

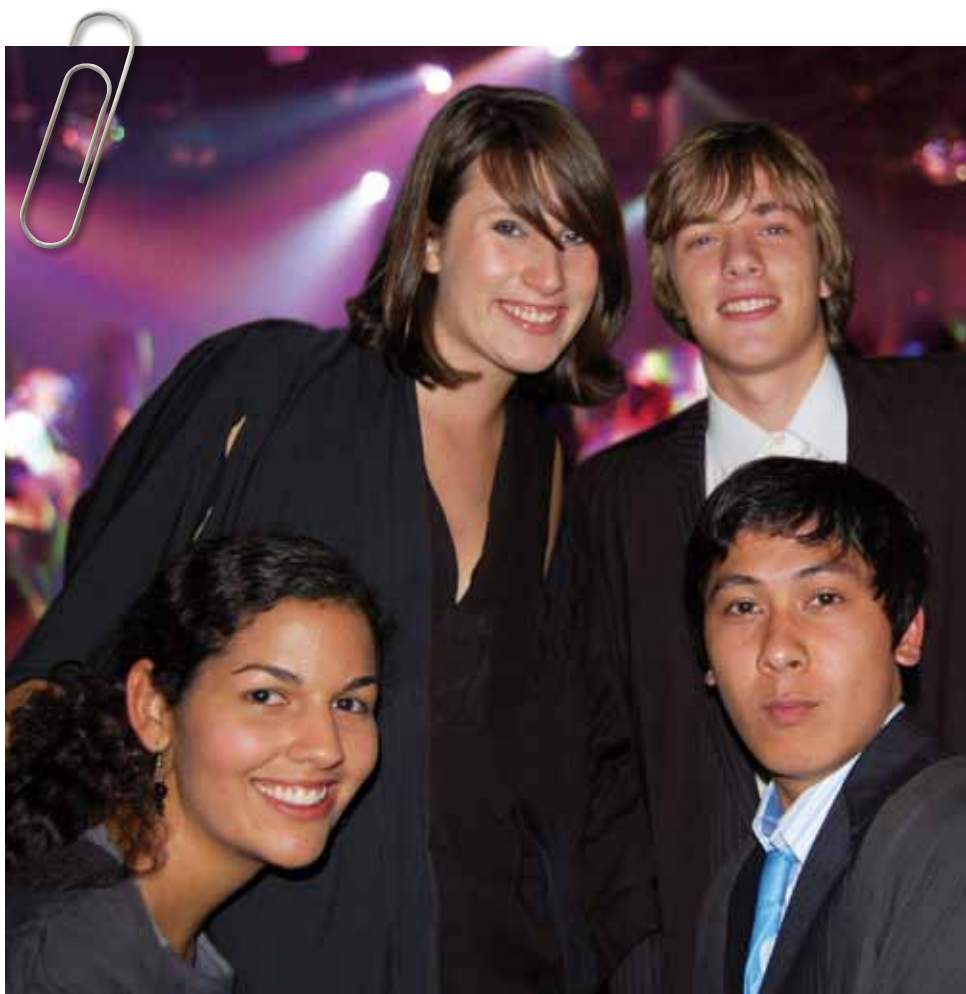
# FRATERNITAS

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

### FRATERNITAS 2009



## PROFILE: HARRY LEONG

In May this year, International House was most fortunate to become the recipient of a handsome collection of architectural books and journals from the personal library of International House alumnus, former Council member and Fellow of the House, Mr Harry Leong, PSM.

The collection will be housed in the Angus Mitchell Library and will be a valuable resource for both architecture students and those with a general interest in the field. A significant collection of biographical material will also be stored in the House archives.

Harry was a resident of the House from 1962 to 1968, firstly as a student from 1962 to 1964 and then as a tutor in his final four years. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) from the University of Melbourne in 1967 and obtained his Masters degree the following year. As a member of the International House Council from 1971 to 2000, Harry took an active interest in the physical development of the House and was a member of the Capital Works Committee in 2000.

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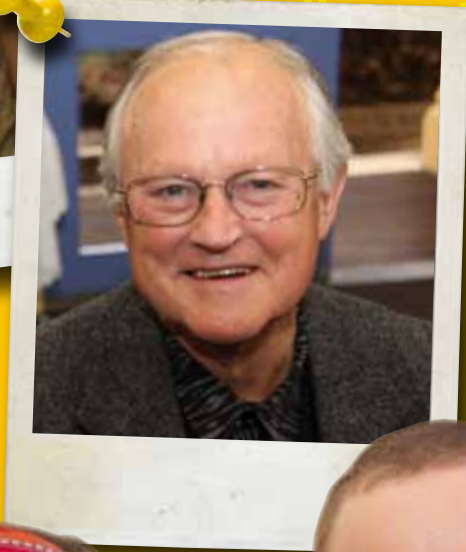


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# STUDENT ALUMNI SOCIAL BBQ

17 OCTOBER 2009





# HEAD OF COLLEGE REVIEW

The academic year in our college has been a very good one, with excellent results achieved. It is invaluable for university students to have the opportunity to live and study in our community, and to have the support of the tutors in mastering their subjects and unravelling challenging problems.

The tutors' own research is exciting and interesting and brings intellectual stimulus to all of us, whether or not we are in the same discipline. We have had many academic visitors to High Table dinners, and this experience adds further to the quality of life in the college.

Café was a great success, with a large audience and an excellent show. National nights and the House Play, *It Wasn't Me*, were also very good. The play was written by one of our own students, Daljeet Singh, and the music was written by James Downing. We were quite astonished by the excellence of this production, and very proud of our students in making it possible. As I write this I can look back at a very successful week of student events starting with the Valedictory Dinner, addressed by IH alumnus and Deputy Chairman of the IH Council Kevin Wong, followed by an 'alumni/mentoring barbecue' at the weekend, and completed by a superb night of music planned and presented by our students and tutors.

The students are not only interested in their own work and their own performances: there is a strong commitment to assisting others, whether in Australian settings or overseas. Locally, with the support of the Davis Projects for Peace, our students initiated a major program of tutorials for VCE students from refugee backgrounds - largely from countries in north Africa. Overseas, the project in Thailand (formerly 'Banana' now 'TREAD') was conducted successfully and is planned again for January 2010.

Our engagement with alumni is continuing to grow, with more and more of our past students having opportunities to re-visit the House and re-connect with our work. I had the great opportunity to visit Kuala

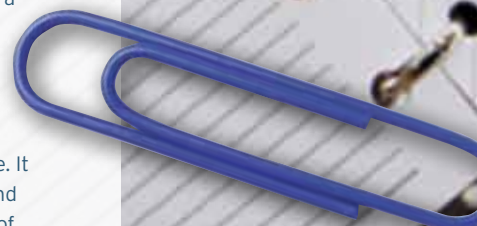
Lumpur during August to attend the dinner celebrating 20 years since the foundation of The University of Melbourne Alumni Association in Malaysia. On the same day as the dinner, a lunch was held for International House alumni, hosted most generously by former IH students Greg and Kim Dall. It was really exciting to be there with recent past students and past and present parents. This was so successful that it will be followed by the 'Pool Party' on 12 December at which donations will be made for the welfare of the students at International House and we expect a great time will be had by everyone. Many thanks to Meng and Howard Khoo and family for generously hosting this function.

The alumni, the present students, and the future students will all be interested to know of our plans to develop the campus of IH with the intention of enhancing the life of the students in every way.

As The University of Melbourne model develops, there will be more graduate students, for example in medicine, law and engineering, and we would like such students to be living and learning here with our undergraduates. As a result of this need, we have developed a new physical master plan and are working on more detailed plans for a new building hopefully to be constructed in 2011.

These are exciting times for IH. It is good to have many excellent people involved at Council level with the planning of the future. It is great to have such wonderful students and student leadership, and the very fine work of the tutors and all our colleagues as a team.

*Associate Professor Jane Munro  
Head of College*







## DR LACHLAN FRASER

Earlier this year, former IHSC president Dr Lachlan Fraser completed a 96km run from his home town of Marysville to Federation Square in order to publicise the Marysville Marathon which will be held in November to raise vitally-needed funds for bushfire reconstruction work.

Marysville is located within the heavily-forested mountains of the Great Dividing Range, a short drive off the Maroondah Highway between Healesville and Alexandra. Situated on the Steavenson River, which runs adjacent to the town centre, the town is lined by parks and gardens. The river runs through the town's major park, Gallipoli Park, which features a sports oval, a lake and walking tracks. A short drive south-east of the town centre is the Steavensons Falls which is one of Victoria's highest waterfalls.

Around twenty minutes' drive east of Marysville is Lake Mountain which rises to a height of 1,432 metres and offers commanding views of the Victorian Alps. During the snow season, the mountain offers visitors cross country skiing, while at other times of the year bushwalking along the scenic ski trails is a popular activity.

As most readers of Fraternitas will be aware, Marysville was devastated by the Black Saturday bushfires on 7th February this year. Members of the local population are currently rebuilding their homes, businesses and lives, among them the local doctor, Dr Lachlan Fraser. Dr Lachlan Fraser loves Marysville. So when the Black Saturday fires claimed his house and clinic, the town's only GP rented premises nearby and kept working.

Lachlan was the International House student club president in 1983, while studying medicine at the University of Melbourne. He moved to Marysville in 2000 to satisfy his love of the outdoors, and in particular, his love of the snow.

Lachlan also runs marathons and ultra-marathons, as was recently highlighted by his run of 96km from Marysville to Melbourne to gain publicity for the Marysville Marathon which will comprise a number of races of various

distances run on November 8. As race director, Lachlan hopes the event will breathe life into the town's tourism industry by attracting thousands of participants and spectators.

Lachlan attempted to save his house from the inferno, suffered some injuries and only escaped with his two dogs and empty car. The house and nearby clinic were lost, but since then he has worked alongside others to draw the community back together. An interim clinic has been established nearby at Buxton. Salvaged from the ruins of Lachlan's home were two bells and all races will commence with the ringing of the bell from the east, from Mexico, and finish with the bell from the west, from Switzerland.

The event, which is hoped to become an annual affair, will raise money for the Country Fire Authority, emergency services and wildlife shelters near Marysville. Lachlan said the event needed volunteers, sponsors and participants.

"It's time to all come back to Marysville and help us rebuild," he said.

The Marathon races, which range from 3km to 45km, will be held on main roads and forestry tracks around the town to let people see the damage caused by the fires - and indeed the recovery that is beginning. Proceeds will go to the CFA, SES and Kingbilli Wildlife Rescue fund, which helped out during and after the fires that took thirty-four lives and 400 homes in the town.

Lachlan urged Victorians to show their support for Marysville by donating prizes, volunteering on the day or entering one of the races.

"It's largely a community event to raise spirits and support the community," Lachlan said at Federation Square at the conclusion of his Marysville to Melbourne run.

Lachlan was welcomed into Federation Square Melbourne by a Chinese Community Drumming Band, very apt for a man who lived at IH.

The IH Community wishes Lachlan luck for the Marysville Marathon and extends its wishes to the Marysville community as a whole.





# STUDENT CLUB PRESIDENT 2010

Hailing from the rural Victorian town of Kyabram, I am a country girl! I completed high school in 2006 before taking a GAP year teaching English in south-west China in 2007. After returning to Australia, I cancelled my enrolment in commerce, secured myself a place in International House, and began my BA International Politics and Asian Studies, with a Diploma of Modern Languages in Mandarin on the side.

While I was initially drawn to IH for the scholarships it offered to rural students, the minute I arrived I knew I was in the right place for very different reasons!

For me, IH is the opportunity to satisfy a long-held curiosity of other cultures and languages and in many ways, being a resident here is the defining element of my new 'city girl' identity.

IH provides its students with a truly unique residential experience, one which continually challenges us to expand our worldview and in the process, become more aware of the assumptions of our own cultures. This year, the Student Club Committee is looking for ways to burst the 'college bubble'; we feel that IH need not remain Melbourne's 'best kept secret'.

I was International Liaison Officer on last year's committee and I am loving my term thus far as President. Ultimately, it is my hope that, together with the new committee, I am able to facilitate and build upon for others, what IH has given me.

*Caitlin Edwards*  
IH Student Club President  
2009-2010



# PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since I wrote in this newsletter as the freshly-elected President, promising to "give it all I've got" (and that's a direct quote).

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since I wrote in this newsletter as the freshly-elected President, promising to "give it all I've got" (and that's a direct quote). I am proud to say that the past year has been a blast - indeed, a veritable fireworks display - thanks to the amazing work of the Student Club Committee, and the enthusiastic participation of so many IHers.

Our pirate-themed Orientation Week (O-Hoy! Week) set the tone, introducing the new members of our community to IH's central ethos of embracing diversity (peg legs, eyepatches and parrots welcome). Our biggest event - Café International - saw everyone working together to present the Wonders of the World to a packed hall of guests. We also celebrated Korean and Celtic cultures in our twice-yearly National Nights, and had a magnificent time at our Red Carpet Ball.

In line with our commitment to get IHers aware of, and involved in, the wider community, a new position on the Student Club Committee was created this year - that of the Community Involvement Representative, whose focus is getting IHers to participate in volunteer activities outside of college, as well as attend events that raise awareness of social issues.

2009 also heralded the arrival of a significant new member to our community - the IH Panda! Our panda mascot, while naturally peace-(and bamboo-) loving, has intimidated many a rival college with its hidden arsenal of kung-fu moves at inter-college events this year. In addition, we have welcomed many non-living newcomers to IH - a newly revamped

Games Room (complete with Wii console and new sofas), a gym full of shining new equipment, and lots of new sound equipment to support the rich musical life at IH.

As President of the Student Club, I have also had two amazing opportunities to spread the word about International House beyond Melbourne. In March, I had the privilege of accompanying our Head of College to co-present at the Rotary 9800 District Conference in Launceston, Tasmania. We shared the wonderful experience that is IH with hundreds of Rotarians, and received an incredibly warm response from our audience. In July, I attended the annual conference of the National Association of Australian University Colleges (NAAUC), held at St. Andrew's College at the University of Sydney. There, I had the wonderful opportunity to engage delegates from colleges across Australia about the ideals and lived experience of International House, and what it means to be an "international student".

From the outset, our Student Club committee aimed to build on the good work of past Student Clubs, and continue fostering an environment where real friendships are built between people from different cultural backgrounds. We worked towards an IH that was inclusive, comfortable, memorable, and lots and lots of fun. Thanks to a ridiculously competent, dedicated and creative team, I think we have made considerable progress towards these goals; I hesitate to say we have achieved them, because more can always be done to bring IH closer to its ideals of being a place where we truly embrace diversity. To



continue this journey, a new committee has been elected, headed by Caitie, our extraordinarily capable new President. I am excited for, and proud of, the fantastic new committee for wanting to take on the weighty responsibility of steering the Student Club through the coming year.

2010 is going to be a great year for IH - I can already feel it!

*Pam Tham*  
*IH Student Club President*  
*2008-2009*



# THE PLAY

This year's IH play, an original piece titled *It Wasn't Me*, was an incredible success. We had an enormous cast, crew and orchestra totalling approximately forty people, which allowed many students a spot in the limelight. We were proud to showcase the various talents we have at our college, while putting on a thrilling show for our audience.

The action of play was situated in a modern apartment block that is globally generic. The characters living in the apartment were all interrelated in various ways and had friends and enemies throughout the building of four floors. This small community was alarmingly disrupted as characters were beginning to be murdered in their homes.

As the play unfolded, the members of audience was kept on the edge of their seats asking themselves who was close enough to these people so that they could be murdered at their own doorstep without a sign of a break-in or burglary? It had to be someone in the building - they've got a killer in their midst. Who is it?

After each murder, the three main suspects were seated in stools, with a spotlight overhead, explaining the recent events to the audience. Everyone was saying, "It wasn't me."

Suspense and comic relief kept the audience wanting more until the killer was finally revealed in the end. The first two nights had a different ending from the second two, meaning that IHers who came for a second shot weren't disappointed.

he play got an outstanding review in the weekly IH publication *The Globe* and numerous people came away raving about its quality. Not only was this play performed in the biggest theatre in the University, but it also enabled a huge number of students to participate in acting and in the tremendous amount of preparation and other work that goes into a production. Over sixty IHers got involved in some capacity and we had an absolute blast while doing it (we even managed to make a much smaller loss than was seen in previous years).

We hope that the success of this year's play will mean that future plays are just as big and as many people get involved. Hopefully it will gain all the support it needs from IHers and guests alike for a play is nothing without its audience! Hopefully we can see some of you there at next year's play!



# PROFILE: HARRY LEONG

Continued from page 1.

Harry had a long and distinguished career as a practising architect. From 1973 to 1997 he worked for the Australian Government and was Chief Design Architect for Works Australia in the Department of Administrative Services from 1990 to 1997 and designed many significant public buildings both in Australia and overseas. The list is as comprehensive as it is eclectic, ranging from military barracks, marine laboratories through to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Office in Canberra and Australian consular staff housing in Asia and Europe.

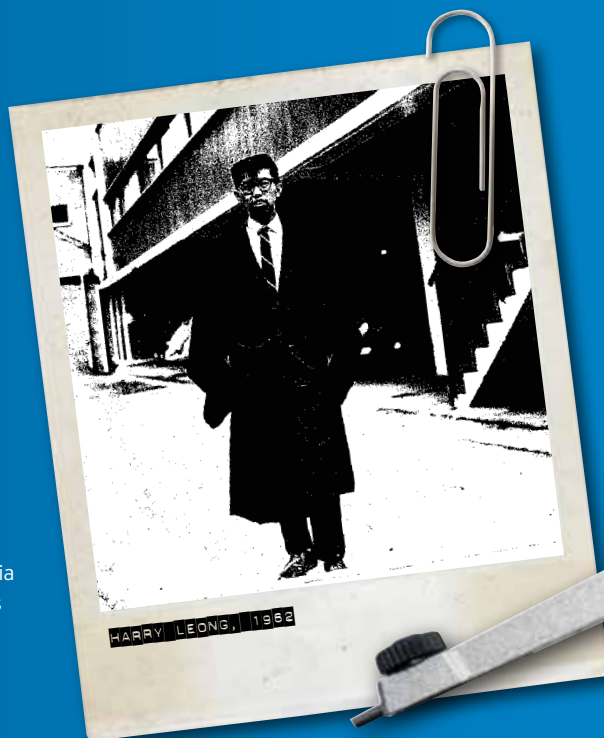
Harry was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1996. Following his retirement from the Public Service, Harry was a consultant to the Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Group until his retirement in 2000.

Fraternitas recently had the opportunity to catch up with Harry and his wife Noi at their home and put a number of questions to Harry about those early years at International House.

**We are looking at a photograph of a very dapper young Harry Leong in his first year at IH dressed in a suit, tie and undergraduate gown posing for the camera in front of the Clunies-Ross wing. What was the story behind the journey from what, in those days, was the small mining town of Ampang in Malaysia to Melbourne in 1961?**

*Firstly, I was so proud to be wearing that suit and gown. I had the photograph taken to send home to my mother.*

*My widowed mother was looking after ten children after my father suddenly died when I was three. All my older brothers had to work to help support the family. I was sent to an English school because my mother thought that it might be easier for to get a job with the British-controlled civil service in Kuala*



*Lumpur. My final year secondary teacher, Mrs Edna Lee, helped me to firm up my mind to study architecture. She explained to me what architecture was and how my natural ability could be developed. Architecture was not offered as a degree course in Malaysia, so I had to study either in England or Australia and I chose Australia because it was cheaper.*

*At first I applied to do matriculation at Brisbane High School because it was the same climate as Malaysia, but it was a two-year course. I was so keen to start architecture I decided to come to Melbourne, but I forgot about the temperature at that time.*

*I did my matric at McKinnon High. The reason why I came to International House was that I was living with another Malaysian student with an Australian family in Bentleigh and they helped us get into International House. I was interviewed by Sam Dimmick and Peter Waylen. Sam's office in those days was in one of the rooms in Clunies. Because Sam was so big, it was a tight fit for all of us during the interview.*

**What were those early years like both at International House and in Melbourne at a time when there were very few students from South East Asia in the country?**

*I came from a humble background in a small village, so the environment in Melbourne was so different. When I came to International*



*House I was thrilled. Because it was a small college, only seventy-eight students, we mixed very well, largely because of the senior*

*students. And in our first year we had to share a room with an Australian student. I shared a room with Allan Roberts from Murtoa, who was studying science. Because he was from the country, he was in a sense an outsider too. Living with a local student for a year broke down any misconceptions. We started to realise that the individual is more important than race.*

*Fixed seating plans with a table president, which changed every week, also helped. A senior tutor, Ian Chessell actually wrote a computer program in 1967 to take care of the seating.*

**We have in our archives another photograph, this one of Sam Dimmick dining with some of your brothers and friends in KL. You were at IH during the Dimmick era, both as a student and tutor. What were your impressions of Sam Dimmick?**

*On first meeting, Sam looked severe because he was a big man, but when you got to know him he was very gentle. He was a terrific warden because he knew that in those days Asian students, particularly from backgrounds like mine, had to learn a lot to fit in. We were introduced to formal dinners and European etiquette.*

*You talked to him and he listened. He also had a good sense of humour which appealed to Asians. He understood Asians and Asian culture. He was devoted to International House and even helped us obtain holiday employment. In my first year he got me a job at the Australian Wheat Board sorting receipts. He knew everybody. That was how he was able to get us holiday jobs.*

**You served on the International House Council for nearly three decades. Were the challenges for Council during that time largely the same, or were there quite significant changes in the nature of those challenges?**

*Yes, firstly there was the decision to accept female students. And certainly, later on, I was involved with the master-planning of the House and I introduced a landscaping program. John Alsop came onto council for a few years and we both were on a committee which devised a maintenance program for the House.*

*Two other concerns in those days were attracting Asian students to the House and academic standards. Sam felt very strongly about this and insisted on a very strong tutorial program.*

*When I came to International House I was thrilled, because it was a small college only 78 students, we mixed very well.*





As the newly appointed Café Coordinator, I am delighted to announce that Café International 2010 is set for May 1 2010.

Why not put that date in your diaries straight away?

The theme for next year's Café will take its audience into a wonderful realm beyond creativity and imagination. In all its splendour and sense of occasion and extravaganza, Café International 2010 promises a night of escapism and total relaxation. Just a step inside the theme-decorated International House doors will take you into another dimension full of colours, glitz, fun and glamour.

Since Café International is partly a charity event, I am glad to confirm that next year part of our funds

raised from Café will be donated to Interplast, which is a non-profit organisation sending teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses to developing countries in the Asia Pacific region to provide free treatment for congenital conditions such as cleft lip and cleft palate or aquired conditions such as burns scar contractures. The program also offers valuable medical training.

Tickets for Café 2010 will soon be on sale and it won't be long until they run out! For more information on ticket bookings or anything else with regards to Café International, please feel free to email me on dawn\_honey@hotmail.com or call me on 0433018180.

*Dawn Lo*





# CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL



DAWN LO, CAFÉ CO-ORDINATOR 2010



# THE DAVIS PROJECT

Project Fraternitas was a new initiative this year providing an exciting and philanthropic opportunity for residents of International House to become involved in our local community. Sponsored through International House New York 'Davis Projects for Peace', the program saw local VCE students coming to college every Monday and Tuesday throughout the year to receive free tutoring from our residents.

The program was run in conjunction with Carlton Parkville Youth Services, a local organisation that works to aid young people in their area. Each week students would come to International House where they would be paired one-on-one with a volunteer tutor who specialised in the subject area in which they required help.

Project Fraternitas was launched at the beginning of the year and interested students were invited to attend a High Table dinner to start things off and meet their tutors. We were fortunate enough that an overwhelming number of residents were interested in the program and volunteered their services. From this initial meeting, onwards bonds were formed between the students and tutors. Although attendance each week varied depending on need, the students came out regularly and new faces were always welcomed.

Students would always arrive with a particular subject area in mind in which they needed help and we would try to find a tutor to match that need. While specific knowledge in that area was always helpful, a lot of the time we realised it was more about helping the students figure things out for themselves. Learning to teach our subjects quickly became as beneficial for us as it was for the kids.

Although some facets of the project didn't work out as expected - for example our planned mid-year camp was cancelled for lack of interest - the program proved an overall success. The camp was replaced with a day trip to the snow, students spoke of the benefit of the tutoring to their understanding of their subjects and tutors enjoyed working the kids. For the tutors, the project has not only benefitted our understanding of the students, many of whom are from a migrant background, but also has built connections in the local community.

We hope to continue the project into 2010 and are considering opening it to more students from more schools. The program has proved a huge success and taught both the students and ourselves many things which we will carry forward into the new year.

We would sincerely like to thank those involved for their participation in the program; the Davis Projects for Peace for the initial funding; International House for its support; and most importantly the students and tutors for their continued dedication the program. Its success can only be attributed to your hard work.

*Thank you.*



Although some facets of the project didn't work out as expected, the program proved an overall success.



# TREAD 2008-09

## Thai Rural Education & Development

There are some life encounters that will resonate, moments that will flicker in our consciousness and change the way we look at the world. Such experiences are few and far. Fortunately for me, when I found myself buoyed in a sea of hundreds of laughing Thai orphaned kids, it quickly dawned on me that I was part of something truly special. The chaos at first was euphoric and daunting but any reservedness quickly dissipated. Before I knew it, I found myself dancing against a background symphony of laughing and cheering kids, punctuated by the acoustic beats of Hun's table drumming. My feeble and failed attempt to imitate the rhythmic dance moves of a group of 8 year-old

boys proved to be a hit with the kids. My battered

ego, although in disrepair, was compensated by the mirth that I saw in faces of the children.

This is only one of the many moments that I fervently recall from my six-week in-country placement with the Thai Rural Education and Development (TREAD) project. Although that particular moment was one of great joy and hope, there were other moments that were heartbreaking such as when I met a six year old boy whose mother had abandoned him the night before to go and find work in Bangkok. Such experiences instil a renewed motivation to live a life of difference. Three others accompanied me on the eleventh phase of this very worthy annual International House aid project - Shreenal Ruparelia (Kenya), Sang-Kyu Kim (Korea) and Grace Ho (China). We initially set out on a short philanthropic journey in hope of bringing meaningful positive change to disadvantaged children and communities in rural Thailand. Instead, we found ourselves on a path of self-discovery that would not only deliver hope to thousands of children but also change the worldly perspectives of the TREAD participants themselves.

TREAD, previously known as the Banana Project, is a development initiative run by the students at IH in association with the Population and Community

Development Association in Thailand. TREAD aims to improve living conditions, education

and opportunities of people in villages, focussing on Nang Rong District in the Buriram Province. This is done by assisting with the funding and implementation of various self-sustaining projects and by teaching English at Suksasongkroh School.

The 2008-09 team was successful in funding eight projects which included water filters, agriculture initiatives, infrastructure renovations and vocational training. Collectively, the group also ran over eighty English classes, teaching over 1,500 students. Over the past ten years, TREAD has funded over thirty projects and continues to create vast improvements in the quality of education and living standards of children in rural Thailand. We wish this year's IH participants - Jonathan Kastelan (Australia), Caitlin Edwards (Australia), Jemlyn Baldisimo (Phillipines), Catherine Buick (Indonesia) and Julianna Koay (Malaysia) - all the best on their upcoming adventure.

TREAD is truly a unique program, offering IH students with the opportunity to both make positive contributions to the international community and to immerse themselves in an inter-cultural grassroots experience. However, as past participants, we are mindful to not let these experiences be just memories or stories to tell. With over 1.8 million children still living in poverty in Thailand, there is still much more work to be done.

For more information about TREAD or to make donations, please contact Austin Chia [chiaa@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:chiaa@unimelb.edu.au) or Caitlin Edwards [caitie.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:caitie.edwards@gmail.com).

*Austin Chia*

*(Austin is a resident tutor and Dimmick Tutor at International House who accompanied IH students on the 08-09 TREAD project.)*



# PETER BOBEFF RETIRES

as Chair International House Council



Mr Peter Bobeff completed a term of eight years as Chair of International House Council retiring at the end of 2008. The leadership of IH Council completed a period of outstanding service spanning some forty-four years, commencing with his appointment as a law tutor in 1964 following his completion of a Law degree at the University of Melbourne. He was a member of Council for many years and served as chair of the Executive and Finance Committee from 1980 to 1988 and since 2001.

Peter has been a lifelong supporter of the House. He is a passionate believer in the ideals of the House to build understanding and cooperation between students from many countries with different cultural, religious and ethnic traditions. His commitment partly stems from his background, since he was an emigrant to Australia from Sofia, Bulgaria in 1949. He has personally lived by the IH ideal and is a great role model for others.

In his professional life he has achieved significant acclaim from his peers for his legal negotiating skills and his management and strategic planning ability. Prior to professional

retirement he was a senior corporate executive for the Fosters Group as their Senior Vice President for Commercial Affairs. He has also served as a company director. IH has been most fortunate to be the beneficiary of his talents and wisdom.

Peter has been strongly supported by his wife Anne in his contribution to the House. Anne is a long time contributor to IH through the IH Law group. Peter and Anne were married at IH in 1967.

The outstanding service by Peter Bobeff was recognised by the IH Council through his election as a Distinguished Fellow of International House. This honour is only bestowed upon a few outstanding individuals who have been exemplary in their dedication and service.

We wish Peter and Anne well with their future endeavours, including maintaining a close link with the activities of the House.

*Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins  
Chair of Council*



# MALAYSIA ALUMNI

On the August 8, the Melbourne University Alumni Branch of Malaysia celebrated its 20th anniversary. More importantly though, a bunch of committed IH alumni met the afternoon before, lunching at Senka Sentral's Chilli Espresso courtesy of the very generous Greg and Kim Dall.

It was an interesting and varied assortment of people: seated at one table was a gathering of newer alumni (myself included), while at another table was a group of - "ahem" - more distinguished alumni, and one air-flown, Australia-fresh Associate Professor Jane Munro.

The meal began with the House Grace (but of course!). There was glass-clinking and speech-making. It was almost like High Table dinner sans the Harry Potter gowns.

But really, being around ex-IHers was a liberating feeling. We could all reminisce about days in Greycourt or Clunies or Wadham or Scheps (sorry Founders' Building, maybe when you're a little older..), sneaking people into rooms, getting dressed up (or down) for parties and the shared experiences of being dwarfed by other colleges in sports. How far IH has come (apparently we almost won rowing this year)! Amazing...

Making conversations at the dining hall table? It's a skill that sticks with you for life. It doesn't matter that your company lived through the Beatles / Abba / Bee Gees / Rick Astley / Michael Jackson / Backstreet Boys ages (or all of them). It doesn't matter that an engineer building an airport in Libya is seated next to the manager of a chocolate lounge franchise who is seated next to an investment consultant who is seated next to a bookshop owner (s son) who is seated next to an oil man just fresh from a trip to Texas who is seated next to a project manager at a non-profit foundation... (I could go on). My point is that we are as diverse in our paths beyond IH as we were while we were in IH, and yet, there is still that bond that brings us together. (I know, this is beginning to sound like propaganda)

What I have learned though, is that IH is for life.

From that group of twenty or so of us, some have been firm friends for more than my lifetime. At least three couples met during their time in IH and their children have gone on to live in those very halls themselves (it's no big secret - IH couples actually PLAN to have kids while at the same time continuing the scandalous Web of Lust).



So I take comfort in knowing that even after moving out of IH, the people and memories never leave. In fact, you then join a larger community of generations of IH alumni so it's really still like being a college student (except this time you have money).

So to me, meeting new people at alumni events and rekindling old friendships is just another way that IH is still in my life - helping to make the world a smaller place. What with Facebook and the marvels of communications technology, there is absolutely no reason to ever lose touch.



So to me, meeting new people at alumni events and rekindling old friendships is just another way that IH is still in my life - helping to make the world a smaller place.



1969

# IH ALUMNI HIGH TABLE

**Below, left to right:** John Butler (1970 - 1972) Science Student Club President 1972 AUS,  
Peter Long (1969 - 1972) Engineering Student Club Sec. 1971, Editor Satadal 1972 AUS,  
John Howie (1969 - 1972) Music Student Club President 1971 AUS, William (Bill) Dougherty  
(1969 - 1972) Commerce Notorious cricketer from Strathbogie AUS, Paul Maguire ( - 1969) Architecture AUS, G. R. (Bob) Bowker ( - 1969) Student Club President 1969 AUS,  
Manubhai (Mac) Patel (1969 - 1971) Engineering FIJI, Mervyn Samaratunga ( - 1970) Architecture SRI LANKA.



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