“Generation Jobless” Conference Seeks Solutions to Global Youth Unemployment

With more than 290 million young people worldwide lacking education, employment and training, on October 24-25th International House hosted “Generation Jobless,” a major conference tackling the issue with key thought leaders in labor, business, education and government as well as affected members of the Millennial Generation from around the world.

Co-sponsored by The GroundTruth Project, the conference examined coordinated, innovative solutions to the issues of job creation and transformation, and offered a second day of workshops exclusively for young adults including International House residents.

Trustee Fareed Zakaria, CNN host and author, opened the conference and framed the issue by noting that for 20 years information technology revolutions and globalization have made it easier for jobs to be performed by machines or cheap labor in developing countries.

The ultimate solution to youth unemployment, he said, will be from the bottom up, wryly advising participants: “Don’t wait for Washington. You guys are going to solve the problem.”

“The session ‘Barriers to Entry: Opening the Glass Door,’” moderated by James McNally of Education for Employment and the World Economic Forum, brought together a panel which identified employment barriers both systemic and personal, the latter including race, gender, Millennial stereotyping, and a lack of education, skills and experience.

“There is no substitute for learning by doing,” said National Urban League President Marc Morial, who advocated the addition of employment training opportunities to students in U.S. high schools as “a public investment in young people.”

“The new paradigm for corporate America is win-win-win opportunities.”
–Blair Taylor
Chief Community Officer
Starbucks

Mayor: Solutions from City Hall,” moderated by Jim Avila of ABC News/Fusion, examined youth unemployment in Amsterdam, Philadelphia and Detroit. The panel agreed the problem is not just about a lack of jobs in these urban environments, but also a lack of skills and professionalism among youth.

Because of a lack of role models at home and school programs to address it, many youth don’t know what it means to get up every day and go to work, how to dress appropriately or interact with a supervisor. Partnering with non-profits to help teach these skills can help address this disconnect, said the National League of Cities’ Andrew Moore.

Jamira Burley, Executive Director of Philadelphia’s Youth Commission said that Philadelphia urged cities to bring the business community into schools to help develop innovative curricula including teaching young people to be globally competent.

During the “Employers: Keys to the Glass Door” panel, moderated by Chauncy Lennon, Senior Program Director for Workforce Development at JP Morgan Chase, IBM’s Ted Hoff admitted that the company had been slow to sufficiently invest in youth, but described its increase in early career hires and P-TECH 9-14 program as ways the company was addressing this.

“You can’t separate workforce from K-12 issues” said Business Roundtable’s Dave Linos.
Blair Taylor, Chief Community Officer of Starbucks and President of the Starbucks Foundation’s Board of Directors, shared how the company is using its corporate influence as a force for good by creating opportunity for its employees through the College Achievement Plan.

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I-House Awards Gala Raises More Than $400K for Scholarship Fund

A distinguished banker, investor and one of the world’s legendary philanthropic foundations were honored at the International House Awards Gala on June 9th at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City.

Honored were the late Stephen M. Daboul Jr., who received the Dodge Award for Distinguished Trustee Service; The Ford Foundation, recipient of the Rockefeller Award for Philanthropic Service; and John B. Pek ’68, honored with the Soros Award for Distinguished Alumni Service.

The awards were presented by I-House Chairman Frank G. Wisner.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

T is hard to believe that a year has passed since I took over as president at this great institution. Over the last year, I have studied I-House’s operations and familiarized myself with the many moving pieces that enable the facility and community to function effectively. I’ve met with employees, residents and alumni and am very appreciative of the support I have received from all sectors of the I-House community.

This fall, we engaged in an organizational assessment conducted by an outside consulting group that surveyed representatives of all of our constituencies. The results of this survey will be used to create a strategic plan that will chart a course for International House for the next 10 years. I am very excited about this planning process because it will allow us collectively to design programs and initiatives that ensure I-House remains relevant and adds new value to the resident experience as we march toward our centennial.

International House must continue to provide a residential and programmatic experience that fosters not only cross-cultural learning but respect, empathy, and moral courage—values that are often in short supply in today’s society but crucial to global leadership.

We must also quantify what it is about the I-House experience that produces world leaders and seeks to expand that experience. I am hopeful that a decade from now, I-House will be an institution widely known for empowering the next generation of globally-minded leaders and as a prominent convenor of experts on international issues impacting young people.

To that end, I-House hosted a major conference in October called “Generation Jobless” (you may read more about it on page one and below), which tackled the global youth unemployment crisis. We brought together stakeholders who can help solve this problem and raised the House’s profile not only among these change agents but also with the public at large through media coverage on MSNBC, Al-Jazeera America, the Huffington Post and in hundreds of newspapers nationwide. “Generation Jobless” also enabled the House to attract a new set of funders, something that is essential to our continued success in the future.

It is a very thrilling prospect to find ways to build on the solid foundation and legacies of this remarkable institution with new initiatives. I know that with your support, we can achieve our goals and make an even greater impact on the global community.

Warm wishes for a happy new year,

Calvin Sims

Conference Seeks Solutions to Global Youth Unemployment

continued from page 1

“Read everything you can. It gives you a competitive advantage in finding a job and in everyday conversation. Challenge yourself to continue to grow,” he said.

Charles Sennett, co-founder of GlobalPost, moderated the “Success Stories” panel, in which personal stories were shared by individuals and organizations that enabled them to transition from school to work.

Jada Thompkins, who works in accounting at a New York real estate company, said that her experience with Year Up New York taught her hard skills but also soft skills like handshakes and networking.

“I learned about professionalism but also about how to be yourself in a professional setting,” she said.

Sofía Contreras, a 20-year-old Salvadoran immigrant and the entrepreneur behind Budwick’s Last 5 American Restaurant, conveyed how Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship’s “Startup Summer” program taught her to receive and respond to criticism rather than be discouraged.

The “Leg Up” panel, moderated by Paul Ortega of Swiss Post Solutions, Inc., conveyed how successful programs offering internships, service-learning, mentoring and skills training could prepare youth with problem-solving skills, leadership experience, professional networks and technical skills.

Alícia Guerra of Year Up, noted the importance of a supportive network and advised attendees to “be grounded in a network of people who will stand up for you. No one can do it by themselves.”

Ortega followed with a presentation on how to make the most of one’s internship experience, advising applicants to ask prospective employers what sort of development the company provides its employees, the last time an employee was promoted, and to shadow one of the company’s current interns for a day.

“Ask lots of questions,” said Ortega. “Think about what you’re trying to achieve and make sure you can articulate and envision it.”

“Managing Your Online Presence,” in which use of social media—especially on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter—was explored in depth, was moderated by Jay Corcoran, Senior Digital Content Producer at the Columbus Business School’s Career Management Center.

“Some who are out of work,” said Corcoran, “are often in short supply in today’s society but crucial to global leadership.

Bethany Fournier, a recent graduate of the University of New Hampshire, said that her internship at Starbuck’s Blair Taylor returned to open the day with an upbeat talk identifying reasons for optimism among young people today. “You are living in the best era of opportunity in history,” said Taylor, who advised that education and drive—“being on fire,” as he put it—are essential qualities in a competitive world.

Noting that technology has placed all the knowledge of the world at their fingertips, he encouraged young people to learn as much as they could about human history. He said that elders—role models and potential mentors—are eager to answer, but it is incumbent on those seeking help to ask for it.

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Welcome Sunday Supper Speaker Provides a Lesson in Moral Courage

**Irshad Manji**, founder of New York University's award-winning Moral Courage Project, discussed diversity, Islam, and why moral courage matters at the 50th Anniversary Welcome Sunday Supper on September 21st. Manji, the author of *Allah, Liberty and Love* and producer of the Emmy-nominated PBS documentary *Faith Without Fear*, encouraged audience members to embrace one’s truth, even if it makes other people uncomfortable.

“We’re here not to be comfortable, but to teach. That’s what the democratic spirit is about. We should not be afraid of discomfort.”

Her teachers did not respond well, she said, and eventually forced her to choose either to believe what she was told or to leave. At age 14, she left madrassa, explaining to her mother that while she had left an institution, she had not abandoned Allah. Manji continued the questioning of her faith as an adult, she said, and in 2004 published the international bestseller *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim’s Call for Reform in Her Faith*. The book’s publication led to a “ten-year global conversation primarily with young people,” a conversation that enabled her to think more and go beyond her own truth. “When you challenge others,” she stated, “they challenge and teach you back.”

Manji closed by quoting the Koran: “God does not change people until they change themselves” and Confucianism: “When one sees injustice, one should dare to correct it.”
1940s
Robert Kirschbaum ’45 and his wife Blossom are living year-round on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. He was on the faculty at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, and Boston University Graduate School of Dentistry. He retired in 1988.

1960s
Yvonne Olson Jacobson ’61’s second book was recently published: Memoirs of a Farmer’s Daughter in Silicon Valley.

Linda (Chvian) Levitz ’61 lives and works in Arcadia, New York, where she also works in the special education department of the local elementary school. She is the author of four collections of poems: Trusting the Storm, The Dark Face of Planting, Directions to My Audience, Inc. in Mountain View, CA.

Helen Benham ’65 is working on her new book of newspaper articles on the career in the U.S. Foreign Service, which included posts in New Delhi, Tunis, Damas, Buenos Aires, Beirut, Hyderabad, Kuwait City and Erbil, Iraq.

1990s
Edgar Auslander ’90 is vice president of product management and marketing at Asurion, Inc., in Mountain View, CA.

Kathleen Hayes ’90 is editor of Highlights High Five (a magazine for kids ages 2-4), Highlights Hi Five (a new magazine in English and Spanish).

Shirley J. Nayar ’90 has authored a new book, Daniel’s Sacred Poem: Psalach and the Cenotaph of the Exilarch to the Divine Canaan (Blomsoy, Oct. 2011). It is the first comprehensive exploration of the theme of transmigratory across Dante’s epic poem.

Hugi Olafsson ’90 is director of the Office of Climate, Oceans and Water in Iceland’s Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources.

Ito Nawokorie ’90 has been promoted to C.E.O. of the global brand consultancy company Wolff Olins. He resides in London.

Marela Vargova ’90 is a senior sustainability analyst with the sustainability and impact investing team at Rockefeller Financial Asset Management.

Carl Magnus Nesser ’99 is Sweden’s Ambassador to Iraq. He was previously Ambassador to Israel. He was previously Ambassador to Iraq and served in the Ministry for the International Development Cooperation’s office and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Robert Isacs ’00 is the new director of choral music in the Department of Music at Cornell University.

As the capstones of a nearly year-long, Shostakovich for the Children of Syria campaign, the nonprofit Music for Life International (led by Founder & Artistic Director George Mathew ’04, pictured here, and Chairman of the Board) Robert W. van Zwieten ’86) partnered with the Jordanian group QuskoScope to bring an August musical residency to Jordan’s Zararli refugee camp, which sheltered nearly 81,000 Syrian refugees in the 2010s.

At Carnegie Hall, as part of a joint humanitarian campaign (with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women) entitled The Scherzo Initiative: Celebrating the Resilience of Women and Girls in the Face of Violence.

2010s
Wladimir Lyra ’10 is a Sagan postdoctoral fellow at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Caltech’s Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences.

Lana Askar ’11 has joined the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe as a gender officer in the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Sarah Cook ’12 returned to California this year to begin a new job as executive assis-
Life Trustee Mary Kay Farley, Chaired Development Committee

Mary Kay Farley, an International House Trustee for 55 years, died July 29, 2014 at Hiland Cottage of Hospice in Little Traverse Bay, MI. She was 79.

A native of Detroit, Mrs. Farley attended Manhattanville College and graduated from Loyola School of Social Work in 1959. She married Citibank executive James D. Farley, and the couple raised a family in Greenwich, CT.

Appointed by Trustee Abby M. O’Neill, Mrs. Farley joined the I-House Board in 1979 and became involved with its fundraising activities, serving as Chair or Co-Chair of the Development & Alumni Relations Committee from 1985 to 1990.

Her involvement continued after a 1987 move to Los Angeles and extended to the recruitment of board members. She was elected a Life Trustee in 1992, and the Farleys returned to Holle Sound, FL in 1995.

In 2000, the Farleys established a $50,000 scholarship fund for I-House residents from Spanish-speaking countries, in honor of Abby and George O’Neill.

“Mary Kay’s family noted that her special qualities were her organizational ability, her geniality of spirit and her cheerful disposition,” said Director of Development John Wells. “She was a great friend to I-House.”

Mary Kay Farley is survived by her husband James, children James Jr., Katelyn (a 1990 I-House alumna), Frances and Andrew, and six grandchildren.

Geoffrey Bruce ’50

Geoffrey Bruce, a longtime board member of Canadian Friends of I-House, passed away in September at the age of 89.

Bruce received his master’s in economics from Columbia University while living at I-House from 1948-1950. He went on to a distinguished career in Canada’s Department of External Affairs, serving in Israel, Ceylon and Austria.

He later joined the UN Division, serving as Minister to the Canada’s UN Mission and High Commissioner to Kenya and Uganda among other positions.

After returning to Ottawa he became Vice President for Foreign Aid Policy and then for Business Cooperation at CIDA. In 1987, he was named Ambassador to Portugal, retiring in 1990.

As board member of Canadian Friends, he helped select resident scholarships recipients and guide the chapter’s activities across Canada.

Mary Haour-Knipe ’69

Mary Haour-Knipe ’69 passed on May 19, 2013 after a valiant fight with ovarian cancer.

Haour-Knipe lived at International House while pursuing a master’s degree in community mental health. It was at International House that she met her husband Georges Haour.

Originally from Canada, Haour-Knipe went on to obtain a Ph.D. in sociology after the couple settled in Geneva. Her thesis was named Ambassador to Portugal, retiring in 1990.

As board member of Canadian Friends, he helped select resident scholarships recipients and guide the chapter’s activities across Canada.

Faith Kimball Black ’30, Salem, OR

William H. Scheide ’40, Princeton, NJ

Sheila Burnows Chapline ’46, New York, NY

Suzanne Adler Dettmer ’46, New Rochelle, NY

George S. Fabian ’50, Bryn Mawr, PA

Elliott J. Brebner ’54, Bridgewater, N.J.

Irene D. Larocque ’55, Longueuil, QC

Richard A. Steinhardt ’58, Bellingham, WA

John E. Edwinger ’62, New York, NY

Pim de Kuier ’64, Breda, Netherlands

IN MEMORIAM

Microfinance Leader Gil Crawford Addresses I-House Residents

Gil Crawford, the chief executive officer and chief investment officer of MicroVest, spoke as a part of the International Forum on October 1st. Mr. Crawford helped found MicroVest and its first fund, which is the first commercial private equity vehicle focused on microfinance in North America.

Introduced by I-House Chairman Frank G. Wisner, Crawford provided insight into how global microfinance works and reflected on his path to social entrepreneurship.

MicroVest lends to and invests in other financial institutions, he said, which in turn make the actual microloans to individuals, normally ranging from $100 to $10,000. The vast majority of MicroVest’s investments have gone into what are known as frontier markets including south asia and sub-saharan africa.

Crawford explored his perspective around how social entrepreneurship is at the ideal intersection of mankind’s competing tendencies toward selfishness and meaningful social impact. He also provided life and career advice based on his own experience, along with tips on what MicroVest seeks in prospective employees. Following his remarks, Crawford took questions from the audience on topics ranging from the normal interest rates and terms for microloans provided by the MicroVest’s partners to the impact investing field’s inability to embrace failure.

Arthur Mwakapugi ’94

World Council of Alumni Member and former Permanent Secretary in Tanzania’s Ministry of Energy and Minerals, passed away in May from liver cancer. He was 65.

Mwakapugi served for many years as the Director, Macro Economy Division, President’s Office (Planning Commission) under President Benjamin Mkapa, also an I-House alumnus. He worked as economist for the Tanzanian government beginning in 1975. In 1997, he served as Chairman of the Experts of the Group of 77, leading negotiations at the United Nations on a variety of international development and cooperation issues affecting 132 developing nations.

Mwakapugi received his master’s degree in economic policy management from Columbia University while living at International House.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

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“Concert for a New World” Highlights Alumni Weekend in London

Members of Freunde des International House at their Annual Meeting in London.

International House alumni and friends gathered in London the weekend of September 19–21 for the Freunde des I-House’s Pan-European Alumni reunion weekend, and a benefit concert by alumni musicians in Covent Garden organized by Friends of International House, UK.

The proceedings attracted more than 40 alumni and friends from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the UK, and friends from the United Kingdom and the United States. Reunion activities were organized with the considerable help of FIHUK Board members Patricia Hamazah 84, Mami Uran 93, and Peter Burbank ’92.

The weekend began with a tour of the Tate Modern, followed by a gathering at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, a 17th century Fleet Street pub, featured a walking tour of Westminster on Saturday afternoon, and concluded with Sunday brunch at Vizard Hall in Central London.

The highlight took place Saturday evening, when I-House alumni and other talented musicians performed at the 17th century St. Paul’s Church (the Act’s Church) at a “Concert for a New World.”

The concert, organized by Sabina Rakcheyeva 04 with support from Ayman Jarjour 00, raised nearly $10,000 in scholarship support for at least one I-House resident from a country in conflict.

An eclectic program of music was performed by classical guitarist Jarjour, pianist Diana Bickley ’92, Jonathan Burton (bassoon), mezzo soprano Polly Letch, Ayanna Winter-Johnson ’11 (voice & cello), Sarah Beatty ’05 (clarinet) and Sam Armstrong ’10 (piano), and James Parget (piano). The concert concluded with a rousing “Tango Extravaganza” performed by the Deco Ensemble, a quintet of guitar, piano, accordion and double bass led by Sabina Rakcheyeva on violin.

The program included remarks by Hamzahee, who thanked the evening’s benefactors The Golden Bottle Trust, Majed Halawi 85 and Sujatha and Kashif Zafar. Patrons and sponsors for the evening were Hamzahee, Peter Burbank, Mauritius Dolmans 86, and Erika Howard 86, Uma Kymal 93 and Mami Uran.

Earlier on Saturday, Freunde des I-House convened its annual business meeting led by Astrid Nierhoff-Passbender 95 at the offices of Cleary Gottlieb (courtesy of Mauritius Dolmans), during which a copy of the Treasurer’s Report was distributed, and Director of Development & Alumni Relations John Wells conveyed greetings from President Calvin Sims, provided an overview of recent activities at the House, and thanked the members for their longtime, generous support.

The group considered and approved $20,000 in scholarship funding for 11 I-House residents presented by Wells on behalf of the Office of Admissions. Officers re-elected at the meeting were Nierhoff-Passbender as President, Frauke Thielecke ’03 as Deputy and Gloria Pfaue ’99 as Treasurer.

“It was great to have both Freunde and FIHUK celebrating the spirit of I-House during its 90th anniversary year,” said Hamzahee, who noted that the gathering coincided on the same weekend as the United Nations’ International Day of Peace.

World Council of Alumni Sets Goals; Selects Istanbul for 2016 Meeting

World Council of Alumni Members from Australia, Canada, China, Finland, India, Germany, and the United States met at International House to discuss matters relating to I-House, the alumni program and the World Council itself June 18th through the 20th.

The Council is International House’s umbrella alumni group comprised of nearly 100 elected members around the world who assist the House in the areas of networking, fundraising and recruitment. Members are elected based on volunteer activity on behalf of the House. During its sessions, Council members received reports from President Calvin Sims on programs, the financial state of the House and its physical plant, as well as plans to raise the profile of International House among key external constituencies and how the House can stay relevant in the years to come.

Director of Admissions Megan Amouzou shared application and membership statistics, noting that the number of applicants referred by alumni had increased from 13 percent to 17 percent. Referrals are one major way that Council members, and alumni at large, can assist the House with recruitment.

After a lunch with current residents and a moving trip to the World Trade Center Memorial, where several Council members toured the newly opened 9/11 Memorial Museum, the Council discussed alumni activities and fundraising at its Friday session.

The Council recommitted itself to increasing its own giving participation and helping the House reach out to alumni around the world to help provide this vital source of revenue. A variety of ideas were discussed on how to best increase giving from alumni. In the past fiscal year, less than 2.5 percent of alumni worldwide made an unrestricted gift to International House.

Council members were asked to participate in the upcoming 90th Anniversary celebration by providing personal histories of their time at International House and by organizing I-House Day events in their area, which many of them would later do.

The last order of business was the selection of the next meeting location—the Council discussed and approved Istanbul for 2016. The next meeting of the World Council of Alumni will be in 2016, when the group, founded by L.W. Frohlich ’37 in 1966, celebrates its 50th anniversary.
Hundreds Celebrate 90th Anniversary

Residents and alumni alike enjoyed posing with the special anniversary cake throughout the 90th Anniversary Ice Cream Social on September 25th.

Congratulations to the Mayor of New York City and a special cake were part of the celebration as more than 200 alumni, residents and friends gathered in the Main Lounge to observe International House’s 90th anniversary on September 15th.

A favorite long-time tradition—the ice cream social—was chosen to mark the occasion as newly-arrived residents mixed with former residents and staff for the festive, informal occasion.

Director of Development and Alumni Relations John Wells welcomed the celebrants and noted that the House had opened its doors on that very day in 1924, read the opening announcement written by Florence Edmonds, wife of I-House’s originator Harry Edmonds.

“I am, International House. I open my doors to the students of the world that may live together and grow in understanding. I am built as a canopy for an adventure that has its beginning in a friendly greeting to a lonely student, which has widened into a world-wide brotherhood. Therefore, I am not a beginning, but a fulfillment.”

Throughout the evening attendees engaged in a “selfie scavenger hunt” in which participants took pictures of themselves with portraits of the founders and other key figures in I-House’s history for posting on Instagram or Twitter. Newly minted-alumna Joyce Kwon ’14 was the winner, taking home a prize of I-House goodies and movie passes.

During the evening, Edmonds’ sentiments and noted that each resident and alumna/us in attendance was a part of the House’s history and its future. He also read a letter from New York Mayor Bill de Blasio to commemorate the occasion.

“By promoting cultural exchange, encouraging open dialogue and fostering leadership skills, friendship and respect, I-House has proven the power of global camaraderie,” wrote de Blasio. “As a city built by immigrants, New Yorkers recognize the importance of diversity and inclusivity to our economic, social and cultural progress and we are delighted that I-House shares those core tenets and continues to thrive.”

Pressuring the Rockefeller Award was accepted on behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation by its president, Darren Walker, who said that the Foundation was thinking about how it could emulate the legacy and impact of I-House.

“Because while there will always be a new device or app,” said Walker, “nothing will ever replace the power of people in the same room – learning to live together, to work together, to respect each other, and to find common ground, despite their differences.”

Chairman Wisner noted the presence of Honorary Trustee Daisy Soros ’51 when presenting the Soros Award to John Pek and acknowledged his many acts of generosity and service to the House.

“When I first arrived in New York City I did not have any relatives or friends,” said Pek. “The House gave me the opportunity to participate in activities with fellow residents, many of whom I became friends with. Forty years later, some of these friends are here with us tonight.”

Indeed, some two dozen of Pek’s contemporary alumni were present, having traveled from as far as Asia and South America to honor their friend. Many of them later vied for space on the dance floor with high-spirited I-House residents.

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, and Peter O’Neill ’92.

I-House Awards Gala Raises more than $400K for Scholarship Fund

Before the award was accepted by Nicholas and Jennifer DuBrul, Wisner cited their father’s storied Wall Street career at Lehman Brothers and his tenure as Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. He also noted DuBrul’s four decades of service to International House prior to his death in 2012.

Wisner said DuBrul was “revered by his colleagues for his passion, candor and razor-sharp mind. He helped bring along a new generation of board members with his philosophy of prudent, responsible not-for-profit asset management.”

The Rockefeller Award was accepted on behalf of the Ford Foundation by its president, Darren Walker, who said that the Foundation was thinking about how it could emulate the legacy and impact of I-House.

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SAVE THE DATE

January 28, 2015
90th Anniversary Celebration
London, UK

February 10, 2015
Professional Interest Night
New York City

For more information, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/alumnevents.

John Wells

Director’s Corner

As we celebrate I-House’s 90th anniversary, we acknowledge the generosity of our alumni and friends which helps make everything we do here possible.

Looking toward our centennial in 2024, and hopefully another century after that, your support is going to be more important than ever.

We all live very busy lives, forcing us to prioritize things we do on a daily, monthly or even annual basis. Thankfully, technology has made much that we do less challenging, and this includes the most efficient way to support I-House: by making a monthly gift.

Monthly giving is:

• EASY – your donation is charged to a credit card automatically each month and can be canceled at any time;
• IMPACTFUL – every dollar directly impacts the more than 1,000 residents who call I-House home each year;
• COST-EFFECTIVE – it reduces the need for regular fundraising appeals, while also providing us a reliable base of support.

With the increasing needs of our residents for scholarship and fellowship aid, the breadth of our programmatic offerings and our plans to continue raising our profile locally, nationally and internationally, we at the House will continue to rely on supporters like you to increase your commitment to our mission and our residents.

Helping us reduce our costs allows us to provide greater support to the bright, talented young people who comprise the I-House community.

The future of the next generation of global citizens starts with you. Please consider making your monthly gift commitment at www.ihouse-nyc.org/monthly. Many thanks!
Carl Bernstein Discusses Watergate and the State of Journalism Today

Veteran journalist Carl Bernstein held forth on topics ranging from Watergate to Hillary Clinton’s presidential prospects and NSA surveillance in a conversation with I-House President Calvin Sims before a Home Room audience on June 19th.

Two days after the 42nd anniversary of the Watergate break-in, Sims, a New York Times reporter for many years, noted that the work of Bernstein and his Washington Post colleague Bob Woodward had brought down the Nixon administration.

“We were working in the great tradition of journalism, seeking the best obtainable truth,” Bernstein said, giving credit to the Post’s editor, Benjamin C. Bradlee, and publisher Katharine Graham for their backing.

Bernstein reviewed highlights of the affair, as chronicled in All The President’s Men, which he said was part of a vast campaign to subvert the electoral system of the United States through espionage and sabotage.

Against today’s backdrop of reporters being compelled to name sources, Sims asked Bernstein if he and Woodward could have pursued their Watergate reporting now without fear of going to jail.

“No,” Bernstein said simply. “What’s going on now is a travesty. We need a shield law” to protect reporters and the public. He deplored the state of journalistic institutions, saying most citizens are not seeking truth but confirmation of their ideological beliefs.

Responding to other questions, Bernstein said CIA systems administrator Edward Snowden’s release of confidential information collected by the National Security Agency “alerted us to the scale of something we were not aware of, and helped begin a debate that is Snowden’s contribution. Whether he is a traitor or a hero misses the point.”

On the topic of Hillary Clinton, subject of his 2008 biography A Woman in Charge, Bernstein described the former secretary of state as “a phenomenon—a celebrity, more like Mohammed Ali, a huge star and she is using her name for it.”

In And Around International House

The Fall Semester in Pictures

Resident Members:

Julius Bantar Ndzinwa (Cameroon) is a jurist, seasoned project manager and advocate for the human rights of widows in his home country. Through meetings and seminars with traditional rulers and councilors of 50 villages in Cameroon’s northwest region, Ndzinwa succeeded in persuading local leadership to revise or repeal traditional laws that subjected widows to inhumane treatment.

Nidhi Shah (India) is coordinating a three-year Art Conservation Resurgence Project (Phase I) which aims to address outstanding art conservation issues in India. She is currently working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Object Conservation Department as part of a fellowship supported by the Met Museum, the Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg, the Mellon Foundation, and India’s Ministry of Culture.

Each year since it began in 1988, members of the Human Rights Advocacy Program at Columbia University have been living at I-House. These diverse individuals, who this year hail from the United States, Denmark, South Africa, the Philippines, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Rwanda, share their perspectives and experiences with human rights issues through informal interactions and programs like the Global Human Rights Advocacy Resident Fellowship on November 11th. Pictured here are the 2014 advocates.

Residents from Pakistan took the community on a cultural journey through their country using music, folk tales and fashion at the Pakistan Cultural Hour on October 20th.

The Resident Support Services (RSS) Team advertise their services at the Program Fair, where residents had the opportunity to sign up for a myriad of activities and to learn about this year’s program offerings, on September 11th. Resident Fellows, who along with three peer counselors and the resident social worker make up the RSS team, are available to answer any questions, organize social activities on their floor, and ensure general comfort of their roommates.


Clarence (Yu-Hsui) Chou (Taiwan) is an attorney, a visiting scholar at Columbia Law School, and executive commissioner of the Judicial Reform Foundation. He recently won his third consecutive constitutional case in Taiwan’s Constitutional Court, which is the country’s highest judicial organ. This third case concerned people’s right to remedy.

Sakai Ando

Clarence (Yu-Hsui) Chou

Nidhi Shah

Resident Honors

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

Diversity Abounds with New Class of I-House Residents

A free competitive admissions season in which more than 1,500 applications were reviewed, 420 new residents joined 260 returning residents for the 2014-15 academic year.

This enthusiastic group of students, interns, trainers and visiting scholars represents 94 countries including Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Haiti, Fiji, Qatar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe: The top 5 most represented countries, excluding the United States, are China (72), India (55), Japan (51), Korea (25) and Brazil (22).

“We had a strong applicant pool, and tough decisions needed to be made, but we are pleased with the diversity of the new resident members,” said Director of Admissions Megan Amouzou.

With an average age of 27 and a range from 21 to 59 years old, this year’s community has generational as well as cultural and industry diversity. Residents attend or work at 85 academic and professional institutions as a variety of fields.

The academic institutions include all of the schools of Columbia University, City University of New York, New York University, and The New School. Also represented are Pace University, Baruch College, The Juilliard School, Touro College, Yeshiva University and Fordham University. Professional institutions include Al Jazeera America, Ernst & Young, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Weil, Gotshal and Manges LLP and the United Nations.

Nidhi Shah