alumni news

Newsletter of the Sydney University International House Alumni Association
96, City Road, Chippendale, N.S.W. 2008 Australia.
Tel.: (02) 950 9800 International: (61.2) 950 9800 Fax.: (02) 950 9804

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THE DIRECTOR WRITES

Once again at the start of a new year, may I thank all those of you who write to me and the members of the House staff during the festive season. We really appreciate your efforts to keep in touch and it makes all our work seem worthwhile when it is obvious what the House meant to you when you were here and obviously still means to you. This year we have not only received letters and cards, but also visitors. In fact two former residents travelled from Germany, Joachim Kästel (October 1992 to April 1993) and Heike Hermanns (semester II 1993), to be with us for much of the summer. The daughter of Dr Mohammad Nisar Ahmed (1972), Sabena and Mary Ng, daughter of Paul Ng (1971/2) both applied to come into the House this year. One decided against coming due to changed circumstances and the other applied too late when the House was already full for the semester. Both girls were quite intrigued to see what their fathers looked like all those years ago. The photographs on the files certainly have their uses! Another visitor in February was Sevana Dakaica (1986).

It has been a very busy start to the year with several residents and prospective residents making last minute changes to their schedules. Some have decided to stay longer while others have been offered places at other universities or have decided to leave.

The problem has been exacerbated by the larger than usual numbers of people who wish to live in the House, a trait almost unique amongst the other residential colleges within The University. As a result the House is packed out which is very pleasing.

Robert Maurich (Assistant Director, Resident), together with the two Senior Residents, Linda Aykut and Kenneth Kong, the Chairman of IHMA, Nimal Ratnesar and his Committee devised an excellent programme of welcome for residents over the first week. The programme included a barbecue on the Sunday evening to which members of Council were invited, followed by a bush dance; coffee nights; two restaurant nights in King Street; a day visit to the Log Cabin in combination with members of SUHAA and the usual Harbour Cruise. The result has been the development of a very friendly spirit within the House which normally takes longer to become so obvious.

Having mentioned the Log Cabin, we have been informed by the Forestry Commission that we must install a septic tank. As a result, we are taking the opportunity to move the bush toilet and link it to the water supply. Those of you who have fond memories of that toilet - for ever a talking point when the cabin is mentioned! - will either be delighted or horrified by this move!

A further development for 1994 sees the installation of a fire escape for the Wool Room and the rotunda. As we try to utilise the facilities of the House more, especially the Wool Room, to enable us to develop further as an international centre, such a measure is mandatory.

Dr Basil Voyagis, the Chairman of the Council in 1992 and 1993 decided not to stand again for 1994 and as a result Mr Brian Farmer (1968) was elected. Brian was the first alumnus of the House to be elected to the Council in 1974 and while his stay on the Council has not been continuous since then, he is now the first alumnus to be Chairman. He is also a Fellow of the House and many of you will remember him for his energy in helping to build the Log Cabin.
In the last addition of the Newsletter, I made a start on a brief and potted history of the House. We left it with the Appeal underway. Chapter 2 follows.

At the preliminary meeting of the SU IH Trustees Committee (12.x.59) two groups were commissioned.

A Committee formally sponsoring a public appeal and a “nuclear” Trustee Committee consisting of the first Committee and representatives of groups and individuals with Mr ES Thellefsen of Sydney Rotary. At that meeting, Professor JRA McMillan, Sydney Rotary Club, was present as was Mrs Thelma Bate (CWA).

Mr Harold Maze suggested that land might be available in Newtown and Darlington anticipating an adequate site in either Carillon Avenue or in the “special uses” area reserved to the University in Darlington.

Other meetings followed and after much deliberation, the Appeal was officially launched at a meeting in July 1961 when the Governor of RD 275, Mr Sleath Lowry read a letter sent to each University outlining a proposal that RD 275 initiate an appeal to raise £600,000 to equip each university with an IH. Two members of the new board, Messrs Seymour Shaw and Dr GL Lowe had encouraged Rotary to get involved.

At the next meeting Harold Maze became Exec. Sec. and Rotarians present were First VP of Rotary International Mr AD Stewart, DG nominee Mr CHW Arthy, Professor Mitchell and WG Sherrington.

In March 1962, the Commonwealth Government agreed to subscribe $200,000 for each House, matched by the State Government and Rotary would raise a further $200,000. By March 1967 Rotary had raised $266,417.79 for SUIH and $200,369.30 for NSWIH.

From the point of view of general purpose, it was stated that the concept of an International House implies a residential institution designed to meet a special purpose; it is inherently different from a regular hall of residence. The House will have two main purposes. On the one hand it should provide for strangers in a strange land, facilities for living and study as individuals under reasonably comfortable conditions. On the other, it should provide opportunities for easy contact between individuals and groups of overseas students with Australian students. In regard to the latter objective, peculiar significance is to be attached to the provision both for eating facilities, communal and incidental, and of places for social intercourse, recreation and conversation.

It was also appreciated that the House should become an international centre, recognising that to whatever extent residential accommodation can be provided, there will be overseas students who will be able to find no suitable place for foregathering nor any suitable place where they may establish informal contacts with Australian students.

We will see how these ideas panned out in Chapter 3.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and successful 1994.

The old boundary stone for the City of Sydney, now located in the IH garden, which had to be removed from its original site when the House was constructed.
President's report

May I welcome new alumni members who have recently joined the association and those members who have always been with us since 1968 to another issue of alumni news. This year brings a few changes and shake-ups to the administration of SUIHAA. Having devoted many years of service to the welfare and activities of the House and the association, Pauline Kennedy - a long standing SUIHAA Executive Committee member - has finally moved to a greener pasture. Pauline resigned from her position as the sublime SUIHAA Secretary and International House Assistant Director (Programme) in December of last year. SUIHAA is fortunate to have gained from Pauline's vast experience and insights (see article by Graeme de Graaff in this issue). On behalf of all alumni members I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Pauline for the contributions she has made over the years. SUIHAA warmly welcomes Gwen Ng (resident, 1969) who has bravely taken up the position of SUIHAA Secretary. Joe Saliba continues his work with the association as the dedicated Treasurer.

On Saturday 5th March 1994, members of SUIHAA and the International House Members Association (IHMA) came together for the first 'Alumni-Residents Log Cabin Picnic' (see article by Rosemary Fisher in this issue). This inaugural event, which was part of the International House orientation programme for new residents, proved to be a success amongst those who were able to find their way to the log cabin. As well as supporting and organizing alumni functions, SUIHAA will be conducting more functions with IHMA for both alumni and residents.

On a different note, over the last 25 years and through several sets of executive committees, SUIHAA has been grappling with its raison d'être, what benefits it can offer its members, what (and how) its members can do to support the association and confidently guide it into the 21st century. Each of us has our own vision of what we would like International House and SUIHAA to become. Yet, it is a daunting task to operationalize the visions and the rhetoric echoed by those who have been touched by the 'International House experience'. But, it is a task that must be done. We need to stop and reevaluate the role and functions of the alumni association. The task of developing a plan with definitive aims and objectives for the association will take many years of careful planning and consultations, sheer dedication, determination and perseverance. So, how and where should we begin?

SUIHAA constantly experiences difficulties in maintaining and sustaining contact with its members, but the reasons for such difficulties nevertheless place this association in a privileged position. Currently, SUIHAA has 1662 members, of which approximately 1335 are on the mailing list. At least three quarters of our members live overseas. SUIHAA membership represents a conglomeration of graduates from many disciplines. Through such a diverse membership, we have the potential to have good national and international contacts. Our alumni members are people of influence - leaders in the humanities, science, medicine, arts, business, finance, government, academia and the professions - people of considerable experience and expertise. Given this advantage, as an international alumni organisation what could we make of ourselves and how could we make the most of the untapped resources of our members?

I would like to start by inviting alumni members to share with me and fellow alumni your thoughts, ideas on how SUIHAA should proceed into the next century. We need to set goals and priorities and to ask ourselves whether we should continue with the status quo - keeping and upgrading contacts with the alumni and acting as an information clearing house for alumni - or should we seek to expand the role of SUIHAA and make it stronger and better? Should we concentrate on fundraising activities or should we confine our activities to organizing reunions and social functions for alumni members? Should we be actively involved in the International House Programme organized for residents and, if so, what activities should be organized? Should we aim to set up local SUIHAA branches for our overseas members?

We welcome your correspondence, in whatever form it may take.

Philayrath 'PH' Phongsavan
SUIHAA President
Treasurer’s report

Sydney University Alumni Liaison Committee

For the last few months representatives of SUIHAA have attended meetings of the Alumni Liaison Committee set up by the University.

The aims of the committee are to encourage, assist and co-ordinate the work of the various alumni groups and the results could include:

a) Establishment of a formal connection with the University. This would provide the option of funds to be held in the University account, where they would attract a higher interest which would not be taxable.

b) Provision of administrative support (at cost) by the University. For example, the newsletter could be posted with the University Gazette which would result in some savings to SUIHAA.

c) Holding of an annual forum and also an annual reception for Alumni Associations.

When all the options have been clearly identified SUIHAA members will be consulted and any decisions taken at a general meeting. In the meantime members opinions would be welcome.

Joe Saliba (1970 - 1972)
SUIHAA Treasurer

SUIHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1993

The Annual General Meeting of SUIHAA was held on 7 November 1993 at the residence of Graeme de Graaff.

It was agreed that SUIHAA Life Membership Fee be raised from $20 to $30 for 1994 onwards.

The following candidates were reelected unopposed for the executive positions for 1994. These positions will be effective until November 1994.

President: PH Phongsavan
Treasurer: Joe Saliba
Secretary: Pauline Kennedy (resigned December 1993)

Alumni Activities for 1994

Foundation Day Address Thursday 11th August
AGM/Alumni-Get-Together Sunday 6th November

For more information about these activities please contact International House.
A word from the Editor...

For so many years Pauline has provided the link of continuity at International House. Her warm, friendly personality endeared her to the Residents and her prodigious memory for names and personal details, plus her genuine delight in keeping in touch with Alumni combined to make her the perfect choice for SUIHAA Secretary and Editor of the alumni news.

Sadly for us, Pauline has left International House for full time employment elsewhere in the University. Of course we wish her happiness and success in her new venture but at the same time we regret the loss of her invaluable knowledge and ever welcoming presence.

Thoroughly daunted, I now attempt to assume Pauline's SUIHAA duties. Since I was a resident at International House for only 16 months (November '68 to March '70) I was personally acquainted with a relatively small number of residents. However, through my husband Richard (1967, '68, '69) and as a result of living 18 years in South East Asia, I have been fortunate in meeting many more Alumni and forming wonderful friendships.

Now, I hope to get to know even more of you through your letters and via snippets of news passed by the Alumni grapevine. Even though we may not have met personally, we have all participated in the "I.H. Experience" which provides a strong and lasting bond of mutual understanding and friendship between Alumni throughout the world.

Have a great year - and keep the news flowing in.

Warmest wishes
Gwen Ng (née Burrows)
Editor, SUIHAA

The inaugural Alumni-Residents Log Cabin Picnic

We love to get together and renew our friendship, we always mean to do so more often! Well, we did - on Saturday March 5, when about 50 alumni and residents rolled up to the inaugural log cabin picnic!

We brought lots if IH spirit and events unfolded in a very IH way! Almost everyone got lost and missed the turnoff to the Belanglo forest - proving it was too long between visits. And the log cabin keys came down with the house bus - which arrived long after the coach full of residents, the food, the barbeque and most of the alumni. When we opened the cabin there was, as usual, no one who knew how to turn off the alarm!

Still, there was time before lunch for various groups to explore the area - for some it was their first sight of the glorious pine forest. Those feeling less energetic lounged in the shade and gossiped. One unexpected but enthusiastically welcomed guest was John Chong (Eng Leong) - back in Sydney to settle his daughter into first year at UNSW (she's not staying at IH there!)

At lunchtime there were groups of people everywhere - some spread out under the tree, some sensibly - eating at the tables inside and others clustered around the BBQ - producing authentic Aussie outdoor food - sausages and steak blackened on the outside and pink within. Richard and Gwen (Ng) brought a wonderful aromatic curry, there was lots of chicken and salad, Graeme and Lauris were very civilized with chairs, crackers and dip, and a crisp white, thank you for sharing it!

As the afternoon wore on, everyone became lazier - their only activities still gossiping - catching up with familiar faces and making new friends - and chasing those ubiquitous flies. Finally a group photograph outside the log cabin. Same time, same place next year!

Rosemary Fisher
Assistant Director 1989-92
Alumni-Residents Log Cabin Picnic, March 1994

Pauline Kennedy, Lucy Kennedy, PH Phongsavan (1987-90), Kenneth Kong (Senior Resident) and Daniel Fahey (1994)
Pauline Kennedy  
Two Time Leaver

What new thing can one write about Pauline Kennedy? How can one note the departure (for the second time) of the longest serving staff member of International House without sounding maudlin or appearing to exaggerate the importance of her contribution to the ideals of the House.

I suppose one could come clean and confess to being furious when she told me that she was leaving the first time. Pauline Seaich had married Ian Kennedy and was going to be a mother. She was adamant that that was to be a full time occupation. I told her that that was nonsense. To this day I am puzzled that she did not instantly change her mind and stay on.

Imagine my bitterness a few years later when she agreed to return to work! What has this new Director got? I wondered. Now even he has lost the House's secret weapon, drawn off as she has been to full-time work in the University's School of Business Management.

When in the 1960's the great Mary Trevelyan travelled the International Houses of the world and reported on them for the Ford Foundation, she singled out the fledgling International House at the University of Sydney as having the most "smashing" Reception of any House in the world. We shared Mary's judgement and we shared her belief that the person at the reception desk and on the telephone was the most important person in the House. For many people, that contact was the only contact they would have with International House. For residents, that contact was the first contact they would have and would set their feeling about what sort of place they had come to. It was Pauline's warmth, friendliness and intelligence - to say nothing chauvinistically of her looks - which had led Mrs McCutcheon and me to agree with Anne Seale (Gotsis) that Pauline Seaich should be extracted from the University Registrar's office (where she worked since leaving school) and installed at the Front Desk before the first residents arrived in 1967.

There was a telephone switchboard there at the desk, its antediluvian tangle of chords and plugs being Pauline's joy and everyone else's nightmare. Pauline could attend to three people coming in and out the door, hold a conversation (or two) with a couple of people who only wanted to chat, discuss dinner with her mother on the phone, and place a outgoing call while taking another incoming line all at the same time - and SMILE. After she went home, should emergency arise then that switchboard was a problem. People with PhDs, normally with
equable and in some cases even saintly tempers, were reduced to nature red in tooth and claw as they helplessly shamble-ised the entire system. Inevitably at the next staff meeting Pauline would be criticised - in the nicest possible way - for having forgotten to 'night switch' the lines! (As though she ever forgot anything). She could just smile and say "Oh, I'm so sorry Mrs Mac."

With little formal training but an abundance of native wit and dedicated enthusiasm, Pauline was prevailed on to tackle just about every job in the House at some time or other, and always did it well. I was not altogether surprised to hear the Vice-Chancellor of the day, when I told him that I would be leaving, "Would Mrs Kennedy be interested in coming back to the House?". She will be remembered by most of the alumni for her long time as the House Bursar. Again, with no formal training, she quickly mastered the job, performed it meticulously and brilliantly, handling successive stages of mechanisation. She loved it, mainly I suspect because the open window of the office kept her in touch with all the comings and goings, and ensured that she had regular business to transact with every resident. If a resident wanted to pay her fees and be given a quick receipt, with just a brief chat about the world situation, then that was what happened. If however he wanted to make a feature of the painful operation of parting with his money, then why not. Was it Garry Lung who withdrew his money from the bank in $5.00 notes? One note and one note only would be handed over each time Pauline correctly identified a ballad which Garry crooned. As fees increased, the musical education if not enjoyment of the staff was extended considerably.

But it is in her last role that Pauline will probably be remembered best (I did not say final role, for who knows whether her days of working in International House are really over!) Her incredible facility for remembering every resident, so evident in all her time in the House, became more and more appreciated as the years rolled by and alumni after long absences would visit or 'phone. And yes of course the House knew who they were and cared, because Pauline knew and cared - and could fill them in on those friends with whom they had meant to keep in touch. The House may miss Pauline and so may the Alumni. But there she was at Belanglo last Saturday - she will remain a part of the wider House family. For who can be touched by the House, and give so much to it, and ever really leave it?

To Pauline we can say "Well done. Thank you. Good luck. And see you at the next Alumni activity."

Graeme de Graaff
Director 1967-1986

Alumni at Pauline's "Thank you" party.
Welcome back....

It is amazing to find that we are already in the era of the second generation.


Paul Ng (1972) also brought his daughter, May, to apply for residence at I.H. and enjoyed being shown around by Mr. Andrews.

Paul Ng (1971-72) with daughter May

John Chong (1968-70) accompanied his daughter to Sydney for her University enrolment (at UNSW). On visiting I.H., he was informed by Claudia of the Alumni - Residents log Cabin Picnic and immediately arranged that he and his daughter would attend. What a heartwarming reunion as John, with his wonderful broad smile, strode across the grass at Belanglo to the assembled Alumni members. And the years rolled back as John tucked into the chicken curry prepared by Richard Ng (1967-69) in his traditional I.H. role as provider of good food.

Petar Vukmirica (1971-72) called into International House in early October 1993 while on a visit to Sydney. He lives and works out of Luzern, Switzerland, is married and has a son and is in "International Sales Business", and in Petar's words, "very happy to be back to see you after 19 years, 11 weeks and 16 days!"

Apichai Thirathon (1976-77) visited the House briefly one October 1993 afternoon (and sent his regards to all). He works for the Land Development Region in Thailand.

Shinichi Kobayashi (1978-79) called into International House on Sunday 31 October and talked with Senior resident Kate Gould. Shin is now Associate Professor and a researcher for the Regional Research Institute of Agriculture in the Pacific Basin of Nihon University. He was on his way to New Zealand.

Anil Agarwal (1978-81) came to visit Hari in III...he has now emigrated to Australia and still lives in Drummoyne (where he lived for years after he left III). It was so nice to see both of them (Pauline's comment!)

Another visitor in February this year was Sevanaia Dakaica (1986-89), who was shown around by Mr. Andrews.

During one of his many trips back to Sydney Tae Jong Kim (1990-91) called into the House in mid December and also paid a surprise visit to PH Phongsavan (1987-90) at the Department of Public Health. He is working in Korea for the American Colorado State Representation.

John Chong with his daughter Ming

Ming - and Pauline - at the Belanglo Picnic in March
Letters from......

Rod Pyne (1971-73) has "now moved further up the Mountains from previous address in Glenbrook. This move was to move closer to my family - my parents live nearby and my brother, with five kids, is only 2 doors away. I love it here in Faulconbridge - clean air, lots of quiet, birds and trees. I'm still teaching in Eum Plains, in a co-ed senior high school. I teach Modern and Ancient History and English. I've just been on a family holiday to Yamba, on the NSW North Coast - a beautiful spot. I'm spending a week in Hong Kong in early January (1994) and then a week camping at Narooma at the end of January. Teaching seems to take up most of my energy and time, otherwise. Thanks for the alumni news - to all those putting in the time and effort...I'm still in regular contact with Robert Gascoigne (1973-74) who's a Senior Lecturer and head of Dept at the Australian Catholic University in Strathfield. Peter Donoughue (1971-73) is now boss of Jacaranda - Wiley book publisher in Brisbane. Rosemary Donoughue (née Schaer) (1972) has produced a book on quiltmaking and besides raising 3 lovely kids, is heavily into roller skating. I also see Adrian Buzo (1969-71, 1977) and Erica Sparks (Buzo) (1974-76) from time to time at the Gascoignes, as well as John Gascoigne (1970-72) and Kathy Gascoigne (née Bock) (1972)."

Dayalan Devanesen (1973) has been working in the Northern Territory since 1974. "I started off as a District Medical Officer working with the Aerial Medical Service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. I am very involved in Aboriginal health. I became the Director for Aboriginal Health in 1985. Currently, I am the Director for Community Health in the N.T."

A Christmas letter from Bosco Fung (1973-74) contained some observations on the current situation in Hong Kong, as well as giving us news of Bosco's family...."1993 has been another eventful year for Hong Kong. The UK-China negotiations on the 1994/95 election in Hong Kong have gone on for a good part of the year, but after some 17 rounds of negotiations, have come virtually to nothing! And no agreement seems to be in sight. However, business has been as usual in Hong Kong - the local economy is maintaining steady growth (although inflation is also rising high), housing prices are still going up (albeit less steeply) and the stock market has rocketed to new highs. It seems that the people of Hong Kong are getting immune to all the political megaphony and more resistant to political shocks these days! Perhaps a "through train" in 1997 is really, as the Chinese put it, no "big deal". I am however hopeful of an eventual agreement between UK and China - because I think it is in the interest of both sides to do so.

I am still with the Planning Department and was transferred to the Territorial and Sub-regional Division earlier in the year. One of my major current projects is to formulate the Territorial Development Strategy for Hong Kong - a long-term land use-transport-environment for the Territory (believe it or not) to the year 2011. It is like crystal ball gazing and we have to make quite a lot of assumptions about the future development directions in Hong Kong, particularly its spatial relationship with its economic hinterland in China. All signs are that Guangdong (particularly the Pearl River Delta) and Hong Kong will become one close knit economic entity in the future.

I also became President of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners in June this year. One of our current main tasks is to review our current membership bye-laws to make them more open to planners trained in other than Commonwealth countries while maintaining a sufficiently high professional standard. Another main area is to establish closer dialogue with our professional counterparts in China - hence all the visits, seminars and conferences to learn from each other's experiences. This makes life even more hectic for me.

Maria has been very busy as a working wife and mother. Now we have a Filipino maid at home when our old Chinese part-time amah retired in November. Patience finished her Secondary Education this year and did reasonably well in her School Cert Exam. She is now in Form 6 in St Paul's Convent where Brigit is doing her Form 3. Both have been kept very busy with their school work and extra-curricular activities, but they still find time to pursue their piano and choir training. They are taller than their mother now.

Due to our busy schedules, we have not been able to take long leave this year. We have not travelled far but just took a short trip to Korea together with Maria's parents. It was good fun. We have not decided where to head for our next trip yet - possibly USA/Canada or Britain."

Atsuko Kouda (1976) sent the House a sticker from a special Australian promotion held in November 1993..."During the month of November, the Australian Embassy in Tokyo will plan to promote various activities of Australia. They call this event 'Celebrate Australia'. I am expecting to participate in some of these exhibitions. It's a real treat. Addition to this big news from Tokyo: we are going to publish another Japanese translation of Henry Lawson's short stories. It includes almost 30 of his works and also Lawson anecdotes. Thank you!"

The Greentree family (Larry 1976-80) (Margaret née Kwok 1979-80) plus 2 daughters and 1 small son have returned to live in Sydney..."after spending 3 years in Papua New Guinea we moved back to Sydney in December 1991. I have recommenced work with NSW Public Works Department in 1992 and this year work has been really busy. Our elder daughter Kelly is now in Year 2 and our second daughter started kindergarten this year. Both girls are enjoying school. In July 1993, our son Zac was born weighing 9lb 15 oz and is keeping Margaret busy running after him. We enclose a photo of our family taken in August this year (1993)..."
Roger Jones (1981-82) has caught the computer bug. His long, newsy, Christmas letter was typed on a fairly-newly-purchased computer whose capabilities he has been exploiting to the full with obvious enjoyment...The weather has been rather extreme here in 1993: a very long, hot summer followed by a damp and chilly autumn. Our raspberry bushes did us proud, however; we had the best crop ever...

Except for my research essay, I shall finish my degree in December. Many of my courses have been concerned with economics and government policy. I also learned how to use my computer more profitably, and am in the midst of learning Financial Management (my last required class).

Already, I have begun to seek work, but have not devoted serious effort to it yet. Conditions are rather bleak here at present: the recession continues, and companies and governments both are too debt-laden to contemplate much new hiring. As a result, I do not expect to find work quickly, and might enrol in some classes purely for interest in the New Year. Specifically, I would like to brush up my skills in Malay and Japanese, which are becoming rusty owing to disuse. I have applied to two Trainee programmes with the Finance ministry, and anticipate interviews in January. However, competition for such posts is fiercer every year so I do not count on succeeding with either one. Should no work turn up, I might apply to write a Doctorate at a British university. My research essay compares the impact of Japanese investment in Canada and Australia: it is proving quite revealing and would be a useful basis for a Doctorate.

With such strained economic conditions and being so busy, I have not ventured far from Ottawa. Early in September, we did go to Kingston as a family for a day. You may recall that I took my first degree there at Queen's University; I still have a deep affection for the city. I was fortunate to find my Honours supervisor at home, although he is now - alas - blind. We reminisced for nearly an hour. I also met a few other professors form bygone days. Doing so reminded me of my equally-happy years in Australia: I wonder when the opportunity to return there will come?

I have started to transcribe my research on Colonial nationalism (started in Sydney) onto computer disk. This will make future revisions and additions much easier. I do still harbour the ambition to complete my thesis on Richard J. on some day, and (dare I hope) publish it. Reviewing the material, I am struck how pertinent still are the comments of a man writing 70-90 years ago for the 1990s.

John Spurlock (1982) is living in Thousand Oaks, California 91361 (3200 Foothill Drive, #2) and would like very much to re-establish contact with Geoff Wong, Paul Nilon, Lissa Sharp, Yvonne Furby, Antoinette Gentille, Jane Thomas, and Roger Westcombe. He hopes to visit Australia and U. H. in the next few years, and in the meantime says..."I have been living in California with my wife, Julie, for nearly seven years now. We love the warm weather, close beaches, and attractions. We travel quite often, either to Europe or back to our homestate of Tennessee, where our families still reside. Julie is a third grade teacher in the public school system here in Thousand Oaks. I have accepted a new position recently with Salick Health Care, Inc., headquartered in Beverly Hills, CA. The company owns and operates comprehensive cancer centers and dialysis treatment centers nationally. I work in management/administration. I travel weekly, but do not mind the commutes. The work is fascinating and very rewarding both professionally and personally. We live very close to where the recent Southern California wildfires were raging, and were fortunate that we were spared the horrors of losing our home. The recent fires in the Sydney area reminded me of the beautiful scenery there that has now been scorched." A couple of years ago John met up with Geoff Wong (1982-83) who was in California as part of a trip around the world.

Knox Kerr (1986) has written..."I am a practising anaesthesiologist in Jacksonville Florida for one year. On leaving Sydney Uni, with a MFH diploma I completed medical school back in the states in 1987. Then entered my post graduate training in anaesthesiology finishing in 1992 at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. I then took a 10 month fellowship in paediatric anaesthesia at The Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormond Street London finishing October 1992. I married Madeline Blanton in September 1992. I have joined the Sydney University Graduates Union of North America and plan to become an active member, I miss all the friends I made while at International House. I hope the class of '86 is doing well."
From Geoff Heenan's (1987-89) father in Sydney... "Geoffrey is now undergoing his PhD (Economics) at Columbia University, New York. He travelled there via a visit to China (Xian and Beijing), a pause in Hong Kong, a drop-in to San Francisco where he stayed with his old friends, Mr and Mrs Peter Gage, and then on to New York where he stayed with old friends Paul and Saadia (née Khan) Durham. Pausing only to dump his surplus gear, he raced to the UK to spend three weeks haunting London and squeezing in a week in Southern Italy before returning to the sobriety of Columbia..." Geoff Heenan's USA address is at IH if anyone wants it!

Rachel Cowen (1989) and Christal Kmetz (1989) are now roommies and graduate students at the University of Virginia, Christal is doing a PhD in Clinical Psychology and Rachel a Masters degree in Counsellor Education... "It is pretty often that we sit around laughing while we remember the great time we had at I.H. I talked to Clair Haeg (née Bounds), wife of Ben, the other day and didn't recognise her voice. She'd completely lost her accent! I guess that's what happens when you move to Minnesota. Anyway I was thrilled to read the September Alumni News and thought I'd drop a line to say Hi to all the 1989 IHers out there. If anyone comes through Charlottesville, please give us a ring. (222 Colonnade Dr. #18, Charlottesville)"

Christal Kmetz (1989) and Rachel Cowan (1989)

Basturi Hasan (1989) says... "Thank you very much for sending me the International Alumni News. I have been doing my MA Program in TELF at Institute of Teacher Training and Education (IKIP) Malang, West Java Indonesia since August 1991. I do hope that some day in the future there will be a reunion for all past members of International House. I would love to see IH and old friends again. My best regards to Mr. Andrews, Pauline K, Shama, Elizabeth, PH Phongsavan and other members of IH who I know. Hoping to hear from you all frequently. Please keep in touch all the time."

From the (1-2º celcius) cold of mid-December, Chuthatip Maneepong (1989-90) wrote to the Director that she had been attending a 3-month course on Urban Management at University College, London... "I enjoyed my study and had a good friendship and relationship at the University. I also visited the Netherlands, Paris and Berlin. By the way, Monta Chatupote (1985-90) and her sister have come to U.K. but we did not know about our plan. Unfortunately, we did not have a chance to get together. On my way back to Thailand I will stop over at Kuala Lumpur, hope to see Hanizah Hashim (1988-89) there."

Arielle Biscayaert (1990) wrote in September 1993... "Dear SUHAA members, how are you? As a 1990 IH member I thought it would be useful and interesting to keep in touch with you and let you know what I'm up to. I am now working in the Sales Department of a French Fashion house called CELINE. They have a boutique in Sydney on Castlereagh (right spelling!!) Street. It's very exciting. How's the economy going in Down Under now? It was going so badly when I left Sydney. Ours is terrible. Work market is very competitive. It takes a lot of time to get a job. I heard Sydney made it for the 2000 Olympic Games! I'm so happy. Hope I'll get the chance to come and say "Hi" by that time anyway! As far as my relationship with other ex IH members is concerned, I had the chance to see these people again: Sharon Kok (in London April 1992), Atagun Bensan (in Paris September 1991) and Raquel Leder (Miami April 1991, Texas August 1991, Andalousia, south of Spain, September 1992 and Cambridge May 1993!!) Raquel is certainly going to come to Paris and spend a week with me in October - see, at IH, people make friends for life! By the way, I lost contact with the following people and I REALLY need their current addresses. Would it be possible for you to enquire and send them to me? These people were at IH in 1990 (most of them spent over a year at the House) Sharon Kok, Oriole Beer, Nicola Sternberg, Vera Wee, Claire Clifton-Bligh, Joe Khouri and Atagun Bensan. (Editor's note: I have sent the most up-to-date addresses I have, but these may well have been superceded, so people, let IH have your most current addresses, please!!)...I really miss Sydney and the House and want to let you know I had the BEST TIME EVER with you guys. Send my best regards to Mr. Andrews - lots of love Arielle" Arielle has given IH her telephone number and fax number and answering machine number so...if you want to contact her in Paris, just let IH know!

Alex Wakulenko (1980-92) wrote to PH... "I'm delighted to read of your presidency of SUHAA. Right now my cooking course is taking all of my time. However, I'll be completing at the end of this year. My trade course is proving to be more demanding than my degree course. Ironical methinks. (Not too much!) For your interest, a sample menu. Do keep up the great work, keep well. My kindest regards..."

Ugo Nzeako (1991) has written to us... "I miss the many good friends that I have in Sydney, several of whom were made while I lived at International House. However, the great memories..."
will be joy enough until I can visit Australia again. I am currently in the USA where I am continuing with my quest for professional excellence. Presently, I am a Research Fellow at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. and plan to commence my specialty training in Internal Medicine next year (i.e. 1994). Congratulations to Sameer and Dori on their wedding. We all aspire to the joy they have found. My sincere regards to all my friends but in particular to Ann Tan, Abugh Ashwe, Azzam Hassan, Nyambura Mwaniki, Ben Parmeter and Aliyah Khan."

From Germany, Dirk Klimant (1991-92) says..."Hallo, everyone. It's Dirk from Germany. After leaving IH in early 1992 I travelled to California. I checked out Hollywood and San Diego (my second home), and spent some time in the desert near Yuma. Later that year I scamped around in the field of communications/media in Germany. This year I was in New York and Paris. I'm reading and writing a lot and still learning Indonesian. I wrote letters with Samina Ashfaq (my "counsellor") and Farzana Naqvi; I heard from my sister Dori Robles who is hanging out in Fiji now. Choncho, if you read this, smile. Yesterday Kabita Chakma called me from Geneva, Switzerland. A message to everyone: if you want to be happy, then be it. For the girls: sweet kiss on the nose."

Dirk Klimant

Joachim Kästel (1993) has written and by the time this alumni news is circulated, he will have been back in Sydney!..."The day I was leaving Sydney and IH I knew I'd come back. I didn't know when, but it'll be soon. Now, I know the date. Just 10 months after I've left I'll be back. IH and all the people there made my time in Australia unforgettable. I've made friends from all over the world! I met Urawadee Sriphiromiya in Zurich/Switzerland lately, I'll visit Myuru Amarapala in Sri Lanka and Heidi Weidt and Shicke Sabbathu in the States! The international atmosphere and the meeting of many different cultures make IH a place everybody likes! I've recommended IH! A friend is going to stay in IH as well! A good reason for me to visit him! Share the spirit, Sydney and IH 2000!"

Whatever happened to...

Nalini Abeyesundere (Staff 1967) continues to lead an incredibly hectic life, accompanying her husband, Nihal, on trips associated with his duties as Chief of the World Health Organisation in Bangladesh as well as visiting family and friends who are scattered throughout the world.

Lesley Aloni (née Cohen) (Assistant Director 1969-70) who lives in Western Australia and was recently widowed, would be delighted to hear from her I.H. friends. Anyone wishing to contact Lesley can send a letter c/o SUHAA and be assured that it will be forwarded to her.

An unexpected reunion of some early Alumni occurred at the ceremony for presentation of the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the 1993 H.S.C. Kwan Ming Yeoh, the eldest son of Kim Tong (1969), David Huang, son of Gwen (née Burrows) (1969) and Richard Ng (1967-69) and Katherine Couper, daughter of Beth McLean (1967) were receiving awards and Richard recognised Kim and Beth in the assembled throng.

As always it was great to meet up with old friends from I.H.

Jean Weighell (née Mackenzie) (1971) will be working in Sydney this year.

Geraldine (née Lynch)(1971) and Tony Skinner (1970-71) live in Canberra where Gerry works as adviser to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Tony is the Manager of Information Technology and Communication Services in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - the position entails responsibility for these services in Canberra and 100 overseas missions. The Skinner children, Clare and Sam are now 19 and 13 respectively. Clare is studying Commerce at UNSW while Sam, is in year 8 at high school.


Biruta Don (née Leveris) (1971-73) has been busy in the political arena. She enclosed in her letter a brochure used when she stood as a candidate at the City of Hawthorn Council elections. The result was described by the newspapers as a "photo finish" because Biruta missed out by only 100 votes. As a result of a photo of Biruta with Adrian Buzo, published in an earlier newsletter, Biruta was contacted by Jean
Weighell (née MacKenzie) (1971) after 20 years out of touch with each other.

Michael Brown (1977) sent a fax as soon as it was known that the 2000 Olympic Games would be in Sydney: Michael wanted to warn all his 1977 I.H. friends who live in Sydney to start building additions on their homes so he, Cathy, Matthew (who will be 10) and Garrett (who will be 8) can stay on a revolving basis during the Games September 2000!!! I’m sure that there will be some of us around who would like to see you, Michael!

Cella Swart (née Rappaport) (1979-80) and husband Jack have had their lives enriched and disrupted by the arrival of Benjamin Jeffrey on 27th December, ’93. “On the day, Cella was planning to go to the post-Christmas sales (but went into labour instead). The baby was almost named David Jones in honour of the most beautiful store in the world. The proud grandparents (Mick and Sachiko Rappaport) who were oblivious to the labour because they were at the sales, were holding the baby less than 30 minutes after he was born and are still smiling. Since the birth Jack has become quite a handyman. He’s insulated the ceiling and generally fire-proofed the house. The recent bushfires were only 3 km away at one stage.”

While attending a conference in Melbourne last October Julia Basri (1981) stayed with Praneer Jenjintant (1979-81) and enjoyed reminiscing about old times. Julia is now working at a Management Institute in Jakarta and sends the news that Lai Choo Lee (1980), is married to an Australian, has 2 children and is living in Singapore.

Gillian Polack (1983-84, 86-87) spent an enormous amount of time last year travelling round Australia still doing “status of women type work” and remarked wryly that people were beginning to think she was a feminist! She would rather think of herself as a “personist”. While waiting at the chairlift at Thredbo on the Australia Day Weekend she ran into Un-Young Park (1983-86) and his family and while working in Perth visited Murray (1982-87) and Arni Baker (née Soentoko)(1983). She also caught up with Hari Murthy (1979-83) whom she had last seen in Montreal.

Talking of Hari Murthy...he stayed in International House for a few days in November 1993 while attending a Conference in the Architecture faculty!

Gomathi Sitharthan and T. Sitharthan (1983-88) lead very busy lives! Gomathi is a Lecturer in the Dept of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University and Sitharthan is a Clinical Psychologist at the Centre for Drug and Alcohol Studies at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. They both still want to keep in touch with SUIHAA.

Alina Wojcik (1983-85) wrote “It’s always of great interest to receive the International House Newsletter and read about people one hasn’t seen for many years. I have jotted down some brief notes about myself and a number of people I have maintained contact with from I.H.

After leaving uni, I worked in the tourism industry both in Sydney and London for several years. For the past four years however I have had my own business in the field of publishing. We produce newspapers and magazines primarily for the real estate industry. I am now residing in Rose Bay and I am always happy to hear from former I.H. residents.

I am in regular contact with:-

Neil Dempster (1983-85) paid a visit to Sydney at Christmas time. He married a German lady and they now reside in Munich. He works for Microsoft in their Marketing Dept. and regularly gallivants to places of interest in Europe.

Dildar Khan (1982-84) worked for several years for The National Bank before going into business for himself. He now runs a Sydney taxi and was keen to pass on his mobile taxi number. He is married to Shebnam (also from Fiji) and has a four year old son Imran.

Lawrence Lam (1982-83) is now permanently settled in Sydney. He gave up his career in town planning upon leaving Hong Kong and is now a very successful financial planner with The National Australia Bank. He and his wife, Julie, have a baby boy Jordan and Lawrence is still a bundle of energy always eager to organise action packed weekend activities.

James (Jim) Miller (1984-85) works as a solicitor in the City. He took time out for some serious trekking around Africa and is now settled with wife Amanda and their one year old boy Nicholas.

Ian Pacey (1983-84) has his own business in Sydney, importing and distributing greeting cards, postcards and prints. When he isn’t interstate seeing clients you might spot him having a cigarette break in Surry Hills.

Penny Stafford (1983-84) has worked in the banking industry since leaving uni. and now works as a manager for Chase Manhattan Bank in Sydney. She asked to pass on greetings to Kazuhide Shinohara, Scott and Patty Bond and Vish and Rita.

David Walker (1981-83). After representing Australia for the Australian Tourism Commission for a number of years, is now settled in Sydney. He is now a director of a Japanese inbound tour company and when I last spoke with him was rushing to catch a plane to Tokyo.

Saovanee (née Tanchotikul) (1986-87) and Richard Andrews (1984-86) are now the proud parents of Ben Chiwan, born on 8th February 1994. Several former residents have visited Richard, Saovanee and Ben, including, Gillian Polack (1983-84, 1986-87), Donna Verma (née Priol) (1984-1987) and Peter Corne (1982-1985) and his wife, Charmaine. Richard is still with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has completed his three year posting in Malaysia. The family is currently living in Canberra.
Most sincere apologies to Julie Gilbert (1984-86) and husband, John Morrison. Apparently Julie was given the wrong spouse in an earlier newsletter but is perfectly satisfied with John, so would like the mistake corrected.

A brief update about Asruddin B Tou (1984-87) who tells us that he is currently living in Stanmore, Sydney, and doing Postgraduate studies in the School of English and Linguistics, Macquarie University.

After 5 years overseas, Donna (née Priol) (1984-87) and Naresh (1985-87) Verma have returned to Australia - to make their home in Canberra, where Naresh has a lectureship in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. They have a daughter, Shelley, who is four years old and a 2-year-old son, Rohan, and so far have re-established contact with Gillian Polack (1983-87) - who helped Donna organise a Halloween street party last October and Chrys (née Tintner) (1985) and John Angles (1983). Donna sent the news that Rita (née Patel) (1985-87) and Vishwanath Ramakrishnan (1985-87) were expecting their first baby in January.

In November 1993 PH Phongsavan (1987-90) visited Hong Kong on her way to Fukuoka, Japan, to attend a one week seminar on the Prevention of the Cardiovascular Disease in the Asian-Pacific Region. During her 24-hour stopover she met up with Hong Kong town planner and ex-resident William Chan (1987). William is working at Housing Department Planning Section and is involved in several exciting projects, particularly the construction of the new Hong Kong airport. A quick, whirlwind tour around Hong Kong island with William provided PH with a better appreciation of the hectic life that is so often associated with Hong Kong and its people. In Japan, she visited and stayed with Toru (1985-90) and Khampiou (née Mounarath) (1987-92, 1993) Aoyama in Kyoto. Both Toru and Khampiou are settling back into life in Japan and are kept very busy with work (Khampiou is making a speedy progress with her Japanese, speaking with a slight tinge of Lao and Australian accent!) and their adorable daughter, Aki.

During her brief stay in Tokyo, PH was able to catch up with a few more ex-residents including Noriko Sugisaki (1989-90), Tetsuya Noguchi (1990), Masahiko Igata (1989-90), Alan Stoke (1988-89), Mie Takeuchi (1990-91), Kinichi Kameyama (1989), Yukiyu Kuzuh (1991), Kenji Wakahayashi (1990) over pleasant dinners and lunches. All are kept very busy with work, further studies as well as trying to adjust and keep up with the bustling life of Tokyo. This is not so easy after having lived for a few years in the relaxed and complacent Sydney. All readily confessed that they miss Australia and especially International House. With Alan and Tetsuya as her tour guides PH was able to experience the busy day and night life of Tokyo. She appreciated the energy, the numbers of people and the ubiquitous technology of Tokyo and was constantly fascinated by the curious mix of culture and modernisation that seems to pervade the Japanese society. The efficient (and always on time!) public transport system, especially the shinkansen, was one of the many highlights of her brief visit.
Sarah (Chao) Sun (1987-88) migrated to Australia in early ’93 and is doing a PhD in the Mechanical Engineering Department of Queensland University. She hopes to finish the degree in Sept ’94, then find a job in Australia. Sarah passes on the news that her 1987 Swedish room-mate, Annelli Malmo now has a baby girl.

Chi Hyeun Song (1988-89) is working at the Department of Biotechnology, Taegu University, South Korea and was asking after Tini Sukiman’s family.

Masahiko Igata, PH, Yukiyo Kuzuha, Mie Takeuchi, Kinichi Kameyama, Noriko Sugisaki, Tetsuya Noguchi and Alan Stoke in Tokyo.

Domenico Sorbili (1987-88) sent a brief outline of his work, study and interest activities since leaving the House...

* ’89 Teacher of Mathematics and Religious Education at Marist College North Shore.

* ’90, ’91 Clerk for Seiko Australia Pty. Ltd.

* ’92 Amway distributor and consultant.
was born on April 13, 1993. He is a wonderful baby, and Laura feels it is a privilege to stay home to care for him. Last July Laura and Eric had a great time meeting with Claire (née Bounds) (1989) and Ben Haeg (1989).

Laura and Eric Highsmith and Garrison David

Pauline Kennedy received a surprise phone call from Wendy Tan (1989-92) in November 1993 while Wendy was staying with her family in Singleton. Miriam, now three years old, has been joined by Amelia, born in June 1993. Willie was here for 2 weeks before returning to Singapore.

Mr Andrews received New Year greetings from Mie Takeuchi (1990-91), who mentioned the Reunion dinner she had enjoyed with Ph Phongsavan and other Japanese IH alumni. Mie is working with Japan Airlines (JAL).

Sharmani Rajasingham (1989-90) wrote to Mr Andrews in September 1993 inviting him to her impending marriage in late 1993 or early 1994 to Shamindra, an Engineer. Their wedding will be a low key affair as he is a Buddhist Sinhalese and Sharmani is a Christian Tamil! As Shamindra has a Masters graduation ceremony to attend in Cambridge in January, they are hopeful that they can combine a trip to England with their honeymoon! She has seen Kippy Wanigasekara (1989-92) who was on a working holiday in Sri Lanka for about a year and was currently on a short assignment with a consultancy company.

John Cooper (1990) sent best wishes from Katherine (NT) to all IH residents, Mr Andrews and the staff.

Domenico Sorbilli at his Graduation

Eric and Laura Highsmith (1989) are living in Highlands Ranch, Colorado and have bought their first house, which they are slowly remodelling. Eric is a qualified Architect, enjoys the firm he works for, and gets to travel out of State. Their best news is that Garrison David Highsmith
Willie and Wendy Tan with Miriam and Amelia

Pauline Kennedy with Dori (1992) (née Robles) and Sameer Handa (1990-1992) who visited the House after their wedding to show their photographs and meet their friends.

Lost but not forgotten

Recent mailings to the following alumni members have been returned to us because the address was no longer correct. We would really appreciate hearing from anyone who knows the whereabouts of these "misplaced" friends. Information can be phoned, faxed or mailed to Claudia at International House.

Pauline Kennedy with "Froni" San Juan (1968) who visited the House while in Sydney for a Dental Conference late in 1993.

Mr Andrews with Kabita Chakma (1990-1993) on her Graduation Day.
Home Hospitality

It would be sad if an overseas student was to spend time in Australia without ever experiencing the personal hospitality of an Australian family - whether it be morning or afternoon tea, Sunday lunch, or several days "home stay".

SUIHAA would like to establish a Register of Alumni members (city and country) who would be willing to participate in this Home Hospitality Scheme.

Submitting your name for the Register does not place you under any obligation as arrangements would be made totally at your own convenience.

As we all know from living at International House, learning about people, their culture, customs, philosophy etc., is very much a experience of mutual benefit. Offering hospitality will undoubtedly be as rewarding for us (and our children) as it will be for the guest.

So...if you are interested in being part of this scheme, please post, fax or 'phone the following information to:

The Secretary
SUIHAA
International House
96 City Road
Chippendale, NSW 2008
AUSTRALIA
Tel: (02) 950 9800
Int'l. 61.2.950.9800
Fax: (02) 950 9804
Int'l. 61.2.950.9804

Home Hospitality

Name: ____________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Years in the House: __________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ (H)

____________________________________ (W)