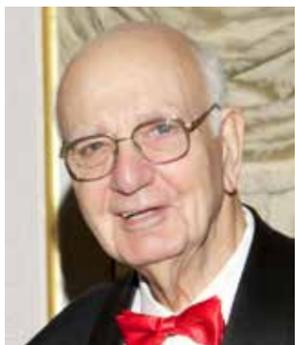
February 13, 2014
Professional Interest Night
New York City

June 2014
2014 International House Awards Gala
New York City

June 18-20, 2014
27th World Council of Alumni Meeting
New York City

June 20-22, 2014
1990-1995 Reunion
New York City

Four Honored With Service Awards at I-House Gala continued from page 1



Paul Volcker



Katie O'Neill



Gale Davis



Shin Aoyama



Patricia Cloherty '67



Anthony Spikes '96

Chairman Frank G. Wisner presented the Soros Award to Klaus P. Moessle, International Trustee and founder of the German alumni association *Freunde des I-House*, for his "exceptional and dedicated service to International House and its mission."

Moessle stated: "It's just not I who has done all the work," and proceeded to thank those who have been actively involved over the years, and noted that the leadership of *Freunde* "started as an old boys group and now is an all girls group."

Praising the organization's egalitarianism, Moessle said that for him, I-House has been "a window to the world. The mission of I-House is more important today and in ten years it will be that much more important."

Executive Committee Chairman William D. Rueckert, a

co-chair of the evening, presented the Dodge Award to Life Trustee Russell S. Reynolds Jr., a pioneer in the executive recruiting profession in the U.S. and abroad.

"I have never been with an organization that was better run, had higher quality people, or better values than this organization," said Reynolds. "The spirit of this place permeates the entire activity. It has been a joy to be involved with International House."

Honorary Trustee Paul A. Volcker presented the Edmonds Award to Trustee Fareed Zakaria, the CNN journalist and global affairs analyst, noting the quick rise of the young man from India to the position of managing editor of *Foreign Affairs* within ten years of his arrival in the U.S.

"It's very hard to get an international perspective [in America], to get the idea that diversity is good and enrich-

ing and ennobling and places like I-House have been able to do this for nearly a century," said Zakaria. "This is a kind of jewel, a model of that kind of thinking that has enriched this country and remains a great model that we provide for the world."

Following the presentations, Chairman Wisner returned to the stage to honor retiring I-House President Donald L. Cuneo '69, who he described as "an incredible leader who has exemplified the I-House mission in every way."

Co-chaired by Fleur and William Dodge Rueckert and Mandy and Adam Quinton, the gala received major support from George and Abby O'Neill, the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, Steve and Roberta Denning, Peter and Katie O'Neill, Andrew Darrell and Dana Tang, John Bing Sing Pek '69, and Toyota.

The Fall Semester at International House in Pictures



I-House residents gather to speak French during the Language Exchange Program (LEP) Conversation Tables on October 13th. In addition to the monthly LEP Conversation Tables, this year's program, led by 2nd year Jordanian resident Yasmin Nooreddin, includes 61 weekly classes covering 18 different languages including Farsi, Spanish, Chinese, English, Arabic and Vietnamese all taught by resident volunteers, and an "elevator pitch" program where approximately once a month, residents are encouraged to share a few phrases of a featured language, such as "Hello, my name is" while riding in the I-House elevators.



Ninety-Five residents, representing 75 countries, participated in the fashion parade as part of the 49th Annual Fall Fiesta. Founded by Life Trustee Herman "HR" Rottenberg, the Fiesta also featured global song and dance performances by I-House residents.



Residents perform a medley of Bob Marley songs at the Caribbean Cultural Hour on October 11th. The event featured a "cruise" to Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and consisted of dancing, music, poetry readings and videos from each of these countries.



Fresh air and new friends were plentiful at the September community weekend. Community Weekends give residents the opportunity to escape the city and bond over a team-building ropes course, drinks and s'mores around a bonfire and boating and hiking activities.



Jasmine Johnson and Divya Nair, this year's I-House Tutorial Program (ITHP) fellows, at the Programs Fair on September 12th. IHTP celebrates its 45th anniversary this year and is one of the many programs for which residents could sign up at the annual Programs Fair.

Resident Member Honors

A look at some of the recent achievements of International House's remarkable resident members.



Giuseppe De Girolamo

An article by **Giuseppe De Girolamo** (Italy) entitled "Tax Treaties: Ratification and the Relationship with Domestic Law in the Italian and US Legal Systems" was recently published in the journal *Bulletin for International Taxation*.

An article by **Terry Lee** (USA) entitled "Supply Chain Sustainability: Compliance- and Performance-Based Tools" was published



Terry Lee

A chapter by **Shayna Plaut** (Canada) entitled "'Fact based storytelling' or fact based activism? Tensions, strategies and next steps of human rights and journalism" will be published in the forthcoming *Sage Handbook of Human Rights*.



Shayna Plaut

Janice Tran (Canada) is the founder of Student Energy, a global non-profit promoting energy literacy. She was invited to be a speaker at this year's TEDx Richmond conference in recognition of her work on engaging students on energy and sustainability topics.



Janice Tran

To learn more about some of our remarkable residents, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/portraits.

Diversity Abounds in 2013-2014 Resident Member Community

With an average age of 27, this year's 420 new resident members and 260 returning residents represent 97 countries and 75 academic and professional institutions.

China heads the list of most-represented countries after the United States with 63 residents, followed by India (35), Japan (29), Germany (26), and Canada (20).

Countries with historically low representation that have returned to the community this year include Guam, Guatemala, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Tunisia, and Zambia.

The diversity doesn't end there. Among the universities being attended by the current resident community are all the schools of Columbia University, City University of New York, New York University, and The New School. Pace University, Bank Street College, the Juilliard School, and Fordham University are just some of the other universities residents are attending. Professional institutions include the Guggenheim Museum, the International Committee of the Red Cross, JP Morgan, Thomson Reuters, and the United Nations.

This year's residents are studying nearly every discipline imaginable such as sports administration, international affairs, mechanical engineering, piano performance, infant development and criminal justice to name but a few.



Felipe Pena, Noemi Isabel and William Douglas celebrated 25 years of service to the Housekeeping, Finance and Maintenance departments of International House at a party in their honor on September 13th. Attended by nearly the entire I-House staff, the three new members of the "25 Year Club" were commended by President Calvin Sims for their dedication to International House.