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 Marcoux, 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 alumnus Diana Bickley ’92, Kimdee 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 knit- ted 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 students a passion for sharing the traditions of their home countries.

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 Hammarskjöld, 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.
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.

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.

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 Univation, as well as considerable media attention. I-House Trustee Farzad Zakeria, who anchors CNN’s Fareed 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.

Social justice, poverty, complex international issues and rural immigrant populations were among topics identified as under-covered 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 Sums.

Speaking before a crowd of I-House residents, Trustees, alumni, journalists and special guests in Davis Hall, Sums 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.

Baquet disagreed 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 “finds it more than being done by people giving 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, Sums 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 greatly 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 decision-makers who can oversee 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 ranks 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.”

Top Journalists Examine Media Coverage in Panel Discussion

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

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Alumni: Not getting our emails?
You’re missing out! Please visit www.ihauseny.org/alumni to update your address and personal information, and to ensure you receive news and invitations from I-House. You will need to log in, or if you have not already done so, register with your unique constituent ID to access your profile. Your constituent ID can be found to the far left of the address on the front of this Newsletter envelope or by contacting alumni@ihauseny.org.
Human Rights Watch Chair Sees Potential Conflicts with Decline of U.S. Influence

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—cultural, economic, and political development around the globe will prove even more critical in addressing current problems.

As all these conflicts percolate, Hoge noted, 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.

Hoge concluded by saying that 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.

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

Residents were ultimately advised to not worry about 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.

From 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 Dhamaragan, featured Austin Bone, Head of Product at mobile start-up Snap!, Katie Finnegan, co-founder of e-commerce at the tech start-up Hukkster, and two start-up funders, Kregan Forte, General Manager & Analyst at Bowery Capital and Renee Park, Associate at High Peaks Venture Partners.

Dhamaragan, 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.

Forte has built Snap—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.

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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.

“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—if 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.

Karim 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.”

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.

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at the historic Andrew Freedman Home in New York for its inaugural Artists in Residence Exhibition. Elena Bouza ’09 was included in the program. Some of the music on the renowned record was written in the I-House practice room of Felix Schlarmann ’08. Some of the music on the record was written in 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.

2010s

Kevin Holt ’10 is a Columbia University ethnomusicology Ph.D. student. He was awarded a 2013 professional 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.

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 of the WIL Advisory Council and the UN System (ACUNS) for the 37th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in October.

IN MEMORIAM

John J. 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 Schroeder 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 doctoral degree 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.

Jagdish R. Hiremath ’52
New Delhi, India

Mary Jane Flath ’73
Wyomissing, PA

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 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 finally 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.

Anker Buch ’62, a renowned musician often called the “Virtuoso” 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.
I-House Spirit Celebrated by Alumni Around the World

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

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

International House President Calvin Sims travelled to Washington D.C. 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 form 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 alumnus of International House and am thrilled today to see it 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.

Anelor 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 national identity.”

“There’s an affinity here that surpasses age because of the magic experience of the House,” reflected Dana Schreer ’85.

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/dedication or contact Nicole Davidson at ndavidson@ihouse-nyc.org or 212-316-8425.

I 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 Metlos ’12 and Najwam 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 lunchtime event organized by fellow World Council Member Ilene 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 ’01 organized a Halloween night dinner and speaker event. Stefano Giovannardi ’01, astronaut 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 past 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 Pilsner Blue Ribbon, respectively.

In Toronto, Canadian Alumni of I-House Robert Grant ’00 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 Alumni Salon Night featured stunning musical performances by Javor Bradic ’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 “1H” and a silent auction to raise funds for the Annual Fund at the Waterfall Café at the Shangri La 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 I’Osteria di Giovanni.

The following week, alumni gathered for drinks in Washington D.C. at an event organized by Dana Cibulski ’83 and World Council Members Bob Chadwick ’93 and Juliet Wuer ’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 Schreer ’85.

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 this year, please visit www.ihouse-nyc.org/dedication or contact Nicole Davidson at ndavidson@ihouse-nyc.org or 212-316-8425.

Alumni enjoyed an evening of wine and conversation at I-House Day San Francisco organized by Ewe Ersligan ’02 and Melodie Gonsal ’04.

Alumni enjoy an evening of wine and conversation at I-House Day Singapore.
Why I Give: Kenton Beerman '05

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 Metsus 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 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 give back.

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.

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I-House Community Celebrates Life and Legacy of Herman Rottenberg

continued from page 1

Trustee Sigurdur Helgason ’45, the Chairman of Icelandic Heritage, began 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 Goldstein, 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 Dance Company was born. 

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

Tome’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 benefited generations of residents.

The Map Lounge was the ideal space to honor this extraordinary woman. Known to previous generations as “The Waffle Wring” 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, be sure to visit the Hirschfeld Map Lounge!”

John Wells

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.

SAVE THE DATE

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

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John Wells

I-House Community Celebrates Life and Legacy of Herman Rottenberg
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.

As part of the Davis Peace and Diplomacy Initiative, guest speaker Adyinka 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 WIL 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 Murphy, Ph.D., a former leader in the U.S. Department of Labor, and moderater Tanga 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 final day of WIL Week on March 7th opened with a thoughtful storytelling and photography exhibit of male and female residents sharing your life and choosing a career path that matches your passions.

The 2013-2014 Resident Members Gift Campaign set a participation record with 193 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. Dr. Hayden Yao-ting Haung, Dr. Martin Terens, and Adyinka 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.

WIL Week Celebrated

Resident Member Honors

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

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 (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 Grbic Group at the 2014 Getxo International Jazz Festival.

Bowen Wang (China) is a recipent 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 Grbic Group at the 2014 Getxo International Jazz Festival.