



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Fraternitas 2011

What's Inside:

PAGE 2
Profile | Mr Kevin Wong

PAGE 4
Head of College Review

PAGE 6
Profile | Howard Khoo

PAGE 11
Current President Review

KRISTINA LOW & MELANIE ROSIER



"IH helped me to emerge from my cocoon. Growing up in a regimented, Asian family, the freedom I was granted at college helped me immensely. What helped me succeed in my career was not what I had studied, but what else I had done. That was IH."

Profile: Mr Kevin Wong

In October this year, Jenna Morgenstern-Gaines (first year Arts) interviewed an International House Council Member, Mr. Kevin Wong. Mr. Wong was the Student Club Treasurer during his time at IH. He has had a long and illustrious career including various senior roles within JP Morgan Chase Bank Berhard. Kevin is currently the non-executive Chairman of JP Morgan, as well as a member on the University of Melbourne's Board for the Faculty of Business and Economics. After spending eight years on the Council, Mr. Wong has decided to retire from his post as Deputy Chairman.

"I never would have thought that thirty-five years later I would still be at IH," Mr. Wong smiled. "Looking back, I still remember my days at IH as the best days of my life. I came here thirty-five years ago and I never left."

We chuckled at this sentiment, both of us in mutual understanding of IH's gripping aura.

"When I was a student here, there were only ten countries represented, now I am pleased to see the massive increase in diversity - there are now students from over thirty different countries. Effectively, we were split into two groups: locals as one, and Malaysians and Singaporeans as the other. Without the Internet, we didn't have the capacity to keep lots of friends! There were no cell phones, no computers; the only methods of communication were noticeboards and mealtime chats."

He reflected back on his time in the International House Student Club Committee, "When I was Treasurer, all of our income came from coin donation boxes around the House. The student club committee spent hours counting our coins, just piecing together budgets for National Nights and other events..."

He trailed off. I gazed around the room we sat in, the room that decades of International House Student Clubs had sat in. I thought of all the tough decisions that had been made, all of entertaining events that had been organized, and all of the coins that had been counted in that room. There would have been thousands.

He reflected on the other activities of his day, "At that time, the most popular activity was the Inter-Collegiate 'trike race'. The collegiate representatives rode all the way from Portsea to Melbourne. There was practice every night; even if you weren't a rider, you were there. It was the most binding activity within IH."

I commented on how, without any knowledge of this pastime, we held a 'mini-bike race' around one of the residential buildings as a part of College Day last year. Amused, and not to any surprise, we concluded that this inherent, utterly inimitable fixation with tiny bicycles is something shared by all IHers. Or perhaps there is just something a bit funny in our water.

This unique attribute led us on to a discussion of IH's own distinctive culture:

"International house is not a homogenous society," Mr. Wong voiced, "it is rather a melting pot of nationalities. It provides early exposure in working with people of all ethnicities. IH is a starting ground, a place where students can learn to understand the sensitivities of different groups. It is most pertinent to learn now what mistakes not to make, rather than in the workplace. Your friends will forgive you, your boss may not."



BOAT CRUISE



VALEDICTS 2011

"IH helped me to emerge from my cocoon. Growing up in a regimented, Asian family, the freedom I was granted at college helped me immensely. What helped me succeed in my career was not what I had studied, but what else I had done. That was IH."

Mr. Wong's evident enthusiasm for IH is not unique, yet he has given back so much to the community. I decided to ask him what it was in particular that motivated him to continue volunteering for IH.

"There is a time of giving back for all of us, and when you do so, you choose to return to the things which are close to your heart. At a certain stage in life, once you have a stable family and have gone far enough with your career, you will ask: What is my life all about? You will say: OK, I've got this, what else is there? What am I going to leave behind? Though I never envisioned it, this is what my contribution became; being a Council member."

I asked Mr. Wong what he thought was different about the students of today, as opposed to the students of his time:

"Today there is a wider recognition that success is not about academic studies. In the old days, there was no diversity of professions. Our jobs were bred straight from our degrees. With the Internet revolution students can now become just about anything: a software engineer, a marketing professional. These positions didn't even exist in my time!" Mr. Wong exclaimed, a sparkle in his eye.

As the interview continued, it became clear that Mr. Wong's true passion lay in inspiring and providing for today's remarkable students; he genuinely wants to ensure they take what they can from IH and from life's opportunities.

"These days, students are all smart, they all have good grades, but they cannot all show that they are well rounded. The terms have changed. Employers, moreover, value not what you have learnt, but what languages you can speak. The best resource at IH is your fellow students; let your peers become your language tutors.

All of us have something to learn from one another," he said. "IH will be able to continue because it occupies a particular niche. Look at the name, it's 'International House'! It exposes students to, literally, the world."

Mr. Wong left me with a potent message for all students:

"I would encourage students to participate actively, I would drill that message in from first day at IH. Otherwise, they will not realize what they missed simply because they never had it. You only know you've got something truly special once you've embraced this notion," he exhaled. His expression was that of a man who had, but could not give, this 'truly special quality'; he found joy in trying to express to others how it is attained.

"There are so many positive benefits that come from active participation. One must organize, not just attend. You are all members of the Student Club, but when push comes to shove, be a leader, not just an observer." His words stung as they reverberated off the walls.

However, in the midst of all this praise of IH, there had to be a reason for his retirement:

"Life is a challenge. It's a journey; enjoy it. But don't enjoy life only when you've reached your target, enjoy life as you go towards your target, otherwise, you'll end up too old to enjoy anything at all. There is always a time for renewal. Never hold on to anything for too long."

I had to ask, "Even IH?"

"Even IH."

Puzzled, I reflected on this message for days. What I came to realize is that Mr. Wong, more than I do, understands what it means to sincerely be an IHer. An IHer is someone who is humble enough to step down when someone from another culture, or even another generation, knows how to do something better than you do. Sure, we have our traditions, but the most important of those is making sure we create the space for, as Mr. Wong said, "Someone else's new ideas to be heard."

Thirty-five years later Mr. Wong is still good friends with this year's Valedictory Speaker and his old next-door neighbor, Mr. Howard Khoo. IH is still as much a part of him now as it will be in his absence.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication, Mr. Wong.

Head of College Review: Jane Munro



The Queensland and northern NSW floods, followed by floods in Victoria, caused us to think of others as we began the IH year in 2011, and motivated our students to an immediate decision to donate half of the 2011 Café funds to assist our friends at International House at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. We in Melbourne, by contrast, were able to find some relief from the long, twelve year drought which had threatened the green beauty of our city and state, and even the precious elm trees that we see every day on Royal Parade as we leave the House for lectures and university life. Early in the academic year we heard of the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami which wreaked such destruction in north east Japan. Again, the response from our students was to try to help in whatever ways we could.

Those who say that young people today are purely motivated by selfish thoughts are certainly proven wrong by the attitudes of those we know here at IH and no doubt also in the wider university community. In recent years the practical work of the students and tutors towards successful programs in rural Thailand through the annual 'TREAD' scheme has been developing with improvements every year. And locally in Melbourne, our students are becoming involved in practical programs through inspiration of Rotary Clubs such as the Rotary Club of Melbourne and the Rotary Club of Central Melbourne Sunrise. Other clubs such as the Rotary Club of Gisborne and the Rotary Club of Glenferrie are offering their support for students through scholarships and our District 9800 has offered generous scholarship support.

The aim of each student resident at IH is to succeed in his or her university studies. We are very pleased with this success, and indeed with many truly outstanding results.

The inspiration of a college such as ours is that our students have the privilege of residing with academic tutors, who are themselves honours students pursuing further degrees at the graduate level. This is the essence of the 'community of scholars'. The tutors bring their academic seniority and greater maturity to the setting, and at the same time they demonstrate through their role modelling the kinds of future directions which are possible for our undergraduates.

While studying, each student naturally considers, and wonders about, their future. At the Valedictory Dinner, past IH student Howard Khoo (1978) gave insight to each one, about what the future might be and how success might be achieved. The specific points were about success, but the spirit which came through the talk was a spirit of great human goodness, generosity and warmth. Howard is married to Oi Meng Chi (1978). Their eldest son was at IH and has now finished his master's degree; their two younger sons are current students at IH. All were present with us at the dinner.

It is so very good to be able to see the continuity of commitment of our past students and we are encouraging this, for the sake of our present and future students. Through our invitations to alumni to attend High Table Dinners, we are meeting past students in many walks of life and we have been able to recruit alumni with needed skill sets to join our IH Council.

The Council's role is vitally important as it is the Council which drives the strategic direction of the House and which is dedicated not only to a strong present for the House but a strong and viable future.

It is very pleasing to be able to work with such a good Council as we have at IH, as it considers important initiatives and plans.

I appreciate this, and also would want to record appreciation of the support of all my colleagues here at IH, and the students, who have so many ideas and who are able to demonstrate through their drive and also through their thoughtfulness, the abilities which will take them far in their lives to come.



JAPANESE NATIONAL NIGHT



BACKSTAGE FOR CAFE



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE BALL



VALEDICTS 2011



IH Council International Affairs Oration

This year, International House hosted the inaugural, International House Council International Affairs Oration on Thursday 28th April 2011. The Orator, former Ambassador Mr. John McCarthy, AO, thrilled the audience with his topic 'Australia and Regional Change'.

For those who were not able to attend; John McCarthy is one of Australia's most distinguished diplomats. He has served as Australia's Ambassador to Vietnam (1981-83), Ambassador to Mexico (1985-87), Ambassador to Thailand (1992-94), Ambassador to the United States from 1995 to 1997, Ambassador to Indonesia (1997-2001) Ambassador to Japan (27 July 2001-2004), and High Commissioner to India (2004-2009). He has also served in Damascus, Baghdad and Vientiane. Currently he is National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. John McCarthy is uniquely placed, because of his extensive ambassadorial experience, to provide an insightful analysis of regional geopolitical developments and Australia's current and future role.

The International House Council International Affairs Oration is schedule to become an annual event – please check website for details.



THE KHOO FAMILY

Profile: Howard Khoo

Howard Khoo's relationship with International House spans almost thirty-five years.

Schooled at Taylor's College in Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian businessman undertook Victoria's Higher School Certificate – his ticket to Australian higher education and the beginning of a life-long relationship with the country.

"All my life, I have owed my education to Australia".

Howard claims this relationship was largely based on the education policy of the day.

"Those were the days of the Whitlam Government and education was free! We owe a lot to Australia for that good ten years when education was free. It has helped a lot of poorer students," Howard recalls.

His time at International House left him with happy memories and an introduction to his wife, Oi Meng (then studying Commerce).

"Meng and I met at 'IH'. We thought there were some great life values to learn here," Howard reminisced.

That period contained Howard's time at The University of Melbourne, where he studied Architecture, and his post-graduate studies in Sydney.

"When I finished my postgraduate degree, Meng and I went home and I was an architectural planner for about four years."

Malaysia was hit hard though by a recession in the mid-1980s, greatly affecting the building industry. His professional life stalling, Howard's family life also suffered when Meng's father became terminally ill.

"My wife was working with my father-in-law in a textile company, manufacturing fashion apparel. My father-in-law became really sick, the company (The Hing Yiap Group) was experiencing a leadership crisis since he was the CEO and the other four partners wanted out."

Meng asked Howard to buy into the firm, a decision that catapulted Howard's career forward. The husband and wife team retained the family's interest and – through hard-work and clever investment – dramatically raised Hing Yiap's turnover, subsequently taking the company public.

Throughout this hectic and turbulent period, Howard and Meng also raised a family – one that was to have further connection with International House.



“I think it has always had a great reputation. I mean, it’s one of the top universities in the world and has been able to attract good staffing.”

Greatly influenced by their time in residence, the couple wanted their three boys to receive the same sense of community and camaraderie they were lucky enough to experience.

“There is this great spirit of friendship. When you come into ‘IH’, everyone has this mindset of being helpful to you. The mindset is to mix, learn from other cultures and celebrate our differences. That’s why I insisted all our kids must come here.”

The life lessons learnt at International House extend to Australia in general, the nation and its people having a profound effect on Howard’s philosophy.

“Australia has this traditional value of hard work. My mates worked to put themselves through uni! That is a good value – you learn to be independent right from a very young age.”

Howard also praises Australian universities for their teaching practices, concentrating on personality development.

“The other thing I really loved about Australian universities is that unlike their Asian competitors, they train the right side of the brain – that is, creativity and soft skills. In Asia, we tend to concentrate on logic and information gathering. In Australia, you can develop both sides of thought,” Howard says.

“You are able to put forward an argument and think independently, which I think is lacking in our culture because you are meant to follow what the ‘old man’ says! I wanted my kids to learn both Asian and Western values.”

In recent years, Howard and Meng have extended their involvement through philanthropy and hosting alumni reunions. Howard has always retained an interest in the University of Melbourne, emphasising its reputation for academic excellence.

“I think it has always had a great reputation. I mean, it’s one of the top universities in the world and has been able to attract good staffing. It has maintained that standard,” Howard elaborates.

He speaks regularly to alumni, giving up his valuable time to provide them with career information.

“I’ve been doing that for two or three years. That is one of my passions. There comes a point at which you should give something back,” Howard says.

“I like to speak to students. They are receptive to fresh ideas and they can still absorb and understand others’ viewpoints which differ from their own.”

The importance of maintaining connections with young alumni is not lost on Howard, who believes that interaction with recent graduates keeps older generations from being jaded:

“Enthusiasm fades off very quickly when you get older.”

He believes that speaking and connecting with alumni is easier when the circumstances are relaxed.

“You have to make it fun. Keep people entertained. For instance, speakers should be funny on top of being informative. If you come for the humour, then that’s good too!”

So what advice would he give to current students?

“Do not pigeon-hole yourself by your current degree. If you think about it, you can really be in any profession you want.

“Tertiary education trains your basic intelligence and gives you that knowledge platform. Most importantly, it moulds your maturity and your character. Most of what you need for a successful career is from work experience and life-long learning.”

Traits aided, Howard informs, by time spent at International House.

International House
Theatre Group Presents

Peter Pan & Wendy





Peter Pan and Wendy has enchanted countless generations of children with its tale of youth, joy and adventure since it premiered in 1904. One hundred and seven years later, the International House Theatre Group (IHTG) produced a brand-new musical adaptation for their 2011 annual production. This time however, the play was about more than just beautiful fairies and swashbuckling pirates.

Using a production he'd co-written for Cranbrook School in Sydney in 2006, Director and author Jonathan Ware tailor-made the script and score for IH. Working from J. M. Barrie's original play and books, this new production highlighted the story's more mature themes of accepting-the-inevitable and the downside of staying young forever.

Beginning in the summer of 2010, Jonathan workshopped the new script and score and readied it for auditions and rehearsals that began in May. Auditions were an amazing process - seeing the multitude of musical, theatrical and dance talent IH had to offer was incredibly inspiring. An all-night casting session with the committee resulted in an eclectic group of actors, dancers and singers being chose to put on this epic production.

Led with flair and maturity by Rebecca Dutton (Wendy), Ian Potgeiter (Peter Pan) and Jessica O'Brien-Church (the Narrator), the cast began rehearsals in earnest during the exam period of Semester 1. Whilst the JCR was filled with dancers being drilled by our un-faltering choreographer Shannon Boland, Shreya Bhatia was running a tight ship next door constructing the many physical environments required for the sprawling ship. Locales jumped from the Darling family's house to the forests and lagoons of Never Land, and Shreya achieved all of these to the highest standard. Rhian Ap Rees, our formidable costume designer, spent hours at a sewing machine constructing our gorgeous flowing mermaids and the tribal earthy Indians and we thank her for her tireless commitment to the production.

Peter Pan was a production on the biggest scale IHTG has ever attempted- the fifty plus roles required triple-threat performers to sing, dance, act and even sometimes rollerblade, while the brand-new twenty-two piece orchestration asked our talented musicians to jump readily from classic jazz standards to current pop hits, via '80s power ballads and Broadway show-tunes. Tom Kelly, our formidable musical director, moulded our outstanding players into a tight unit of sound who looked fabulous as the occupants of Union House Theatre's seldom-used orchestra pit.

Opening Night came around very quickly, and very soon after that the show was all over. The entire cast and crew were tired beyond belief, but we all knew inside that we had put on a fantastic show that we can all be very proud of. We had the biggest attendance ever for an IHTG production, and made a lot of fans within the Melbourne Uni theatre community, a lot of whom are very excited by what we'll be presenting in 2012. The Union House Theatre Awards Committee felt so strongly about the production that we were nominated as one of the Best New Scripts of 2011. Also as a result of all our hard work, there have been expressions of interest from other college theatre groups around the country about performing the IH version of Peter Pan in the future.

A big congratulations must go out to the entire cast, orchestra, crew, committee and creatives of IHTG's Peter Pan & Wendy for creating a touching and heartfelt piece of mature theatre, somewhat of a rarity amongst college theatre groups.

We hope that everybody continues to support the growing tradition of the performing arts at IH and patronises the 2012 IHTG Play. Stay tuned for updates in the New Year.



"IH students of 2011, both the men and the women, have been amazing – and I'm so glad I have had the chance to be part of such a community."



Left to right | HANWEI HE, MAHADI MOHAMADON, SOPHIE WADE, KRISTINA LOW

Past President Review: Sophie Wade

On the eve of International House's 40th anniversary year of accepting women, IH having been one of the first University of Melbourne colleges to become coeducational, I thought it would be nice to write a piece about IH girls of the past year. I do not mean to draw attention away from our boys, as IH has some excellent young lads, but rather to focus on women in anticipation of the anniversary ahead.

At the National Association of Australian University Colleges (NAAUC) annual conference this year, a panel on 'Diverse Communities and Mutual Respect' included two panellists (out of the three) with backgrounds at International Houses. These two speakers, one a former dean of International House Melbourne, the other a former Student Club President of International House Brisbane, were brought in mainly to speak about cultural diversity – but ended up having a lot to say about the third speaker's topic of gender equality as well. You see, I think there is so much talk about cultural equality around International House (with good reason!), that we fail to notice something we are also do well – gender equality. If you ask around IH, I'd bet most students don't even notice how progressive we are.

While students of other colleges asked the panellists to theorize about women in leadership, and asked how they could get more women into positions of power on their student clubs – the IH students of Brisbane and Melbourne sat there rather smugly. You see while we had attended this panel session hoping to gain and share more insight into cultural equality in college, it seemed International Houses across Australia boasted abnormally high numbers of women on their committees – with each also having more female presidents over the past five years than any other college represented in the room.

This panel session prompted me to think about some of the women, young and old, that I see around IH, striving towards various goals. On my own committee of eighteen, I had eight gorgeous girls including Communications Officer Kylie Saw, and her characteristic attitude; netball-organizing, Globe-editing, beautifully tall Emma Farrant; and the whirlwind of ferocious energy that is Jenna Morgenstern-Gaines. In preparation for Café International I saw artistically-inclined Shreya Bhatia and Rhian Ap Rees slave away over beautiful decorations, and for Peter Pan and Wendy, the IH play, I saw several first year girls take up major organizational roles – including an inspiring Shannon Boland as choreographer. Gorgeous, 'Fraternitas' award-winning Valedict Sarah Ong has long proved a role model, and Chantelle Dobunaba revolutionized the 'pep talk' at quidditch this year. I got the opportunity to work on our fantastic, and gender balanced Council, alongside some amazing women of varied background, and to work with our strong, interesting and encouraging Head of College, Jane Munro. Again, my focus on these women is not to down-play all the work of our amazing IH men, rather to note that IH has some fairly excellent women.

It seems from my experience outside IH that we are still unusual – my fellow University of Melbourne Student Club Presidents are all male, and various training sessions have turned out a serious lack of female leadership. After discussions both here and at University this year, I have come to hope that IH could be seen as a snapshot of the future – a place where not only the skin colour or cultural background of a leader, but indeed their gender, could go entirely unnoticed. While there is always much to improve on, and attitudes to be changed, I think IH students should be extremely proud of themselves that they have created a home where these traits are becoming irrelevant. IH students of 2011, both the men and the women, have been amazing – and I'm so glad I have had the chance to be part of such a community.

Current President Review: Rebecca Dutton

In 2006 my older sister Amy made the big move from country Victoria to Melbourne University. She was lucky enough to be accepted into International House and, over the year, I received countless emails and postcards telling me about what she was getting up to. I spent the year of 2006 overseas, so was unable to visit her during her stay. However, as the year went on and more stories were told, I became intrigued with the life she was describing. I returned home to complete my VCE and found that I had a newfound motivation for studying, one that was inspired by my desire to be accepted into IH.

From the first day of O'week I knew I had made the right choice. By chance, I sat down for lunch next to a girl who was to be my next-door neighbour for the year. She also happened to become one of my best friends at IH.

“That’s one of the great things about IH - you never know when you are going to make a new friend. Perhaps you are neighbours, or perhaps you played sport together. Maybe you bonded one night over dinner, or maybe you met whilst setting up for an event. “

We are lucky here because it’s always easy to start a conversation at IH. The simple question, ‘Where do you come from?’ has a multitude of answers. Some have lived in Australia their entire lives; others are from overseas. A surprising number cannot even answer the question, seeing as they have lived all over the world. We bond over our similarities and our differences.

Sometimes we get so caught up in IH life that we forget there is a world outside. So, every now and then, I love to take people to places around Melbourne that I enjoy visiting. The 1000 Step Trail out in the Dandenongs is one of the places I have been lucky to share with fellow IH students. The first time I only took a couple of close friends, but their sheer appreciation of its beauty inspired me to take more people.

The 1000 Step Trail is a steep walking track (with not quite 1000 steps, someone counted) that makes its way up a hill to a beautiful picnic ground amongst eucalypt forest. The trail is lined with stunning ferntrees, which came as an exciting surprise to a Canadian friend who could not get over the idea that “ferns” could be “trees”. The chance sighting of a lyrebird and the picturesque view from the top is more than enough motivation to complete this steep climb. As we were about to ascend, the hungry boys, not wanting our food to go to waste, filled polystyrene cups with the remaining sausages so they could snack on them whilst walking back down the trail. Strangely, I think it was the invention of this “sausage cup” that was the most entertaining aspect of our day.



It is memories like these, shared with people from all over the world that contribute to the fantastic experience of International House. We are not just friends within the boundaries of our college. We have shared so closely, such an important stage of our lives, and I have no doubt that our friendships will remain, regardless of where we all end up.

My younger sister Hayley is now also a student at IH. I am incredibly grateful to be sharing this fantastic experience with her and it is always great to share our experiences with our older sister, comparing the old and the new. I am incredibly grateful to be living at International House, sharing my life with my IH family, and I am looking forward to another year to continue this amazing experience.

Frank Larkin's Book Launch



International House was lucky enough to be the chosen venue for the most recent book launch of Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins, Chair of IH Council and former IH Tutor. His book, *Australian Higher Education Research Policies and Performance 1987-2010 (MUP 2011)*, has been very well received, and is available through the University of Melbourne bookshop.

Professor Frank Larkins is currently Professor Emeritus in the School of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne, Chief Scientist, Energy, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria and Senior Policy Advisor on research to the University of the South Pacific. His previous appointments at Melbourne were as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) from October 1990 to December 2005, as DVC (International) from January 2006 to June 2008, and as DVC (Global Relations) from July to December 2008. He has also served as Dean of Science (1997-98) and Dean of Land and Food Resources (2005) at the University.

Professor Larkins is a graduate of the University of Melbourne (BSc (Honours) MSc, DSc and B.Ed) and of Oxford University (Diploma Advanced Mathematics, D.Phil). He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by Melbourne for his distinguished services. He is a Victorian Rhodes Scholar, Wadham College Senior Scholar, Queen Elizabeth II Fellow and Fulbright Senior Scholar. He has held academic appointments at Battelle Institute, Columbus, USA, Monash, Tasmania, Oregon and Melbourne Universities.

Professor Larkins has published more than 200 scientific papers. He has a strong interest in education and in research, science and energy policy formulation. He has received several awards and prizes for his work. In 2011 he published a major book entitled *Australian Higher Education Research Policies and Performance 1987-2010 (MUP 2011)*.

Peter was definitely right. From my first day here when I was enthusiastically greeted by the O-Weekers and launched right into a week full of non-stop action, to tonight, three years later, sharing crepes in the JCR after dinner, the energy at IH has been astounding.



Valedict's Reflection

I had a good feeling about IH right from my very first meeting with the Deputy Head, Peter Cole, back in 2009. He spoke about the amount of energy that this place has and how, if there was a way to harness that energy, you could run a small city off it.

Peter was definitely right. From my first day here when I was enthusiastically greeted by the O-Weekers and launched right into a week full of non-stop action, to tonight, three years later, sharing crepes in the JCR after dinner, the energy at IH has been astounding.

They haven't been without their hard times, but these three years of living at IH have definitely been memorable and have definitely been worth it. From the many highlights, things that I've loved here are being an O-Week leader in 2010, where I got to instill that IH energy into a new batch of freshers, late nights spent 'foyer sitting' that were never without interest as others returned home from a night out, and a particular favourite of mine: the part of formal dinners where the name of each country that is represented at IH is called out and the people from that country stand up to applause from the rest of the college. I've also loved the opportunity to visit my friends in their overseas homes during the holidays. At the end of my first year I travelled to Sweden and Hong Kong to stay with friends and was given a truly local experience.

There were also the many sports events, music nights, parties and plays to get involved in. Such was the intensity of our volleyball trainings in 2010 that I felt as though I actually attended an elite sports academy rather than a residential college! Café International was also one of my favourite times of each year as I got to perform onstage with friends.

I guess something I won't miss is the self-help shifts, although they too weren't without their own special kind of fun. I remember convincing one friend who hadn't worked

in the kitchen before that if a plate was still dirty after three times through the dishwasher that you had to throw it out. But don't worry Cater-Care – no plates or other items actually met this fate!

And after three years of shared experiences at such an important stage of our lives, the friends I have made at IH have become my family. Living at IH leads you to understand that no matter where you come from, we are all more similar than we are different. When the names of our respective countries are called out at formal dinners, we may stand up at different times, but at the end we are all standing together.

International House

2011







MS DAWN LO & MS CAITLIN EDWARDS



DR NORM FARY & MR ROGER THIESSEN



DR PHILLIP WONG & DR CON TSIGANOS



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