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Fraternitas

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From the Head of College

Preserving IH history
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Greetings to all Alumni and Friends of IH! You are all a part of the history, current and future story of this significant community.

The year has been filled with academic and cultural learning, arts and sport activities, and many celebrations. We have just held the end-of-year valedictory dinners for undergraduates and graduates, and farewelled our Valedicts. The Valedicts are those students who are graduating from university. Those students, who move on to their next phase of life, go with our warmest thanks and good wishes: we thank them for contributing to the IH community in so many ways. There is immense pride in the achievements we have shared with these students, and hope that by being part of the IH melting pot of cultures they start their new journeys with confidence and stronger understanding of themselves and others. Some will continue with further education, many will join the workforce in their chosen profession, but all have experienced the many ways. There is immense pride in the achievements we have shared with these students, and hope that by being part of the IH melting pot of cultures they start their new journeys with confidence and stronger understanding of themselves and others.

International House has always been known for its innovation and forward thinking, including being the first college to welcome women as well as men to live in a University of Melbourne College as equals. But how do we describe International House to potential new students? What does living at International House provide that is unique? Current students have said to me that apart from being able to meet people from so many cultures and countries, it is never being lonely, and having a secure environment. The most obvious result is having life-long friendships across the world. I attend many alumni events here at IH but also in the homelands of many of our alumni in Asia. It is the friends who have been a part of each other’s lives that is most spoken about: some have been friends for more than 50 years! They are the friends who help with contacts, career or financial advice or even lead a Yum Sing toast at a special celebration. They have all experienced living at International House and how this might have changed their perceptions of others, strengthened their own self-knowledge and how they view the world.

I recently heard a presentation on Careers for the 21st Century. The highlights were again emphasising that degrees, although essential, are only the foundation: ‘soft-skills’ and the ability to adapt to the changing workforce are also now extremely important to be able to contribute to the future world of work. We are also advised that, for example, the ‘big four’ accounting firms are not hiring only accounting/finance graduates, with appointments being made to those with other academic backgrounds including STEM (science, technology, engineering and medicine) while reviewing ‘life-experiences’ in making appointments. The provisions at International House have always and will continue to create a rich environment for ‘soft-skill’ learning.

To compete in this changing market, IH needs to keep our facilities up to date and relevant to the changing needs of the students. On the maintenance schedule, we have one final building to totally renovate, although repairs and upkeep never seem to slow down. The summer break ahead will bring a flurry of builders, painters and electricians. This summer will be particularly focused on Wadham – the rooms are quaint and functional but need a total refit to meet contemporary expectations. This all costs money and if you can help with a philanthropic gift please contact me or Tamra Keating, as every donation helps.

I hope you enjoy this addition of Fraternitas. One of our current students Carrie Crawford gives a thought-provoking picture of what the world was like as a gay man in the 1960’s, we have a review of the 2018 IH Theatre Group production The Little Shop of Horrors, and a fascinating report from our students who attend the volunteer program TREAD, still going after all these years.

Finally, in September this year the University of Melbourne thanked and farewelled Professor Glyn Davis AC, who has provided close to 15 years of leadership for the University. Glyn has been a particular supporter and ambassador for the ideals of IH. IH sincerely thanks Professor Davis for his interest in and involvement with IH over the years. In October we welcomed new Vice Chancellor Professor Duncan Maskell who has already been to breakfast with me in the IH Dining Hall. Professor Maskell has a good understanding of the importance of Colleges and in particular of International Houses World Wide as his son lived at IH Chicago on exchange for part of his university study. IH warmly welcomes Professor Maskell and we look forward to working with him.

Thank you to all for your interest and support for IH. This community is as strong as ever as we continue to uphold the ideals of Fraternitas.

Dr Deborah Seifert AM
Head of College
"Thank you to all for your interest and support for IH. This community is as strong as ever as we continue to uphold the ideals of Fraternitas."

Dr Deborah Seifert, Mrs Vi Peterson and Professor Emeritus Frank Larkins at the launch of the history of International House – if you wish to purchase a copy please email tkeating@unimelb.edu.au
How going on exchange changed my perspective

Last semester, I took one of the best decisions ever – going on an exchange to London. The thought of starting all over again, making new friends, adjusting to a new city, culture and university was daunting.

As someone who left the small island of Mauritius to come to study and live in Melbourne, I was definitely not unfamiliar to this drill. But was I ready to do this all over again? I did not think so. I got too comfortable in my own bubble here that I could not imagine leaving. For weeks when I was asked what I was doing next semester, whether I am staying at IH or going on exchange, I would answer “I don’t know”, to which they responded: “you will figure it out.” That was until one of my good friends helped me to really figure it out. She told me that I should take a risk and just go, so that one day, I don’t look back, regret and ask myself what would have happened if I went. It changed my perspective of how to make the most of your student life. Next time you are indecisive about a change in your life, whether it is in terms of changing a job or relocating to a new place, always remember that you will never know until you try. Life can become complacent at times and you can get too used to being in your comfort zone. It is important to spice things up and take a leap of faith and I am glad I took the opportunity to go on Exchange.

"That was until one of my good friends helped me to really figure it out. She told me that I should take a risk and just go, so that one day, I don’t look back, regret and ask myself what would have happened if I went."

In six months, I was able to travel to France. I took my first solo trip to Austria and used travelling apps like Couchsurfing to meet other travellers and locals who would host me and show me around their city. I enjoyed it so much that I went on more solo trips to Czech Republic and Spain. After the exchange program ended, I spent one month in Spain, where I volunteered and worked with autistic people and refugees for three weeks in Madrid. All these travelling experiences inspired more self-confidence, open mindedness and unleashed the fearless and spontaneous side of me that I barely knew existed.

Everything does sound like a dream, but I did encounter some setbacks along the way. For instance, my phone was snatched by a thief when I was texting at the bus stop in London and it happened two days before I left the city. It was a stressful and traumatising event. But, at the end of the day, whether good or bad experiences, they all teach you something.

This whole exchange program taught me so much about myself in 6 months. It changed my perspective of how to spend my student life. Next time you are indecisive about a change in your life, whether it is in terms of changing a job or relocating to a new place, always remember that you will never know until you try. Life can become complacent at times and you can get too used to being in your comfort zone. It is important to spice things up and take a leap of faith and I am glad I took the opportunity to go on Exchange.

Jeteesha Foollee, Bachelor of Commerce
Mauritius
O-Week 2016: a painfully shy, awkward and introverted fresher walked through the doors of IH for the first time, scared and nervous for the year to follow. She kept asking herself, ‘Is this really the right option for me?’, ‘Am I really going to fit in at college?’. This is the girl who had left behind a picture perfect life in Dubai in tears to have to start again in Australia.

Fast forward two years to O-Week 2018. That same awkward fresher is addressing a crowd of 200 people, consisting of the newest set of nervous students and their parents. The journey of self-discovery that this young student undertook at IH over her 3 years here has been transformational. Of course, that student was me, and I can’t even begin to describe the impact IH has had on my life. From the opportunities, to the relationships I’ve forged and all the memories I’ve made, IH has given me the world and more. I’ll be honest and say it was not always an easy journey, but what I had to gain from it all made it so worth it in the end.

I was a quiet student in my first semester, I didn’t have a lot of friends and I didn’t feel like I quite fit in. However, my seniors saw something in me that I didn’t and pushed me to take part in events and activities. After some resistance, I gave in and decided to put myself out there. To this day, I can’t thank my seniors enough for giving me my first taste of the unconditionally supportive and non-judgemental culture that’s so prevalent here. If it wasn’t for the people at IH, I would not be sitting here, as the ex-President of the IHSC writing this article.

I can sit here and list all the things I’ve gotten involved in at IH, however, what I’d like to focus on is the changes in me. I’ve grown as a leader, a team player and most importantly, as a person. To think that a few years ago, all I thought of college was that it was a couple of gardens sandwiched between some buildings is hilarious to me. Now, the walls of this college ooze with the memories of three of the most incredible and transformational years of my life.

These walls housed me during my highest highs and my lowest lows and provided a safe space for me to find myself, and realise what I wanted to be in life. I’ll admit, it all sounds very dramatic, however, the impact that IH has made on my life can only be described as such.

So, to those of you who have yet to start their IH story, I only have one piece of advice for you: immerse yourself in everything you do. Whether it’s through attending activities, organising events or even a bit of banter at the dining hall table, treasure it all. You never realise how quickly it flies by until you’re sitting at the end of your three years, weeks away from graduation. To those of you who have an IH story already, cherish it. The ups, the downs and everything in between. These years of our lives are so telling and the experiences we gain play a huge role in shaping the years after. Thank you for reading my story and I hope this inspires you to create a story of your own.

Prarthana Kanagaratnam, Undergraduate Student Club President 2017–18
It seems only yesterday that I donned the plastic crown and officiated my role as the Graduate President (or “Queen” as I’m better known by the administrative team!) at International House. My advice at the start of the year was simple; to be friendly and respectful, to get involved in IH life and to not be afraid to ask for help when needed. I still stand by those morals which have served me well during my time spent living in the George Hicks Building (GHB).

Living at International House for the last two years has provided a safe environment for me to thrive and develop both personally and professionally. When I nervously arrived at the front entrance on a warm January morning, I could never have imagined the friends I would make or the experiences I would share during my time studying in Melbourne. IH has afforded me the opportunity to try new sports and cultural festivities, strive towards academic excellence and to meet so many wonderful people from Australia and all over the world.

Reflecting on the two years spent at International House, it really is remarkable to see how much the graduate cohort has flourished. It’s almost unbelievable to think that graduates have only been a part of International House since 2015. Fast forward four years and it’s not uncommon to see a friendly graduate at the dining hall at breakfast, another tearing it up on the intercollegiate sports field or a third offering a few words of wisdom (or at least cup of tea!) to our undergraduate compatriots in the shared study spaces. Becoming an ex-officio member of Council alongside the undergraduate president was a historic moment for us at International House. It’s great to see undergraduate and graduates forming a close knit community and really embracing the fraternitas family spirit.

The real joy of living at IH for me has been experiencing a wealth of different cultural experiences whilst undertaking my studies. I think that’s what makes International House really unique. Whilst as students we all share common hardships associated with the enormity of coursework assignments or research deadlines, it is has been amazing to learn about the varying cultural beliefs and celebrations from the 46 nationalities residing at IH. Never has it been so important, given the current political climate, for us all to understand and work together regardless of creed, orientation, race or cultural belief. IH is unusual in that regard as it provides a safe space to facilitate students from all walks of life to live, breathe and learn alongside one another. Not only are there clear benefits in acquiring new language skills and improved cultural understanding, but the friendships made may afford a holiday or two abroad as well!

It may be cliché but I can honestly say that coming to IH was the best decision I made when coming to Australia. Undertaking a PhD can be quite an isolating experience but the support and encouragement I’ve had from my peers and the staff at IH has been nothing short of phenomenal. Whether it may be attending an academic seminar on breast cancer treatment, sharing a cup of tea in the multi-purpose study room late into the night or coming to watch our intercollegiate women’s soccer final, I have always felt loved and supported by my IH family and my home away from home! My time spent at IH may have been short but the friends and memories made will most certainly last a lifetime. For my Welsh readers - Diolch yn fawr am yr atgofion melys!

Dr Hannah Bromley, President of the IH Graduate Student Association 2017–18

Dr Hannah Bromley is a medical doctor from Pembrokeshire in Wales and was President of the IH Graduate Student Association from 2017-2018. She is currently undertaking a jointly funded PhD looking at the treatment of low grade breast cancer at the Universities of Melbourne and Birmingham.
The segments of Rodney Kendall’s life and time at IH play out as though they are a script from a hollywood film although the man who sits before me is nothing but humble as he describes his incredible achievements; from naive country boy singing hymns with his family on a Sunday night at Grandma’s to international success playing piano for countless shows all over the world.

Kendall attended International House during his third and fourth years at The University of Melbourne in 1966 and 1967 whilst he pursued his main passion in life, music. Having grown up surrounded by a methodist upbringing with his father as a sunday school superintendent, International House was one of the colleges that welcomes people from all denominations just as it is today.

“IH was very open to anyone really,” Kendall recalls.

And so he became the second music student to reside at IH after his initial interview by Sam Dimmick, to which our dining hall is his namesake.

“I absolutely remember that interview, he was fairly pompous, but he was also warm...I was afraid I was going to muck up the interview on the basis of my lack of knowledge on politics. I think he was interested also in having some arts type students and at the time there were a lot of engineers, doctors, and so on and only one other music student and only a handful or arts students so I think he wanted to broaden the type of student that was here as well. I always got on really well with him but I found that interview pretty intimidating.”

**What were your early days of IH like?**

“I loved moving in, I loved my room. It was room 99, straight above the door, on the top in the Wadham wing, and I used to look out and see people coming and going. And it was relatively new then so I just thought it was great, I thought this is fantastic.”

Despite not coming from a musical family, Kendall has always been interested in music and surrounded by it from a young age.

“On Sunday nights we’d all go to Grandma’s and in typical fashion there’d be singing of hymns around the piano and my aunts would play the organ at the Methodist church, so there was always music around me...”

There are two things that decided his musical path in life. Having been unable to participate in sports at a young age due to his leg being in caliper he pursued other activities, but more importantly he vividly recalls the moment his aspirations for music were sealed.

“I remember going to the State Theatre... there was a guy playing an organ, and he came up out of the ground playing and I thought that was just mind boggling, it was fantastic. So I just thought, that’s what I want to do, I want to be able to be in this wonderful place, this kind of palace of dreams as they’re called- you know all these movies and you escape from the real world into some other world...”

From starting piano when he was nine, Kendall went on to do a degree in music as well as a Diploma of Education and began teaching at Geelong College Preparatory School becoming the boardmaster. He also worked throughout the tech school system, becoming one of only four teachers with a music degree at the time. Moving to Murrumbeena the next year, Kendall developed great bonds with the students and after successful musical performances, they decided to write their own for the following year. It was then that he was offered the opportunity a lifetime-the position of musical director of original Godspell in 1971. He declined the position initially but after spending time over the school holidays his passion was reignited and he ‘took the plunge’ into theatre work.

“You didn’t know if the show was going to run for three weeks or two months and I remember I resigned on the first day back and I had a week before I started in Godspell and my father thought that was dreadful to be out of work for a week. But I was really lucky because I had three years work with Godspell.”

For the next 30 years Kendall worked in music, playing incredible, and critically acclaimed shows like ‘The Magic Show’, ‘Beauty and the Beast’, Melbourne Theatre Company’s ‘Into the Woods’, the revival of ‘Les Miserables’, ‘Showboat’ and many more. He also spent over a decade with the Yamaha Music Foundation to produce textbooks for piano.

Kendall has had an incredible and long-lasting career, but not only has he traversed the often harsh world of musical theatre, as an openly gay man he has lived through the gay rights movements, the AIDS crisis, and has now seen the legalisation of gay marriage in Australia.

“I knew I was [gay] in grade 5... I didn’t think, I just knew that I liked this person, I didn’t have a name to put to it, certainly no idea that it was really bad or shocking.”

Then he discovered being gay was viewed as a bad thing.

“We were running around playing chasey and I was trying to catch [my brother] for some reason and we were running around calling eachother ‘poofter’. We had no idea what the word meant, we just knew that it was a word you used if you wanted to slag off someone else, and our mother heard us, and she stopped us. She said ‘don’t use that word’ and we said ‘well why not’ and she said...”because that’s a man who loves another man’... Immediately I felt really bad because I thought well that’s what I am, I’m a ‘poofter’ and I felt terrible. That’s the first time I had any word for it, and I knew that the word was a bad word and it meant that you were bad...”

Current IH student Carrie Crawford speaks with alumnus, Rodney Kendall

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Despite this initiation into the challenges faced by gay men, Kendall maintained a positive outlook.

“Once I knew what I was...I knew I’d done nothing wrong. I’m just being me and I’m just different. And I thought I was the only one in the world.”

Kendall was at university during the rise of gay rights but found some organised gay societies too much for his reserved personality.

“... I wanted to meet other gay people, was desperate to meet other gay people, in a way, they frightened me.”

His first foray into gay life in Melbourne was in the party scene with the help of two new, gay friends during SWOTVAC in 1966.

“They were fantastic because they told me all about gay life and gay life as it was then but it was the two weeks before exams, until the end of the year I did study, but I was so distracted. The first thing they did was take me to a party and so for the first time I saw a whole lot of other people, I just could not believe it-and they were like me...”

In a time where being homosexual was illegal and police were infamous for their attacks on gay men, Kendall was able to have his first relationship at IH.

“We just clicked... and that was the beginning of this three year relationship. I didn’t let my studies slide but I remember we’d either be in his room or my room. We hardly slept apart for the whole year. I mean, other students must have known, but we were never confronted, no one ever said anything, we were always together, but he wouldn’t hug or kiss or hold each others hand but we were just so preoccupied with each other...it was a very intense relationship.”

Do you wish you could’ve been more open?

“Absolutely. To think that a person of my age then, knows that they can marry when they get older, they can have a normal life, you can date someone. We never dated, you couldn’t walk up to someone if you didn’t know they were gay.”

But Kendall has always been much more than his sexuality.

“I was always myself first...I was always a teacher first, Rodney first, and gay was down the list.”

Did your time at IH shape you?

“I think gay people are much more aware of the lack of tolerance, but I think the college itself was all about tolerance, so I learned, and had that further emphasized during my time here.”

Does International House create an environment where lasting friendships can be created?

“The student opposite me in 98, I was 99. I saw him at the reunion. That was the first time we’d met up in some time. We were very very close and although we didn’t see each other for ages and ages, that’s a friendship that’s lasted the distance. The main friendship I had was with someone I had my first relationship with and we came along together to the reunion, he’s married now and he came with his partner and I came with my partner, but we’ve always stayed in touch, constantly, all that time.”

Is there anything you’d like people to know?

“It’s important to be yourself... if you are wondering about coming out, you are no better supported than you are today. There will always be some idiot that will slag you off but you should be confident. If not telling your parents makes you lead this horrible double life, if it affects your life and your being and blossoming as a person, then you should tell them, even though it’s going to cause heartache...you should always be who you really are.”

Carrie Crawford is studying a Bachelor of Arts at the UOM and comes from Korumburra, in rural Victoria. Carrie is the outgoing LTGBI representative within the student club.
2018 in Colour
I first heard of International House as a Social & Community Planning undergraduate student in Adelaide. The back story of its development from post-WW2 Menzies Australia in the context of the White Australia Policy had always been of interest and seemed quite utopian yet strongly welcomed to develop in the heat of the Cold War.

After moving to Melbourne for work and study in mid-2015, I was fortunate enough to interview with our late former Deputy Head of College Mr Peter Cole and our Head of College Dr Deborah Seifert AM. My gender neutral resume led to them both expecting a Samantha not a Samuel to walk through the door, bringing with it a better representation of facial hair that inner North Melbourne has. Although only knowing Peter Cole for a few months before his unfortunate passing, he did leave a lasting impression of the principles and ideals that International House was established on and carries through to today.

A lot has changed around the college since I first arrived. There is now Wi-Fi throughout, the MPSR has been built and we naturally seem to see the Graduate students a lot more around the college. A lot has also remained the same, we still seem to do very well in ICAC events and sports (rowing is developing), I’m still nutmegging Amaan and Rohan weekly and I can still hear Kieran laughing no matter what.

Tutoring UniMELB subjects at International House has been an interesting experience and a highly enjoyable one. Watching successive, somewhat quiet undergraduate students in their first semester develop over the years into eventual IHSC Presidents and Executive Members has been great. In relation to International Students coming to Australia, it is easy to forget just how much of a new experience Melbourne and University itself actually is. Many tutorials have been prepared and never used over the years as questions of “What is LMS?”, “I can submit hand-written, right?”,”Can I submit in French?”, “Harvard Referencing is basically the same as APA and Chicago isn’t it?” take immediate preference and IH provides a welcomed landing pad as students get used to their new surroundings.

As former Scholar in Residence Dr Pickering told me when I first started, overall the students make International House what it is and looking back over the past three years later, this definitely rings true. Helping to facilitate with them what they want out of their college experience as Dimmick Tutor this year has been great, and I believe immediate-past IHSC President PK and VP Belle did an excellent job throughout 2017/2018 with their excellent Executive and this year Naomi and Irene can continue to build on the excellent work they, Connor, Cindy and Brett all have done in recent years too. Many thanks to recent GSA presidents Dave and Dr Dr Hannah for all their work too.

I thank our Deputy Head of College Dr Nick Hill for all his guidance and assistance throughout the year. He has done a remarkable job wearing different hats, coming into a diverse environment. He’s re-emphasised the importance of taking a consultative approach and remaining focussed on the big picture while taking the daily small details into account, and has demonstrated to all matching socks, shoelaces and pocket squares are all really a necessity. I’ve had a great working relationship with the day staff about the college and really thank all the staff for helping make IH what it is for the students. All the best to students returning to IH for 2019 and if your IH experience is coming to an end in 2018, I am sure you will also look back at your years in IH as some of your most cherished and important.

Sam Miles
2018 Dimmick Tutor, International House
A Valedict's Reflection

When I moved to Melbourne as an international student, a huge priority was finding a place to live where I not only felt at home but could also experience everything that Australia has to offer. Living at International House has gifted me with such an experience, and I can say without a doubt that there truly isn't any other community that can provide such incredible opportunities.

Culture and Openness

International House, consisting of a near 50:50 ratio between local and international students, has taught me to appreciate different cultures. I have been blessed to be able to meet and befriend people that come from all around Australia and all over the world. I really love that at International House we are able to embrace and celebrate unity in diversity – valuing everyone’s unique set of talents, attributes, and views. While one might imagine that such cultural differences would make it hard to form bonds with fellow students, the opposite is true. It is beautiful to see people from very different backgrounds form special bonds of friendship over shared experiences at International House. International House has taught me to truly appreciate cultures and people from all around the world, their similarities, and their differences.

Because International House hosts people from varying cultures, I have acquired an inclination towards openness in my decision making and in my thought processes. At International House, I feel like people respect you and admire you for who you are. We cherish each other’s perspectives because we know that we all come from different backgrounds and cultures that put emphasis or importance on different aspects of life. This is manifested in the various events and activities held in IH that we are all encouraged to participate in. At IH, I have tried and succeeded at more new things than I ever have before like acting in a musical, performing in a band, and playing sports like Quidditch; I fully believe this is because of the massive support I have received from my peers here at college. We motivate and encourage each other to try new things and more importantly to enjoy it. Because of the melting pot of culture we have at IH, I have become more open to expanding my horizons and fulfilling my ambitions.

Learning

One extremely helpful opportunity that we receive at International House is an extra avenue for learning, which is what students come to University to do. International House provides the best residential and non-residential tutors to its students, placing an emphasis on learning both academically and culturally. Aside from this, being in a residential setting with other students that have similar passions for learning have truly motivated me to strive for excellence in whatever I do. These students and tutors have acted as an amazing support system for my learning endeavors, and continue to be great motivators that I know I can count on for life after college.

Family

Lastly, I am grateful and blessed to call International House my family. International House truly has taught me to make the most of all the opportunities afforded to me. I have learned to treasure all the experiences I’ve had here and to cherish all the friendships and memories that I’ve made at the college. It is extremely fitting that International House’s motto, “Fraternitas,” is that of fellowship and camaraderie. I know that once I have left International House, the bonds and experiences that I’ve made at college will not change but rather remain with me for the rest of my life. International House is truly my home away from home, and I will never forget what it has contributed to my life.

Adrian Go, Bachelor of Commerce, University of Melbourne, Phillipines
Preserving IH history

This year the International House Library has expanded its initiative of cataloguing, preserving and digitizing the rich history of IH dating back to the 1950s.

The project covers not only still images but also other historical materials including videos, copies of Satadal (the yearly magazine), trophies and other objects. Understanding the value of preserving history and the importance of mitigating the possibility of loss or damage to materials, we have prioritized digitization at the IH Library this year. Digitization guarantees long-term access and eliminates the need to use obsolete technology (such as videotape players). Furthermore, digitization allows us to store and transfer data with ease if required.

With the goal of preserving these images at the highest standards, we have followed the image capture standards set out by the National Library of Australia.

Digitization also enhances the ease of searchability of materials and maximizes research efficiency. The entire archival collection will progressively be added to a new IH Archives database. Furthermore, selected records will be accessible via Museum Victoria’s “Victorian Collections” site, an online center of cultural heritage for museums and other organizations in Victoria https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/international-house#collection-records.

An example of a recent project involved collecting archived materials about the IH shop. The Shop, initially named “Ye Olde Shoppe”, started in the basement of the Scheps building and operated every weeknight and Sunday night after dinner (Selamat Datang [orientation handbook] 1977). Its aim was to provide “a wide variety of goods at low prices” at a time when there were not so many shops open in the local area. Fast-forward to today, and the Shop operates in the Junior Common Room during weeknights. Pictures of the Shop from the 1970s show some of the products that were sold: toothpaste, washing powder, biscuits, chocolate, soft drinks, ‘Milo’ noodles, tinned food, stationery and even bananas for just 1c. It provided opportunities for IHers to gain experience in marketing, customer service and stock control as well as a place to gather and socialize. The opening of the Shop was a socially significant event in the history of IH, and such historical information would have not been known today if it was not for the archived materials.

Abhishek Kansakar, Library and Archives Assistant

"a wide variety of goods at low prices"
For me, “home” was always a complicated subject. Did you want to know where I was currently studying school, or where my parents were from, or even where I was born? It didn’t get easier once high school was finished as people continued to ask if I was returning home for University, often implying that our definitions of home were the same. Yet, having been born in Tasmania to Kiwi parents, Melbourne offered me an opportunity to classify my nation of birth, my home. Couple that with the vibrant, ease of city lifestyle and Melbourne has made a complicated subject slightly simpler.

Once I decided that I wanted to go to The University of Melbourne and live in the city, not surprisingly I needed to find a place to live. My parents encouraged me to look at residential colleges as they offered a chance to be in a community, in close proximity to the university. I graduated from high school in Malaysia, which meant I didn’t have the chance to visit the colleges in person, so what research I did had to be online. It was when I was going through the websites that I saw International House (IH). The name itself already felt familiar to me as I had been going to international schools previously, and had lived abroad my whole life. I thought that if there was anywhere that could give me a home away from home experience, then applying to this college would be the best chance.

Coming up on two years later, I can tell you that I wasn’t wrong. It’s at IH that I’ve made friends to eat lunch with at university between classes and where I wake up at 6 am to go cheer on the college at the soccer pitch across the road, in the cold, albeit with multiple layers on. However, it also gave me an environment in which I felt compelled and comfortable enough to get involved with. This took the form of being involved in the yearbook, the national night celebrations, and captaining the softball team. It now takes the form of being secretary for the International House Student Club Committee (IHSC). This role makes me one of the five membered executive and involves liaising with house, coordinating events and an overall management of information and logistics.

This role has been more important for me then I could have ever known when I first decided to run for election. It not only is something to be able to put on my resume, but it gave me a newfound confidence in terms of my ability to organise a committee, as well as my own personal life. I’m still able to explore Melbourne and eat dinner in new places with my friends, but I also have a responsibility. I see this as not only benefitting my ability to not only be efficient in the workplace but also in my life as a whole. Leadership positions in college give people the chance to learn how to balance their studies, their social lives, and their responsibilities to something bigger themselves, all while being supported in a safe environment.

IH not only gave me a home in the normal sense of the word, but a home that challenged me and shaped me, so that I know I can continue to make homes for myself long after it’s my time to leave.

Jessica Winefield, Bachelor of Arts
Citizen of the world – Nationality Australian, last high school Malaysia, parents live in Trinidad
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Mr Sjoerd Bakker
Mr David Barnes
Dr Mark Burgemeister
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Dr Nicholas Cheng
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This list is a record of all donors to International House from 18 September 2017 until 29 September 2018. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If there is an error, please contact International House on +61 3 9347 6655 and we will amend our records.
Reunions

See all the photographs from International House reunions and events by visiting our Facebook page www.facebook.com/internationalhousemelbourne

1957 – 1969 IH Reunion
Thursday 23 May 2019

1979 IH Reunion
Thursday 16 May 2019

1989 IH Reunion
Thursday 29 August 2019

1999 IH Reunion
Thursday 5 September 2019

2009 IH Reunion
Thursday 12 September 2019
**International House Council Members**

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**Deputy Chair**
Dr Joshua Wilson QC

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Ms Naomi Smith, Undergraduate Student Club President

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Council Members
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**Director of Marketing and Advancement**
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Mr Aaron Lim

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Mr Alex Cummaudo

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**2018-19 Undergraduate Student Executive**

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Sahil Pawa

**Fresher Representative**
Adrian Go

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Haylie Ho

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Lucksmitha Mohanraj

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**Male Sports Representative**
Sahil Pawa

**Fresher Representative**
Adrian Go

**General Member for Shop**
Naomi Smith

**Globe Editor A**
Haylie Ho

**International Liaison Officer**
Lucksmitha Mohanraj

**International Liaison Officer**
Niyanta Lekha

**Community Involvement Representative**
Jasper Freeman

**ICAC Representative**
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Activities Treasurer
Sophia Booij
General Member A
Felix Powrie
General Member B
Conrad Gustini
Arts & Music Representative
Sophia Kalo
Queer Community Representative
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Ayu Agriani
Communications Officer
Aditi Gupta
I have always loved musical theatre, forever in awe of all the hard work that goes into creating what looks like pure magic of the stage. For the longest time, theatre has moved audiences, making people feel the most familiar of emotions in the most unfamiliar of settings. Deciding to direct a show for the first time ever was something I never thought I’d have the opportunity to do, but I took on the role nonetheless, with much passion and excitement.

The end result was a spectacular two-hour long production performed across a long weekend in The University of Melbourne’s Union House Theatre, starring a wonderful cast and crew of over fifty IH’ers.

The International House Theatre Group’s performance of Little Shop of Horrors, marked not only our theatre group’s return to musicals, but also our return to the University’s largest theatre after a lengthy hiatus, the Union Theatre. Albeit a popular musical, we wanted to take this special opportunity to reinvent the production by putting on a show that was spectacular and, quite literally larger than life.

Creating our very own Little Shop is an achievement I will forever be proud of, and one that I am extremely grateful for, with much passion and excitement. The end result was a spectacular two-hour long production performed across a long weekend in The University of Melbourne’s Union House Theatre, starring a wonderful cast and crew of over fifty IH’ers.

The show explores so much more than just the greed of a man-eating plant and its world conquest. Little Shop of Horrors is a story about human nature and behaviour, and about how our dreams and goals can bring out the best and worst in us. Every single character in this show, although often flawed and irrational, is at their core a very real and heartfelt individual, with their own deep desires, dreams, and ambitions. To bring this story alive, with our own genuine actors, crew, and musicians, allowed us to create a show that reflected exactly what makes IH so special and celebrate all the hard work, talent, and uniqueness of all of the students involved. Whether you are an avid musical theatre fan, or this is your first time seeing a show, we hope Little Shop of Horrors captured your hearts as it has taken a very special place in ours, and has definitely made International House history. We eagerly await our next big production in 2019, and can’t wait for you to join us again!

Karolina Judd (2018 Production Director)
Studying Music at the University of Melbourne, from Western Australia.

IHTG Play Review: Little Shop of Horrors
TREAD stands for the Thai Rural Education and Development Project, a programme run by International House students every year. Each summer, TREAD members travel to the rural province of Buriram in Thailand, where they reside for over a month and immerse themselves in the local community. Whilst volunteering at a government school, TREAD members also seek to improve the sanitation, hygiene and health education of students in other smaller schools in the region.

The 22nd phase of TREAD, like the teams before them, constituted of four core members: Sophia Booij (19 years) and Hugo van Buuren (19 years) both from Australia, Erica Jin (19 years) from Australia and China, and myself, Mira Gunawansa (20 years) from Sri Lanka. After some travel around Thailand over the New Year, we travelled to Nang Rong with James Field, a member of the 21st TREAD phase, and two translators, Non and Proud, to Nang Rong, Buriram.

Together, we taught English at the Rajaprachanugroh 51 School, where we also lived, for four weeks. Our lessons spanned all grade levels, from Grade 3 to 12, with three skill sets between each year group. We adapted our lesson plans to the ability of each class, with a heavy focus on spoken English and articulation. The students were very knowledgeable in reading and writing, but did not have confidence in their pronunciation of English - this was likely due to their lack of exposure to spoken conversation. Whilst at the school, we also conducted two English Camps - one for the teachers and one for the students - both taught general conversation, time, weather, social etiquette and food.

In addition to teaching English in Thailand, TREAD focuses on developing adequate hygiene, sanitation and health education programs in smaller, lower-funded schools in Buriram. As the TREAD teams before us, we subsequently travelled to six other schools in the region. These schools were significantly smaller than Rajaprachanugroh 51 and were in need of funds for projects that would improve their students’ health. With the help of Khun Mechai Viravaidya, founder of the TREAD Program and infamous Bamboo School in Thailand, meetings with said schools’ staff were facilitated to develop project proposals to improve students’ health. These included the construction of a toothbrush station, a hygienic kitchen to prepare meals, and a localised water purification system amongst many others. We are currently debating which proposal to fund and realise - the other five proposals will be forwarded to the Population and Community Development Association in Thailand for consideration.

Last year’s TREAD Team directed their funds to the construction of toilets for a pre-school (photographs included below!) - the expression of gratitude the staff had for our program was incredible. They stressed that the project brought their community closer together and benefited many who did not have the same hygienic facilities at home. To the TREAD Team of 2016/17, you have done this community a great service.

We implore all who read this to contribute to the TREAD Program in every way possible - donation big or small, we guarantee that everything is given back to the communities we seek to help in Buriram, Thailand. These schools value every cent donated towards the betterment of their livelihoods, and show this through tireless efforts to make their projects as efficient and sustainable as possible.

To make a donation to the 2017 TREAD project, email ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.

Mira Gunawansa, from Sri Lanka studying a Bachelor of Arts

TREAD was founded by IH alumni Khun Mechai Viravaidya over 22 years ago. It allows the students of International House to make positive contribution in the international community and to strengthen cross-cultural communication and learning.
The following countries are represented in the International House community

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