Accolades and Well Wishes as Don Cuneo Retires as President and CEO of I-House

Don Cuneo presides over his last Sunday Supper as President. Resident members with Don Cuneo prior to the Candlelight Sunday Supper. Resident members light candles while reciting the Candlelight pledge.

“A n outpouring of praise and admiration from around the world greeted the announcement that Donald L. Cuneo, who has been associated with International House for 47 years as a resident member, alumnus, Trustee and, since 1993, as President and CEO, would retire effective this summer.

Cuneo made the announcement to the I-House community on February 12th, saying he had reached the decision to step down after 20 years as President “with decidedly mixed feelings.”

Chairman Frank G. Wisner praised Cuneo as “an incredible leader” who has exemplified the mission of I-House’s founders in every way.

“Each aspect of the life of I-House has never been in better shape,” stated Wisner, who said the Board “will miss his leadership, attention to detail and ability to work with the many constituencies of the I-House community.”

As president, Cuneo leaves behind many notable accomplishments, including the creation of the International Leaders Program and the expansion and refinement of resident support services at the House. Cuneo worked with the Board to secure I-House’s future by substantially growing its endowment during his presidency, ensuring the quality of its resident programming, increasing financial aid to deserving resident members, and supporting a strong alumni relations program.

With the Board and staff, Cuneo raised over $45 million, including the $21.5 million 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign of 1999-2002, which boosted the endowment and resulted in the renovation of resident rooms, floors and public spaces in I-House South, and significant repairs to the North Building.

Cuneo rebuilt and incorporated the International Houses World-wide (IHW) as a strong and growing family of I-Houses around the world.

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Kathryn Wasserman Davis ’30 is Remembered for Generosity, Vision

Kathryn Wasserman Davis ’30, the distinguished philanthropist whose advocacy for world peace and support of International House only grew stronger as she advanced in years, died on April 23rd at her home in Holte Sound, Florida. She was 106.

“International House mounts the passing of our illustrious alumna and benefactress,” wrote Chairman Frank G. Wisner and President Donald L. Cuneo in a joint statement which described Mrs. Davis as an “ardent internationalist, visionary civic leader and tireless seeker of peace.”

Mrs. Davis, whose generosity to International House has been exceeded only by the founding Rockefeller and Dodge Families, in 2000 pledged a “21st Century Gift” of $5 Million in connection with the 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign, which will be the cornerstone of I-House’s programmatic funding for years to come.

In the meantime, in recent years she initiated the landmark programs Davis Projects for Peace, the Davis Scholars Program, and the Davis Peace and Diplomacy Initiative at International House.

Born in Philadelphia in 1907, Kathryn Wasserman attended what would become The Madeira School in Washington, DC and graduated from Wellesley College in 1928. The following year, she married Shelby Cullom Davis, who had attended Columbia University and worked on Russia and its leadership, and other topics.

In 1989, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis pledged a major grant toward the renovation of the I-House auditorium, triple-matching every dollar donated by fellow I-House alumni to meet a challenge grant from the Kravis Foundation. For this generous act, the auditorium—hub of cultural and intellectual life at the House—was dedicated as Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Hall later that year.

Thinking that I-House would be an ideal place to live and learn as he pursued graduate studies at Columbia University, he convinced Miss Wasserman to do her graduate work at Columbia. They moved into International House that fall and married after graduating.

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After serving as an economics advisor to New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey, in 1947 Shelby Cullom Davis founded the international investment banking firm that bears his name: Lazard Freres & Co. He later served with distinction as US Ambassador to Switzerland from 1969 until 1973.

Upon the Davises’ return to private life, Ambassador Davis was elected to the I-House Board of Trustees where he served from 1975 until his death in 1993, and chaired its Investment Committee for many years. The Davises visited the House often, attending board and alumni events, and Mrs. Davis spoke to residents sharing her expertise on Russia and its leadership, and other topics.

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All Nations Celebration
When I arrived at International House as a Columbia University law and business student in 1966, I had no idea that my affiliation with this incredible institution would span nearly half a century.

So much has changed in the world and at International House since making it a resi-
dent member and during the twenty years of my presidency. I-House is a dynamic environment, as it should be—were it not, there would be something wrong—and it reflects the interests of its resident and alumni members, and a shifting world. It has been my pleasure and honor to help the House evolve and adapt during this time.

When I took this job, I was told the position of International House President is like herding four sets of cats: resident, trustee, alumni and staff members. This is a nearly impossible feat and has tested everything I know about leadership, but it has been rewarding, trying, and working with these constituencies has brought about some of my strongest accomplishments as President.

Until my presidency we established the International Leaders Program and expanded resident support services to ensure that our members get the training they need to lead a globalized world and the support they require as they navigate their graduate work, New York City and numerous life changes.

Programming has been a strong emphasis of my twenty years as President and I have been honored to oversee the expansion and development of our named speaker series and to have welcomed such luminaries as Nelson Mandela, Former Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Madeleine Albright, Nobel Peace Prize recipient Martti Ahtisaari, and the former presidents of Ireland, Mexico, East Timor and Bulgaria to name just a few. Their impact on our resident members has been immeasurable.

Working directly with our resident members, whether he is through the Residents’ Council, the leadership teams or one-on-one has been one of the most challenging—but rewarding—parts of my tenure. It has taught me to always remain open-minded, and to learn and be educated by them as our stakeholders. I hope they too have benefited from this lesson.

I have enjoyed working with the Board and the Office of Development & Alumni Relations to substantially grow the endowment and raise $45 million in restricted and unrestricted funds, including $21.5 million in the 75th Anniversary Campaign, as well as retire the debt incurred by the purchase of I-House North. I have sought to place the House on a much stronger financial foundation to meet its and our resident and alumni members’ future opportunities. None of this could have been done without your substantial and devoted help.

I am looking forward to returning to the Board following my retirement and working alongside my fellow Trustees to provide the House with ongoing fiduciary support.

As an alumnus myself, it has been meaningful to have defined and delivered our growing alumni engagement program to include the three goals of networking, recruitment and institutional advancement.

Meeting alumni around the world and learning how International House has impacted them both personally and professionally, as it has me, and working with them to further the House’s goals has been fulfilling. Alumni are the embodiment of our mission and if we have done our job correctly, they carry and expand this mission back to their families, communities and countries.

As I retire from International House as President, I ask you, our alumni and friends, to recommit yourself to the Mission of I-House—help it grow and develop, and seek to meet its principles and uphold its values that embrace diversity, inclusiveness and open-minded engagement in your personal and professional lives to promote a more culturally sensitive and peaceful world.

Jose Ramos-Horta
D
uring the spring semester, International House residents were treated to a diverse array of speakers including a pioneer of the executive search profession, a well-known corporate diversity advisor, a prominent Middle East expert, and the leader of one of the world’s foremost cultural institutions.

In a January 22nd Meet Your Trustee program, Russell S. Reynolds Jr., founder of the leading international executive recruiting firm that bears his name, spoke in conjunction with the publication of his recent book “Heads: Business Lessons from an Executive Search Pioneer” and signed copies afterward.

Reynolds is Chairman and CEO of RSR Partners, a boutique firm that works with leading and emerging companies to recruit corporate directors, CEOs, and other senior executives in a broad range of industries. Introduced by fellow Trustee Adam Quinton, Reynolds related the story of how in 1969 he launched Russell Reynolds Associates, Inc., and spoke about the evolution and dynamics of the executive search profession. He described his career and offered residents professional as well as personal tips: advocating a balanced life, getting involved with other organizations, and a sense of humility.

“You are not important; the people around you are,” he said. “When you believe too much in your success, you are believing in your own demise.”

Former IBM Chief Diversity Officer Tel Ch voided major global changes, especially as a result of variations in birth rates, that are encouraging diversity and inclusion across all areas of human interaction.

Introduced by Trustee Adam Quinton, Reynolds described his experiences in a broad range of industries. He also said it was vitally important that entrepreneurs consider passion a key factor to success for both entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Speaking from the investor’s perspective, Hartley said that venture firms continue to invest in people, not necessarily ideas, seeking the ability to convey true passion about a company or product.

He also said it was vitally important that the entrepreneur, “pitch to the right part of the capital pipeline.” This is critical as venture firms range from “angel” investors to “small seed” firms up to huge private equity firms with billions to invest.

Venture Capitalists and Entrepreneurs Discuss the World of Start-Ups

T
eam up with alumna Scott Hartley ‘11, a partner at Mohr Davidow Ventures, International House Trustee Adam Quinton organized a high-powered panel discussion of young entrepreneurs and venture capitalists, “The Start Up Buzz - What’s it all About?” on November 19th at I-House.

Moderated by Bloomberg Television anchor and host of “Money Moves” Dendrie Botrel, the panel included Hartley, Inaki Berenguer ’04, co-founder of the photo sharing website Pixable; Ayah Belzer, founder and CEO of the Daily Muse, an online community for job searches, career advice and professional development.

Each panelist emphasized that passionate engagement is a key factor to success for both entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Speaking from the investor’s perspective, Hartley said that venture firms continue to invest in people, not necessarily ideas, seeking the ability to convey true passion about a company or product. He also said it was vitally important that the entrepreneur, “pitch to the right part of the capital pipeline.” This is critical as venture firms range from “angel” investors to “small seed” firms up to huge private equity firms with billions to invest.

Jalak Jobanputra expanded on this theme by noting that investors assume that the idea or project will evolve and change over time. This is why all successful entrepreneurs have the resilience and the ability to pivot quickly in response to change, she said. Investors look for people who demonstrate a special and deep passion that will keep you going.

Kathryn Minshew stressed the importance of having solid and well thought out formation documents for any start-up firm. Though you think you know the people you are partnering with, she said, stress and money concerns can put unpredictable strains on relationships. When things go poorly, only clear and concise legal documents can offer protection from difficulties and ensure the orderly departure of a partner or investor.

As the panel closed, all participants agreed that New York was a particularly good location to be at the moment for both investors and entrepreneurs. The unique combination of cutting edge, tech savvy entrepreneurs and a wide range of venture capital firms looking to fund them make New York a fast-paced and exciting place where the future of technology is being created.

Spring Speakers Provide Insight on a Wide Variety of Topics

Clive Gillinson

Introduction by fellow Trustee Adam Quinton, Reynolds is Chairman and CEO of RSR Partners, a boutique firm that works with leading and emerging companies to recruit corporate directors, CEOs, and other senior executives in a broad range of industries. Introduced by fellow Trustee Adam Quinton, Reynolds related the story of how in 1969 he launched Russell Reynolds Associates, Inc., and spoke about the evolution and dynamics of the executive search profession. He described his career and offered residents professional as well as personal tips: advocating a balanced life, getting involved with other organizations, and a sense of humility.

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1940s
Margaret McAlister ’49 recently celebrated 65 years as an organist at First Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Florida.

1950s
Ernst H. Rosenberger ’58, of counsel at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP and former associate justice of the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department, was awarded the Groundbreaker Award at New York Law School’s 2012 gala.

1960s
Joan Yasuda ’63 has traveled throughout Asia (including Tibet and Bhutan), Scandinavia, Russia, and the Balkans since retiring as a school counselor with the Hawaii State Department of Education.

Doris Brevard ’66 as a retired school administrator living in Pittsbugh who is credited with turning the Vann Elementary School in Pittsbugh’s Hill District into one of the highest achieving schools in the city.

Joyce McGrath ’68 is featured in the book “Flower and Paint” (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2007) by Jan Harper about her and her orthopedic surgeon John Colquhoun, whom she often painted.

Kathryn Hendry ’69 retired from Barnard College this spring.

Pamela McCordock ’69 recently published “Bounded Rationality” (Sunstone Press, 2012), her third novel, and the second in a projected trilogy called Santa Fe Stories. She divides her time between Santa Fe and New York City with her husband, J.F. Traub.

1970s
Caroline Manacle Atkins ’72 is professor emeritus at Hunter College and a practicing psychologist at the Institute for Life Coping Skills.

Toddy Bower ’78 retired from the UN World Food Programme last July after 30 years working in humanitarian aid. She lives in Rome, Italy.

1980s
Jamie Cassels ’81 was appointed President of The University of Victoria.

Rajiv Mehrotra ’81 is an artist, writer, and curator currently teaching at Washington University in St. Louis.

Sajida Drejje ’85 is the head of strategy and business development for Magic Bus, an NGO which uses sports-based curriculum and volunteer mentors to engage 250,000 children in marginalized communities throughout India.

1990s
Richard Strasser ’92 is now associate dean for graduate education and special topics at Northeastern University.

Larsa Skuratovskaya ’96 is a research physician and scientific institute of the German Institute of Pathology and Pathophysiology at the Russian Academy of Medicine.

2000s
David Bomzer ’00 has moved to Connecticut where he is in-house counsel for United Technologies in the Pratt & Whitney unit.

Robert Gerg ’03 is an artist, writer, and curator currently teaching at Washington University in St. Louis.

Sadhia Drenje ’05 is the head of strategy and business development for Magic Bus, an NGO which uses sports-based curriculum and volunteer mentors to engage 250,000 children in marginalized communities throughout India.

2010s
Sarah Perry ’96 married David Humphrey in a Finger Lakes ceremony in April. A number of I-House friends were in attendance including Director of Resident & Auxiliary Services Mary Ann Fountain, Helen Dennis ’04, Judy Woo ’03, Brian Hughes ’04, and Desires Baxter ’98.

Elissa Cassini ’99, a violinist, performed Ravel’s Tzigane with pianist Jun Cho at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall as part of a fundraiser for the Lucerne Festival Academy, where Cassini was concertmaster for Pierre Boulez in 2009.

Weidling He ’10 and Justinine Rhea Tedjapramana ’10 are happy to announce the birth of their baby boy, Carter Zhiaio He, on November 27, 2012.

Jessica-Louise Lopez ’09 is now working for USAID as an education officer in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Tan Xuan Rong ’09 has moved to South Korea where he is a first secretary with the Singapore Embassy in Seoul.

Aneta Pilla ’09 married Pedro Costa ’10 in September 2010. The couple currently lives in Portugal where Pedro is completing his Ph.D. and Aneta teaches private English lessons.

Christine Carter ’11 performed a chamber concert of music by Robert Schumann with the life of Paul’s dear friend, the late composer, violinist, and pianist Elissa Cassini ’09, a violinist, performed Ravel’s Tzigane with pianist Jun Cho at Carnegie Hall. Cassini was concertmaster for Pierre Boulez in 2009.

Bolah Otu ’08 married Joseph Gillman on April 29, 2012 in Brooklyn, New York and later enjoyed a honeymoom in Turkey. Bohal works as an Assistant Professor at Mercy College, New York. The couple presently live in Lindenhurst, Queens, where they recently purchased their first home.

Several recent alumni got together when Josephine Kariuki ’12 visited New York from Nairobi this spring. Pictured here from left to right: Katrina Halkenbauer ’13, Avisa Sisk ’12, Anita Ha- neman ’11, Sarah Cook ’12, Josephine Kariuki ’12, Laura Cantekin ’12, Namema Amedu ’13, Tommy Dry ’11.

Bulgarian pianist Anna Plevrak and American violinist Molly Carr at the German Consulate General in New York City in May.

Caroline Eriksen ’11 is a Europe and international justice associate with Human Rights Watch in Brussels.

Sriniv Hanukai ’11 launched a website, www.josephunukai.com, chronicling his theater work.

Dr. Gerold Niggemann ’12 co-authored an article on the treatment of hidden contributions in kind under German corporate law, the main arguments of which were developed during his stay at I-House, that was published last year in the German corporate law journal NZG.

Do you have news to share? From the birth of a child to a new job to an informal gathering of I-House friends, tell us about it at www.ihouse-nyc.org/classnotes or email alumni@ihouse-nyc.org.
Midge Turk Richardson, the editor-in-chief of Swimmer Magazine for 18 years, and a Life Trustee of International House since 1984, died December 17th at her home in New York at age 82.

A former nun in her native Los Angeles where she served as a teacher and high school principal for 18 years, Richardson moved to New York in 1966 and went on to a successful career in magazine publishing.

“Midge was a source of optimism and energy for all who knew her and influenced generations of young women,” said her family in a statement.

Elected to the I-House Board in 1979, Richardson was a longtime member of the Programs & Resident Life Committee, which she chaired from 1984-86, and also served on the Nominating Committee. At her invitation, former CBS anchor Walter Cronkite was the 1999 Marshall Visitor at I-House. She and her husband Hamilton Richardson, a top-ranked tennis player in the US in the 1950s and 60s, attended I-House events together and donated tickets to the US Open to I-House residents.

He died in 2006.

In a statement on behalf of the I-House community, which ran in The New York Times, Chairman Frank G. Wisner and President Don Donadio praised Richardson as an “accomplished and devoted Board member for 33 years. Her warmth, dedication and many contributions will be missed.”

Alumni and Author Chinua Achebe ‘63

Chinua Achebe, the renowned author of “Things Fall Apart,” died on March 21st at the age of 82.

Achebe arrived at International House from Nigeria in the spring of 1965 as a UNESCO Fellow. He was already the author of two prize-winning novels, including “Things Fall Apart,” and was the director of Nigeria’s Foreign Radio at that time.

Achebe is often credited with revising African literature and giving it an African voice. “In his writing and teaching,” The New York Times wrote, “Mr. Achebe sought to reclaim the continent from Western literature.” Much of Achebe’s writing was inspired by colonialism and Nigeria’s civil war.

Achebe spent the better part of his life teaching at American universities, including Bard College and most recently Brown University. His last book, “There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra” was published in 2011.

Achebe was honored by International House in 1995 with the Harry Edmonds Award for Life Achievement.

Alumni and Friends

Carolyn A. Comfort ’45, Winter Park, FL

Edith Toy Yu ’46, San Diego, CA

Mary A. Hill ’47, Vancouver, BC

Yves Bory ’51, Waterloo, Belgium

Wan-Cheng Chu ’52, Honolulu, HI

Merethe Ring ’55, Oslo, Norway

Rex C. Obsson ’58, St. Ives, UK

Mary King-Whai Kim ’60, Seoul, Korea

Royce M. Mallory ’69, Edinboro, PA

Armin M. Harahab ’78, Jakarta, Indonesia

Olusegun Akinoye Clowsosoye ’83, Brooklyn, NY

Jane Itzkow, Edmonds, WA

Emma Besserman ’66, Life Member of the World Council of Alumni, who worked for the International Labor Organization and the United Nations, has died at age 89. She spent much of her career in Asia, working primarily in India and Thailand. A graduate of the University of Maine and Columbia University, she remained active at the UN after her retirement, serving as a representative of the International Council of Women at the United Nations and as a board member for the United Nations Association among other volunteer positions.

Mary A. Thompson ’47, a former staff member and resident, was one of the founders of NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, where she served as the organization’s first female President. Thompson, a longtime donor and resident at International House and graduate of Teacher’s College, spent the greater part of her career on the staff of the International Student Service of the National Board of YMCAs.

Jane Itzkow, Edmonds, WA

Nearly 20 years later, in 2008, Mrs. Davis came forward with a two-to-one matching challenge to further enhance and maintain Davis Hall. Under the terms of the Davis Challenge Grant, Mrs. Davis agreed to give I-House $2 million over four years if the House could raise $1 million.

“The generosity and commitment of Kathryn Davis continues to ensure that International House prepares residents to understand and deal effectively with the complexities of a global community as they become the next generation of leaders around the world,” said President Cuneo in announcing the grants.

Among many honors and accolades, Mrs. Davis was presented with the 2011 Harry Edmonds Award for Life Achievement by International House at a Rainbow Room gala in 1995. In a touch of symmetry, her son, Shelby M.C. Davis, will be honored by the House with its new Rockefeller Award for Distinguished Philanthropic Service in June.

Kathryn Wasserman Davis ’30 is Remembered for Generosity, Vision

Kathryn Wasserman Davis, a native of Czechoslovakia who studied art at Hunter College while living at International House in 1940, died on March 21st in New York. A graphic designer, she rose to the post of design director of the School Division and vice president at Macmillan Publishing. Paces served on the World Council of Alumni, participating in meetings in New York, Berlin, Prague and Singapore before being elected a Life Member in 2008.

Jessie Reppy. Kecker ’68 lived at International House while pursuing her master’s at Columbia University. She was 71.

Emma Besserman ’66, Life Member of the World Council of Alumni, who worked for the International Labor Organization and the United Nations, has died at age 89. She spent much of her career in Asia, working primarily in India and Thailand. A graduate of the University of Maine and Columbia University, she remained active at the UN after her retirement, serving as a representative of the International Council of Women at the United Nations and as a board member for the United Nations Association among other volunteer positions.

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She was 98.

Zlata Paces ’55, a native of Czechoslovakia who studied art at Hunter College while living at International House in 1940, died on March 21st in New York. A graphic designer, she rose to the post of design director of the School Division and vice president at Macmillan Publishing. Paces served on the World Council of Alumni, participating in meetings in New York, Berlin, Prague and Singapore before being elected a Life Member in 2008.

Life Trustee Midge Richardson

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Kathryn Wasserman Davis ’30 is Remembered for Generosity, Vision

The second new program, a $500,000 three-year grant, funds The Davis Peace and Diplomacy Initiative at International House to support recruitment and provide scholarship assistance to resident members from regions in conflict, as well as to residents pursuing diplomatic careers. The grant also supports new diplomatic and peace-building-related programming and a related speaker series.

“Peace is a global community and we want to be a part of that,” said Chairman Wisner. “There is a need for a greater focus on these issues.”

The first new program, a $150,000 two-year grant, funds The Davis Project for Peace, and members of I-House NYC have carried out 63 Projects for Peace, and members of I-House NYC have carried out 60 projects, administered by I-House NYC.

“The Davis Peace and Diplomacy Initiative at International House will provide a platform for students and alumni to engage in issues related to peace and diplomacy,” said President Cuneo.

“Peace is a global community and we want to be a part of that,” said Chairman Wisner. “There is a need for a greater focus on these issues.”

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International House Day Celebrations Spread Across the Globe

This fall, alumni gathered in cities worldwide to celebrate International House Day, an alumni tradition dating back to the 1930s. Alumni in Shanghai kicked off the festivities on October 27th at the second annual I-House Day there, a luncheon at the Pudong Shangri-La, sponsored by International Trustee John B.S. Pek ’68. Many alumni and their families were in attendance, including President Don Cumes ’09, who gave updates on I-House news and plans for the future.

Madrid enjoyed its first-ever I-House Day event on November 1st thanks to Melisa Anaid Lopez ’09, who organized a dinner at a local restaurant for a joyful group of alumni from various class years.

An I-House Day event in Nairobi was unfortunately called off due to severe weather, but John Pek kept the worldwide festivities going with another fantastic alumni luncheon, this time in Singapore on November 3rd.

Alumni in India gathered first in Mumbai at a dinner organized by Mark Trayling ’09 on November 5th and then at a reception hosted by Anant Nath ’05 and Harjiv Singh ’00 at the Delhi Gymkhana Club in New Delhi on November 6th.

“It is always a pleasure to meet I-House alumni and relive a bit of those lovely days in New York so many years ago,” said Sreemati Chakrabarti ’81, who attended the New Delhi event.

The I-House Day momentum suffered a second weather-related setback when Hurricane Sandy forced International House Day New York to be postponed from November 5th to December 3rd, but thankfully alumni celebrations in several other North American cities were able to proceed as planned.

In Canada, new president of Canadian Friends of I-House Robert Grant ’80 gathered alumni in Toronto for dinner and drinks at a lively gastropub, and newly-minted I-House alumni Alessandra Melotti ’12 celebrated her first I-House Day with fellow alumni at a hip lounge in downtown Vancouver. Ivy Chan ’09 also hosted a small gathering of alumni at a sushi restaurant in Silicon Valley, CA.

“In the same way that you quickly connect with I-House residents when you first move to the House, you can instantly connect with others whom you know have shared the I-House experience, no matter how recent or long ago it may have been,” said Melotti in reflecting on her experience organizing the I-House Day celebration in Vancouver.

“That’s the beauty of being part of the I-House community.” Latin America also hosted its first I-House Day event this year thanks to the efforts of Mariam Dayoub ’05, who organized a lively dinner celebration at a restaurant in Sao Paulo.

“It was a great experience organizing our get-together in Sao Paulo,” said Dayoub. “It brought back beautiful memories of joining I-House activities in the past.”

“It was nice to meet other people with whom we have something, beyond living in I-House, in common. People from I-House are good and nice people, people that, at their core, want to contribute to a better world,” she said.

Not to be outdone by their counterparts across the Atlantic, alumni in Istanbul gathered for an elegant branches celebration organized by Pinar Utbek ’10, and Peakfield alumni convened at the Hotel Darmstdaterhof for a dinner event organized by Freundes des I-House Treasurer Gloria Plaue ’99 and Andreas Huebner ’86.

On December 3rd, New York area alumni finally had the chance to celebrate I-House Day, and a joyous time was had by all in attendance. Co-chairs Pascal Archer ’07 and Katherine Hendry ’06 put together a spectacular salon night concert featuring classical music performances by cellist and composer Paul Brantley ’85, violinist Elissa Cassini ’09, bassoonist Sasha Gee Enegren ’10, pianist Yelena Grenbarg ’06, and pianist Matus Varga ’05. Musicians and audience members alike shared fond memories over food and wine in the Hall of History.

It was a happy moment at the end of a difficult month for many local alumni who were still recovering from the effects of the storm, and everyone was glad to be able to share the evening together at I-House as they remembered doing so many times while living in the House.

Making Connections, Sharing Advice at I-House Professional Interest Night

International House resident members flocked to the Hall of History on the evening of February 7th to gain valuable life and career advice from I-House alumni at this year’s Professional Interest Night.

The popular annual networking event brought residents and alumni from a variety of backgrounds and interests together to discuss the job search process, employers, relocation, professional goals, work/life balance, and other hot topics.

Alumni enjoyed the chance to mentor a younger generation of I-House residents, while residents relished the opportunity to learn firsthand from the experiences of those who have gone before them and who have successfully navigated the transition from student to professional.

The crowd was diverse—representing a variety of industries, generations, and countries of origin—but the shared experience of living at I-House served as a natural catalyst for forging new connections. Several alumni pointed to that common bond when asked why they volunteered to participate in the event.

“A tradition of support,” replied alumnus Takayoshi Wiesner ’07. “There is always something the I-House alumni can do for the current I-Housers, and attending Professional Interest Night not only benefits students but also refreshes your good memories of I-House.”

Residents expressed their appreciation in return.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for us as I-House residents,” remarked resident Mark Flanagan. “We are so lucky to be living here! Thank you to everyone who planned and participated in this event!”
The 2012-2013 Resident Members Gift Campaign Committee presents President Cuneo with a symbolic check at the Candlelight Sunday Supper on May 5th.

“We are proud to continue the RMGC tradition this year by surpassing our goals and help- ing even more residents to contribute to the I-House mission,” said Callison. “We are grateful for the support of all our donors, alumni, and friends who made this possible.”

Motivated by the success of the 2007-2008 resident members, this year’s residents strove to reach even higher milestones and broke the record for the amount raised by any cam- paign. The 2012-2013 Campaign raised $7,240, surpassing the 2007-2008 record of $7,201.

The role of former residents didn’t stop there. Citing the value of alumni interaction with residents at events such as the entrepreneurship panel in November (see page 3 for story), Professional Interest Night in February (see page 6 for story), and the Davis Peace and Diplomacy Initiative featuring Anastasia Byzovyna ‘95 in March (see page 8 for more information), this year’s committee, led by John Callison (United States), Hayden Huang (Taiwan) and Yumiko Murai (Japan), selected an endowed alumni engagement fund as the 2012-13 Resident Members Gift.

“We will call this the alumni engagement fund, and it will allow residents and alumni to connect and interact in ways that are meaningful to them,” said Callison. “It will be a way for alumni to stay connected to the I-House mission and to each other.”

The 2012-2013 Resident Members Alumni Engagement Fund will provide residents with the opportunity to engage with I-House alumni through a variety of ways, such as, but not limited to, bringing back select alumni to share their expertise as speakers, providing professional networking/mentorship opportunities with alumni through programming like Professional Interest Night or offering social functions where alumni and residents can meet to share personal experiences.

Former residents also helped encourage this year’s community to achieve ambitious goals through the challenges set forth by Trustees Adrian Looney ’92 Anthony Spikes ’96, Mary Miller ’66 and Ross Youngman ’91, all alumni themselves. If the Campaign was able to achieve participation by 550 residents and raise $5,000, they would donate an additional $5,000 to the Campaign.

Three hundred and sixty residents made personal donations to the Campaign, well surpassing the goal, the co-chairs announced at the Candlelight Sunday Supper on May 5th. They joined scores of others who purchased items at the Used Fridge Sale in September and the Second-Hand Bike Auction this May. In total, this year’s Campaign raised $12,240.

“We are proud to continue the RMGC tradition this year by surpassing our goals and helping improve alumni relations for the years to come,” said co-chair Murai. “Hopefully, when we are back as alumni, we can build upon the wonderful gift we created here.”

Accolades and Well Wishes as Don Cuneo Retires as President of I-House

At the Candlelight Sunday Supper on May 12th, Cuneo exhorted residents to carry on the I-House mission into their families, communities and professions.

“There is no higher calling than working alongside your fellow residents, figuratively and literally, to serve a higher purpose, to serve your fellow human beings and improve everyone’s opportunities and happiness,” he said.

Cuneo, who received a standing ovation at the end of his last Sunday Supper as Presi- dent, was introduced by Executive Committee Chairman William D. Rueckert.

“By my estimate,” said Rueckert, addressing Cuneo, “during your 20 years as presi- dent, you have influenced the lives of over 10,000 residents, and more importantly, an entire generation of global citizens.”

“Don, Bonnie and their family have lived the mission of International House for the past 20 years and we are all the better for it,” said Rueckert.

Reaction to the news, via emails and social media postings from around the world, was swift, typified by an alumna in New Delhi who wrote: “You are an inspiration to so many of us! Thank you for your amazing presence at I-House...your tireless work towards building such an inclusive, diverse community. We really appreciate it all.”

Following Cuneo’s retirement announcement, Chairman Winters conferred with Ex- ecutive Committee Chairman Rueckert and Nominating Committee Chairman Peter M. O’Neill ’92 to formulate a plan and schedule to identify a successor. O’Neill is chairing a search committee, and Spencer Stuart, the global executive search firm, was retained to assist in the search.

Cuneo lived at I-House from 1966-69 while pursuing a J.D. and M.B.A. from Columbia University, founded the I-House Tutorial Program, and later returned as Resi- dent Advisor. In 1971 he joined the international law firm Shearman & Sterling, where he would remain for 22 years.

Elected to the I-House Board in 1977, he served as secretary of the Board and led the New York Area Alumni Council in the late 1980s. In 1993, he was unanimously elected President and CEO, the first alumnus to hold the position, and only the seventh institu- tional head since the House opened in 1924.

Cuneo was feted at a reception hosted by the New York Area Alumni Council on May 50th, with other farewell festivities planned during the month of June.

“The I-House family has been an inspiration to me and my family,” he said. “It has been both fun and challenging to define, develop and support the mission and work of this unique international educational institution devoted to our residents’ and alumni’s welfare and future as global citizens.”
Second Semester of WIL Program Culminates in Successful WIL Week

Sponsored and actively supported by Bayer Healthcare for the second year in a row, International House's 2012-2013 Women's International Leadership Program (WIL) concluded another successful year this spring.

Three full weekends of seminars, multiple networking events with Bayer executives, relationship building among the 18 grantees and significant one-on-one interaction with their mentors culminated in the creation and implementation of WIL Week in March.

Second semester activities began in January, when executives from Bayer presented a workshop on resume writing and negotiating and conflict management training. “The WIL program’s leadership workshops have been incredibly helpful and applicable to my school experience. I have gained public speaking skills, team-building experience, as well as negotiating and conflict management training.”

The WIL training weekend in February offered grantees a workshop on conflict management and visits with the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, Downtown Community Television Center and the Community Mayor of Harlem to learn about leadership in multicultural communities.

“WIL has been an incredibly positive experience for me, and I feel that I have gained 17 lifelong friendships with some wonderful, talented women,” said grantee Taylor Warren. “The WIL program’s leadership workshops have been incredibly helpful and applicable to my school experience. I have gained public speaking skills, team-building experience, as well as negotiating and conflict management training.”

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WIL Week, the pinnacle of the WIL experience and a critical opportunity for the grantees to employ their talents and skills, took place the first week in March, and opened with an alumnae recognition reception that included guests from Bayer and members of the WIL Advisory Council.

I-House alumna Anastasiya Hozyainova ’05 spoke on March 4th about her experience founding her own NGO and working as an analyst in Afghanistan for six years. The following evening, a documentary screening, “View from a Grain of Sand,” captured the obstacles faced by women in Afghanistan.

A panel discussion, “Charting an Activist Path,” focused on advocacy and human rights. Panelists included SIPA Professor Tanya Domi, Dale Buscher, Senior Director at Women’s Refugee Committee; domestic violence advocates Beatriz Mieres-Hernandez, and immigration lawyer Carmen Roy. The panel was moderated by WIL Advisory Council member Tanya Melich, an author and political analyst.

On International Women’s Day, the final day of WIL Week, the grantees directed and produced, “Voices,” a performance sharing fifteen true stories relating to the theme of womanhood written by I-House Residents.

“The WIL program provides you the opportunity to establish a great network of young women working towards great careers and lives as leaders. To interact with women from many professional areas, cultural backgrounds, personalities, interests, and beliefs has inspired me,” noted grantee Karin Johnson.

The WIL Program’s 22nd year left a lasting impression on the community and again provided grantees with an exceptional learning opportunity, friendships to last a lifetime, and a strong network of women to support them into the future.

The eleven projects from I-House New York are:

Michael Boyman (USA) and Brian Gillis (USA) – Interfaith Understanding: Promoting Peace through Dialogue and Music (Pakistan)
Amanda Bradshaw (USA) – Planting Peace: Creating Community Green Spaces in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Claire Debucquois (Belgium) – Improving Women’s Access to Land in Bolivia / Pachamama hoy dia
Tauriq Jenkins (South Africa) – Shakespeare for Peace in Prison (South Africa)
Guillaume Kroll (Belgium) – From the Slum to the Job Market: Empowering the Haitian Youth to Escape Violence and Rebuild the Country (Haiti)
Lunga Radebe (South Africa) – “KAGISHO”: Peace through Applied Theatre – Dramatic Conversations with Troubled Youth (Free State, South Africa)
Lukas Schopp (USA/Germany) and Tabas Waelt (Germany) – Solar Energy: Information Session and Installation of Solar Panels in 7 Cambodian Villages
Lisa Sciarani (USA) – Los Fundadores Soccer School (Colombia)
Esha Sheth (India) – Building Capacities to Rebuild Lives (Burma/Myanmar)
Emily Joy Sullivan (USA) – Common Chords: Lasting Peace through Collective Creation (South Africa)
Frederica Yawson (Ghana) – Innov8te Ghana: Combating Unemployment with Innovation, Design for Development & Manufacturing

Grantees from I-House New York will document their projects in journals online at www.ihouse-nyc.org/p4p2013 throughout the summer and grantees returning to New York in the fall will make presentations to the community about their projects.

Resident members from I-House New York were among the students at I-Houses Worldwide and the schools affiliated with the Davis United World College Scholars Program who were given $10,000 grants to design and implement grassroots projects to promote peace by the Davis Projects for Peace this summer.

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SAVE THE DATE

25th Anniversary Pan-European Alumni Reunion & Freunde Annual Meeting

Berlin, Germany
September 27-29, 2013
Visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/europereunion for details.

International House Day

Locations Worldwide
November 2013

Interested in organizing an I-House Day celebration in your hometown? Email ndavidson@ihouse-nyc.org by August 1st.