Fraternitas 2013

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This year will no doubt go down in the history of International House as a key turning point in the continued fulfilment of our mission to serve Australian and international students from many countries as they flourish academically and in the development of their potential as citizens of the world. From the very big picture, to the daily microcosm of life in the House: both have inspired us all such that we can look back on a very positive year.

With a sound strategic approach by the Council of International House, and the active cooperation of our students and tutors, we have reached the completion of a year marked by significant changes in student facilities. The multipurpose court was relocated to the northeast corner of the college grounds and is now in successful operation. The active use of the land behind the former ‘Ida Scheps’ building on the southern perimeter for the development of our new building, shows already just how wise the decision has been to construct the building on that site.

In the meantime, students have made resourceful use of the Junior Common Room with a much improved Lanai area and the recent Music Night showed how well this space can be used. The creativity of each cohort of students is amazing to see.

Not only are our students adept in their academic and artistic pursuits: we were also very pleased with a good year in the sporting arena, with our football seconds team winning the intercollegiate cup for the first time since 1972!

Café was a great success with $3,000 presented to the Rotary ‘End Polio Now’ campaign. This will be matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Well done, and we thank our great supporters, alumni and stakeholders, most especially to our Rotary supporters with their loyal and generous dedication to the ideals of the House!

In order to build our future we are most appreciative of the financial support towards the new building which now amounts to just under $100,000 in pledges and donations. Our scholarships have increased although there are always more students to support.

International House would not exist without the private philanthropy and determination of our founders in the 1950s. All donations, large or small, make a great difference to the students and help us build the future of the House as an outstanding college.

We look back on a year of outstanding student contributions through leadership, the exceptional efforts of the tutors in all aspects of their work, and the outstanding work done by our administrative, facilities and grounds staff.

I thank our Council and our supporters in the administration of the University for their dedication to the House, and especially the Vice Chancellor for so graciously and competently ‘turning the first sod’ as we commenced this historic program of building.

2013 has built upon the foundational ideals and successes of our past, and paved our way towards a bright future for International House. With the continued support of our community and enthusiasm of our students, IH can only move from strength to strength, and that is something of which we can all be immensely proud.

Associate Professor Jane Munro AM
Head of College
The Valedictory Dinner was held this year on the 10th of October, 2013.

On paper, the Valedictory Dinner is traditionally held to celebrate three years spent at International House, or three years spent at university. For those whom it celebrates, however, it means so much more. It marks the culmination of three years of growing, learning, and becoming the adults that we are within the unique experience of college life. It is in this moment that we come to reflect on and appreciate the memories we’ve created, the bonds we have formed and the opportunities that have been presented to us which will hopefully put us in good stead for our future to come.

My father, Andrew Robertson, was the guest speaker at the dinner. He remembers fondly his time at IH in the late 70s, and reminisces about it often with me, almost to the point of eye-rolling repetition. What I’ve noticed about his stories, however, is that they have a recurring theme: opportunity. Dad speaks about making the most of things and approaching life with a ‘foot-in-the-door’ policy, and if at first you don’t succeed, try and try again.

The dinner called for reflections to be made, and during the evening I came to reflect upon my time at IH. I arrived at IH with my parents and bags in tow, and having found my way up to a wonderful place called 3rd Floor Scheps, I bade my parents farewell and settled in. It was there and then that I made IH my home. O-Week was one of the best weeks of my life – new friends and a new city to explore, along with learning to live in the new social environment in which we found ourselves.

In my phone interview with Peter Cole, just before I was accepted into IH, I remember him saying, “Everyone has to do their part to make this community work.” What I have come to realise is that doing your part, making a contribution and tending to the community of IH has been the most incredible opportunity itself. Communal living is certainly a change from the norm for most of us, but once you adapt, it’s hard to imagine living any other way. Especially with the added bonus of IH being the cultural melting pot. By actively engaging in this community and making new friends, my eyes have been opened to the diversity of life and changed my global horizons. And that’s the ‘IH way’.

These three years have flown by. It’s hard to believe that soon I will be leaving the halls of IH as a resident for the last time, saying goodbye to my friends who will return to their home countries, or are taking off on new and exciting adventures. I have met some amazing and inspiring people here during my time at International House, and I cannot wait for the five, ten, fifteen, fifty years from now, to see how the impact these people have been able to make on the world. But although we will be gone, the memories and friendships we have made and the lessons we have learned will continue to inspire us to seek new opportunities throughout the course of our lives.

Fiona Robertson
I will never forget a song that a dear friend of mine, who has since returned to Malaysia, wrote in our first year here at International House. He spoke of one thing that united us all. We all crave, need, judge, and dwell on this one thing. It is an experience that residents from any country can understand and share together, something that binds IHers throughout history: the food.

At International House, we consume our magnificent fodder in the esteemed Dimmick Dining Hall, the largest of its kind among the ten residential Melbourne University colleges. Our dining hall never ceases to impress the average guest with its impressive display of colorful flags. So much happens in this dining hall, beyond regular meals. Even beyond the crowd favourite – Sunday brunch. I refer to events such as Café International, National Nights or speeches made by inspirational alumni. So much of our college experience is lived in this extraordinary facility that I feel it would be remiss to underestimate its importance.

As a friend or returning alumnus of International House, perhaps you have marvelled at the way the students decorate the hall for performances, or guffawed at the stifling temperature it reaches for our Commencement Dinner. The fleeting visitor’s eye cannot, however, grasp all that the dining hall provides to the students. There is something truly special that happens when people gather around to share food.

This year, with the immeasurable help of my Vice-President and Student Club Committee, we utilised the dining hall as a focal point for our new, student-led intercultural communication program. We facilitated mealtime events in an attempt to aid people in fostering camaraderie and active communication across friendship groups. Though intercultural effectiveness is not an easy margin to measure, the program appeared very successful. The importance of food in this scheme was undeniable. At International House, food is a mechanism for conversation. Even if I knew very little about the person sitting next to me, I could always complain to him about how white rice and vol-au-vents make awful bedfellows, or boast about how many chocolate ripple cakes I intended on eating that evening, and he would undoubtedly understand my sentiments.

My point here is that, after three years, I have learnt that it is hard to bring together almost three hundred people from over thirty countries, all of whom have had different upbringings, different experiences, and hold different values. International House carries a culture that encourages students to seek out this difference, and to connect with each other across sports, performing arts, or even food. I have been so impressed with the efforts of my fellow students to open their hearts and step outside their comfort zones in my time here, and I know it would not be possible without the comforting and exciting IH environment that lives on long after we leave.

My fellow compatriot, former United States President Ronald Reagan once said, “All great change in America begins at the dinner table”. IH, in a way no other college or institution can, changes every individual who walks through the front door. Because of this wonderful place, we are granted with an invaluable experience that can be achieved nowhere else in the world. And it all begins over a meal. No matter whether you are the Student Club President, a Mario Kart champion, or a member of the championship footy team, we all need that dining hall.

We all eat. We all learn. We all grow.

Just as I will never forget my friend and his “Food” song, I will never forget what I gained from eating, learning and living in such a diverse environment with simply fantastic people.

Jenna Morgenstern-Gaines
Student Club President 2012-2013
International House is difficult to describe. In its most literal sense, there are a number of people from different nationalities all occupying the same space. This is an accurate observation, yet is innately missing something. What escapes the casual glance of an onlooker is the community of IH. A sense of belonging that makes us respect each other for our differences, and not despite them. It is a community that spans over thirty-three nations, and over multiple generations. We at IH are a family, and that family is continuously growing.

Our family not only grows in size but in complexity too. IH is so strikingly diverse that every day is a surprise. I often reflect on how even after a year I can meet someone who lives here for the very first time. I think about how every person has, in his or her own unique way, contributed to making IH the way it is. Whether it be our athletes, bringing us a victory in the inter-collegiate footy tournament for the first time in over four decades, or our passionate volunteers who trek to rural Thailand villages to help educate children, everyone has had some impact in shaping IH year after year. The impact of this community, and how it changes anyone who comes into contact with it, is only made more remarkable by the fact that we have created it not in the face of diversity, but out of it.

Just recently, a first-year student excitedly told me of her plans to travel abroad for the first time to South Africa. There wasn’t even the slightest hint of fear in her voice as she talked about travelling to a country on a completely different continent, with a way of life very different to the one she was accustomed to. That assurance came from her life at IH – the friends she made and the understanding that difference wasn’t an obstacle to be overcome but an opportunity to be embraced. This diverse community has provided so many of these opportunities that most others would never gain from their college experience. What that first-year student takes from her travels will be enriched by the exposure she has had to the cultures of others, and her cultivated ability to embrace and appreciate the differences of that culture, all before she even left her home country. At IH, we are strengthened by the diversity of our community.

While we remain a diverse amalgam of cultures, IH unites as our home away from home. It has created a safe-haven from which people can pursue their academic goals, despite the intimidation of coming from a different country or a rural town not large enough to be on a map. IH is a place where everyone can be as they are, and do what they need to do in order to attain the future they want. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this community, and to contribute to its continued strength.

Rahul Ingle
Student Club President 2013-2014
Café International takes the form of a cabaret dinner, where we display the vast talents of the students here at International House. This year we strayed from tradition, replacing the traditional cabaret structure with a student-written play. Ten acts, encompassing all kinds of genres of dance and music (even a ukulele ensemble) were interwoven with the script which followed a group of bewildered tourists in Paris for La Nuit des Musées (the Night of Museums) and one rather eccentric tour-guide, who showed them a night on the town they would never forget.

The event is our biggest annual fundraiser and most of that revenue comes from the bids placed on silent auction items and from donations. This year we raised just under $10,000 thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our guests and donors. The student body has agreed that the money raised at Café International 2013 will go towards updating and revamping the communal areas, such as the Junior Common Room and the Games Room. This will benefit all students and will hopefully mean that less money will be spent hiring equipment for events and functions in the long run.

It is also a tradition that a percentage of the proceeds from Café International go to a charity chosen by the Café Coordinator. I have been following the progress of polio eradication for over a year now. The world is 99 per cent polio free, with only three countries remaining polio-endemic. The final push to raise awareness and funds could see this crippling illness made history. This year 30 per cent of the profits will go to End Polio Now, a Rotary International supported charity that is also supported by UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organisation. A polio-free world is not a pipe dream. It is a goal within our reach and when I look at all of the problems of the world, knowing that this one problem will not carry on to the next generation is unbelievably heart-warming.

Café brings the student body together and gives people the opportunity to show off their talents and skills; be they in front of or behind the curtain, facilitating donations, designing décor and print, or helping the entire process run as smoothly as possible.

All of the creative aspects of the evening are entirely organised by the students. The compliments directed towards the evening demonstrate how impressive it is for creative people to come together to produce great things.

While the student body deserves all of the credit it gets, the night would not be possible if it weren’t for the enormous amount of help we receive from the House. They do this every year and have a wealth of knowledge (and patience!) when it comes to running events such as this. Café International is but one example of the dedication of IH staff and Cater Care to providing opportunities for IH students. For this we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

The 2013 Café International was an incredible opportunity for the community to come together and produce not only an entertaining night but a rewarding and important outcome. It was a pleasure to be a part of such an extraordinary experience.

Emily Vearing
Café International Coordinator
I’m here to speak to you about the student perspective on the new building, and the benefits it will reap for our entire community. I’d like to start by extending a warm welcome to all of our guests, and an even warmer welcome back to all the previous residents of International House in attendance. I’d especially like to thank all of the students who made it out of bed to be with us here today for such a momentous event in IH history.

At this point, we’ve all heard the bulk of improvements this endeavour aims to bring to the students. A new multipurpose court will provide a fresh playing surface for all of our student athletes. A new, unified student entrance, cleverly dovetailed alongside the CLL’s ground floor, a sleek level entirely designated to social space, will promote integration between all residents and allow both graduate and undergraduate students to foster meaningful relationships. The influx of a huge graduate population will enhance intercollegiate sporting opportunities for International House teams and will open up new prospects for scholastic collaboration or mentoring across different fields. In just a few years time, these enhancements will foster a community of diverse, internationally minded individuals who will no doubt find great personal success and continue to contribute to their communities. Soon enough, our college environment will be even better positioned to shape and educate students so they can strive to be the leaders and game-changers of the future.

These things are all understood, but what does such a significant change mean to the students of International House right now? What kind of impact has this project already had on our community? Do students really want to see the place they call home change?

At first glance these seem to be very confronting questions. It’s hard to imagine that such a major, long-term construction will affect the lives of a student population that will essentially be replaced in just two years time. Many of the students here today will not even be lucky enough to meet the first residents of the Centre for Learning and Living, let alone live there themselves. But to answer these questions there is something you must understand about our community here at International House. We are unlike many other colleges and institutions in that we learn to adapt, and thus we grow. Traditions are not born out of routine; they are born when people make history. Progress will forever be our legacy.

It is easy to see the fluidity of our community in its representation of the world. When an earthquake strikes in New Zealand, the event is marked on the faces of students from Wellington and Christchurch.

When Asian currency exchange rates dip there is a shortage of students from China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the like at social outings. When the world changes, International House changes too.

And now the University is changing, and ideas surrounding education are too. From what you’ve heard me say so far today I hope it’s clear that International House students were not just quick to accept this change, but also to value it and to let it shape them and their short cultural paradigms. I still, however, have yet to answer one question – how has the project already affected our students?

If you think that the aforementioned benefits endowed by new facilities will only enhance the lives of future IHers, you are very mistaken. I’ve seen the look of pride in my fellow students’ eyes when they see the simulated projections of a building that far exceeds the standard of architecture and even eco-friendliness of any other construction in Parkville. I’ve heard them scowl in envy at the sketches of future students sipping lattes in a brand new student café. And I’ve noticed them thinking about a whole new type of learning, one where you can engage with those on the paths you may one day take yourself.

It’s hard to say right now what student life will be like after this massive transformation, but even so there is always room to imagine the magnificent change the future can bring. Though it may seem simple enough to continue on as we are, in a transient recycling of undergraduate students, we must remember the one thing that International House has taught all of us – that great things come when new challenges are met. It would simply be too easy to continue running on a plateau.

Reflections of the 2013 Student Club President at the ceremony held to mark the turning of the first sod for the Centre for Learning and Living

L-R : STUDENT CLUB PRESIDENT, HEAD OF COLLEGE VICE CHANCELLOR, CHANCELLOR, CHAIR OF COUNCIL & DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR & COUNCIL MEMBER AT THE TURNING OF THE SOD CEREMONY
International House thanks the following alumni and friends for your generous philanthropic support in 2013:

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- Professor Sue Elliott
- Mr Gary Fowler
- Professor Paul Kofman
- Mr Howard Khoo
- Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins AM
- Associate Professor Jane Munro AM
- Mrs Vi Peterson
- Mr David Prest
- Dr Josh Wilson SC
- Ms Alice Wong
- Student Club President

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“So, what are you enrolled in at Uni?”
“Science. You?”
“Same! Where from?”

...(somewhere in the background) “Dude, she’s a tutor, man!”

“Oh, so you’re a tutor here? What do you teach? Is Uni stressful? … While you’re at that, can you teach me how to do my laundry later?! It’s been a whole week of O-week and I didn’t find the time to wash my clothes in time for Uni tomorrow! Oh by the way, would you help me (insert task here)…”

So starts the semester, also known as the almighty O-Week, from a student’s point of view. For those of us coming in as tutors though, it is also the time when the fresher tutors, like fresher students, start moving into college, getting locked out, getting lost/asking for directions, getting embarrassed about forgetting faces/names, being fed spooky stories about the ghost that resides in Hilda’s/197 building/Dining Hall/their room and the countless parties coming up during O-week which will keep them awake at night. Indefinitely.

Then uni starts and the O-Week dust rolls onto P-week (the week after O-Week), or as the returning tutors refer to it, ‘Tutors’ O-Week’. This is when it dawns on you that being a tutor entails more than teaching or carrying out general administrative duties. You will also be a mentor, tour guide, counsellor, mediator, sports coach, careers advisor, nutritionist, first aid officer and sometimes even a life-skills guru! The variety of this role means that while parties (read: sleepless nights) at IH are occasional, a tutor never rests for there is always challenging but, for the most part, rewarding work to be done.

One of the many perks living at college is getting to know those in this community beyond tutorials and those occupying the room across the hallway. In the early weeks, to help with learning the names of those we live with, there are get-to-know sessions organised – usually by bribing students’ with food. Debates regarding the greatest floor supper themes are held. Aussie BBQ vs classy cheese platter? Or the secret weapon, pizza and desserts to bring together taste buds of all kinds. However it is usually during the many National Nights, various sporting activities or events such as Café International and the IH Play that we are able to really get to know those in our community. The soft-spoken, shy exchange student turns out to be a talented musician. The H1 average arts/law student is a fantastic Quidditch’er. The friendly bloke from regional Victoria doesn’t just excel in footie, but is a well-respected member of the community. Getting to know those we share the same address with beyond names and faces in a tutorial is truly a blessing!

As Semester 2 comes to a close, many are contemplating summer plans, including plans for returning back to college next year. For those of us returning, there is always a discussion about putting together documents needed for the tutors’ re-interview, the pros and cons about moving to another floor, amidst preparing ourselves and those in our tutes for exams. For those of us leaving IH, it is always a bittersweet decision. Whilst there is much excitement about moving onto different experiences in life, there is also a degree of sentimental wistfulness associated with leaving behind a close-knit community.

As tutors, we will always be grateful to have fulfilled roles beyond those of a regular job and to have had the opportunity to get to know and learn alongside such a unique and remarkable group of people.

Vinojini B. Nair
Dimmick Tutor 2013
To tell you the truth I don’t remember exactly when I made the decision to direct the 2013 International House Play, but I do know it was summer here in Australia. I was enjoying my leisure time in my own way, when my thoughts drifted to a fleeting desire I’d had in the past of directing a play. I decided, with little else to do in the stifling heat, it was the perfect time to give it some serious consideration.

I suspected from the beginning that directing the play would be an enormous responsibility and commitment. However, I also recognised it as an opportunity to attempt something I had never done before and may never get the chance to do again. It was also apparent that I would be working alongside a group of incredibly talented people and so I knew it would be an enjoyable ride whatever happened. So I signed up for the rollercoaster ride that was the IH play of 2013, with all of the exhilaration and terror it had to offer.

Maybe because time was of the essence, or perhaps because we were all so busy, those weeks of intensive rehearsals with a dedicated, talented and energetic cast seemed to fly by. Before I could blink, it was the closing night of the performance and I realised we’d pulled it off!

The performance even surpassed my high expectations and despite feeling a little sorrow in the face of the end, I was extremely proud of our accomplishment.

Many are to be credited for the play’s success. First and foremost, the cast. From the very outset they impressed me with their talent, devotion and passion, and without that, the show wouldn’t have been so special. Recognition must also go to my fellow committee members, whose tireless efforts as designers, stage-hands and techies ensured our success. We also owe our accomplishment to everyone who supported us along the way and those who came to see our show. It was very much appreciated.

I have no regrets about my experience as director. Everything that happened, planned or unexpected, was a new challenge to learn from and it was undeniably a one of a kind experience, and something I know I will cherish for the rest of my life.

The play was like a shooting star hurtling towards its final pulsating release of energy before fading away into the black. Beautiful, but brief. And before you’re completely aware of what’s happening; it’s all over. How can anyone forget something like that?

Zackary J. Finn
2013 Play Director.
International House alumnus Dr Jeffrey Turnbull (1957-8) and Honorary Senior Fellow in Architecture at the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Architecture building held a very successful *Locations Four Square* exhibition of his desktop artworks in the upstairs at the Napier Hotel artists’ space in June this year.

Jeffrey has long been a painter, but in the last couple of years he has been particularly attracted to the possibilities of desktop art, partly as a consequence of using various graphics programs in the preparation of his teaching materials.

Most of the twenty-six pieces on show each consisted of a series of four images, intended to be ‘read’ either on a horizontal or vertical plane. The images were garnered from many media sources – the Internet, newspapers, postcards, books, magazines, TV newscasts, and the artist’s camera work, outdoors and indoors. This reviewer tended to read each piece as a text and found the exhibition a wonderfully engaging experience of deconstructionism.

The theme of universality is a watermark evident in all the pieces on show and is an obvious manifestation of the artist’s interculturalist perspective, no doubt nurtured in part by Jeffrey’s student years at International House. Jeffrey gave an interesting explanation for the theme in his statement for the exhibition:

The ‘Four Square’ of the exhibition title comes from a chapter of the same name in WR Lethaby, *Architecture, Mysticism and Myth*, 1891, where particular architectural motifs shared by cultures around the four corners of the world are identified and discussed. Lethaby engages with intuitive reverie, rather than discursive logic. The photo-images in the artworks here are trimmed in square shapes denoting universality. Walter Burley Griffin adored the square for the same reason. In addition, Griffin conceived his new architectural works in diagrams that overlaid at least four patterns found in precedents, Ancient and Modern, Occidental and Oriental.

Susan K Langer in 1942 first published *Philosophy in a New Key: A Study in the Symbolism of Reason, Rite, and Art*, in which she defines the realms of painting as scene, of sculpture as kinetic volume, and of architecture, the possession of space for habitation, as ethnic domain. The artworks here play with both scene and the two dimensional depiction of ethnic domain. Nowadays in an age of globalisation cultural locations are interchangeable, fluid and international in scale. Boundaries are expandable, blurred, and overlap.

‘Fraternitas’ congratulates Jeffrey on the marvellous success of the exhibition. A subsequent exhibition will be mounted in 2014.
Student Profile

Name
Matthew Bradford

Nationality
Australian

Town, Country where you come from
Churchill, Victoria

Name of the Scholarship you were awarded/have been awarded?
Jim and Joanna Askew

What course you are studying?
Bachelor of Arts majoring in Philosophy and Criminology

What do you want to do when you finish university?
When I finish university I’d love to continue learning and challenging myself to be a better person and global citizen. This would most likely take the form of extended travel and/or a post graduate degree with the aim of developing the necessary skills to make a difference in the lives of people both at home and abroad.

Greatest advantage of living at IH
The people and proximity to the University. But on top of all that I think it’s the peace of mind knowing that I’ve got a supportive and caring place to live while I study.

Thing you love most about living at IH?
It’s got to be the people you meet and the friendships that you make. Everyone is so supportive of each other and it’s made the transition so much easier.

How has being granted a scholarship helped you achieve your goals of studying at University?
Generous financial support, such as that of the Jim and Joanna Askew Scholarship means that people like me, who may not normally have the financial resources, can study at the University of Melbourne while living close by at International House. This scholarship has not only helped me to achieve my goal of studying at University, but allowed me the opportunity to focus solely on my study without the pressure of supporting myself financially.

If you were not given a scholarship would you be at university now? Or what would you have to have done to pay for your living costs?
Gaining a scholarship has made studying at university a sure thing for me. Without one, I doubt I would have had the finances needed to adequately support myself living in Melbourne. Another bonus is that it has enabled me to live on campus and meet some amazing people and experience wonderful opportunities I would not have otherwise been able to have. It’s changed my life.

If you could meet you donor or family of the trustee what would you like to say to him/her/them?
A huge thank you would probably be in order. But more than that I’d let them know that they’ve given someone a wonderful opportunity and that I’ll never forget what it’s allowed me to do. I’ll continue to work hard each and every day to make the most of that opportunity.
YES! I want to support International House by making a gift to:

☐ Highest Priorities of the House  ☐ International House Scholarship Fund
☐ New Building  ☐ Other (please specify) __________________________
☐ Please contact me to discuss my support to International House

Chancellor’s Circle Level

I want to make a monthly gift of: ☐ $10  ☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $85  ☐ $150  ☐ Other $__________________
I want to make an annual gift of: ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $5,000  ☐ Other $__________________
Gift duration: ☐ 1 year  ☐ 2 year  ☐ 3 year  ☐ Until further notice  ☐ Other ___________ years
I want to make a single gift of: ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $2,000  ☐ Other $__________________

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