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Welcome to the June 2012 edition of Alumni News!

A lot has happened in the world of SUIHAA since our last newsletter. From our most successful Calendarfest in recent memory to a series of events culminating with the House’s 45th Anniversary in April this year, old traditions were continued, honed and celebrated in style. This year we hope to have ushered in some new ones, too – holding a meet-and-greet event for new residents in O-Week, continuing the push to establish a permanent alumni thesis collection in the IH Library and moving firmly into the 21st Century with the creation of an official Facebook page!

June’s newsletter brings with it a number of stories and important announcements. The Bo Children’s Hospital Project, supported by SUIHAA since its inception, celebrated its official opening and is treating patients as we speak. We saw the establishment of a number of new scholarships and awards for residents of the House, to which the SUIHAA Committee was proud to support with a donation of $10,000 made in May this year.

This edition is also about celebrating the achievements of residents and alumni, from IH Fellows to Fulbright Scholars, conference participants and everything in between. But above all, it’s about looking to the future. As it has been for the past five years or so, the House edges ever closer to having a new and expanded building to welcome more residents from around the world, and with it comes an opportunity to rethink and plan what your alumni association should look like five or ten years from now. This year we’ve been heavily involved in talks with both the House and University Alumni Relations about SUIHAA’s future – changes which we’d love to hear your input about.

On a slightly sadder note, this will be the last edition of Alumni News to be released in this format. Recently I ventured into the SUIHAA Archives and looked over the past issues of this newsletter, (most of which are now viewable on our Facebook timeline), and marvelled at the evolution of Alumni News from a typewritten affair on foolscap paper to the glossy magazine which it is now. We’re proud to announce the next exciting step forward in the development of Alumni News, as we switch to a new and more frequent distribution model that will get important news out to all alumni in a much more timely fashion. Again, we look forward to hearing your input on these changes.

Since becoming President in September last year, I’ve been touched by the number of alumni who have wrote or emailed in with their news – some of whose stories are featured in this newsletter. More than ever in this digital age, it’s easy and simple to get in touch – so whether it’s to update your details or let us know what’s going on in your life, don’t hesitate to drop us an email, connect with the Alumni Portal, send us a letter or even post on our wall.

On behalf of SUIHAA, I wish you all the very best for the remainder of the year.

Joshua Lee
SUIHAA President
A whole year has gone past since I last wrote for the SUHAA newsletter and what a year it has been. Besides the day to day bustle of life at IH, much of our time has been spent planning for the 45th anniversary of the founding of the House, which was a great success. The weekend of special events was filled with lively discussions and rekindling of old friendships, with the highlight of the weekend being the formal lunch in the Wool Room on Sunday 1st April. The Chancellor, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, gave a most gracious welcome, followed by an inspiring speech by The Hon Michael Kirby who talked about his memories of the House, his time as a student and his experiences at the University more broadly. With the grand lunch on 1st April the House was bursting at the seams and now seems so quiet and lonely! Thank you to everyone who attended the events and who contributed to making the 45th weekend a fantastic occasion for all and to all alumni who sent their greetings and best wishes for the occasion.

The 45th Anniversary weekend was also a fitting occasion to celebrate the 80th birthday of our founding Director, Graeme de Graaff. Back in early 2011, the wonderful Lauris Elms and her daughter Deborah de Graaff approached me to discuss a celebration of Graeme’s pending milestone at the House and after a brief discussion we conspired to hold both celebrations on the one big weekend. On this occasion The Graeme de Graaff Fund was launched in honour of Graeme’s enormous contribution to the House and its alumni. Further details about the Graeme de Graaff Fund are within this newsletter.

Another memorable event held at the House was the Fellows high tea in late October. This was a wonderful event at which the Chair of Council, Denise North, announced the award of an IH Fellowship to Associate Professor Emeritus Bob Kuzelka, our first overseas Fellow, and that he would be attending the 45th anniversary lunch to accept his award. Without the presence of our new Fellow, the House turned the event into a celebration of a milestone birthday for another most loved Fellow, Dr Joan Rowlands AM. On the occasion of Joan’s 90th birthday two of Joan’s closest friends wished to acknowledge her outstanding contribution to the IH community over so many years by inaugurating the Cormack Rowlands Award, to be awarded annually as funding permits for a project to benefit disadvantaged people or communities. The House hopes to offer the award to residents this year. Further information regarding this award is on the IH website.

In January 2012 I attended the IHWW Conference hosted by International House Brisbane which had been severely affected by the Queensland floods the year before. After substantial refurbishment and hard work, they successfully managed to open their doors again for residents in semester two last year. The House looks great now and it hosted a stimulating conference at which 11 Houses attended including 6 from Australia, 4 from the US, 1 from UK with potential new partners attending via Skype. The next conference is scheduled to take place at IH New York in June 2013 so hopefully it will be an opportunity for me to meet some of our US alumni at a reunion. Currently there are a lot of projects happening at the House including the redevelopment proposal to expand the House which will keep us on our toes for months to come. I look forward to hearing from alumni and friends of the House whenever you have time and working with you to ensure the continued success of the House.

Jessica Carroll, Director
On Sunday 1 April, 200 guests gathered in the Wool Room to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the founding of International House. The gala event included alumni, current residents and distinguished guests. It was fabulous to see former and current residents of the House swap stories and experiences. A number of alumni travelled from overseas to attend and their presence made the occasion even more memorable.

We began with a Welcome to Country from Charles Madden, a local Aboriginal elder. Then the Chancellor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, delivered a formal Welcome. The founding of International House, she recalled, was a “visionary, visionary decision.” She acknowledged the essential work of both Ian Hudson and Graeme de Graaff, who were both present, and the welcome thousands of students and teachers from across the globe had received at the House.

She suggested that this welcome is both the spiritual and intellectual role of Australia, “we should” she said “be a home for young people embarking in higher education, who should enjoy the inclusiveness, the support and the excellence of this University and then radiate across the world to take the message of Education for all”; International House is a model for this achievement. She ended with the hope that the International House legacy would “go on and on.”

The Hon Michael Kirby, in his address, described himself as an “ancient link” to the time of the establishment of the House and discussed his memories of visiting IH in the 60s and 70s. He produced a personal copy of the Union Recorder from 1967 with a photo of the Wool Room on the cover and the essay ‘A Freshman’s Guide to International House’ written by Ms Rosalie McCutcheon. He also admitted of his devotion to Lauris Elms, revealing she is all he had on his ipod.

Mr Kirby acknowledged the visionary work of Graeme, noting that at the same time as IH was being designed, the University of NSW was adopting contrary residential policies that excluded meeting spaces and catering. Kirby explained that the Vice Chancellor at UNSW believed it was preferable to have no catering, “as the students will always be complaining about it” (at this point the Wool Room exploded with laughter) and that “it is a very dangerous idea to create an institution where there are common rooms because that is where the students will foregather and they will cause trouble.” He remembered the degree of racism that existed in Australia 45 to 50 years ago and the work of student activists at the University to support the establishment of International House; he recalled that the plight of Aboriginal people and the rights of Women were also concerns of student activists. He called the improvements in these areas “a marvellous story of transition” and acknowledged International House’s role in this transition. In considering his time at University he recalled how the issue of equality for sexual minorities was never broached or discussed, and challenged our current residents...
with this and other unresolved or unacknowledged issues of inequality. He credited Graeme with creating a house that is “a true place of equality, friendship and collegiality” but believed the challenge for the future House was to “open up new vistas that we have not even thought,” to discern and address issues that, in 45 years time, we will wonder “how could we not have seen that these are issues of inequalities and injustice?”

The celebrations continued, with the coinciding of Graeme’s 80th Birthday and the announcement of the establishment of a Full Residential Scholarship in his name. Bo An Lu (IH Resident) entertained the room with a fantastic performance of “Gargoyles” by Lowell Liebermann, as Denise North said he is “just another typical IH resident!” The event ended with a panel discussion on the future of the House where members of the audience asked questions of Denise North, Chair of Council; Dominick Ng, Secretary of SUIHAA; and Lisa Deng, IHMA Chairperson. The panel was chaired by the current SUIHAA president, Josh Lee. The main concerns of the panel and guests were the building re-development, the impact of enlarging the community, concerns about the cohort and the proportion of Australian and post-graduate residents and how to best use the resources that the Alumni body has to offer.

A fantastic video was made showing highlights of the occasion, we strongly encourage you to visit the IHHouseSydneyUni You Tube Channel to view this and other videos about the House. http://www.youtube.com/user/IHouseSydneyUni

COCKTAIL FUNCTION
On Saturday 31 March, SUIHAA held the 45th Anniversary Cocktail Function at Artiste Gallery in Newtown. Alumni drank champagne and explored around the current exhibition ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ by Greg Hunt.

Alumni from Sydney and overseas enjoyed reminiscing about the past and discussing future projects. As part of the formal proceedings of the event a presentation on the Bo Project and its recent developments was given by Dr Nuli Lemoh.
Associate Professor Emeritus Robert Dean Kuzelka Fellowship of International House for 2011

Robert (Bob) was a Resident of International House from 1967-68 and Chairperson of IHMA 1968 in semester one.

Bob served as an Officer in the US Army from 1962-1970. He holds degrees in Architecture from UNL and Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas in Austin and conducted postgraduate research in Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney under a Fulbright Post Graduate Scholarship.

Bob is interested in water and natural resources especially their policy aspects and is an Associate Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). His professional experience includes work as an architect, a planner for a black neighbourhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma and a policy coordinator on the staff of the Nebraska State Office of Planning and Programming (now the Governor’s Policy Research Office).

He was full time faculty member at UNL from 1979 to 2004. Over those years he was affiliated with the Conservation and Survey Division; Department of Community and Regional Planning; Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife; University of Nebraska Water Centre; and School of Natural Resources. From 2001 through 2008 he served as the director of UNL’s interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Program.

Bob's academic research interests are in the areas of public policy and planning. He still advises undergraduate and master's level students in thesis and professional projects for topics that interest him. In June 2011 he received the Lincoln-Lancaster Environmental Leadership Award.

Bob was nominated as a Fellow of International House for both his role in the House while he was a resident and his ongoing involvement and support of the House. On accepting his fellowship Bob noted that the award was not for recognition of work done, but a challenge to continue and strengthen his support of the House and its Alumni Network.

He summed up his experience and passion for the House:

*This House created for us a new culture, where we were exposed to other cultures, customs and languages. In this process we learned, both in pleasant ways and very difficult ways, how others see us and how we see others. Our lives were changed forever and have no longer been the same.*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Each year the Council nominates a Fellows Committee to canvass, assess and recommend to Council persons appropriate for admission as a Fellow of International House.

The Fellows Committee is now calling for nominations for a Fellowship of International House. Nominations are normally for persons who have already made an outstanding contribution to the House.

Nominations should be made in confidence to the Director using the form on the IH website or by contacting the IH Office on ih.office@sydney.edu.au for a form. The closing date for nominations is 31st July 2012.

The Fellowship will be awarded at the Fellows lunch which will be held at the House on Sunday 25th November 2012.
Graeme de Graaff Fund

As earlier generations of alumni will recall, Graeme de Graaff was the first Director of IH. The Graeme de Graaff Fund was established to commemorate his retirement in 1987, with the intention of providing a full residential scholarship. Unfortunately the donations in 1987 fell short of this objective.

Graeme de Graaff celebrated his 80th birthday at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music on 31 March 2012 – the day before the 45th Anniversary Celebration at IH. Graeme’s family and a group of alumni led by Brian Farmer and David Shannon used this occasion to launch an augmentation of the Fund. The objective once again is to provide a full residential scholarship to IH, with preference being given to applicants from Regional Australia or from other backgrounds that may have limited their opportunity to participate in the multicultural aspects of Australian society.


If you click the DONATION link on this latter page and make your donation online, please be sure to select The Graeme de Graaff Fund for International House in the purpose box.

Several very welcome donations and pledges have been received since the re-launch in March, but we are still only about half way towards the goal of being able to provide a full residential scholarship every year. If you feel you benefited from your stay at IH and are in a position to give something back, please consider making a donation to this fund.

Donations are tax-deductible in Australia and Canada. Residents of the UK, USA and Hong Kong can obtain a local tax-deduction by donating through the relevant University of Sydney local entity.

More information on tax deductibility is available at www.degraaffscholarship.org and from the Director, International House, E: ih.office@sydney.edu.au, T: +61 2 9950 9800.

Cormack Rowlands Award

Dr Joan Rowlands AM has had a far-reaching influence on the lives of residents at International House, first as a resident herself in 1970, later as resident Assistant Director (1979-80) and subsequently as President of Sydney University International House Alumni Association (SUIHAA) (2000-2003) and a very involved member of the IH alumni association. Joan was also a student of the University of Sydney in the area of Public Health. To all these roles Joan has brought her extraordinary intellect, dedication to the ideals of International House, wealth of life experience, genuine interest in people of all ages and backgrounds, and her wonderful sense of humour. A truly Renaissance woman, Joan is an inspiring role model and mentor to all those fortunate enough to know her.

On the occasion of Joan’s 90th birthday, two of Joan’s closest friends acknowledged her outstanding contribution to the IH community over so many years by inaugurating the Cormack Rowlands Award, to be awarded annually as funding permits for a project to overcome disadvantaged in Australia.

The Cormack Rowlands Award is open to all current International House residents enrolled full time in a course at the University of Sydney.

An amount of $2,000 or greater subject to income from the capital will be awarded annually to the winning proposal.

For more details got to: http://sydney.edu.au/internationalhouse/scholarships/returning.shtml
Victor (Ziggy) Wu was awarded a Davis Project for Peace grant in 2011. Ziggy is a medical student from Canada who lived at IH from 2010-11. Ziggy’s project united his medical training, his passion for development and his previous experience in Africa. The project involved working with children with disabilities and their families who live in the Dadaab Refugee Camp. The Camp is located in Kenya, close to the Kenya-Somalia border. It is home to over 400,000 refugees, many of whom have fled from Somalia as a result of famine and civil war. Disabilities are caused or magnified by these conditions and aid workers in the camp struggle to meet the needs of the population.

Ziggy’s project had two stages, the first stage involved funding corrective surgery for a number of children in the camp. The second stage was a process of research involving the families and communities that the children belong to. This included discussions with parents of disabled children to explore the ways in which war has affected their child’s access to medical care, research to assess the unmet burden of surgically correctable disabilities among children in Dadaab and the creation of a fund for the surgical care of children with disabilities in the camp whose families could otherwise not afford it.

The goal of the project was to alleviate the plight of children with physical disabilities, but also highlight to the community of Dadaab that a significant number of disabilities can be managed and treated and to challenge the myth that disabilities are the result of misdeed. Ziggy hopes that the information he gathered on his trip will inform further development in this area, but most importantly that it brought comfort and peace to a number of families in the camp.

In his own words:

This project has altered the scale of which I view human suffering and disaster. It is still difficult for me to comprehend the idea of thousands of men, women, and children seeking refugee registration each day in Dadaab. I process repeatedly the life that such individuals must live, to wake up every morning and ask themselves how are they to provide for their children.

This project has re-emphasised to me that the problems of this world are not explainable or simple to solve. In the camp, I spent numerous hours in conversations with parents over how the war in Somalia has affected access of care for their disabled child.

What has brought hope to them is not simply a provision of material goods or the healing of their child, but to know that he/she was healed because someone cared about them without expecting anything in return. And now that the child can walk, the parents want to be part of a process to ensure that, in a world that seems as cruel as it is, there is still room for their child and their dreams.

What I believe is irreplaceable is that the acquisition of peace must be supplanted with a desire for peace to be further realised, to live out one’s life knowing that it may not be perfect, but it is perfect enough to give hope for its improvement with each passing day.
BO CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL, SIERRA LEONE, STARTS TREATING PATIENTS!

Nuli Lemoh’s long-held dream of setting up a children’s hospital in Bo, the second-largest town in Sierra Leone (and the most accessible centre for the majority of the rural population) was finally realised on 24th April, when the Bo Children’s Hospital opened its doors to patients. Such a momentous occasion!

As reported by Francis Lavally from the Rotary Club of Bo, who has been the driving force in Bo for realisation of the project: “this much-needed hospital will provide specialised health care and diagnostic services which will help reduce the high infantile death rate, It will also support the parents by providing education into preventative diseases and hygiene issues”.

The completed Stage 1, for which SUIHAA raised more than $100,000, has 11 beds and will provide:

- education
- outpatient clinics
- imaging facilities
- minor surgery
- short-term admissions (3-4 days)
- limited in-patient pharmacy.

When all three stages are completed, the hospital will provide a 21-bed inpatient facility plus 5 isolation wards.

The hospital will be administered and serviced by the local community. Staff have already been selected and, with one exception, were recruited locally. However, the government and the Bo community are keen that overseas expertise be obtained to help with the establishment of the hospital, so the committee is working with the Bo community to identify the particular expertise required so that appropriate medical professionals can be recruited.

As noted by Laurie Facer of Turramurra Rotary Club (and Chairman of the Bo Children’s Hospital Foundation): “The Bo Children’s Hospital is a private hospital and it has always been the intention of the project that the hospital becomes independent of overseas assistance (and we are on track to fulfil that goal). The government of Sierra Leone is very much aware of the project and appreciates its potential in helping to fulfill their goal of providing free medical care for all children under the age of five. But to meet the project goal, the hospital will need further injections of overseas funds and expertise. Further education is required for the staff, further equipment, consumables and medicines are required and funds are needed to support operations while the hospital builds its own local financial support base.

The hospital was formally commissioned on 30th May 2012 by His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone. Margaret and Nuli Lemoh were present at the opening ceremony and will be bringing back videos and firsthand accounts of the celebrations and the functioning hospital.

Nuli says that the Bo Children’s Hospital “will change the world of children and their families in Bo and throughout Sierra Leone. He wishes to thank all supporters who have steadfastly maintained the vision and worked tirelessly to establish it” but notes that, “as we enter the next exciting phase of the project, the commencement of operations, continuing support is vital”.

The next big fundraising target is $160,000 for the fitting out of Stages 2 and 3 and the running of the hospital, including staff salaries.

You can view more information on the Bo Hospital Project and access donation forms online at the SUIHAA website (www.suihaa.org.au) or at the Bo Project’s website directly at www.bochildrenshospital.org.au.
Another Harbour Cruise, another Food Fair, another Ball... and before you know it, another fun-filled IHMA year gone by. Our focus in 2011 was promoting three things: improving inter-collegiate relationships as we make preparations for the expansion of International House in the near future, targeting increased participation and provision of sporting events in line with our aim to promote a balanced lifestyle; one that is both academic and active, and increasing the number of cultural events offered in the House.

We kicked off 2011 with welcoming approximately 65 new residents to the House in what proved to be an action-packed Orientation-Week, ranging from IHMA classics such as the Amazing Race, Crab-Racing and IHMA Exec Intro Night to new events such as the Silent Disco at the Australian Museum.

The Inter-floor Games saw teams slug it out over a furious game of tug-of-war and an epic water-balloon fight at the finish, with the 5th and 7th floors finally emerging victorious. In March, we welcomed 15 new members to the IHMA Committee from a diverse range of backgrounds, bringing the total number of committee members to 22 with the addition of an extra Environment-Welfare Officer. April saw the celebration of the inaugural Earth Hour tea ceremony, complete with homemade scones and acoustic music by candlelight. In-between, we ushered in the mid-semester break with our traditional Easter Egg hunt, featuring more than 2000 chocolate eggs up for grabs. The annual Food Fair held in May was needless to say, a lip-smacking success; featuring a total of 15 teams battling it out for national culinary glory, with Japan eventually claiming the top prize. This year's International Idol Finals saw Singaporean Amy Lim win the coveted prize, impressing the judges with the quality and delivery of her musical performance; followed by IHMA's ‘Music Taken Literally’ disco. At the end of May, 87 residents set sail for a dazzling masquerade ball along the Sydney Harbour in IHMA's flagship event of the semester, the annual Harbour Cruise. But it wasn’t always all fun and games, and 2011 saw IHMA pioneering the provision of ‘IHMA Revision Sessions’, with tutorial sessions in Finance, Chemistry and Mathematics being offered in the week leading up to exams.
September brought with it IHMA’s most highly anticipated event of the year, I-Night. This year’s show was a smashing success, featuring a 4 hour-long program that saw more than 73 residents participate and boasting an audience that was packed to the rafters. Highlights included the hilarious ‘Boot-y licious Baller-ina Boys’, the traditional fashion parade from which I-Night had its humble beginnings, Malaysian Act and the Bollywood Musical. We also celebrated a whole slew of cultural events as part of our cultural initiative program; with the celebration of 4 key festivals: Eid, Mid-Autumn Festival, Oktoberfest and Diwali. Response was highly positive, with many residents delighted at the opportunity to gorge themselves on Malay curry and Indian samosas while listening to the legend of mooncakes beneath a starry, lantern-filled sky on the rooftop.

A group of suavely dressed residents headed to the Australian Maritime Museum in October for a magical ‘Beauty and the Sea’ themed IHMA Ball, enjoying a sumptuous three-course dinner while overlooking the magnificent views of the Sydney Harbour. The end of October featured IHMA’s Charity Night and Garage Sale, which saw IHMA helping to raise more than $3440 to be donated to Opportunity International and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). We then closed off the year with IHMA Elections for the 2012 Executive, STUVAC Suppers and the end-of-year Halloween Disco.

All in all, it has been a truly humbling and eye-opening experience and we are truly thankful for being given the opportunity to be at the very centre of what we hope has been a really fantastic year. Many thanks go to the various parties who have supported us every step of the way: the IH Office staff, the IH Council, SUIHAA and most of all, the residents of International House.

By: Jonathan Tanco (Chairperson), Renee Noble (Secretary) and Su-Wen Wong (Treasurer)
The start of 2012 has brought some new initiatives to the House and some consolidation of well-loved events and opportunities.

IH TALKS

The vision of the inaugural Chairperson of International House, Michael Hwang, was that IH would be a place for the exchange and production of ideas, in an egalitarian and open atmosphere. IH TALKS have put this vision into practice. Each Sunday evening, residents from the House assemble to hear one of their colleagues present on an area of their interest or expertise. The talks so far have treated diverse topics. In the opening talk on bioethics, residents debated the complex area of medical ethics; in the second, on space technology, engineering students informed us of the remarkable breakthroughs in research into space travel; and in the third, on environmentalism, the pressing concerns of climate change were addressed. Other talks have included one on the Holocaust and the experience of resistance in camps such as Auschwitz, and on the ethics of charity. During and following the talks, residents engage in discussion about these complex topics. Many of these topics treat issues that concern the global community as a whole: the talk on charity, for example, dealt explicitly with international cooperation around the question of responses to natural and man-made disasters, such as those involving refugees, civil wars and conflicts between different countries.

The talks cater for students at all stages of their study, but we hope most importantly that by sharing the expertise of residents and alumni, residents will develop a persistent interest in topics related to internationalism, and as a result will go on to be responsible and informed international citizens. The talks also motivate residents to continue discussions during meal times, helping to break down barriers between residents and creating an intellectually rich and open environment. IH TALKS also provide a forum for research students to present their work to a non-expert audience. This is of significant benefit to both the presenters, who learn to articulate their ideas in an approachable and clear manner, and the audience, who benefit from their colleague’s knowledge. More junior residents who haven’t yet decided on the direction of their study may be inspired to pursue a particular path that an IH TALK has addressed. In the future, we are hoping to expand our pool of presenters and audience to alumni.

For those alumni with a lifetime of experience and expertise to share, we hope the medium of IH TALKS will provide the perfect opportunity for them to pass on their wisdom to present residents. Additionally, having alumni as audience members who respond and engage in discussion about the talks will enrich the experience for all. In future talks, residents will be addressing such diverse topics as the science and philosophy of mediation, copyright infringement and public defamation, and the relation between poetry, philosophy and politics. Next semester we will have a two part seminar on the history and politics of Sudan, which will be presented by a resident who was a candidate in the inaugural election for Sudan in 2011. With students from across the globe, both undergraduate and postgraduate, International House has always had enormous potential to be a place for the exchange of a broad range of ideas. With IH TALKS, this potential is being brought to fruition.

TED talks are held every Sunday during semester at 8pm in the Wool Room, IH. Alumni are welcome to attend.

If you have enquiries please contact Nikhil Kumar at nkum1018@uni.sydney.edu.au.

CALENDARFEST 2012

A whole new semester, a whole new bunch of residents and best of all, a whole new calendar year! After a hiatus of 2 years, SUIHAA rounded off the 2012 Orientation Week with the return of “Calendarfest”. Since its inception in 1998 by then SUIHAA President Toshiko Mori, the aim of Calendarfest has always been a means of fostering connections between past alumni with the new generation of IH residents through the simple gift of a calendar to new residents at the start of each academic year. We had a bountiful year, with an amazing 110 calendars donated from alumni all around the globe; some specially flown in from as far off as North America while others...
Current Resident Activities

IH JERSEYS
Last year International House launched the IH Jersey, this year we improved the design and they have proved very popular again. The jerseys are available for purchase for alumni. Please contact IH Office to arrange to purchase one.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
This year IH is formalising its tutorial program and offering a range of subjects at IH. Post Graduate and third year residents are offering academic assistance in a range of Maths, Economics, Law and Psychology subjects. We also offered a Cultural Awareness Program and a Faculty Evening.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
This year the Leadership Program compiled of workshops facilitated at the House and a Retreat held at the Log Cabin. The workshop program included a fantastic seminar on leadership given by IH Council member and alumnus Harry Bergsteiner. Other workshops included Mental Health and Fire training. It was great to bring the new leaders of the House to the alumni built retreat at Belangalo. During their time at the Log Cabin, the leaders got to know each other, impressed the staff with their cooking skills and planned for some new initiatives. Highlights included Bo’s pasta dinner, Shunny’s fire-making skills and a particularly compelling round of the game, ‘Werewolf’.

T-Shirt and minutes detailing SUIHAA’s inception all the way back in 1967. As 2012 is a leap year, there was also a game where residents wrote down where they thought they would be in 2016 (the next leap year). Answers were sealed away with a promise that the best ones would be published in SUIHAA’s 2016 newsletter edition.

Overall, both events were a resounding success and SUIHAA would like to express their thanks in particular to all the alumni who supported this year’s Calendarfest through their generous donations; without which the event would not have been possible.

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Alumni News

Mie ISHII (1990-91) met up with Richard Andrews and Saovanee at the Australian Embassy, Tokyo in April, and sent in a picture of herself and her family whilst there. (See photo below)

Alison Medley (2009) and Bjorn Lassen (2008-2009) were married in January in the United States Virgin Islands, the couple met in the House in 2009. They currently live in Norway. (See photo to right)

Aziz NEZHADALI (1999) is currently an Associate Professor in Analytical Chemistry at Payame Noor University, Iran, and has been very busy publishing in the area. He hopes to return to Sydney for a sabbatical soon.

Mark DAVIES (1990) is back in Australia, having taken up a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Adelaide. He is currently working on a project on censorship in the ancient world.

Pauline LYLE-SMITH (1969-1972) currently the President of the University of Sydney UK Alumni Association, writes to let alumni know about an upcoming inter-college reunion being held in the UK. It is scheduled for the 8 July to be held in Bracknell. Please contact Pauline for more details pls@lyle-smith.com (Below: Pauline at 45th anniversary with Daphne Kok and Jon Kok (2001-03))

Alison Medley (2009) and Bjorn Lassen (2008-2009) were married in January in the United States Virgin Islands, the couple met in the House in 2009. They currently live in Norway. (See photo to right)

Rui BAI (2007-2008) returned to China after graduating and is current working for the SPD Bank in Shanghai. She looks forward to getting in touch with everyone at IH soon.

Chuji YASUDA (1972) wrote in with fond memories about Calendarfest. Recently he has set up the Capital Tokyo West Goodwill Guides, a volunteer group offering free tours of Tokyo in English, offered in association with the Japan National Tourism Organisation. Alumni heading to Tokyo soon can contact him at chu-san@sb3.so-net.ne.jp.

Minal KHILANI (2009-11), was an IH representative to the National Student Leadership Forum (NSLF) in 2011, and enjoyed the experience so much that she applied for an internship with them, and was successful! She is now working in the NSLF’s Sydney office, making regular trips to Canberra to liaise with members of Australia’s Federal Parliament.

Aziz NEZHADALI (1999) is currently an Associate Professor in Analytical Chemistry at Payame Noor University, Iran, and has been very busy publishing in the area. He hopes to return to Sydney for a sabbatical soon.

Mark DAVIES (1990) is back in Australia, having taken up a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Adelaide. He is currently working on a project on censorship in the ancient world.

Hannah YIU (1975-1977) wrote to SUIHAA hoping to get in touch with Toshiko Mori to wish her a merry Christmas, but unfortunately the letter got returned! If you’re reading this, Toshiko, we wish you all the very best. Ed: To avoid having your letters accidentally returned, please address any mail to alumni as c/ SUIHAA, International House, 96 City Road, Chippendale NSW 2008 Australia.

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Martin Williams (1969) in February, he passed away of cancer in Sydney surrounded by family and friends and left a lasting legacy on the film and television industry in Australia. In an eloquent tribute in the industry journal Screen Hub, David Tiley has written that “The industry is diminished by his passing… He contributed patiently and intelligently to the discussions around policy, was able to question established practice… He understood the absolute necessity for respect and inspiration in the relationship between agencies, development specialists and key creatives. He championed the cause of ultra low budget features, and innovative production methods. He cared equally for drama and documentary, focusing always on the storytelling.” Most recently the House screened his short film on a refugee story for SBS, So Close to Home, that starred Kerry Fox (Below).
Established through the initiative of Senator J. William Fulbright and the United States Government in 1946, the Fulbright Program today is one of the most prestigious international scholarships. Over 6,000 scholarships a year are awarded for exchange to and from the United States. Initially funded by the sale of surplus war materials following the horror of World War II, the program’s mission is to promote mutual understanding between nations of the world and the United States, such that nations will learn to live in peace and friendship. The mission of the Fulbright program is well aligned with that of International House, allowing scholars from all over the world to work together, exchange knowledge and share experiences.

In March, I was named as one of 25 Australian Fulbright Scholars for 2012. I’m one of the youngest awardees this year and my fellow Fulbrighters include three professors, six medical doctors, a lieutenant commander in the navy, an artist, a teacher, and a constitutional lawyer. Words can’t really describe the feeling of euphoria that accompanied the announcement of the scholarship. It was inspirational to hear about the lives and labours of the other Fulbrighters, and what they hoped to achieve with their time in the United States.

As for what I do? I’m a PhD student in the School of Information Technologies at the University of Sydney and a resident of International House from 2007 - 2009. I’m working on natural language processing - an area of artificial intelligence that aims to teach computers how to understand human languages. We’re bombarded with information each and every day - and it’s getting harder to find useful data in the noise. Imagine being able to ask someone for a summarised set of all the news of the day, categorised by your interests. Or being able to have a professional translator on call 24/7 in a foreign country. Or being able to search all of the world’s libraries and know for sure that you haven’t missed a vital reference. Now imagine you could do all that for free, instantly, wherever you are in the world. That’s my dream - where computers can help us organise and manage the information in our lives. It’s been a fantasy for a long time - but I’m hoping to make my contribution to it and maybe someday it will all become a reality.

In my application and interview I was able to draw on the experience of living in International House. I talked about the importance of communication between people of different languages and backgrounds and how cultural exchange and understanding brings people together from all over the world. Yet - and I can imagine this holds true for many reading this newsletter - the barriers of language are still too high around the world. Studying overseas in a foreign tongue is still too difficult, and students can be left behind by the demands of learning outside of their native language. Through my PhD work, I hope to improve the way the world communicates - no matter the language, the scale, or the nature of the information.

With my scholarship, I will spend eight months at the University of California at Berkeley, working at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences. I’m hoping to live in the International House there based on my experiences at IH Sydney and with SUIHAA. I hope to find a community that is as vibrant, diverse, and exciting as the one that I lived in during my undergraduate years. I’ll also get to interact with some of the brightest and most motivated people in the world in the heartland of technology. Having never been to the United States before, and never resided in a country apart from Australia, I’m looking forward to experiencing another culture and environment, like many who have lived in IH have done.

As the current (and soon to be outgoing) Secretary of SUIHAA, I’d like to reach out to interested alumni in the United States. I would love to hear your stories about living in International House, what you’re doing today, and whether you have any tips for me as I embark on my adventure. Drop me a line at dominick.ng@sydney.edu.au.

For now, I’m preparing my paperwork, and packing my bags. In August 2012 I leave for California, before returning to Sydney in 2013 to complete my PhD and bring back some of my experiences. Here I come USA!

Dominick Ng
THE THIRD CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL MARKETS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

On April 11-12 2012, I attended the Third Conference on Financial Markets and Corporate Governance at the RACV Club in Melbourne, which was held by the Latrobe Business School, Latrobe University. During the conference, I presented my paper “Estimating Optimal Hedge Ratio and Hedge Effectiveness via Fitting the Multivariate Skewed Distributions” and performed as the discussant for another presenter in the division of Funds Management/Derivatives/Risk Management/Quantitative Finance.

The presentation went well and I benefitted a lot from the discussion and advice received from other researchers. The honourable Professor Douglas Foster, Professor Bruce Grundy and Professor Kevin Davis also attended the conference and gave inspirational seminars. During the cocktail reception on the last day, I was informed that my paper was placed in third in my division, which gave me encouragement and would shed light on my future research in finance.

By Jesse Xin Zheng (2010-)

Jesse was awarded the 2012 Graeme de Graaff Scholarship to attend this conference

THESIS BANK

This year SUIHAA is seeking to re-establish an initiative to compile a collection of Honours, Masters and PhD theses completed by residents and former residents of the House. This thesis collection would be housed in the International House Library and would allow current residents of the House access to the scholarly works of alumni.

As part of this initiative, we are inviting all alumni who have completed a thesis to submit a copy of their thesis to the collection, and play a part in nurturing the next generation of IH scholars. Our aim is to have a wide collection of scholarly works from a multitude of disciplines and research areas, so theses from any faculty and from any date are most welcome.

Copies can be mailed to or dropped off at the IH Office:

International House,
The University of Sydney
96 City Road
Chippendale
NSW 2008

Alternatively, SUIHAA is happy to cover the cost of printing and binding one copy of your thesis to be placed in the collection. Please email an electronic copy of your thesis to info@suihaa.org.au along with any special printing instructions and we will be happy to handle this for you.

International House resident David Potter has written a fantastic play about The Beatles, entitled “All Things Must Pass”. It opened on the 21st of March at Sydney University Dramatic Society’s Cellar Theatre, where it was a great success. Current IH resident Josh Free was cast as Ringo Starr, with alumna Tina Sun (2011) designing the artwork and promotional material for the play.

Synopsis:
In 1964, four young friends from Liverpool unexpectedly skyrocketed to international stardom. They did not know how it had happened, they had no idea why it had happened to them, and they certainly couldn’t tell whether or not they deserved it. It was a rush at first, but they soon grew tired of the deafening screams that followed them everywhere.

Something strange had taken hold of the world, and it was called Beatlemania. For a short time it seemed they were invincible. Invincible, that is, until one of them was murdered by a lone gunman who claimed to have heard the voice of God...

A play about grief, friendship, fame, and the strange light behind a killer’s eyes.

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International Women’s Day

The House has a proud tradition of celebrating International Women’s Day at the start of each semester. Sarah McLain (2008-2011), former Senior Resident, wrote this article on the gender disparities, which remain in our society to this day.

I hope that International Women’s Day has some meaning for you all. I also wanted to take a bit of time to address the very anti-International Women’s Day vibes that are always around. That is to say, every year I always hear some guy (or many guys) asking ‘BUT WHY DO YOU NEED AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY?’ Some even have the balls to say ‘That’s so sexist!’ or even, ‘How come there isn’t an International Men’s Day?’

First of all, there is one. It’s held on November 19th. So stop whinging and celebrate that day however you want. Secondly, the people who will insist there’s no need to celebrate International Women’s Day because everything is all fine and ‘fixed’ with men. Don’t be that guy.

International Women’s Day is about stopping and celebrating the achievements and successes of women, whilst also taking time to recognise the overwhelming disadvantages towards the female gender and disproportionately higher levels of violence. I’m talking about statistics such as:

- One in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her life time.
- For women between 16 and 44 years of age, domestic violence is the major cause of death and invalidity.
- Even in developed nations such as Australia, women face disadvantage and inequality every day.
- On average, Australian women earn 20% less than men.
- In Australia, 95% of the reported cases of domestic violence (and just remember, so many more go unreported) is committed against women by men.
- Australian women spend nearly twice as long each day on domestic activities (cleaning, cooking, shopping, etc) than men.
- Australian women spend nearly three times longer each day on child care activities than men.

It’s not just the big horrible statistics that represent gender inequality, but also some of the day to day things that we see. For example, two things that greatly annoy me are the sexism ingrained into children from a young age, as well as sexism in advertising and media. On the first point, have you recently been into the children’s toy section of Kmart or Big W? Why are little girls given toys predominantly grooming them to fulfil household duties, such as toy mops, irons and kitchen sets? And why are little boys sold toys mostly based on construction and building, or tending towards violence and toy weapons? If the genders are indeed equal, then why do our children continue to be subjected to these defined gender roles and expectations from early childhood, most of which disproportionately disadvantage women? Secondly, my issues with the media and advertising, because I’m getting pretty sick of seeing every single television ad for household products (washing detergents, kitchen, bathroom and laundry products, food products, etc) featuring women or being targeted towards women. Why, if we are indeed equal, are women simply expected to do more of the housework and domestic duties? Why does advertising try to reinforce to me that all I should be doing with my life is cooking and cleaning and having children, so that I can cook and clean for them? And don’t give me any of that ‘advertisers are just appealing to their target market’ BS, because I have it on pretty good authority that men also need to, you know, eat food, and launder their clothes and stuff like that.

I’ve been told before that on these last two points, that I’m getting unreasonably worked up over the ‘little things’, that it’s somehow not an issue worth being bothered over. What the hell kind of argument is that? It is indeed these ‘little things’ that are so ingrained in our culture that nobody really stops to question, that we ought to stop ignoring and start changing.

Once again, let’s remember that International Women’s Day is there to recognise the inequality that remains and the disadvantages that women face, yet also to celebrate the success, progress and contribution that has been made by women all over the world. This is NOT about women being better than men and wanting to take over the world, as many people seem to (wrongly) think that the goal of feminism and women’s rights movements is. I think the thing that bugs me most of all, is the way that men can often feel threatened by the idea of women being strong, successful, capable and worthy of respect. They become defensive and feel the need to reassert power. There are many men who view feminism and equality as some kind of competition that aims to take away their power and their manhood. Don’t be that guy.

Conversely, men who respect women, champion their achievements, and fight for their inclusion are Real Men. And Real Men celebrate International Women’s Day too. - Sarah McLain
International House is now 45 years old, and SUIHAA connects the thousands of alumni who have passed through the House in those years. We have done so as a proudly independent body - run by and supporting the alumni of the House. SUIHAA has been built on the hard work of countless alumni who have each contributed in their own way to making us what we are. Each week I get to see messages, words of joy, and good tidings pass back to us from our alumni all around the world. I see pictures of the Bo Children’s Hospital in operation - the culmination of years of tireless fundraising by SUIHAA members. It reminds me how special a place IH is to those who live in it, and how privileged I am to be involved.

Many of you may know that the House is planning on expanding in size, potentially to 600 residents. This would approximately triple the number of alumni joining SUIHAA each year, and broaden the pool of countries from which people come from and return to. With such an increase in the alumni community comes a greater expectation for what SUIHAA must provide to its members. Our means would similarly increase: based on the current one-off fee collected by the House for SUIHAA, our income would grow to over $20,000 per annum. We would have more and more expected of us.

Unfortunately, SUIHAA in its current form is unprepared for such imminent growth. Our Committee is entirely voluntary; each Committee member gives service to SUIHAA in the name of the mission of the House and the impact it has had on its residents. Based on your feedback, an overwhelming majority of alumni want to hear more from SUIHAA and want more SUIHAA functions - both in Australia and around the world. Attendance at our recent 45th Anniversary Cocktail Function was outstanding, with alumni of all ages enjoying a wondering afternoon together. However, the responsible management of alumni events and relations on the scale demanded by a larger House would be daunting for a full-time body, let alone volunteers.

With such an increase in alumni members and funding, ensuring accountability from the Committee and a return to the alumni would be of paramount importance. Unlike the IH Council, which is responsible to the University Senate for running the House, the SUIHAA Committee is responsible only to the broader alumni community. Our constitution grants broad powers to the Committee and Executive to utilise the assets and property of SUIHAA with relatively little oversight. Receiving a cash flow exceeding $20,000 demands more checks and balances to ensure that our money is well spent on behalf of the alumni of the House.

And then there are the perfunctory matters; those of legal liability, executive responsibility, and insurance. The Committee itself has unlimited liability for SUIHAA’s actions, and SUIHAA remains an unincorporated and uninsured entity. Our AMPify mentoring program that aimed to pair new residents with alumni mentors was forced into hiatus due to the insurance issue. In our current state of affiliation with the House but not the university, it is difficult to request the support and resources afforded to alumni chapters of other colleges and university groups.

The current SUIHAA Committee feels that the structure of SUIHAA needs to change as the House changes in order to better serve alumni. We are fortunate in that there are still some years before the House undergoes its redevelopment. However, the expansion will happen, as the University is committed to providing thousands of new places in student accommodation in the next five years. International House is an important part of this expansion thanks to its status as a fully university-owned hall of residence on campus. We must be ready for the future.

In recent years, we have begun discussions with Alumni Relations at the University of Sydney, with the view of officially making SUIHAA an Alumni Chapter of the university. These discussions have been lengthy and robust; SUIHAA has a long and proud history, and we are unwilling to give up what makes SUIHAA so special: our association directly with International House and between its residents. The Committee is now convinced that we can come to an acceptable position with the university, and become a chapter on our own terms and with the goals enshrined in our Constitution.

There are many benefits to becoming an Alumni Chapter. It would solve all of our current liability issues, and allow us to run programs such as alumni mentoring. We would be able to retain our current structure, funding arrangements, and priorities. We would gain access to the university’s insurance coverage and staff for help in organising our events and staying in touch with alumni. However, we would need to grant the university certain powers, including the ability to hold the Committee accountable for its actions. The Committee knows that there will be many with strong feelings about this issue; these changes require an amendment to our Constitution and thus the approval of two-thirds of SUIHAA members present at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 29th September 2012 in International House.

We believe that becoming a Chapter is the right way to prepare SUIHAA for the future. But it is you, the alumni community and members of SUIHAA who will have the final say. We are calling for a consultation.
with all our alumni across the world on this proposal. We are in the process of finalising the Constitutional amendments, with the view of preserving the majority of SUIHAA's current constitution. When finalised, we will post the amendments on the SUIHAA website at http://sydney.edu.au/internationalhouse/alumni. We will also provide a wide-ranging discussion paper on the proposed changes, and what they mean for SUIHAA and for alumni. We encourage you to read these documents, and let us know of any concerns or matters of importance. The Committee wants to emphasise that we will not undertake any change that forces SUIHAA to give up its independence - something that has been hard-fought and is held dear.

It is up to the will of alumni to decide how we move forward. We will move ahead with the proposed amendments should there be sufficient support; and incorporate your feedback into refining the changes. But if there is insufficient support, there will be no changes. The structure of SUIHAA will remain as it is now, and the Committee will be considering other alternatives.

I personally believe that becoming an Alumni Chapter will let us be truly ready for the next 45 years, and the next few thousand alumni who join our ranks. I now ask that you consider this issue, and let us know what you believe.

By Dominick Ng

**Update your Details!**

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER IN THIS FORMAT**

**UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO WE CAN SEND YOU AN ELECTRONIC COPY IN THE FUTURE**

You need to register your email address with SUIHAA through the IH Portal. Go to http://sydney.edu.au/internationalhouse/alumni/index.shtml to update your details or email info@suihaa.org.au for more details.

**CONNECT WITH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

Visit our Facebook page to view our archive of newsletters, photos and events. You do NOT need to be a Facebook member to view our Facebook page.

http://www.facebook.com/suihaa