



Life of Herman Rottenberg Celebrated



Herman Rottenberg with Harry Edmonds, 1968



Fall Fiesta, 2005 a tradition created and sustained by HR for decades



Edmonds Award Recipient, 2000

“HR was my closest friend and guide as I made my way into New York City and my life here. Without him I simply would not be here today.”

—George Mathew '04

Hundreds of International House alumni from across generations gathered on February 8th to remember Herman “HR” Rottenberg, who for nearly 50 years helped enrich the I-House experience for thousands. Rottenberg died November 4th, 2013, at age 97.

“Throughout its history, there are few individuals who have become as synonymous with I-House as Herman Rottenberg,” said President Calvin Sims, who led the tributes in Davis Hall. “This is a wonderful outpouring for a great man.”

The gathering was attended by members of the Rottenberg family, I-House Trustees, World Council members, alumni, residents, staff and former staff. Guests came from across the United States and from England, Germany and Italy to take part.

“We have lost a giant in the history of I-House, and I have lost a dear friend,” said former President Don Cuneo, who first met HR as a young graduate student in 1966. “Happily, his legacy lives on in the many lives he touched, and the signature programs he established here.”

Other speakers at the event were sons Dan Rottenberg and Bob

Rottenberg, Trustee Peter M. O’Neill ’92, alumnus George Mathew ’04, Yvonne Marceau, Founding Artistic Director/Director of Development, Dancing Classrooms,; Director of Programs Susan Storms, and Director of Development John A. Wells.

A video of the ALLNATIONS Dance Company, prepared by Sophia and Roy Pachecano ’92, was shown, and musical performances were provided by alumni Diana Bickley ’92, Kimilee Bryant ’92, Claire Chan, Ashley Horne ’89, Hawthorne Smith ’92, Evelyn Thatcher ’97, Erasmia Voukelatos ’91, and Laurelyn Watson ’95.

International dance and music became a serious interest for HR in the 1950s, when he and his wife Lenore participated in folk dancing lessons and later began teaching. In 1963, he sold his prosperous knitted wear manufacturing business in order to “do something I believed in,” he said in 1985.

“I-House wrapped up in one neat package everything I loved,” he once said.

His association with the House began in late 1963, when he was hired at an annual salary of \$1 to be Cultural Affairs Director. Through his folk-dancing classes, he soon discovered among the

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U.N. Under-Secretary-General Describes Preventive Diplomacy Efforts

Jeffrey Feltman, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, addressed the International House community on March 31st on the topic of “U.N. Diplomacy and Today’s Crises.”

Feltman noted the profound change that has occurred in the nature of global conflicts since the founding of the United Nations in 1945. Created to address conflicts between nation states, the U.N. now finds itself mostly engaged with countries’ complex internal conflicts. These conflicts, he said, often result in failed or collapsing states as well as transnational threats such as terrorism and organized crime.

Feltman described the U.N.’s central role of preventive diplomacy, first espoused by Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, which aims to stop crises before they start. The U.N. maintains a mediation team available for immediate dispatch anywhere in the world, and Feltman said preventive diplomacy can be more cost-effective than peacekeeping missions.

The under-secretary-general highlighted countries that are making progress toward democratic governance and sustainable peace, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Yemen. He also described recent or ongoing diplomatic failures in the Central African Republic, Syria and Ukraine.

Feltman said the unity or division of the Security Council often determines the success or failure of U.N. efforts. While virtually all successful missions are driven by a consensus agreement within the Council, he said, when the Council is divided, important tools for diplomacy and peace-building are held back.

Three characteristics that the U.N. brings to the table in diplomatic, political and security situations—unparalleled legitimacy, values and universalities—all translate into the organization’s impact and are instruments primarily used on behalf of humanity to resolve conflict, Feltman concluded.



Jeffrey Feltman

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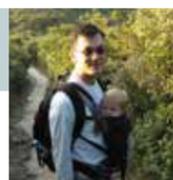
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Relations
500 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10027

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
Kareem Elsamadicy
Heather Liebensohn
Alfred Miller

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



Since arriving at International House in September, I have been studying our operations and familiarizing myself with the many moving pieces that enable this incredible facility and community to function effectively.

I've met with employees, residents, Trustees and alumni and have come to deeply admire their commitment to both the history and the future of this great institution.

As we prepare to celebrate International House's 90th anniversary, ensuring the House's continued relevance in the global sphere is a key priority for me. It requires us to keep looking forward strategically so that we can stay ahead of the curve and identify possibilities for "added value" in the resident experience.

Creating this "added value" can be achieved in part by providing further opportunities for residents to develop as leaders and prepare for their careers, and through profile raising exercises, such as hosting public events, that educate the world about what the House represents and the special value our residents bring to their workplaces and communities after departing.

To this end, we recently launched several new initiatives.

In March, as you will read below, we teamed up with the Ford Foundation to host a panel discussion on the topic "What's Not Being Covered By the Media...And Why?" I served as moderator for the panel which included nationally-known print and television journalists and was open to the I-House community and the public.

In January, we began an ongoing collaboration with the international news site GlobalPost where our residents author essays, presenting their perspectives on topics of relevance to their peer groups. These essays are published on their website, www.globalpost.com, in a new commentary called "Voices," whose goal is to present the ideas and thoughts of those less frequently heard in the media. To read them, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/globalpost.

Also, in partnership with GlobalPost, we will host a one-day conference in October on an issue of great importance to our residents: global youth unemployment. We expect to attract a number of significant thinkers on the topic, including members from the World Economic Forum, The World Bank, JP Morgan Chase, Ford Foundation and Univision, as well as considerable media attention. I-House Trustee Fared Zakaria, who anchors CNN's *Fared Zakaria GPS*, will host the conference's opening session.

We are also exploring further collaborations with organizations such as the Council on Foreign Relations and the French American Foundation.

Our friends and alumni are critical in this effort to expand the purview of the House and ensure that it remains pertinent.

Whether it be by spreading the news about what this remarkable institution has to offer, supporting the House financially or through in-kind donations of your time and expertise, or volunteering to mentor a resident and provide career or life advice, you can help us achieve these goals.

Top Journalists Examine Media Coverage in Panel Discussion



From left to right: Jim Avila, Kathy Chow, Calvin Sims, Janine Jackson, Dean Baquet and Dale Maharidge.

Social justice, poverty, complex international issues and rural immigrant populations were among topics identified as under-reported in the panel discussion "What's Not Being Covered by the Media...and Why?" on March 24th.

The panel was co-sponsored by International House and the Ford Foundation and moderated by I-House President Calvin Sims.

Speaking before a crowd of I-House residents, Trustees, alumni, journalists and special guests in Davis Hall, Sims posed questions to the panel of experts: ABC News' Senior National Correspondent Jim Avila, Dean Baquet, Executive Editor for *The New York Times*, Kathy Chow, Executive Director of the Asian American Journalists Association, Janine Jackson, Program Director for Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, and Columbia University School of Journalism Professor Dale Maharidge.

The panel first addressed poverty in America, which Janine Jackson said does not get more media coverage because it's "hard to find something new" to report on a subject many find depressing.

Dean Baquet didn't disagree with "the notion that there is a lot that's not being covered" in relation to poverty, and cited as reasons the constantly-shifting attention of news organizations and that reporters find it difficult to write about poverty "in a sophisticated way."

Baquet said he felt "there is more being done than people give credit for," but noted that coverage tends to be localized. He cited *The Times'* acclaimed "Invisible Child: Dasani" series as an example of successful poverty reporting.

Jim Avila stated that the major news networks don't cover poverty in depth not because of ratings, but because there is "not enough time

in the 6:30 news hour" to delve into the issue. Reporters need to identify subjects that suburban America will like," he said.

Kathy Chow provided insight into her organization's work in Nebraska, where despite a large population of refugees from Asian countries like Myanmar, the local papers do not cover issues impacting these immigrant populations.

There is a perception among decision makers at these papers that these communities are not their consumers, she said, but this overlooks the second and third generation immigrants who are English speaking and read the papers.

Shifting the discussion to international issues, Sims posed the question of "what countries are given priority and why" in news coverage.

Again citing the time limitations of network news programs, Avila said that international coverage is generally limited to crises and cited a lack of what he called "process stories."

Chow said that sensational news, like stories about presidential affairs, sells more in the United States and therefore is given broader coverage. Maharidge countered that because more Americans are living outside of the United States and international stories tend to be very visual, greater numbers of Americans are reading about foreign news than some believe.

Baquet agreed there is a large interest in foreign news among Americans as evidenced by the growth of foreign news organizations in the United States such as *The Guardian*, which he sees as a competitor to *The Times*, *Al Jazeera* and *The Financial Times*. Part of the increased appetite for foreign news is a result of the rise in immigration, he said.

The panelists all agreed that the lack of diversity in newsrooms impacts what news is covered.

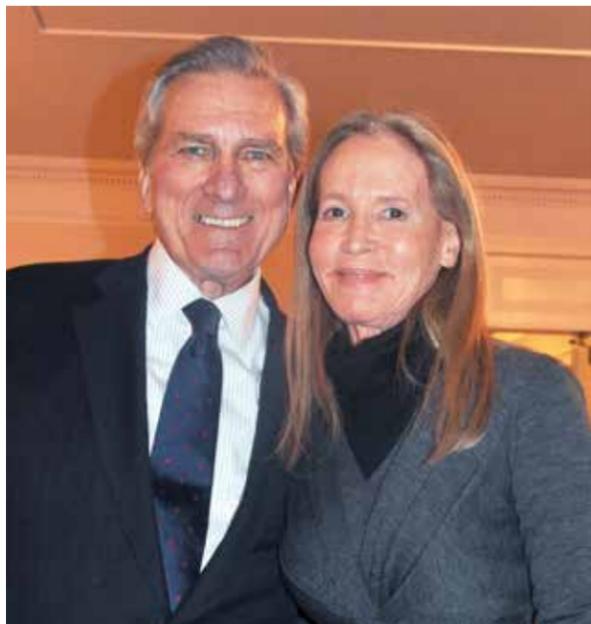
Jackson said that it is critical to have diversity among managers and other decisions-makers who can overrule offensive and misguided subject matter and headlines and ensure that certain stories get coverage.

Avila concurred, saying that at ABC News, minorities are well represented by on-air journalists, but not within the decision-making bodies of senior and executive producers.

ABC News, he said, recognizes this disparity, and has started a mentor program that identifies younger producers of color. They also have a rotating program that brings younger producers into the rooms that make the decisions about what stories get broadcast.

The responsibility for media coverage of diverse populations is not that of the media's alone, Chow concluded. It is also the "responsibility of these communities to advocate for more coverage."

Human Rights Watch Chair Sees Potential Conflicts with Decline of U.S. Influence



James Hoge with Trustee Barbara Heyman

The waning of U.S. influence has left a leadership vacuum that is having a profound impact on the international order, according to James Hoge, Chairman of Human Rights Watch and the former editor of *Foreign Affairs*, who addressed an International House audience as a John J. McCloy Visitor on January 30th.

Using the backdrop of the 100th anniversary of World War I, Hoge described three major areas of potential large scale conflict: China and Japan; nuclear North Korea, India and Pakistan; and the multitude of conflicts in the Middle East stemming from the Sunni/Shia rivalry.

Despite the economic interconnectivity of nations, some of the same factors that drew countries into the Great War—

rising nationalism and sectarianism—still exist, and can easily overcome economic rationality to make these potential conflicts escalate.

Hoge said this is the case with China and Japan where a shared history of defeat and mistreatment can exacerbate small differences into becoming a much larger conflict.

The presence of nuclear weapons make these regions more volatile, Hoge said, and the effectiveness of deterrence will decline with proliferation.

Historically, nuclear weapons provided prestige and defense for nation states. Now, with the threat of non-state actors such as terrorists groups who would not hesitate to use such a weapon, the world must be even more vigilant, Hoge stressed.

North Korea's continued economic difficulties make it a prime candidate for nuclear commerce while Pakistan, he believes, can quickly turn into a failed state. Both India and Pakistan's lack of experience with nuclear weapons makes the possibility of unintended consequences even more probable.

Hoge cited the struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran as a clear example of the Sunni/Shia conflict, where the two nations compete directly against each other and come out on opposite sides of virtually every conflict in the region.

Should Iran go nuclear, it can be assured that the Saudis will quickly follow suit and with these sworn enemies having absolutely no nuclear experience, there could be no more dangerous a scenario, said Hoge.

As all these conflicts percolate, Hoge noted, what's missing from the past is a security overlord to maintain order, a role historically played by the United States. The perceived leadership vacuum increases the tension in all global hot spots.

Hoge concluded by saying the last decade has taught us that military power can only do so much, and that economic and political development around the globe will prove even more critical in addressing current problems.

Philanthropist Calls on World's Wealthiest to Help Address Society's Many Challenges



Daniel Rose

International House residents heard one of New York's leading philanthropists implore the world's wealthiest citizens to follow the American example of philanthropy at the Sunday Supper on January 26th.

Daniel Rose, New York-based real estate developer and noted humanitarian, told the Davis Hall gathering that the world's 300 richest individuals have a collective net worth of \$3.7 trillion.

"When governments are under pressure to cut all expenditures, the arguments for philanthropic entities (national and international) to underwrite cultural and educational activities seem compelling," said Rose.

"Why should they not be encouraged to support 'the arts and sciences'—in addition to, not instead of—whatever government provides from tax revenues or the market does for profit?" he asked.

Rose described philanthropy as a uniquely American phenomenon that has become a "third sector" along with government and business in efforts to improve and advance society. He cited I-House as "an example of American philanthropy at its best."

"It provides an important service that the free market cannot provide as inexpensively and that government cannot or will not," he said.

Following Rose's prepared remarks, he engaged in a conversation with President Calvin Sims and took questions from I-House residents.

Karin Johnson, the president of the I-House Residents' Council and a Columbia social work student from the United States, said she hoped to be a future "third sector" leader but noted the low pay often associated with non-profit work.

Rose said there are no easy answers to this issue and noted other underpaid but rewarding careers such as teaching, in which he said one's prime incentive should be satisfaction and a sense of contribution.

"Life is not fair," he said, quoting Robert F. Kennedy. "It takes decent, honorable people to make it fairer."

Residents Get Low Down on Start-Ups at Venture Capital-Entrepreneurship Panel



Renee Park of High Peaks Venture Partners was among the speakers at the "Start Up Buzz: What's it all About" panel discussion on February 6th.

Form a team. Develop a good product. Do it because you want to do it. Follow a dream. Don't take no for an answer.

These were some of the tips offered during a venture capital-entrepreneurship panel, "The Start Up Buzz – What's it all About?" held on February 6th in the Home Room at International House.

The panel, moderated by CNBC's markets reporter Sheila Dharmaragan, featured Austin Bone, Head of Product at mobile start-up Snaps!, Katie Finnegan, co-founder of e-commerce at the tech start-up Hukkster, and two start-up funders, Keegan Forte, General Manager & Analyst at Bowery Capital and Renee Park, Associate at High Peaks Venture Partners.

Dharmaragan, formerly of Bloomberg Television, guided the panelist on topics ranging from the importance of mentors, domain expertise, finding investors and leveraging

connections.

Finnegan described as "scrappy" the model of Hukkster, a free shopping tool that tracks products online for users and notifies them via email, text message and/or push notification when those products go on sale or when coupon codes or promotions are available. She said that team building is one of the most important aspects of any start-up.

Bone has built Snaps—a mobile app that helps consumers engage with brands and social causes they love—into a powerful platform that monetizes photo creation and sharing. He cited the importance of relationships in getting started, and noted that in numerous cases, mentors had become investors.

On the funding side, Park noted that at High Peaks, an early stage tech venture capital fund in New York, 30 percent of venture capital goes to entrepreneurs. Forte, General Manager & Analyst at Bowery Capital and formerly of AOL Ventures, said that a main focus of her company was on helping entrepreneurs win their early customers to insure sustainable growth.

Residents were ultimately advised to not worry about details, to be persistent, not get discouraged, and to prove skeptical investors wrong.

The panel also discussed issues related to women in start-ups, and Finnegan praised Trustee Adam Quinton, who organized and introduced the program, for his "huge support" of women entrepreneurs.



Marianne Tesler (center), CEO of the Art Partner, Inc., the leading agency for creative talent in the fashion industry, was elected to the Board of Trustees in February. Tesler, who previously served as CEO of Nike France and CEO of Givenchy, was the 2013 Coporate Whitehead Visitor this past fall. She is pictured here with Katie and Peter O'Neill '92, who introduced her at the event.

ALUMNI THROUGH THE DECADES

1940s

Nelda Drury '44 is professor emerita at San Antonio College, where she taught modern, ballroom, and international folk dance for several decades. She founded the college's dance department and the annual San Antonio Folk Dance Festival, now in its 56th year.

1950s

Elizabeth Brothers '51 was recently named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in recognition of her contributions to philanthropy through her work as a fundraising consultant and personal supporter of the arts.

1960s

Michael Westgate '60 is co-author, with his wife Ann Vick-Westgate, of *Gale Force—Gale Cincotta: The Battles for Disclosure and Community Reinvestment*. Cincotta was the driving force behind the Community Reinvestment Act.

Esen (Sever) Ozgener '62 and **Cano Ozgener '64** recently founded OZ, a nonprofit performance and installation space for innovative contemporary art experiences in Nashville, Tennessee. Established as "a gift back to the city and country that have been so hospitable to them as first-generation, Turkish-Armenian immigrants," OZ is housed in a renovated warehouse that previously served as the headquarters of the Ozgener family's cigar business, C.A.O. International Inc.

Shirley Siew '67 has been appointed to the Faculty of the National Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

Robert O. Jones '68 retired as professor emeritus of music from Muskingum University in New Concord, OH.

Yoav Talmi '68, Music Director of the Israel Chamber Orchestra, Conductor Emeritus of the Quebec Symphony, and Head of Orchestral-Conducting Department at the University of Tel Aviv Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, was recently chosen as a 2013 winner of the Israeli Prime Minister's Prize for Composers.

Peter Calderon '69 now splits his time between New Jersey and Nimes, France. He is an active competitive fencer on the veterans international circuit, with 5 appearances in the World Championships representing the USA. He continues to work in the legal field as general counsel of a wind turbine company.

1970s

Stanley Kanzaki '71's first novel, *The Issei Prisoners of the San Pedro Internment Center* (Vantage Press, Inc.), was published in November 2013. He intends it to be the first in a trilogy, and is currently working on the second book.

Mary Masterson Germain '72 is associate professor at the College of Nursing at SUNY-Downstate Medical Center. A

retired colonel in the Army Nurse Corps, she developed the college's graduate nursing program.

Thalif Deen '73 won a gold medal for excellence in U.N. reporting for his coverage of the humanitarian and development work of the United Nations. The award was presented by the U.N. Correspondents' Association at a black tie dinner at Cipriani on December 18, 2013.

1980s



Austin C. Amalu '81 was honored with a chieftaincy title by the people of Obelagu in Enugu, Nigeria. After 25 years of service with the UNDP, Austin returned to his home village in Enugu and founded Triangle, a nonprofit that tackles rural poverty through empowerment of women, micro credit, revolving funds, food security initiatives, and small animal husbandry. In recognition of his humanitarian efforts, Austin was given the chieftaincy title 'Chief Ojezulawa,' meaning 'one who has traveled far and wide.'

Pierre Servan-Schreiber '80, a Parisian lawyer, recently partnered with the U.S.-based Annenberg Foundation in a secret effort to purchase sacred Hopi artifacts at auction in order to return them to the Native American tribe. The scheme was devised after the tribe, with representation by Servan-Schreiber, unsuccessfully attempted to block the sale in a French court, arguing that the items were religious objects that had been stolen many years ago.

David Stebenne '85 teaches modern United States history at Ohio State University and American legal history at OSU's law school.

Robert Karsunky '87 was recently promoted to the position of C.E.O. for the pharmaceutical business of Novartis, based in Basel/Switzerland.

Juan Forero '88 is *The Washington Post's* correspondent for Colombia and Venezuela and a South America correspondent for National Public Radio.

Robert Van Zweiten '88, I-House Trustee and C.E.O. of Emerging Markets Private Equity Association, was recently interviewed by columnist Rakesh Mani in the *New York Times'* India Ink blog.



Klaus Moessler '85 (second from right) is a co-founder of YOUROPEAN, a pro-European, nonprofit initiative which calls for rethinking and reforming restrictive migration policy. The initiative launched in December 2013 with an event in Lampedusa, Italy, where 367 migrants died in a shipwreck in October.

Jonathan Collins '89 is general counsel, Asia at Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT), a British-based insurance business in Hong Kong.

Jim Latham '89 and Margot Latham adopted a daughter, Tess, from Ethiopia in 2009. This included traveling with son Max to Addis Ababa, where they stayed for a week. Since then, Tess has thrived and they have all enjoyed connecting with the Ethiopian and adoptive communities in Los Angeles.

Emma Marcegaglia '89 has been appointed chair of the Italian oil and gas company Eni, where fellow alumnus **Paolo Scaroni '72** is C.E.O.

Jeffrey Sims '89 is an attorney in the Los Angeles office of Seyfarth Shaw LLP. He has broad experience with international corporate and commercial transactions, in particular with investment in Asia.

1990s

Charles Laughlin '90 reports: "After teaching Chinese literature at Yale University for 10 years (1996-2006), I served as Director of the PKU-Yale Joint Undergraduate Program at Beijing University 2006-2007, Director of the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing 2007-2010, and since 2010 I have been Director of the East Asia Center and Weedon Chair Professor of Chinese Literature at the University of Virginia."

Derk Lemstra '90 is managing partner in the Financial Markets Group of the Benelux law firm Stibbe and currently heads Stibbe's Corporate Practice.

Sheryl Huggins Salomon '91 is senior editor-at-large at *The Root*.

Alisa Lagamma '91 was recently elected Head Curator for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Arts of Africa, where she has worked since 1996.

Kimilee Bryant '92 announces the birth of her son, Aidan Everette Bryant, on March 21st, 2014, at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York.

Thai Keong Chua '92 is Singapore's Ambassador to the Republic of Chile. He joined Singapore's Foreign Service in 1986 and served as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and concurrently Ambassador to Mongolia from 2006 to 2010.

Lammot du Pont '93 is a senior advisor of Manatt Health Solutions, an interdisciplinary policy and business advisory practice of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

James Morris '93 oversaw a live streaming of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Richard II*, starring David Tennant, via a website created by students from the Web Media BA program he runs at Ravensbourne, the London college of digital media and design. Streamed into classrooms and cinemas, the play was seen by an estimated 60,000 people.

David Steinberger '95 is co-founder and C.E.O. of comiXology, a cloud-based digital comics and graphic novels platform which was recently acquired by Amazon. He lives in Manhattan with his wife.

Jan Bohanes '96 is counsel at the Advisory Centre on WTO Law.

Jacob M. Appel '98 is the author of a new novel, *The Biology of Luck* (Elephant Rock). His first novel, *The Man Who Wouldn't Stand Up*, won the Dundee International Book Award in 2012.

Marcelo Prince '98 was recently appointed deputy editor of *Wall Street Journal's* Marketplace section. He and his wife Amy have three young children

Delphine Djiraibe '99 is a senior human rights lawyer and chief attorney at the Public Interest Law Center, an NGO based in N'Djamena that she founded in 2006 to provide Chad's poor with access to justice and hold the Chadian government and extractive industries accountable for harm caused to local populations and the environment.



Mitra Malek '01 married Alexandre Galvao at Florida's MacArthur Beach State Park in February 2013. In December 2013 the couple moved to Boulder, CO, where Mitra is a senior editor with *Yoga Journal* magazine.

2000s

Lily (Bao) Secora '02 and her husband Nick welcomed Scott Nicholas Secora into the world on March 14, 2014, joining big sisters Sophie and Sara.

Bozena Katic '03 and her husband Eugene welcomed a daughter, Filipa Elizabeth, on February 11, 2014.



Saadia Iqbal Leal '05, **Ladan Samar-Bakhsh '07**, **Tobias Schneider '03**, **Christoph Merdes '04**, **Ok-sana Buranbaeva '04** and **Rafael Leal-Arcas '05** got together for a mini-reunion in London when Samar-Bakhsh visited from Canada this spring.

Daniel Levy '04 married Johanna H. Finegold in London in August 2012. The couple welcomed their son Raphael Khol Levy on January 3, 2013.

Faisal Ariff '07 has been awarded a \$30,000 sponsorship to the graduate stud-



Queenee Choudhury '04 and her husband Santanu Kundu are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy named Akash, born May 3, 2013.

ies program at Silicon Valley's Singularity University after winning the first Global Impact Competition held in Kuala Lumpur.

Jade Eppelheimer '08 was recently promoted to the position of Designer in Macy's Intimates department.

Felix Schlarmann '08 recently released his first album *CounterLife* on the renowned Dutch record label Challenge Records International. Some of the music on the record was written in the I-House practice rooms.

Elena Bouza '09 was included in the inaugural Artists in Residence Exhibition at the historic Andrew Freedman Home in the Bronx.

Rob van Haaren '09 is co-founder of Divvy Solar, a crowdfunding and planning platform for clean energy projects. Divvy has successfully launched two pilot projects in the Bronx: a zero-impact aquaponics farm and a solar and green roof at the Bronx Design and Construction Academy.

2010s

Kevin Holt '10 is a Columbia University ethnomusicology Ph.D. student. He was awarded a 2013 predoctoral fellowship from the Ford Foundation, which provides him with 3 years of support for his research on youth culture and hip-hop music in Atlanta and more broadly in the United States.



Tim Mank '11 and **Marie Larson '11** were married in December. Several I-House friends were on hand to help them celebrate including Laura Cantekin who served as officiant.



Christine Carter '11 and **Florian Hoefner '11** were married on April 13th at International House. Carter has been appointed assistant professor of music at Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland, where the couple will reside. Hoefner released his second CD of original compositions, "Falling up," with the Florian Hoefner Group and just completed a North American release tour.



Thomas Dundas '05 married Callista Barrit in a Quaker ceremony in Kangaroo Valley (near Sydney, Australia) on December 1st. In attendance were **Anant Nath '05**, **Lara (Wallantine) Hussain '05**, **Chad Husko '07** and **Emily Duffill '05**.

Karen Hakobyan '11 performed a solo recital of music by Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Beethoven, Gershwin, Liszt, and himself at Steinway Hall in New York on November 30th.

Ayanna Witter-Johnson '11 was recently interviewed and named "One to Watch In 2014" in the *Huffington Post* UK edition.

Annett Richter '12 served as the official representative of the Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS) for the 37th session of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in October.

Mohammad Al Amoush '12 is director of the Institute of Sustainable Development (ISDP) at Columbia University's Global Center in Amman, Jordan.

Brian Asingia '13 is a co-founder of The Pearl Dream Inc., which recently debuted Dream Africa, an African storytelling mobile app that aspires to be the largest digital collection of African stories for kids, with illustrated text, voice-overs, animations and quizzes/games.

IN MEMORIAM



John I. Howell, a longtime International House Trustee who chaired both the Executive and Nominating committees, died March 13th at age 97 in Greenwich, CT.

A graduate of St. Paul's School and Yale University, Howell enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941 and was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Washington and later sent to Burma and China.

After World War II, he was employed by the J. Henry Schroder Banking Corp. in London and worked at the New York office of the company, where he became President in 1962 and then Chairman of the Board in 1970.

Howell was elected in 1963 to the I-House Board, where he served successively as Chairman of the Finance, Executive and Nominating Committees, as Treasurer, and on the Programs, Development, Investment, Audit and Long Range Planning Committees prior to his election as Life Trustee in 1988.

After his retirement, Howell served on the boards of several companies, including Ward Howell Associates Inc. and the American International Group. Preceded in death by his wife Nelda in 2002, Howell is survived by two children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Lucylee Chiles '92, an artist, educator and arts administrator who was a committed and beloved member of the International House community for more than a quarter century, died on December 23rd, 2013.

Dr. Chiles lived at International House while pursuing her doctorate in art and art education at Columbia. She was a participant in the inaugural year of the Women's International Leadership (WIL) Program and served actively on the WIL Advisory Council from 1993 until last fall.

Her involvement with I-House included service on the Board of Trustees from 1993-96, and on the Board's House and Programs & Resident Life Committees from 1993 until her death. She was a member of the World Council of Alumni and the New York Area Alumni Council (NYAAC) steering committee.

After leaving I-House, Dr. Chiles was Executive Director of the Isabel O'Neil Workshop and Foundation for the Art of the Painted Finish for a number of years.

A cancer diagnosis in 2004 did little to curtail her busy schedule, which included teaching watercolor painting for the Crystal and Seabourn cruise lines, combining activities and skills—world travel, teaching and painting—she dearly loved.



Anker Buch '62, a renowned musician often called the "Victor Borge" of the violin, passed away at the age of 74 on April 1st.

Originally from Denmark, Buch lived at International House from 1961-1962 while studying at The Juilliard School. Buch was a member of the ALLNATIONS Dance Company, an organization founded by the late Herman "HR" Rottenberg, and travelled with the Company until 1971.

After making his debut at the New York Town Hall in 1964, Buch became famous for combining violin performance and comedy. He performed on the Merv Griffin and Johnny Carson Shows as well as at over 7,000 concerts throughout his storied career.

A supporter of the 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign, Buch stayed in touch with the House through the years, and returned in December, 2005 to perform at the Holiday Sunday Supper. In 2008, he participated in the 1960-1965 Alumni Reunion and performed at the Alumni Salon Night.



Thea Petschek Iervolino '48, long an active alumna and a generous supporter of International House and other cultural institutions in New York City, died January 24, 2014, in Riverdale, NY, at the age of 89.

A graduate of Vassar College and of Parsons School of Design, which she attended while living at I-House from 1946 to 1948, Iervolino taught painting, pottery-making and origami as a volunteer in New York City Public Schools on the lower East Side.

Iervolino often returned to I-House for alumni activities and other events in the decades following her residency, including the August 1992 meeting of the World Council of Alumni held in Prague and hosted by **Tudy** and **Ambassador Alan McLaine '56**.

Following McLaine's untimely death, Iervolino helped establish the McLaine East West Leadership Program. During the 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign, a music practice room was named for her. At her funeral, she was fondly remembered by nieces, nephews and friends for her good works, her photography (including a photo she took of Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics), her generosity and kindness.

Andre S. Dreiding '44
Heirlberg, Switzerland

John Jorg Boll '49
Madison, WI

Jagdish R. Hiremath '52
New Delhi, India

Joseph F. Lindenfeld '64
Memphis, TN

Mary Haour-Knipe '69
Geneva, Switzerland

Inti Montenegro de Wit '10
Johnson City, IN

Arthur C. Carr '46
New York, NY

John D. Miller '50
Niagara Falls, NY

Mary Jane Flaith '53
Wyndmoor, PA

Mohamed M. Gaber '69
Cairo, Egypt

Sergio Zeballos '83
Venice, CA

Stephen C. Rose '12
New Rochelle, NY

I-House Spirit Celebrated by Alumni Around the World



A small but proud group of Canadians attended the I-House Day Vancouver.



Alumni enjoyed an evening of wine and conversation at I-House Day San Francisco organized by **Emre Erdogan '07** and **Melike Gunalp '04**.



John Pek, center, again generously hosted I-House Day Singapore.

How do you define the I-House spirit?

“Life changing experiences,” “the world’s greatest friendships,” “teamwork,” “leadership and engagement,” “family.”

These were some of the definitions provided by alumni around the world as the I-House spirit was celebrated at I-House Day events in fifteen cities on four continents this past fall.

I-House Day returned to both Shanghai and Vancouver to kick off this year’s celebrations on October 26th. **Alex Melotti '12** and **Najwan Stephan-Tozy '08** helped alumni relive leisurely Sunday brunches in the Dining Room with an internationally-themed brunch at a fair trade café in Vancouver.

In Shanghai, International Trustee **John Pek '68** again generously sponsored a luncheon event organized by fellow World Council Member **Eileen Fang '99** and attended by more than 20 alumni and guests, doubling past participation and reflecting the growing number of Chinese residents at I-House.

Next up in the worldwide celebration was Rome, where **Adriano Romano '97** organized a Halloween night dinner and speaker event. **Stefano Giovanardi '01**, astronomer at the Planetarium of Rome, presented on the incoming comet ISON, which he said may be the “brightest comet ever.”

“I-House New York changed our lives forever and for better,” said Romano.

I-House Day returned to Asia on November 2nd with events in first-time host city Seoul and return location Mumbai, again organized by World Council of Alumni member **Mark Trayling '09**.

Although just six alumni joined the celebration in Seoul, “we had a great time over Korean BBQ dinner, and reminiscing about the tiny rooms, experiences and people we met while at I House,” said **Xuanrong Tan '09**, who organized the event.

On November 4th, the celebration went into full force with events in Hong Kong, where World Council of Alumni member **Frank Wong '81** hosted a happy hour at Dickens Bar), Toronto, New York, San Francisco and

Frankfurt.

At I-House Day Frankfurt, attendees’ knowledge of the House was tested with a quiz that asked things like “How many German residents are currently living at the House?” and “What is the most ordered beer at the I-House Pub?” The answers were 26 and Pabst Blue Ribbon, respectively.

In Toronto, Canadian Friends of I-House **Robert Grant '80** organized a drinks and dinner evening that, according to Grant, “demonstrated not only how truly ‘international’ I-House is—with alumni from six or seven different countries present—but also how diverse Canada is becoming: virtually everyone present was born somewhere else.”

Co-chaired by former Performing Arts Fellows **Bryan Wagorn '12** and **Sarah Cook '12**, New York Area Alumni Council’s I-House Day Alumni Salon Night featured stunning musical performances by **Javor Bracic '12**, **Hawthorne “Hawk” Smith '92** and **George Mathew '04** and a monologue read by **Anisha Dadia '12**.

In London, two dozen alumni fought the crowds of Chelsea football fans to attend a reception and speaker event hosted by Friends of I-House, U.K. at the Hollywood Arms on November 6th.

Renfeng Zhao, a Director at Kreab Gavin Anderson, the international strategic communications firm, referenced the story of Harry Edmonds’ encounter with a lonely Chinese student to describe his own experiences as citizen of China studying and working in London in more recent times.

On November 9th, Singapore and Florence played host to I-House Day celebrations.

Fifty alumni and guests engaged in ice breaker games, a tribute to “HR” and a silent auction to raise funds for the Annual Fund at the Waterfall Café at the Shangri La Hotel in Singapore. Generously sponsored by **John Pek '68**, the event also featured a video message from Calvin Sims and an update on various aspects of life at I-House presented by organizer and World Council member **Alex Pang '06**.

In Florence, alumni had a number of opportunities to

gather and celebrate starting with a casual pizza dinner on Saturday night. On Sunday, a smaller group met for coffee and later enjoyed a traditional Tuscan lunch at the famed L’Osteria di Giovanni.

The following week, alumni gathered for drinks in Washington DC at an event organized by **Dana Cibulski '83** and World Council Members **Bob Chadwick '83** and **Juliet Wurr '87**.

Alumni shared what I-House meant to them and their favorite memories.

“The intellectual and cultural diversity at I-House sharpened my view of life’s beautiful tapestry,” reflected **Dana Scherer '00**.

This year’s I-House Day celebrations came to a close with an event in the other hemisphere. World Council members **Sam Armstrong '90** and **Ross Youngman '91** hosted a small gathering in Sydney on November 21.

Said Armstrong, it was a “small gathering but still had the I-House magic.”

Next year will mark I-House’s 90th anniversary and the House would like to expand I-House Day celebrations to even more locations. If you would like to organize an event in your city, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/ibdvolum-ter or contact Nicole Davidson at ndavidson@ihouse-nyc.org or 212-316-8425.



Alumni at I-House Day Frankfurt show off their coveted trivia prizes.

President Sims Meets with Alumni in Washington D.C. and Cape Town



Alumni with President Sims in Cape Town

International House President Calvin Sims travelled to Washington DC on April 9th for the first of a series of gatherings to meet I-House alumni and share with them his vision for the House.

Organized and hosted by **Tom Bleha '58** at the historic DACOR Bacon House, an organization of former foreign affairs professionals, the event attracted nearly 40 alumni from all walks of life and class years.

After an introduction by Bleha, Sims told alumni that the “state of the House has never been better,” and noted its financial stability, recent capital improvements to resident

rooms, the Frohlich Fitness Center and technology, and strong programming.

Ensuring the House’s “continued relevance in the global sphere” is a key priority, he said, and one that “requires us to identify possibilities for ‘added value’ in the resident experience.”

To achieve this added value, Sims told the alumni and guests in attendance, the House will be looking for additional opportunities to help resident members develop as leaders and prepare for their careers while raising the public profile of the House.

“I continue to be a very proud alumna of International House and am thrilled today to see it is in such great hands,” said **Shravya Reddy '08** after listening to Sims. “President Sims is a true standard bearer for journalistic excellence and global citizenship.”

Later that month Sims travelled to South Africa to serve as moderator of a panel discussion on “Power Stakes: The Role of China in the Developing World” as part of the International Press Institute World Congress and took the opportunity to meet with alumni on April 13th.

On an autumn evening overlooking the Cape Town waterfront, a dozen alumni got acquainted over drinks, swapping stories of their experiences in the House and their careers and family lives in Cape Town.

Sims provided a brief update on the House and some history, noting that the first South African resident was a Zulu woman in 1929. He noted that the number of African residents in the House had declined in recent years due to a number of factors and asked alumni to help in identifying residents and serving as mentors.

The event attracted alumni from across the several decades.

Anelora Fiske '70 reflected how living at I-House had a profound impact on her life, particularly during the time period she was a resident.

“It was a time of great turmoil not only in my country but also in the States,” said Fiske. “I was exposed to a new way of thinking and being at I-House, learning to accept everyone for who they were regardless of color and nationality.”

“There’s an affinity here that surpasses age because of the magic experience of the House,” said **Tongai Maponga**, who lived in the House for just three months in 2012.

While the reception was scheduled for two hours, the group was so engrossed in conversation that no one wanted to leave and they all stayed on to have dinner together. Several expressed interest in having a more formal alumni association that would meet several times a year.

Why I Give: Kenton Beerman '05



Kenton Beerman with one of his sons on a visit to Hong Kong

As the 10th Anniversary Resident Member Gift Campaign (RMGC) was completed this spring (see page 8 for results), International House caught up with Kenton Beerman, a donor to the very first RMGC in 2003-2004 who has thoughtfully contributed to the House every year since. A Mitsui Scholar, Kenton Beerman lived at I-House from August 2003 to May 2005 while pursuing a degree at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Beerman currently works as a business line specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and resides with his family in Brooklyn.

Why did you support the first Resident Member

Gift Campaign in 2003-2004?

I-House was very generous to me by providing a scholarship. The House represents a selfless spirit and is a great community from which to learn.

How would you describe your I-House experience?

Excellent, amazing and truly diverse. From spur of the moment meals in the Dining Room to more formal events like Fall Fiesta and the All Nations Celebration, I had a great time taking part in all that the House had to offer.

Why do you continue to support the House financially?

If you have the ability to give and recognize what I-House gave to you, you should give back. I do believe in giving to organizations that are important to me. The House creates an environment where people from all backgrounds can learn from each other and make memories for a lifetime. My time as a resident was a key experience in my life.



The Map Lounge was dedicated on February 26th in memory of Phyllis Duskin Hirschfeld, a longtime supporter of I-House and Board member from 1961-2006. Her sons, Alan Hirschfeld, Trustee Thomas Hirschfeld and John Hirschfeld unveiled the brass plaque bearing her name at a ceremony following the Board of Trustees Meeting.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

On February 26, 2014, the International House Community gathered to dedicate the Map Lounge in memory of the late Trustee Phyllis Hirschfeld at a wonderful event which brought together Board members, alumni, residents, staff and members of the Hirschfeld family.

Widely admired for intellect and charm, Mrs. Hirschfeld joined the I-House Board in 1961 and served on the Development and Programs & Resident Life Committees. She remained a Life Trustee until her death in 2006.

Trustee Tom Hirschfeld and his wife Julie had come forward in 2012 to honor Tom's mother with a naming gift in recognition of her nearly 50-year association with the House, during which she lent her time and talents in ways that benefitted generations of residents.

The Map Lounge was the ideal space to honor this extraordinary woman. Known to previous generations as "The Waffle Wing" and adjacent to the Dining Room, it is a vibrant space where residents gather for meals, study, games and recreational activities.

The Phyllis Duskin Hirschfeld Map Lounge is one of numerous public spaces at I-House named for outstanding individuals or organizations that have contributed to the House's well-being. There are naming opportunities throughout the House, notably Named Resident Rooms, which ensure that residents in need receive meaningful financial assistance to help them fully participate in the community.

Over 100 rooms have been named at I-House in honor or in memory of loved ones or for countries, companies or charitable foundations, and generations of residents have been inspired by the substantial commitments these donors have made.

For more information on this important giving program, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/namingopportunities or contact me in the Development & Alumni Relations Office at 212-316-8440. And the next time you're at I-House, please be sure to visit the Hirschfeld Map Lounge!"

John Wells

I-House Community Celebrates Life and Legacy of Herman Rottenberg

continued from page 1



HR and the late Howard Cook, the former President of International House who hired him in 1963.

residents some very talented dancers studying at then-nearby Juilliard and other top-flight schools.

In the fall of 1964, the first Fiesta of Folk Dance & Song —later known as Fall Fiesta—was held at I-House, where residents performed songs and dances of their native countries. Soon there were requests for outside performances, and the ALLNATIONS Dance Company was born.

HR made the company a professional one by hiring dancers from all over the world, and securing the support of

Trustee Sigurdur Helgason '45, the Chairman of Icelandicair. Beginning in 1969 the multi-ethnic dance troupe began flying around the world to entertain audiences with its performance "Joy in Every Land" and, with HR and longtime artistic director Chuck Golden, carry the banner of International House across the globe.

The I-House Board of Trustees soon recognized the value of HR's unique contribution to the House, and in 1971 he was elected to serve on the Board. In 1976, he relinquished the title of Cultural Affairs Director.

During the heyday of the Dance Company, HR was on the road from September to June throughout the 1970s and 80s. After the death of his wife in 1982, he began teaching the weekly Ballroom Dancing classes, and ALLNATIONS performed annually at Night of Nations (now the All Nations Celebration). By the time it disbanded in the early 2000s, the company had performed in more than 55 countries on six continents.

In the 1990s, HR established another signature program, the Ice Cream Socials, for which he personally selected flavors and scooped ice cream for the residents who lined up.

Throughout his tenure at I-House, HR got to know hundreds of residents personally, helping many of them

financially in direct and indirect ways, and attended scores of weddings over the years. In honor of his 80th birthday in 1996, alumni and friends from around the world named a resident room in his honor.

"HR was my closest friend and guide as I made my way into New York City and my life here. Without him I simply would not be here today," said George Mathew.

Working closely with the Office of Programs and Resident Life, HR continued overseeing the execution of his beloved programs until the spring of 2008 when his health began to fail. A generous if personally modest benefactor of the House, he continued to stay in touch with alumni and friends until shortly before his death.

In November of 2003, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his first visit to I-House, HR was honored at that year's Holiday Sunday Supper.

"Working at I-House has made my life worth living," said HR that night. "I met, worked with, and loved several thousand wonderful students who came here from every point of the globe. I give thanks for the privilege of walking through the I-House door every morning."

To view photographs of HR and to read the messages sent in by alumni worldwide upon hearing of his passing, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/remembershr.

SAVE THE DATE

NYAAC in Your Neighborhood Happy Hour Series
August 2014
Locations across New York City

Freunde Pan-European Alumni Reunion & Annual Meeting
September 19-21, 2014
London, United Kingdom

Friends of I-House, UK Benefit Concert
September 20, 2014
London, United Kingdom

Fall Fiesta: An I-House Day Celebration of Music and Dance
November 7, 2014
New York City

90th Anniversary I-House Day Celebrations
November 2014
Worldwide locations

For information about organizing an I-House Day event and to volunteer to host one in your area, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/ihdvolunteer.

For information about these events, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/alumni-events or contact Nicole Davidson at ndavidson@ihouse-nyc.org or 212-316-8425.

WIL Week Celebrated



From left to right: WIL Grantees Jasmine Johnson, Meerim Kachkynbaeva and Slavea Assenova with "Power Struggles" panelists Tanya Melich, Lauren States, Grace Warnecke, Mary Murphree and Leadership Fellow Laura Sunblad

The sixteen women of the Women's International Leadership (WIL) Program put their leadership skills into action in March during a weeklong series of events that engaged and informed the wider International House community on topics relating to women and leadership.



Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith

As part of the Davis Peace and Diplomacy Initiative, guest speaker **Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith '92, Ph.D.**, a member of the inaugural WIL class, kicked off WIL Week by sharing a personal account of how her I-House experience helped shaped her career success as a psychologist and Associate Professor who works with survivors of torture and those affected by the HIV/AIDS virus.

I-House "ignited my professional passion," she said.

"Being exposed to the illustrious speakers, my peers, the staff, the programs, my fellowship as a peer counselor" brought to light her interest in human rights and social justice and helped her to develop multicultural sensitivity, Akinsulure-Smith explained.

"As a budding clinician, I-House was the place to learn and grow," she said.

Day two of WIL Week featured a documentary screening of *Killing Us Softly 4* followed by a discussion of the media's impact on the definition of gender roles led by Susan Jang, Professor of Psychology of the Media at Columbia University.

On Thursday, a panel discussion entitled, "Power Struggles," featured I-House Trustee Lauren States, Vice President of Strategy and Transformation for IBM Software Group, former WIL mentor and Russia and former Soviet Union expert Grace Kennan Warnecke, Mary Murphree, Ph.D, a former leader in the U.S. Department of Labor, and moderator Tanya Melich, political analyst and member of the WIL Advisory Council.

Each panelist shared candid personal accounts of their power struggles in the workplace. Despite their varied backgrounds, each panelist stressed the importance of having mentors and sponsors in your life and choosing a career path that matches your passions.

The finale of WIL Week on March 7th opened with a thought-provoking photography exhibit of male and female residents sharing their views on womanhood and images of important women in their lives. The exhibit was followed by "Based on a True Story," where residents used different art forms-poetry, spoken word, music, dance, and theater-to express a variety perspectives on womanhood.

The Spring Semester at I-House in Pictures



Residents rang in the Lunar New Year at the Chinese Cultural Hour on January 31st. Pictured here are Wei Zhang and Guangying Qin performing in a skit that demonstrated the differences between Northern and Southern China. Other cultural hours this spring celebrated Italy, Belgium and New York City.



The Arcade at the annual All Nations Celebration, held on April 5th, featured a calligraphy booth that taught residents the art in Chinese, Japanese and Arabic, and for the first time, Ukrainian egg painting. Other activities during All Nations included an international food festival, resident dance show, cabaret, arts exhibit, dance party and late night breakfast.



The 2013-2014 Resident Members Gift Campaign set a participation record with 393 resident members contributing and raised \$6,675 to create a community-building activities fund. They met the challenge set out by the Trustees and consequently received a matching grant of \$5,000, bringing the starting balance to \$11,675. Co-Chairs Mark Flanigan and Jonathan Koe announced the results at the Candlelight Sunday Supper where they presented President Sims with a symbolic check.



After a month-long renovation that included a new ceiling, floors, lighting, and the addition of free weights, dumbbells, benches, a squat rack and state-of-the-art spinner bikes, the Frohlich Fitness Center was reopened at a ceremony on April 21st. These renovations were made possible, in part, by the 2007-2008 Resident Members Endowed Sports and Fitness Fund, which was established by the 2007-2008 Resident Members to improve and maintain items relating to sports and fitness at International House.



Resident member Raffi Wartanian plays the oud before a packed Home Room at the Salon Night on February, 20th. Approximately once a month, the performing arts fellows, who this year are Catalin Dima from Romania and Mike Boyman from the United States, organize a Salon Night featuring performances by I-House's talented residents, often students at Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music or Mannes College.

Resident Member Honors

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



Hayden Huang

Dr. Hayden Yao-Ting Haung (Taiwan) is the primary author of "Prospective PCR Monitoring Reveals Adenovirus (ADV) Viremia Is Associated with a Significant Risk of ADV Disease in T-Cell Depleted and Cord Blood Allograft Recipients," which was published in the journal *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation*.



Martin Terens

Martin Terens (Germany) is a recipient of the 2014 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award from The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). He is currently recording an album and will be performing with the Lukas Gabric Group at the 2014 Getxo International Jazz Festival.



Bowen Wang

An article by **Bowen Wang** (China) entitled "Automatic Control System for Uniformly Paving Iron Ore Pellets" was published in the journal *Enterprise Information Systems*. Bowen is a Mechanical Engineering graduate student at Columbia University.

To learn more about some of International House's remarkable residents, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/portraits.