

FRATERNITAS

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

FRATERNITAS 2010



PROFILE: JEFF THO

Jeff Tho smashes the shuttlecock into the floor. Another game won. But this is more easily said than done.

Jeff admits that waking up at 5:30am, going to classes, going back to training after class, studying, then sleeping, gets extremely exhausting.

"But by having a clear goal in your mind, and the passion to achieve that goal, motivation comes more easily," he says.

Jeff believes it is important for people to have goals in their lives; it makes them live with more passion, and it gives them direction.

"Even if you don't achieve your goal, at least you can see how far off you were and re-track as to where you can improve so that you can achieve it the next time around. On the other hand, if you never had a goal to start with, how would you know where you were in terms of where you wanted to be?"

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Save The Date For 2011

HEAD OF COLLEGE REVIEW

In December 2009, on my way back from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, I made a point of visiting Bangkok to meet a Distinguished Member of the International House Community (Fellow): Khun Mechai Viravaidya. Mechai has maintained his connections with International House over the years since he was here and completed his studies at the University of Melbourne. His contribution to the alleviation of poverty in Thailand has been extraordinary and continues to grow and build. I wanted to meet him in Bangkok because it is in partnership with the PDA (Population and Development Association) that our students and tutors carry out their work in north Thailand every January, helping the villagers with improvements and opportunities in their lives.

The project, formerly the 'Banana Project' is now called TREAD (Thai Rural Education and Development) and it is continuing very strongly with excellent work done by tutors and students each year. Mechai was very generous and, together with his key staff, briefed me thoroughly on the work that is being carried out in Thailand. I came back to International House very much inspired by what I had heard and experienced. These days, with new social media, I now follow Mechai on Twitter, and he also follows me. So we can easily know what's happening in each place.

Social media and web design have become very active at IH, with tutors and students developing intelligent websites and with plenty of communication via Facebook.

The spirit of IH this year has been very strong and positive, with so much stimulating activity and so many creative ideas in action. It is particularly in the area of helping others that our students and tutors have shown outstanding intelligence and commitment this year: interactive learning about global poverty followed by the opportunity to develop a real understanding about how each person can help in his or her own way. With this background, our students are further encouraged to engage in a range of programs and also to achieve a better understanding and involvement with the outstanding work done by Rotary, with which we have such a long-standing connection.

Academic results are very good indeed: in education we commonly say that the student who is very active and engaged is also the student who is successful. Being an active member of a community such as ours is normally very motivating and at the same time, our students must learn to prioritise their activities and plan the use of their time to achieve the high results of which they are capable.



We are very proud of our tutors who are completing their PhD degrees and going on to the next stage of their achievements - they are such good role models for our students and we delight in their success.

New initiatives from 2009 such as the 'Alumni Mentoring Barbecue' are happening again in 2010 with already a great increase in the number of people being involved: sixty alumni of the House at this event in 2010. It is great to be able to see the former students and tutors at events here in the House, and giving their help to present students.

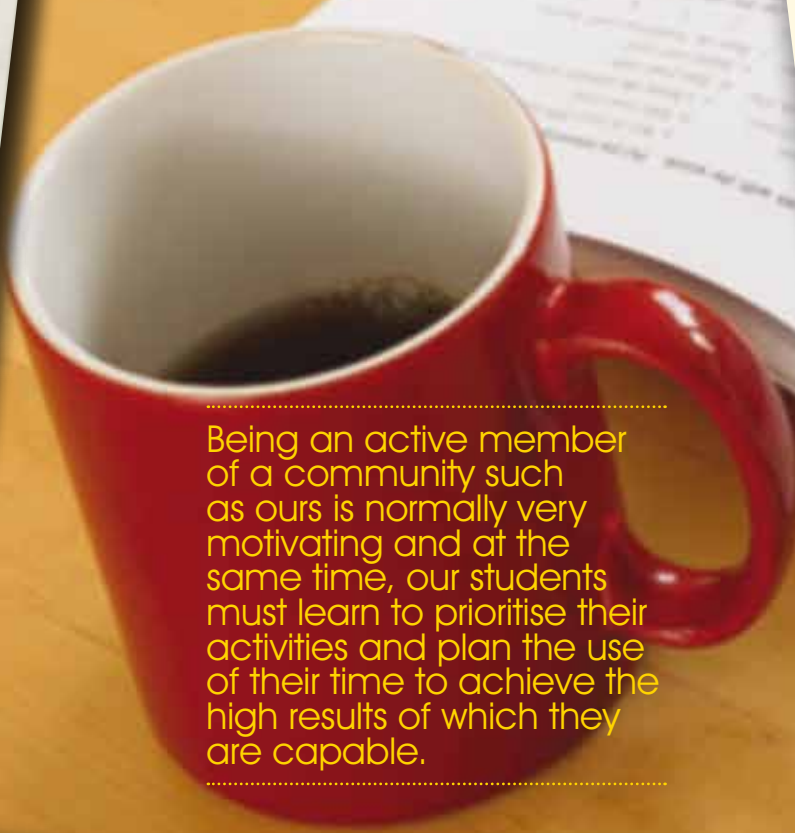
Alumni have also been very generous with a particular emphasis on supporting students through scholarships. An anonymous alumnus has funded a full scholarship for a student commencing a degree in Commerce to be a resident at International House, and another alumnus, Jim Askew (1969 & 1970) has funded a half-scholarship to be named the Jim and Joanna Askew Scholarship. It is inspiring to know that our past students have such strong commitment to the students of IH and their needs.

As we move towards the examination period and the academic year draws to a close, we feel we can look back at a year of outstanding leadership in the Student Club and forward to a new year of leadership which will be equally good!

At IH, 'valuing difference' is one of our core values, and underlies the fact that we can always learn from each other. The young people bringing forward new ideas can focus them in ways which can make them effective in persuading us to listen - and we in listening, can open our minds to new ways of thinking and doing.

Associate Professor Jane Munro
Head of College





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STUDENT CLUB PRESIDENT 2011



I had dinner at another college tonight. They had an impressive dining hall. And I mean impressive – high ceilings, amazing architecture, a whole lot of portraits on the walls...but something looked wrong.

I couldn't place what it was, but it really made me think that the dining hall was nowhere near as impressive as it should have been. Something was missing. In fact, as I eventually figured out, there were a lot of these things missing...

The flags in the IH Dining Hall are pretty awesome. They not only visually display the diversity of our college, but they also look spectacular. Any dining hall without them I will now forever see as bare.

I didn't plan on coming to IH. I applied to almost every other college, having had family stay at most, and ended up at IH through sheer luck. I wasn't sure about it at all at first. I had spent the year travelling, and in my own naïve Melburnian way thought that I was a rather international being. One thing did stress me however. After an amazing year away making friends from all over the world but only to leave them, I was concerned that this pattern of friendship and loss would repeat itself if I were to take up a place at International House.

After much discussion, my mum and I came to the door of International House and were met first by the lovely Rosemary Hampson, and then by our very own Mr Peter Cole. I'd say it was roughly thirty seconds after we sat down in his office that I looked at my mother and saw reflected in her eyes what I was trying to project with mine: Why didn't we come here in the first place?

From that moment it was clear; IH was exactly where I belong, and, since then, is exactly where I've been trying to convince everyone else that they will belong. Our community is diverse not only in nationality, but in culture, age, gender, field of study and in tertiary institution. We have those who play Ultimate Frisbee, others who dominate the basketball court, a chess club, a photography club, people who dance, people who read, people who study (hopefully that one applies to most of us...) and people who enjoy the occasional beer. We have around two hundred and seventy students here who are just plain cool. And I can't get over the fact that I almost wasn't one of them.

My reservations about friends leaving still exist. Australia is not an ideal place to gain a work visa, and many students (despite our pleas to "never leave us"!) have families and jobs to return to, or opportunities to take up elsewhere. But would I have traded my last two years at IH away to avoid the pain of having to farewell dear friends? Not a chance.

The flags in the Dining Hall are indeed very cool. On Open Day we point to the flags and tell our guests how amazing and diverse we are. But when I look at each of these flags individually I think of the someone, or the several someones, that it represents, and I feel an overwhelming happiness that luck had me meet the wonderful, amazing, inspiring and fantastic community of IH.

Sophie Wade



AROUND AMERICA BY BIKE IN 7 DAYS

Some people might suggest that Steven Berveling (1975-77) is obsessed with riding his bicycle; others might use a different word. Steven takes it all in good stride - he's more concerned about living his life to the full, and trying to make a difference to other people's lives.

Apart from riding to school when young, Steven started cycling for sport shortly after leaving International House in 1977, but because of illness he stopped in 1996. Having got back on his bike in 2007, there seems to be no stopping him now.

As part of a team of four cyclists from Europe, USA and Australia, Steven is planning to do the Race Across America in June 2011, described as one of the most difficult and gruelling endurance sports event in the world. It goes from San Diego California to Baltimore Maryland, a distance of 5,000 km with about 30,000 vertical metres of climbing (the equivalent of three Mt Everests). And all to be covered in about seven days! Only about 250 riders do the Race in any one year, mostly in teams.

The Race Across America is about 35% longer than the Tour de France and racers finish in about half the time. Whilst in France the riders stop overnight in hotels and have some rest days, the Race Across America keeps going twenty-four hours per day.

Once the "gun" fires in San Diego, the time does not stop until the team reaches the finish line on the east coast of the USA.

"We propose to cover about 700 kilometres per day in relay format. At least one member of our team will be riding at any moment, with the others either resting or as a backup to the rider. The maximum rest period anyone of us will get is a four hour time-slots, and I suspect we will all be very grumpy by Day 4 because of lack of sleep."

As to the reasons why he might want to complete such a huge challenge, Steven is unambiguous:

"Our reasons for doing the Race are simple: we want to be a role model for the 35 40 million people on Earth living with HIV. We want to confirm that, with the medications now available, having HIV is not an impediment to doing very tough endurance sports, or to doing any other activity for that matter. It will reduce stigma attached to having HIV. Needless to say, we know that in order to give that message, we must complete the race! And also because every one of us must avoid regretting in twenty years' time that we had let HIV stand in our way, stopping us from following our dreams and from helping others."

It is only since January 2010 that people like Steven can lawfully go to the USA like anyone else, and do things like the Race Across America: previously people with HIV were denied entry into the USA. For more information about Steven and his team, see www.raampositive.com.au.



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CHANGES

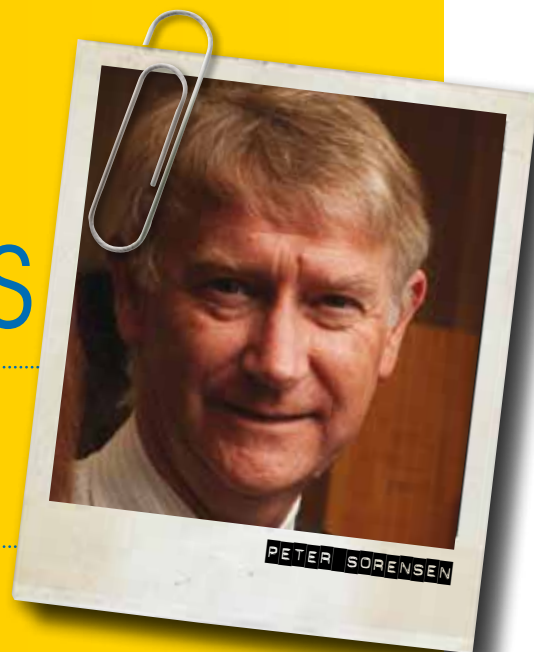
In 2010 we thanked two members of the Council of International House for their invaluable support of the House through their dedicated service as member of Council, Mr Keith Ryall and Professor Doris Young.

Professor Young joined the Council in 2004 and has made a remarkable contribution to the work of the Council and the support of the House. Those who were present at the Winter Dinner in 2007 will surely not forget Professor Young's brilliant speech to everyone in our IH community. Professor Young, with her expertise in medicine and her understanding of mental health, was able to communicate a message to everyone which gave positive hope and support to each person's endeavours. The speech used humour very effectively and so it was most enjoyable – although as Head of College I was a little anxious when she made reference to 'college food'. But it was her particular genius which enabled her to use real experience to teach everyone important lessons and precepts. Professor Young is currently the Associate Dean, Academic,

in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and has been responsible for the design of the new curriculum in graduate studies in this faculty. We are pleased that Professor Young is able to continue to serve as a member of the Council's Education Advisory Committee.

Mr Keith Ryall has been a long-standing member of the International House Council. His involvement with International House started when he was a student here in 1963-1965 and he has maintained his connection with the House loyally and generously ever since that time. Having taken a degree in Science, Keith then went on to become an expert in the field of Human Resources and has a very successful consulting business in this field. His wisdom in supporting the House has been very much valued. Keith is designated District Governor of Rotary District 9800 for 2011-2012, and although we will miss him as a Council member, we will be very pleased to see him fulfil this important new role. We were privileged to hear a wonderful speech by Keith at our Valedictory Dinner this year at which he gave an inspirational message to the students and all of us. He spoke of the three IH's: 'I' Head, 'I' Heart and 'I' Hands: we should have a cool head, a warm heart, and clean hands. Keith's advice was also to 'Know yourself, Be yourself, Believe in yourself'.

Our Business Manager, Peter Sorensen, will retire in January 2011. Peter has been with us for sixteen years now and has been an extraordinarily good Business Manager. The House is in excellent



shape both financially and physically. Peter is very much admired and respected and he has never failed in his commitment to the goals and purposes of International House.

Over the years of his work with International House, the work has increased in volume and range: the importance of security and environmental health and safety alone have led to substantial new measures being in place, and of course the significance of IT in all its manifestations has grown exponentially and is essential in the work of all of us, especially the students. In 2004 the new building, named the 'Founders' Building' was constructed successfully and in 2005 the number of students increased from 245 to 272.

When Peter informed me of his plans to retire, it was of course necessary for me to consider an appropriate structure of staffing so that the House would continue in strength into the future. I consulted various colleagues in other places about their current practices. One of the Heads of Colleges at the University of Melbourne wrote to me: 'No doubt you will miss Peter – he has always impressed me greatly, not least of which for his human decency and kindness'. This sentiment would be echoed by many who know Peter, and certainly by his colleagues in this workplace.

We acknowledge the excellent contribution Peter has made over the years and we wish him the very best in his retirement.



INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Each ILO always has something different to bring to the college. As International Liaison Officer for 2009-2010, I endeavoured to enrich student life, create an exciting and vibrant college atmosphere, increase student participation and was determined to contribute to building a college community that was appreciative and respectful towards other cultures.

This year I adopted an outward focus. Interested in bursting the "IH Bubble" and providing students with the opportunity to see all Melbourne had to offer, throughout the year I publicized and brought students to the Melbourne University Overseas Student night market, the Melbourne Jazz Festival as well as the Del Rios vineyard located in Mount Anakie. The trip to the Del Rios vineyard aimed to give students an authentic taste of Australia. The excursion, which involved picking grapes and enjoying a fusion of Spanish cuisine and a BBQ lunch, provided students with an experience that is unique to being in a multicultural country such as Australia.

As this job allows for a high degree of flexibility, during my term I introduced and came up with some new initiatives. In particular, I introduced the Photography Club at the start of this year. Attracting approximately forty members, the Photography Club is the largest club at International House at present. Excursions are organized once a fortnight, with each excursion focusing on a different theme. The excursions this year included going to the Melbourne CBD to document the graffiti and urban subculture, the cityscape at Southbank,

Botanic Gardens, Docklands as well as Brighton beach. The excursions were as much about taking photos as they were about discovering different parts of Melbourne. In particular, I thought it would provide students, especially those who were new to Australia, with the opportunity to explore and get to know Melbourne. To conclude what was a successful first year of the running of Photography Club, on the 16th October we held our own Photography exhibition in conjunction with the Social Alumni event. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for members to showcase their works to other students, staff members and alumni. In addition to launching the Photography Club, I also endeavoured to liven up community dinners with the concept - "Five minutes of Fame". During community dinner, I granted students the opportunity to perform and showcase their talent to the rest of the community.

In addition to the new ideas I implemented, I also carried on with the traditions that were passed down from previous years. Ekiden, which is a Japanese marathon relay race, took place at the start of my term as ILO last October. Throughout the year, my cultural committee and I also organized the Thai and Mexican Cultural dinners. These dinners were designed to give students a taste of each country. During these cultural dinners, students enjoyed the national cuisine of each country, participated in a game of Trivia and enjoyed watching cultural performances that were often

humorous and light-hearted in nature. Not only were these cultural dinners engineered to educate and enlighten students about different cultures, but these nights were designed to be fun, encouraging active participation and interaction between students.

The highlight of my ILO calendar however was organizing Cultural Interaction Activities Week which took place during the first week of Semester 2. The week, which was ultimately designed to foster interaction between the senior and fresher students, involved activities such as the Retro River Cruise, the Intercultural dinner, TREAD trivia as well as Yum Cha in the city. Despite the stress that accompanied the huge responsibility, the challenge of running the week with the help of the CIA week committee also turned out to be a highly rewarding experience.

Jawaharlal Nehru once said, "Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit." This quote encapsulates my experience as ILO this year. The invaluable experiences I have accrued through my term have shaped me forever. Through dealing with a range of people, organizing cultural events, celebrating cultural festivals and learning about different cultures in the process, I have finished my year, even more open-minded than I had first begun.

Sarah Ong







GEORGE TIPPETT: A LIFETIME S

for the wrong reasons



Beginning his career in the 1950s, working among Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, Dr Tippet is an anaesthetist specialising in techniques for cataract surgery. His work in anaesthetics has taken him to England, Asia, the Middle East and metropolitan, regional, and remote locations in three Australian states and territories. He has worked for the AMA Victoria in a number of roles, and has devoted considerable time and effort to other non-profit and voluntary organisations.

"I have spent a lifetime doing the right thing for the wrong reasons," Dr George Tippet says over the breakfast table.

"I always wanted to marry Naomi. But her mother wanted her to marry a doctor. So I switched from Engineering to Medicine."

"Having passed first year Med but then having to defer because of a quota system favouring returned servicemen, my friend and I, desperately underfunded, heard of the Drummond Street Hostel (now Medley Hall) and decided to move in uninvited," Dr Tippet recalls fondly.

He takes a sip of his coffee and continues:

"It had been bought for the Colombo Plan students and a few Indians had been dumped there with no experience or idea how to fend

for themselves. We established rosters for shopping and cooking and cleaning and when after a few weeks a student answering the phone was heard to say, 'I do not hear the name, but was it a black bastard or a white bastard you're wanting to speak to?', we felt acclimatisation was on the road to success."

"However our tenancy was terminated after a party which involved a jazz band, the cast of *Kiss Me Mate*, three kegs of beer and a visit by two police cars on account of the noise. We always felt we had precipitated the birth of International House."

"He was really wild," Mrs Tippet chips in from the kitchen, where eggs and bacon sizzle in the frying pan, crisp as the morning air.

Indeed, adventure and curiosity abound in Dr Tippet's character.

"If you're not curious, you're stupid."

"When I graduated, all I could think of was to move overseas so I could get a Mercedes Benz duty free," he chuckles.

"I joined the Commonwealth Department of Health when the immigration scheme was on and I thought I could get transferred to Europe, but I ended up being sent to Darwin to work while I waited in hope for an appointment to Europe. However, a tenuous link to the Communist Party during my university days, by way of my contribution to the cost of a keg of beer, lead to me being informed that I would not be able to leave the country for security reasons."

"From Darwin I was posted to Alice Springs as the Medical Officer in Charge of the Aerial Medical Service and also given the new role as the Medical Officer Native Survey." *

Here the Flying Doctor receives phone calls in the morning, and soars through the sky to check-up on patients in the afternoon.

"Do you remember that trip?" his wife reminds him gently. "The trip that lead to the establishment of the Melbourne Rotary Medical Dental Program?"

Mrs Naomi Tippet sure knows how to speed things up, and how to keep her husband on track.

"I was in Kabul buying carpets," her husband recalls, "when I decided to visit Naomi's son in northern India. He was the initiator of the project. We needed to fix children's teeth at an orphanage. I just happened to know the right people."

At this point, Dr Tippet grabs his knife and pretends to shove it down his throat.

"We used to do this," he bursts out laughing, "to see if they were okay, and then we..."

But Dr Tippet stops there, responding to his wife's look of horror.

"The real problem was diet and hygiene - the shithouse drained through the kitchen. We even handed out poo-pograms."

"There's no good dropping leaflets," Dr Tippet says in respect of the right approach for improving the health and cognitive development in children.

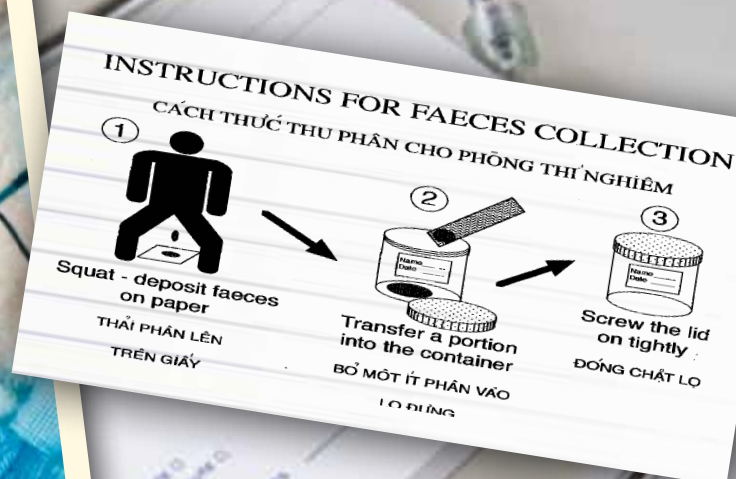
"You need to involve parents and children. You've got to co-operate."

Dr Tippet says that teachers are far more successful at developing health programs than the authorities. "We have to be careful with foreign aid. Money can easily be misplaced in the hands of corrupt governments and authorities," he warns.

"I remember a local medical head who asked me once, 'What's your budget?'

I was stupid enough to answer: 'About thirty thousand dollars.'

PENT DOING THE RIGHT THING



'Good,' the medical head replied. 'Let's have fifteen thousand on Monday!'"

According to Dr Tippet, the answer to resolving health issues in the third world involves education and attacking the "feminisation of poverty" - women who suffer from lower wages, less education and a lack of protection from male violence.

"These are all features which impoverish the community."

Here Dr Tippet's work is invaluable. He continues to influence and empower the lives of many unprivileged women and children across our globe.

Dr Tippet glances at his wife and mumbles:

"Everything I've said here has been observed by the Managing Director. And the fact she hasn't complained yet means she's endorsing it."

He smiles. They both do.

** For more information on Dr Tippet's work in aboriginal health in the 1950s and 1960s (and an explanation as to the ramifications of contributing to the cost of that keg of beer), "Fraternitas" readers may care listen to an interview with him recorded in 2000 for the Bringing Them Home oral history project at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.oh-vn755481>*

COMMUNITY LIAISON REPORT

Mid-way through 2009, the International House Student Club decided to create a new position on its committee. The new role, to be known as the 'Community Involvement Representative', would be responsible for coordinating the Student Club's involvement in charitable, social welfare and community-related events and activities. They would both advertise external events or volunteer opportunities the students could participate in, or organise fundraising activities within college itself.

This year, as our first full-term Community Involvement Representative, I was given the opportunity to decide what exactly the specifics of the position were and how the new role would fit into the existing Committee. Fortunately I received a lot of support and thanks to the enthusiasm of our students, we managed some exciting achievements.

Starting the year off, our students carried on a proud International House tradition and volunteered in the annual fundraising marathon 'Run 4 the Kids'. Every year we contribute a large majority of the events volunteers and this year was no different, with approximately seventy of our students manning the race's Water Stations. Following on from here, we participated in a number of

exciting fundraising initiatives in support of a wide variety of charities. This year we participated in Jeans For Genes Day, World Vision's 40 Hour Famine, RSPCA Cupcake Day, Daffodil Day, Movember and various others.

We also ran a number of events within college which students could participate in whilst donating to relevant organisations. To support Mission Australia, we held our first ever 'Sleepout for the Homeless'. Students dragged their bedding down to our Junior Common Room and for a gold coin donation set-up camp in front of a big screen TV and watched movies before falling asleep on the (quite firm) floor. We also participated in the Cancer Council's annual 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' event. We mingled as we normally would on a lazy morning, but this time with much nicer food and for a great cause.

Aside from these great events, we also held a number of 'blood drives'. Groups of students banded together for moral support and headed out to donate much-needed blood on various occasions.

One of the highlights of the year was without a doubt a guest presentation by the Global Poverty Project. Held after our annual Global Dinner, at which we simulated disparities in the world's living conditions over a fun dinner

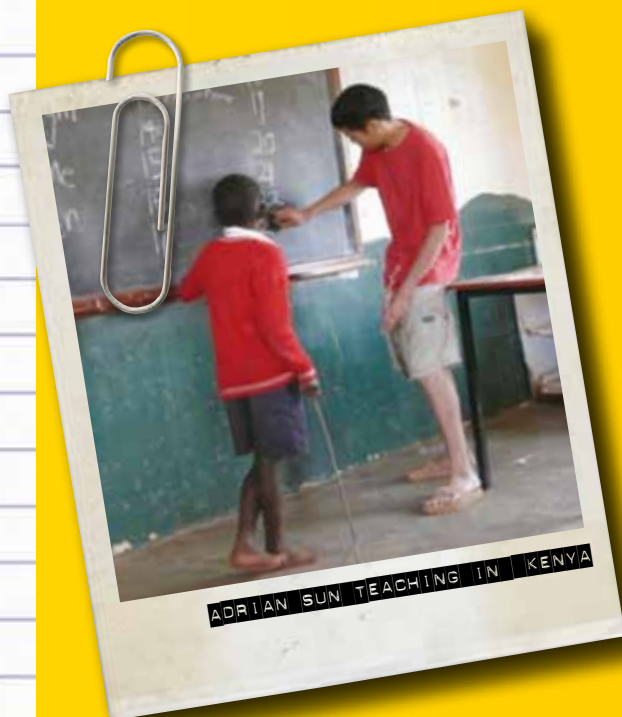
involving plenty of laughs and some hungry students, the presentation (attended by over 100 of our students) outlined the extent of extreme poverty in the world today and definitely inspired those who came along.

Although we managed plenty of other exciting feats, this year one of my personal favourites was the introduction of a new program called 'Bake For Good'. Every week a group of our students get together and bake a delicious treat which we later sell in the student Shop. We have a great time baking and students have no problem donating to the charities we support each week when it's in return for a brownie or cupcake. In fact I think this may be a favourite of most students.

The Community Involvement Representative is an exciting new position and we have done some very exciting things with it this year. I can only imagine things will improve as it develops - especially as the role has now also been tasked with representing the students' environmental interests as well. There are plenty of exciting things in store (stay tuned to hear about our upcoming Davis Project for Peace initiative) and I wish my successor the best of luck - it really is a worthwhile job.

Mark Campbell - Out-going
Community Involvement Representative





IH – A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE!

Fifth year Commerce/Law University of Melbourne student Mr Adrian Sun was awarded the 2009 Global Citizenship scholarship. Originally from Hong Kong, Adrian was able to experience working in Kenya using his scholarship money. The Global Citizenship Award is awarded to a resident of International House spending at least one month contributing to a recognised humanitarian aid project.

"Life is tough but we are happy. For Muzungus (foreigners) Kibera is a slum. For us, this land is our home," says a teenager and factory worker to me.

It is early 2010 and I visit Kenya to participate in the Kenyan Early Childhood Education program (KECEP) with GAP Australia.

KECEP is a program that aims to bring benefits of early childhood education to underprivileged rural villages.

I live in an orphanage called the Simba village in the outskirts of Ngong, where I teach Mathematics for Year 2 students.

I must admit that teaching young children is quite a challenge. They have unlimited energy and they sit behind their desk, with their notebook and pencil proudly in hand. You can literally see it in their eyes. They are ready to learn.

Today I will teach them how to read clocks. I start off by drawing a round clock on the blackboard, and I ask them whether they can tell me the time. To my surprise, no one raises their hand. Instead, my students are left silent with a blank stare.



I try again. Only this time I draw a digital clock. Maybe the traditional clock is too difficult for them. But I am met by the same stare, the same utter confusion. I soon realise that some of them have never seen a clock before. Others may have seen it only a few times.

They do not have the material possessions we have, but they seem

so much happier than we are. Maybe this is something we need to learn from them.

Using the Global Citizenship Award money, I am currently setting up a five year award program for two children in the orphanage each year. The award will be given to children with the best academic results.

Adrian Sun

PRESIDENT SIGNING OFF

Upon finishing my term as President a month ago, I was bombarded by my fellow IHers with one question, 'What's it like not to be Pres anymore?' Admittedly, having been on Student Club for two of my three years at college, the feeling was quite strange!

However, my past month at college has certainly been a refreshing one, and being involved 'just for the fun of it' as more of a spectator than organiser has reminded me just how diverse this place is. Not that I wasn't already attuned to this working on a committee with a secretary from Hong Kong, a treasurer from Malaysia, a sports rep from the United States and a Café coordinator from Mauritius! But being on Student Club is just one kind of International House experience, and while it has been the focus of my time at college, other residents will leave with a very different set of memories. This is why I like to think of International House as a travel destination in itself.

Home to a vibrant mix of students from over thirty countries, it's up to us as residents to decide what sort of traveller we'd like to be here at IH. Some jet-setters rarely stray from their comfort zone and search for the familiar in foreign lands (think McDonalds, Starbucks, China-town).

For others, travelling is a quest for new challenges, an adventure shaped around the exotic and different, the weird and wonderful.

In my experience, the best approach lies somewhere between the two extremes, and this is exactly the kind of experience that IH offers us.



Our choices in terms of a travel itinerary are broad. IH provides us with academic and pastoral support, cooked meals, great entertainment facilities and a safe and convenient location. But it allows us to go further and broaden our horizons by sampling a range of activities like sports (including Quiddich, a game adapted from Harry Potter played on broomsticks while wearing academic gowns), the performing arts, organised social events, clubs, cultural and national nights, just to name a few.

More important than activities though, IH is about the people who live here. The diversity of our college community means that each of us can connect with people who speak the same language as us, who come from the same part of the world or who are enrolled in the same course. In a time of adjustment like starting university or college, this is certainly a comforting prospect. However, the special thing about this place is that we also have the chance to make lasting friendships with people from continents to which we've never been, people who may have an entirely different background to ourselves.

In my opinion, the key role for Student Club therefore, as 'tour guides' at IH, is to encourage residents to take up this opportunity. I'm proud to say that in our own unique ways, each resident has embraced the IH culture and we've had a fantastic year, and if the increase from thirty to fifty individual nominations for the eighteen positions on offer at the Student Club AGM is anything to go by, 2011 is set to be even better!

Caitlin Edwards

PROFILE: JEFF THO

Continued from page 1.

Jeff found his passion for badminton in his hometown Bendigo, some ten years ago.

"I was mostly influenced by my father as he used to play when he was younger. Then after a couple of years I started training and playing in local social competitions."

Before a game Jeff tries to focus on all the things he's good at - to boost his confidence.

"I focus one hundred per cent on the task ahead - my game plan, my focus points in my game."

"If I even for a second think about the result of the game (i.e. winning or losing), I must quickly focus my attention back onto the process and what is happening at that exact moment in time.

"To play well, my mind needs to be one hundred per cent focused on the present. Live in the moment! Because when you do, you'll be amazed at what you can achieve!"

With the right attitude, Jeff proves that anything is possible. He was awarded the University of Melbourne 2009 Male Athlete of the Year for his efforts.

"It felt great to be recognised as the 2009 Male Athlete of the Year, especially because the University of Melbourne has such fine athletes across a range of sports. I think that my contribution to the team at the University Games at the Gold Coast and my selection to represent Australia in the Sudirman Cup played a great role in receiving this prestigious award."

But no one is perfect. In fact, everyone fails at some point. It's how you deal with it that matters, according to Jeff Tho.

"I stay positive by looking at failures and disappointments as opportunities and things to learn from. That being said, after a loss, I allow myself to feel terrible for a short period of time. I can then harness this feeling of failure and turn it into motivation to work harder and improve. Although it is sometimes extremely hard to get out of a negative mindset, it's helpful

for me look at the 'failure' from a different perspective and find positive things within the 'failure'."

Jeff looks up to Roger Federer and Lin Dan (the number 1 world men's singles badminton player) because of their mental strength and ability to win important matches.

"It's like they can just flick a switch and their performance instantly goes up a gear during a match."

Jeff has been selected into the Australian team to play at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi from 3-14 October. The team's goal is to medal at the Games and really put Australia on the map in world badminton.

But badminton is not the only thing on Jeff Tho's map.

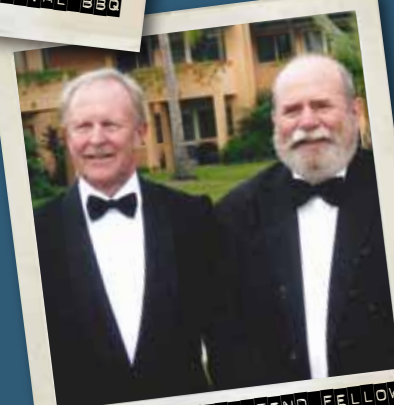
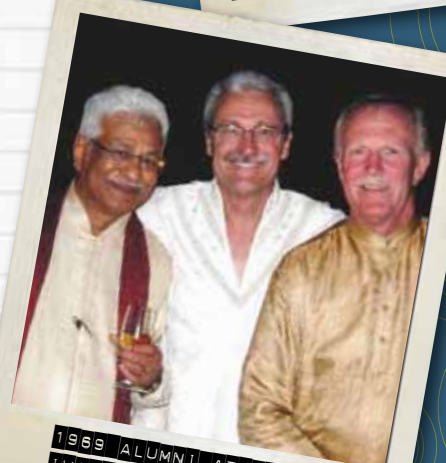
"In five years from now, I see myself as a successful dentist after graduating in 2013. I hope to have competed in the Olympic Games in 2012 or 2016, Commonwealth Games in 2014 and been successful on the world badminton circuit."

"Go for your goals! You'll be amazed at what you can achieve if you stay persistent and determined! Aim big and succeed big things!"





ALUMNI 1960

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SOCIAL BBQ1969 ALUMNI ATTEND FELLOW
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IH'S SONS WEDDING IN FIJI

save the date 2011

We look forward to another exciting yet very full alumni program here at International House for 2011. We are working with our alumni to build stronger relationships for local and international networking and for mentoring current students as well as supporting the House in its governance and management. We understand that you are all very busy and we hope by sending you this save this date that we will have a greater turnout to all events than last year.

For more information please refer to website or contact Tamra Keating on 0438081074 or tkeating@unimelb.edu.au. I have listed all confirmed events for 2011. We hope that you can save these dates in your diary, or if you live overseas or interstate, plan your Melbourne trip to suit the schedule.

Decade Reunion

High Table Dinners

In 2011 we are inviting past students from 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 to join us for dinner here for 'decade reunions'. If you lived at International House during the years mentioned, the year before or the year after, you

are more than welcome to join us for dinner.

We would like our guests to join us for pre-dinner drinks at 6.30pm with the staff and tutors and have dinner with fellow alumni at 6.45pm. After dinner, the past students may wish to stay on for coffee and post-dinner drinks or they may prefer to go on elsewhere. We will not ask our past students to pay for their dinner at these decade reunions but will be very happy if they consider making a donation to the House. We have found these High Table Dinners to be a great social way for alumni to catch up with old friends.

Alumni year - High Table Dinner dates are;

1961 - 5 April
1971 - 12 April
1981 - 19 April
1991 - 23 August
2001 - 30 August

Chairman's Lecture - Thursday 28th April 2011

Café International - 7th May 2011

IH Social Networking BBQ - Saturday 15th October

please send your
contributions to:

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