In this issue:

Farewell to our 'Hipster' Head of College
Associate Professor Jane Munro AM

The new Centre for Learning and Living at International House
Contents:

- Farewell to our ‘Hipster’ Head of College 04
- Past and current IH Student Club President Reports 06
- The International Criminal Court and the pursuit of global justice 08
- Café International Report 10
- Philanthropy and Support i-v
- Giving the Gift of Life in Fiji vi
- A Tutor’s perspective 11
- Leaps and Bounds: The Sport Report 12
- Community Events 13
- Harmony in the Northern Territory 14
- Visiting Guest Speakers 15
- Alumni Stories 16
- IH Staff and Student Executive 19

08
The International Criminal Court and the pursuit of global justice
The IH Council Oration

10
The Orient Express
Café International Report

13
Community Events

14
Harmony in the Northern Territory

16
Harry Leong PSM
1962-64 resident reflects on the early days of IH
Farewell to our ‘Hipster’ Head of College

By Caitlin Edwards, 2010 Student Club President

It’s always strange to step back in time, to a place that was once your world. Entering the International House dining hall brings back great memories, yet it feels like just yesterday I was eating dinner beneath these flags.

I sat down to tea with my Head of College, Associate Professor Jane Munro AM, bringing with me questions from International House alumni around the world.

We began our chat by reflecting on the best compliment Jane had ever received about the College. This came from Sir Edward Woodward, a former Chancellor of the University who said to Jane upon her appointment, “I’ve always felt that International House was the jewel in the crown of the University.” This is a view Jane shares.

Although as I learnt throughout our discussion, it is a status for which Jane is reluctant to take any credit.

When asked about her accomplishments as Head of College, Jane inundated me with stories of students’ success. Jane speaks proudly of what has been achieved during her eleven years, and in particular the way the college has drawn together as a community.

All this talk of student activities prompts the question, what sort of ‘IH’er’ would Jane have been? Although laughing at the prospect, Jane thinks that she would have liked to stay in the Scheps building; she is fond of the curved rooms that look out over the trees. “I would have been involved in the performing arts. I would have loved it. My two best friends when I went to Sydney University three hundred thousand years ago were from Malaysia and Singapore. I would have preferred this to any of the other colleges that did not have an international intention and character, because I would have found them boring.”

An important part of being an IH’er is learning the fresher dance. When asked for her song choice, Jane initially responded, “That’s too hard. I’m a nerd really, or as someone once told me, ‘Oh you’re such a hipster.’” We finally settled on a rhythmic song her big sisters used to listen to on their record player, Bill Haley’s Rock around the Clock.

When asked about her accomplishments as Head of College, Jane inundated me with stories of students’ success. Jane speaks proudly of what has been achieved during her eleven years, and in particular the way the college has drawn together as a community.

Jane’s time at International House has also re-energised her interest in contemporary actions and thinking about the Sino-Japanese relationship, which she will no doubt contribute to as she moves on to her next role at the University of Melbourne’s Asia Institute. Although Jane is well-versed in this history of these relations, being at International House has allowed Jane to interact with students from Chinese and Japanese Universities and revisit Shanghai and Tokyo with ‘different eyes’, an experience Jane describes as educative and transformational.
One of the burning questions an International House alumnus wanted to ask was what is Jane’s favourite Peter Cole moment? There are plenty to choose from. Entertaining and marvelous high table announcements, or perhaps the image of Peter dressed as an emergency building controller at fire drills, complete with Dalmatian by his side (Jane noted that ‘PC’ doesn’t just mean politically correct, it also means Police Constable). Along with the interesting chats with students and Vassi’s muffins, I’m sure Peter Cole is one of the things Jane will miss about International House. Jane describes Peter as being scrupulously fair and strong, characteristics that make people feel confident in the decisions he makes.

Turning to her hopes for the future, Jane would like to see more countries added to the International House network; in particular students from Africa, South America and the Middle East. “I’d also like to have more Muslim students here, so we have a greater capacity to get to know each other as people.” This observation beautifully captures International House’s mission, and demonstrates why Jane is one of the College’s great ambassadors.

On behalf of all the students of International House, I’d like to thank Jane for her wonderful contribution to the College. International House comes into our lives at such a pivotal point in our development, and shapes us for the better. Your willingness to see the student body as a partner allowed us to take ownership of our college experience and pursue the initiatives that you celebrate. For this reason, our successes are yours.

Caitlin Edwards is now studying at the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies in London and is due to complete her studies in 2015.

Dr Deborah Seifert will take over from Jane as Head of College in January 2015. Deborah has a wealth of experience in the philanthropic and education sectors, and her former positions have included Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, CEO of Philanthropy Australia, Head of University College at the University of Melbourne and Head of Fintona Girls’ School. We look forward to welcoming Dr Seifert to the IH community.
A Change of Heart

It’s that time of year again when we say goodbye to another good year at International House, and to a much loved and well respected Student Club President.

International House is a very humbling place. I say so not because of its history, the values or the people who had the vision to create this college. I say so because of what it is now. While writing this article, I think back to how IH was founded; how a group of individuals had the vision to create a space for overseas students to live and interact with locals while completing their studies. IH was created during turbulent times, when foreigners were not as welcome as they are now.

Society has changed to accommodate a modernizing world, yet it would seem that IH was already waiting at the finish line, waiting for everyone else to catch up.

Diversity doesn’t just mean we have different origins; it means we all have different futures as well. Everyone comes to IH for different reasons. Some because they want to experience the college life, some come for the diversity; there are even those who are just looking for a bed and someone who will cook their meals. Yet whatever someone expects from IH, they always leave with more than they expected. In just a year of college, a student is exposed to almost 300 students hailing from the farthest corners of the world. They get to partake in an amazing array of sports activities from footy to table tennis, swimming to badminton. They can join a host of student led clubs as well as attend student organised activities almost every week.

We don’t imprison anyone within our walls; there is a strong community outreach program as well as many intercollegiate activities for people to take part in so that they can expand their horizons.

Over the three years that I have spent at IH, I have seen six national nights, three Café Internationals, attended two balls and a host of other events. None of these events would have been anything special without the people who made it possible. We have a reputation amongst all the other colleges as the place where everyone is friendly and easy to talk to. This is not some made up stereotype, this is a truth. We keep it that way every day, whether it is by talking freely with anyone in the dining hall or by mixing with people in our common room. Sometimes the strongest bonds are formed after being thoroughly humiliated in a game of ping-pong in the games room. IH has it all, and I have spent enough time here to have experienced everything.

Over the past year, the student committee and I have worked hard to not only maintain but to strengthen the IH community by bringing everyone closer. It was a grueling task filled with obstacles, but it was one that I can look back on with pride.

I will never forget my IH experience, no one ever does. My time at IH is coming to an end, but the spirit and values that this college was built on lives on inside me and everyone that passes through its doors.
Great Times Ahead

Brett Stone, Student Club President 2014 – 2015

“Fratenitas underpins our everyday existence here at International House. Although we are a group of different individuals, from very different backgrounds we are brought together in this wonderful place and together we go through the trials and tribulations of University life. Across national and cultural divides, together we learn and together we grow. Together we are a community of IHers.”

Before coming to IH, I was a very closed-minded individual. I grew up in a small rural Victorian town. I had never left the state of Victoria for any significant amount of time and only visited Melbourne a handful of times. My knowledge about the outside world was very limited. I recall at age 12 coming down to Melbourne and being astonished by the huge skyscrapers that lined the CBD area and wondering whether or not other cities around the world had buildings as huge as Melbourne’s. How naive I was about the outside world. Because of this my experience at IH opened my eyes up to the outside world more so than most people. It was within IH that I learnt about other cultures and it was within IH that I became motivated to take a leave of absence in order to travel, work and volunteer overseas for one year in China.

Although I had very little exposure to other cultures and countries, I was always fascinated by them. The exchange students at my small country high school could not avoid the bombardment of questions I would dish out to them on a daily basis, ranging from questions about life back home to questions about customs and practices that seemed alien to me at the time (a Spanish siesta afternoon nap, the ‘strange’ eating habits of a Japanese exchange student). My curiosity for other cultures was always there, however due to my circumstances and upbringing I never had the chance to explore the world in order to learn more. So I knew that after graduating from high school, IH was the right place to apply for.

For me, having the opportunity to live at IH is a huge blessing that I am incredibly fortunate and grateful to have. It is an opportunity that would be far out of my reach were it not for the existence of the University of Melbourne’s Dawn Wade Scholarship. I come from a financially disadvantaged household where overseas travel and prime located residential colleges (such as IH), were out of the question. As a result, in 2012 when I received the news that I would live in International House, the college of my dreams for the entirety of my course, it was both the happiest and most exciting day of my life. I recognised that it was a significant turning point in my life. Upon some reflection, it’s amazing to see how much I have grown. Living here has not only opened my eyes up to the world but also enabled me to discover myself.

IH is a multicultural melting pot, a community and, for me, a blessing. It is a place that has significantly altered my life and who I am. It is a place I will forever be linked to and have a deep emotional connection for. I really look forward to continuing to be a part of its extended community next year as the Student Club President and for many years to come.
The International Criminal Court and the Pursuit of Global Justice

Professor Tim McCormack is Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School and the Special Adviser on International Humanitarian Law to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. He gave the International House Council Oration lecture on Thursday 27 March 2014, later broadcast on ABC Radio National. Following is an edited extract.

They were lofty words – an extremely impressive oratory. The question that I’m keen to ask now is how, as an international community, we’re tracking in trying to even come close to fulfil them? This year, 2014 is the 21st anniversary of the UN Security Council’s decision to establish the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide and the establishment in its aftermath, again by the UN Security Council, of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Eleven years ago in March 2003 the Rome Statute had entered into force, and the foundation judges – the foundation prosecutor and deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court were sworn in – in a ceremony in The Hague. With that combination of milestones, it seems to me a good opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved, especially in light of the claims that Kofi Annan made all those years ago.

We’ve had international criminal courts and tribunals before. In the aftermath of World War II, the Nuremberg and Tokyo War Crimes Trials – and for all the (often substantive) criticisms levelled against them, those two trials stand for major achievements, precedents in the international community’s attempt to deal with those responsible for egregious atrocities.

We aren’t talking anymore about an acceptable standard of establishing a tribunal by the winners of a war to be imposed on the losers, but they paved a way, and in their path, although it took four and a half decades, came the ICTY - the tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the ICTR - for Rwanda, the Extraordinary Criminal Chambers for Cambodia, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon; all of them ad hoc tribunals set up to deal with specific conflict situations. The International Criminal Court is an attempt to advance beyond that model – to create a permanent court with at least theoretically the jurisdiction to deal with alleged crimes under the Rome Statute wherever they occur in the world.

How many dictators and despots were there in that period that should have been held to account for the acts that they perpetrated so often on their own civilian populations? Idi Amin, Pol Pot, Nicolai Ceausescu, Augusto Pinochet – just to be geographically fair – but there were plenty of them.

I’ve been looking forward to tonight, and I want to start off, if I can, with a quote from the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. On the occasion on the 18 July 1998 at the ceremony for opening for signature of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, what UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said is this:

“In the prospect of an International Criminal Court lies the promise of universal justice. That is the simple and the soaring hope of this vision. We are close to its realisation. We will do our part to see it through till the end. We ask you to do yours in our struggle to ensure that no ruler, no state, no junta and no army anywhere can abuse human rights with impunity. Only then will the innocence of distant wars and conflict know that, they too may sleep under the cover of justice, that they too have rights, and that those who violate those rights will be punished.”
So, over the last 10 years it’s important to note that leaders around the world are on notice now, that there is an International Criminal Court that may exercise jurisdiction over them, and this, for some leaders is a very, very real issue.

The second major achievement is that many countries have transformed their domestic criminal law as a consequence of the International Criminal Court being established, and Australia is certainly one of those. There has been, in this country a bloodless, fortunately, revolution of our domestic criminal law, at least when it comes to the implementation of International Criminal Law. Before we became a State Party to the Rome Statute our implementing legislation to make various international crimes be acknowledged as crimes in Australian Domestic Criminal Law was patchy. We had some legislation in relation to war crimes. We had some legislation into some crimes against humanity, torture and hostage-taking specifically, but there were all sorts of gaps in relation to genocide, and other crimes against humanity. Certainly, in relation to war crimes in the context of a non-international armed conflict, there was nothing in the legislation at all. Now that’s radically changed, and it has changed as a consequence of the implementation of the Rome Statute into Australian Domestic Law, which has resulted in a new division – Division 268 of our Commonwealth Criminal Code Act, which includes almost 100 new crimes, all based on Rome Statute crimes. What’s happened in Australia has been repeated in many other places around the world, and that I think is a significant development. There are also many countries that are taking alleged war crimes or other international crimes much more seriously at the domestic level.

You could say that the system is better than anything that preceded it, which was no permanent court at all, and that it’s in an evolutionary process because it’s certainly an advance over anything that’s gone before. But it’s not what we need as an international community or what we should desire, and those of us who claim to be committed to the goal of global justice still have heaps of work to do. I’m prepared to continue to support the work of the court in the hope that it can become more effective, but not without conceding the limitations to its jurisdiction.

Listen to the complete lecture on the ABC Radio National Big Ideas website: http://www.abc.net.au/radionnational/programs/bigideas/2014-04-10/5375570
“It lends itself to romance, my friend. All around us are people, of all classes, of all nationalities, of all ages. For three days these people, these strangers to one another, are brought together. They sleep and eat under one roof, they cannot get away from each other. At the end of three days they part, they go their several ways, never, perhaps, to see each other again.” - Agatha Christie, Murder on the Orient Express (1934)

Passengers file in; tickets are clipped. The train fills; “ALL ABOARD!” The gates close; the whistle blows. Let the journey begin.

Every year in May, International House Melbourne presents Café International, an event as diverse as its students. It is the public face of International House, and the biggest fundraising and performance opportunity of the year. Other than the caveat that these guests must be fed and watered, there are no guidelines or traditions to the event – students simply put on what they want the world to see!

For 2014’s entry into the IH history books, I chose the theme of ‘The Orient Express’, presented by as a train journey through eight different countries culturally represented in residence at our college.

After boarding the train and entering the dining car, our guests were treated to a train journey through England, France, Germany, Italy, China, Korea, Thailand and India. There was classical music, a ukulele group, belly dancing, a saucy German number adapted from the film ‘Cabaret’, some folks who looked suspiciously like the Beatles, Bollywood, traditional Thai dancing, K-Pop, and an enchanting Chinese flute performance. We even had some of our guests join in the fun on the dance floor during our final band!

Throughout the night, we ran a silent auction, raffle, and collected donations, and we are happy to say that we raised a total of $8,743, which will go towards improving student facilities at the discretion of the future Student Club and Student Club Committee.

We also happy to announce a donation of 30 per cent of the funds raised (that is, over $2500) to the charity End Polio Now, a Rotary International supported charity with further ties to the WHO, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This is the second year running that we have supported End Polio Now, and we are very proud to support international eradication efforts in the three remaining polio-endemic nations of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. We are now this close to totally eradicating an incurable disease that once disabled hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, and with the help of donations around the world like ours, I hope that soon the only way we will come across Polio is in a history book.

This achievement would not have been possible without the help of International House staff and our catering company Cater Care, who make generous donations of money, silent auction items, time, and the endlessly valuable wisdom of experience, to help make Café possible every year. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for all their hard work!

Café International is such a fantastic event, and it was my very great pleasure to have organised it this year. I shall treasure the experience as one that, I feel, truly captured the spirit of IH by showing our community how people of many different cultures and backgrounds can come together and work as one. At the end of the evening, our guests also left with a greater appreciation of our brothers and sisters around the world – for one could not experience IH without that sense of international fraternitas.

By Zoe Moorman
Café Coordinator 2014

Next year’s Café International will be held on Saturday 9 May 2015.
PAYING IT FORWARD

Nothing can overcome this graduate student’s determination to return home and help his local community.

“As a qualified medical practitioner from Mbarara in Western Uganda, Dr Daniel Byamukama decided to journey to Australia when he realised he needed further learning to support his community.

“The medical training in my country emphasised clinical skills. When you join the workforce you find that a medical doctor is mostly required to play a leadership role which requires additional competencies like planning, management and research,” said Dr Byamukama.

“The disease burden in my country remains very high yet there is an extreme shortage of qualified health workers.”

The need for specialist public health training led Dr Byamukama to the University of Melbourne to study a Master of Public Health. Dr Byamukama was an Australia Award Scholarship recipient, but needed further support to help cover his living expenses. Earlier this year he was awarded the Kathleen Mary Wyatt Scholarship to live at International House, a scholarship which covered half of his residential fees for one year.

This is not the only time that Dr Byamukama has been the recipient of philanthropic support. The resources that helped him to train as a medical doctor in Uganda and now as a Public Health Specialist in Australia came from taxpayers in the various communities he has been associated with.

“It comes as a moral obligation that I must not only give back to these communities that generously gave to me but also promote the culture of giving whenever I have an opportunity, because I am a testimony that through giving other people’s lives can be changed,” said Dr Byamukama.

“I’m so very grateful for my scholarship and to IH because now I can focus on my academic study.”

Initially Dr Byamukama was attracted to IH because of the academic facilities and tutorial program that it offered its students.

“Having been out of school for quite some time, I was anxious about my readjustment back to student life and being able to focus on my academic goals,” he said.

“I wanted an environment that would support a quick readjustment to student life, and academic achievement, which is exactly what I have found at IH.”

FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS GIVE THANKS

“How are some of the ways you have been involved at IH / or at the University of Melbourne?

Matt: Here at IH I have been a part of successful AFL, cricket and volleyball teams whilst also enjoying competing in hockey and athletics. On top of that I’ve been part of various guest lectures IH have run as well as student club activities such as National Nights. I’ve also been an Arts Mentor for the new batch of undergrads this year at the University of Melbourne, which I have found to be a wonderfully enriching experience.

Monica: I have tried to get involved in as many aspects of IH life as possible. Squash, softball, hockey and netball teams, and off the field as part of the National Nights, Cultural Dinners, Café International, Ball, Play and various committees within the student body. I have also been blessed with the opportunity to coordinate the yearbook Satadal which has enabled me to get to know International House on a whole other level.

Matthew and Monica Bradford

What are you studying at the University of Melbourne?

Matt: Bachelor of Arts majoring in English Literature.

Monica: Bachelor of Arts majoring in Gender Studies and a minor in Psychology.

What do you like most about life at IH?

Matt: The community feel. From the events and sports to the casual conversations you have around college. IH has been an integral part of my university experience and that community feel makes coming home each day an absolute pleasure.

Monica: The family; though we come from different backgrounds and cultures, IH enables a space where everyone can learn about one another while supporting each other through university.

How are some of the ways you have been involved at IH / or at the University of Melbourne?

Matt: Here at IH I have been a part of successful AFL, cricket and volleyball teams whilst also enjoying competing in hockey and athletics. On top of that I’ve been part of various guest lectures IH have run as well as student club activities such as National Nights. I’ve also been an Arts Mentor for the new batch of undergrads this year at the University of Melbourne, which I have found to be a wonderfully enriching experience.

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“The cultural diversity of IH has never ceased to amaze me. Making friends from all over the world, trying cuisines that I have never heard of before, learning about everyone’s differences as well as their similarities – these are only a few things that have made me feel like IH is not just a place to stay but a community to connect with and participate in.”

I am certainly looking forward to being one of the first residents to experience this transition to the “new, new building”.

Jenny Leong, Postgraduate Research Student
International House. An addition of 57
but also a unique community that is
graduate students with accommodation,
their needs for a place to live.
plenty of student housing options around
study options, the CLL has been constructed
phrases heard in these conversations.
"what are the rooms going to be like?" and
"What's the student club going to do?" and
These conversations have been not only
body, especially those who are more senior
This transition to the "new, new building".
I am certainly looking forward to being
Mr Michael Gan & Mrs Angie Gan Yee Sin
Mr Robert & Dr Barbara Fary OAM
Mr Robert & Dr Marie Fels
Mr Michael Gan & Mrs Angie Gan Yee Sin
Mr Julian Gardner & Ms Judith Macdonald
Professor Peter & Dr Valerie Gerrand
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& Mrs Valerie Larkins
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Dr Philip Wong
Mr Joe Zhang

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YES! I want to support International House through my gift of:

I want to make a monthly gift of: $10 ☐ $20 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $200 ☐ Other $ ____________

I want to make an annual gift of: $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ Other $ ____________

Gift duration: 1 year ☐ 2 year ☐ 3 year ☐ Until further notice ☐ Other ____________ years

I want to make a single gift of: $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ $2000 ☐ Other $ ____________

☐ Enclosed is my cheque or money order (Payable to International House, the University of Melbourne)

☐ Please charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Account Number ____________ Expiry Date ____________

Name as appears on card ____________ Signature ____________

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☐ New Building ☐ Other (please specify) ____________

☐ Please contact me to discuss my support to International House
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Please contact me about:

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Your relationship with International House: __________________________________________

Thank you! International House, The University of Melbourne must comply with the Information Privacy Principles of the Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic) when collecting, using or handling personal information. Your details will not be passed on to a third party in breach of privacy laws. The University’s privacy policy is available at www.unimelb.edu/unicsec/privacy
The new Centre for Learning and Living gives us the opportunity to herald a new era for International House, providing outstanding accommodation for graduate students alongside much needed academic facilities.

But most importantly, the Centre will serve to maintain the vitality of International House and continue to meet the changing needs of student learning.

The building is almost complete, but we still need funds to support the continued growth of International House, for now and for the future. Maintenance is expensive and all our buildings need continual upgrade.

No matter how large or small your gift may be, it is deeply valued and will make a significant difference.

There are many ways you can contribute to International House, either directly to building and maintenance, such as the improvement of existing gardens and facilities, the music room, or to scholarships for disadvantaged students.

See page iv for the ways you can support International House.

Jenna Morgenstern-Gaines, Student Donor

“IInternational House carries a culture that encourages students to seek out the difference [in others], and to connect with each other over sports, performing arts, or even food. I have been so impressed with the efforts of my fellow students to open their hearts and step outside their comfort zones, and I know it would not be possible without the comforting and exciting IH environment that lives on long after we leave.”

Jenna was the Student Club President at International House in 2012-13.
"While installing a medical machine might not be showy or flashy or something that makes more than the local paper, I have no doubt that it will save and improve hundreds, probably thousands of lives."

I was given an amazing opportunity this year: to install a $3 million medical imaging machine in Fiji. The project was a collaboration of many different groups, including the Rotary Australia World Community Service in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Suva. I was a part of a team of volunteers who took the pre-loved cardiac catheterisation laboratory, donated by a Sydney hospital at the behest of a Fijian Cardiologist, and installed it in the CWM hospital in the capital of Suva. The whole time I was there we were looked after, helped along, and fed wonderfully by the local staff, many of whom were not paid for their work but merely wanted to help.

I arrived a little bit into the project, due to my studies, and so I missed the bulk of the heavy lifting: removing the old machine and hanging up the new. But my hope that I had escaped the most difficult part of the project was far from true, as I was appointed 'overseer' of the second major task of installation: cabling.

The new machine contained approximately fifty kilometres of cables, all of which had to be woven up into the roof, winding their way in between the operation room, the control room, the server room, back to the control room, then under the floor to the table in the operation room again. It was no small godsend that the team who had packed up the machine had tied together the cables in their relevant bundles, even if we did have to un-tie and re-tie them to make it all fit, it was helpful to have the correct clusters together. The stakes were high, as a misplaced cable would at best cause the machine to give an error, but at worst could burn out a circuit and render the entire thing inoperational.

Thankfully, and perhaps a little miraculously, when all the cables were plugged in and we were cowering behind the lead-glass window holding our breaths while the whizzing hum sounded from the server room, and then the monitors flickered on and we heard the tell-tale boot-up chime of the archaic operating system that the system ran: everything was working! The mass of copper were all put into the correct sockets, the fiber optic image data cables were unbroken, even the spare. There was only one misplaced cable, which had been mislabelled as a spare but then included in a past upgrade.

From there I, and most of the other volunteers, had done our jobs: The leader of our team had to train the staff and surgeons at the hospital in the machine’s use and the rest of us were relegated to cleaning the lab and removing the clutter of the old machine.

The Fijians were very impressed by our Australian secret for removing fingerprints: Tea Tree Oil.

This was my first trip to Fiji, and I have to say that it was a wonderful experience. The food was great, the people were fantastic, the sights were amazing, and the food was some of the best I’ve ever had. The foliage was always a vibrant green, the seas deep blue and the sky bright and sunny. The people dressed in marvellous colours and always had a smile and a greeting for us.

While installing a medical machine might not be showy or flashy or something that makes more than the local paper, I have no doubt that it will save and improve hundreds, probably thousands of lives. In the end, the project was a great success, and while my part in the project might have only been minor, I think it stands as a testament to what we, the people of the world, can accomplish when we work together.

Again I shall say that I was given an amazing opportunity. It’s not often that you come across a problem for so many people that exactly you can solve, and I am honoured to have been able to do that.

By Owen Street - International House Tutor (Mathematics, Physics)
A Tutor’s Perspective

“Your name is Mohamed!”
“My name is Vino!”
“Your name is Kim!”

It was interesting to see how students struggle to match tutors with their name and age in O-week. You can see a clear confusion in their eye when they are introduced to all the ‘residential tutors’ that come from different corners of the world with names totally unrelated to their looks. At that point you know that you are definitely at International House.

The culture at IH is so diverse and dynamic that it is both exciting and scary to think what you might have to face as a tutor. No job description can really tell you what exactly you are in for at this job. One day you can be a mentor helping students with study skills or exam tips and the next day you can be an information desk helper that tells them all about the good places to eat and visit in Melbourne. Your job might also include being a grumpy bouncer that closes down parties which everyone enjoys!

Nevertheless, staying at IH as a tutor is very rewarding as you are surrounded by all the young students who always have the energy to do pretty much anything, anytime. There are always events that you can participate in or spectate, starting from the very first day of O-week until the last day of exams.

In semester one, tutors organised to have a table at Café International where we were part of an amazing train ride through many countries from Europe to Asia. It is always impressive to see so many talents that this place holds. This year talent did not only lie in performance art but also in sporting abilities, as tutors had a great time watching an unusually high amount of grand finals.

In semester two, the IH Play - ‘One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest’ certainly left a deep impression of our students’ ability to act. There was also the German National Night, where the whole college celebrated the culture of Germany, from musical performances to some amazing schnitzels.

As much fun as the students are, being a tutor is also about interaction with your colleagues. This year, the tutors were able to foster a great supporting and fun relationship as we attended many events together: from the IH Ball to ‘Les Misérables’ musical and of course through our friendly competition of hosting best floor supper.

As the year comes to a close, many of us are contemplating plans for next year. Those who are keen on returning - student and tutors alike - talk about room preferences and the hassle of packing. However, for those who are leaving IH, it is a bittersweet moment. Whilst there is much excitement about our future there is also much sadness from leaving behind a great and tight community.

As tutors, we are grateful that at IH we are not just another employee, we can be good friends and family. No matter where life takes us we will never forget the experiences we shared together under the roof of International House.

By Nhat Thai Nguyen
International House Tutor
(Accounting, Finance)
Senior Common Room President 2014 & former IH undergraduate resident 2010-12.
Leaps and Bounds

Since our beginning, sport has played an integral role in life at International House.

The sporting year began phenomenally for International House with two bold efforts by the men’s cricket team and women’s softball team. The boys proved too much of a challenge, winning the grand final in a quick succession of overs and claiming the first place trophy for a second year running.

The girls, after an undefeated streak including a win against last year’s premiers, faced off against Trinity College in an almighty softball grand final. Unfortunately they narrowly missed out on the win by just one run but brought home a second place trophy.

The rowing teams made the college proud at the 2014 regatta. The boys, though colourfully dressed, rowed down the Yarra but unfortunately did not make the finals. The girls, however, after weeks of intense training made it into the finals race of their division and came in a spectacular third. A fantastic result for an IH rowing team, giving the 50 strong supporters a reason to cheer!

Athletics was a great day out for IH – while there were some very close events, the IH panda brought home the gold for IH in the annual mascot sprint!

The boys in another extraordinary sporting effort managed to maintain their premiership status in the football. It was a hard fought game at the Melbourne University oval but for the second year in a row they managed to defeat University College. It was a game the whole college celebrated together.

All the students who played sport and came to support the IH teams deserve a round of congratulations for their efforts. What a great year for International House!

By Maggie Greenham
International Liaison Officer, IHSC
Community Events

The Ekiden Marathon

German National Night

Orientation Week

Hindu Holi Festival

IH play 'One flew over the Cuckoo’s nest'
In 2014 there remains a great disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. There is also much racism and prejudice towards Indigenous Australians stemming from a lack of understanding and respect towards Indigenous culture.

In the mid semester break earlier this year, a small team of International House students participated in the Davis Project for Peace, a vision of Kathryn Wasserman Davis and a foundation that supports projects for peace and sustainability. Our project came to be known as Harmony in the Northern Territory, for which we set two overarching aims. Firstly we sought to help educate young Australians about Indigenous Australians and their culture as a means to help overcome racism and prejudice. There was also the intention to provide a cross-cultural exchange with youth in remote Aboriginal communities.

The concept of the project itself came from an understanding that holiday boredom in remote Aboriginal communities can lead to social problems and so we hoped to help provide a positive and constructive alternative.

Our project aims were met through two major initiatives. The first of these occurred within International House throughout semester one which saw our committee run events and write weekly articles in our college magazine to inform the college community about Indigenous culture, history and contemporary challenges. The second component of the project was the actual trip that saw seven committee members travel to the Northern Territory. There we worked alongside the East Arnhem Shire Council to help facilitate a school holiday program in the two communities of Gapuwiyak and Yirrkala. Our team spent a week in each community running a range of activities, some of which included an adventure race along the banks of a river, arts and crafts, a dance workshop to teach the kids the fresher dance, an egg-saver activity and music ensembles. These were all supported by resources that were funded by the Davis Project Grant.

While we had a great time working with the kids and getting to know them, there were a number of issues we came to be aware of while in the community. While these were hard to understand and accept we only began to scratch the surface. It was really positive to then see there is some strong leadership within these communities who are working hard to address these issues.

However government policies, which lack adequate consultation, are one of the greatest challenges to overcome. In particular this is caused by blanket policies for all communities, when each community has its own culture, language, challenges and successes.

For all of us who have been involved in the Davis Project, from our full committee to the seven who travelled north, we have learnt a great deal and been inspired to learn more and speak up. Many of us now carry a personal commitment to continue our own learning of Indigenous history, culture and current challenges, and to as best we can help change the conversation surrounding these issues, away from misguided prejudices.

We hope that you may join us in this ongoing journey.

By Larnie Hewat and Jacqueline Beech
2013-14 Davis Project Co-Coordinators
Race discrimination and multiculturalism in Australia

International House was honoured to have as guest speaker for its annual Winter Dinner on July 31, Dr Tim Soutphommasane, the current Race Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Dr Soutphommasane was born in France to Chinese and Lao refugee parents and, with his family, was resettled in Sydney in 1985 by the Family Reunion Program. His CV to date lists experience as an academic at Sydney and Monash Universities and as a columnist with The Age and The Australian newspapers. He is the author of three books, including the award-winning Don’t Go Back To Where You Came From: Why Multiculturalism Works.

In a wide-ranging and thoroughly engaging address, Dr Soutphommasane covered a range of issues related to contemporary multicultural Australia. While seeing widespread public opposition to the repeal of section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act as a very positive indicator of our commitment to racial tolerance, his succinct summary of both public and official responses to refugees was a cautionary one.

At the conclusion of the dinner, a large number of International House members joined Dr Soutphommasane in the Junior Common Room for a Q & A session which lasted over an hour and which left us in no doubt that we were most privileged to be listening to a very important figure involved in the discourse on the key social and political issues current in Australian society.

Changing perceptions about HIV

Sydney Barrister and former IH Student Club President Dr Steven Berveling (1975-77 alumnus) shared a powerful and personal message with our college about HIV in semester two.

We need to change the conversation surrounding HIV to dispel the myths and overcome the stigma that surrounds it. HIV isn’t something that should be feared, but it is something we should all be aware of.

There is a surprisingly high prevalence of HIV in Australia but the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations is aiming to end new HIV infections by 2020. This can only be achieved through community involvement, by making informed decisions and by getting tested regularly.
Remember When

Former IH resident and Council Member Harry Leong reflects on the early days, when International House was male-only and all dinners were formal.

The relationship between Harry Leong and International House is one that runs strong in both directions. Harry has had an association with the college since he arrived in Australia in 1960, and was an IH Council Member from 1970 – 2000.

“I have very fond memories of International House,” says Harry. This has been more than reflected in his commitment to the House, spanning ten years as a student resident and tutor, and almost three decades on the council. When Harry received a phone call from the then Warden Sam Dimmick, with the invitation to become a member of the International House Council in 1970, Harry knew he had to say yes. Despite being a successful architect and it having been many years since he had moved out of International House, he still felt a strong sense of attachment and saw this as the perfect opportunity to become involved with the college once again. He also felt that his experience being a resident left him well placed to join.

Harry speaks very humbly about his place as a new member on the council. He remembers being taken back by the other members of the council whom he says were prominent members of the Melbourne community at the time. He was the only Asian, as well as the only member of the Melbourne community at the time. According to Harry it was very uncommon to have an architect on the council and so he found that naturally lead to him taking a large role in the development and expansion of the college. Despite any difference Harry may have noticed he was always made to feel very welcome.

During his time on the council Harry was a part of many decisions that saw major changes and developments to the college. He remembers receiving a telegram in 1972 to attend a meeting where it would be decided to admit female students to the college. At the time there was a 50/50 split of international and local students but the council thought that education should be as broad as possible.

“Cross fertilisation of ideas between males and females is healthier,” Harry said when remembering the discussion behind this decision. The students were seen as adults in their own right and so the council wanted to best prepare them for real life by living and working amongst both genders. This was a change that was well received by the college.

Harry recalls that compared to many of the other colleges on the crescent, where a great majority of the students were from private schools, there were more state school students at International House. Given that state schools were co-ed a large number of International House students had already had the experience of studying alongside females. Harry feels that the decision to include female students in the college community was one that should have come much earlier. On the same token International House was the first of the Melbourne University colleges to admit females!

Harry has witnessed International House grow a great deal over the years. When Harry first moved in as an undergraduate there were no more than 75 male students in the Clunies Ross Wing. It was such an intimate number that Harry recalls one Sunday night when the boys weren’t too keen on the dinner that would be served that night, they all caught a tram into the city, both the local and international students, and had dinner together.

When the numbers were increased to 135 Harry describes the seating plan that Sam Dimmick introduced for meal times. A senior student would be the chair of a particular table for the semester and all other students would be assigned a new seat each week. Harry highlights the importance of this system. There was a tendency for a group of Asian students to congregate and always sit together, as did a group of Australians. Dimmick wanted to encourage the students to meet one another and forge cross-cultural interactions. Because dinners were still very formal at the time (the boys wore a suit and gown to dinner Monday-Friday) this was a system that worked quite well.

Harry was also supportive in the 1975 decision to buy the Grey court Building. Originally built as a school (Carlton College) in 1881, it was acquired from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, who had been using the building as nurses’ quarters. It was Harry’s vision that Grey court would be both physically the centre of the college, but also the social centre as well. The acquisition of the building also saw the intake of students increase to 245 which placed International House behind Ormond as the second biggest college that year.

There have been many more changes since Harry’s association as Council Member of International House and as a student, all of which give Harry great pleasure in the community that International House is today.

By Larnie Hewat
Current IH resident
I am Johann Adjovi, a French man, though a bit of a global citizen. My grandparents are Beninese, Senegalese and French. My parents are South African and have been living in Johannesburg for the last 20 years. I was born in France, but by the age of 20 years old I had spent about half of my life in France, and the other half between Jordan (2 years), Gabon (6 years) and South Africa (3 years). I am now married to a French woman and we have lived in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) for nearly two years with our two inter-racial children.

I lived at International House in 2003 while completing my Master in Telecommunication Engineering at the University of Melbourne. I thought IH was an amazing place to live, with the right kind of mix between local and international students, and where cultural exchange was not only the rule but also a fundamental principle in our everyday life. I remember having a good time at Café International in 2003, where I presented with an Australian fellow. During my time in Melbourne, just by discussing and hanging out with people at IH, I discovered the cultural, political and culinary subtleties between China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, etc. This was a mind-opener to the diverse and wealthy culture of the Asia-Pacific in general.

Now in Dubai, I work as a management consultant for Analysys Mason, a global management consultancy specialising in telecoms and media. We have offices in Europe, the Asia-Pacific, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. We conduct research and provide advice to telecom and pay TV operators, regulators and financial institutions on strategic opportunities related to telecoms and media.

I joined the company in 2008 in their Paris office and moved to their Dubai office nearly two years ago. Now I travel extensively, and recently I spent a dozen weeks in Qatar defining the strategic roll-out plan for fibre to all households across the country. I also spent a fair amount of 2013 travelling between Singapore and Taiwan working on the strategic acquisition of frequencies for 4G mobile broadband. This all fits quite well with my nature as a global citizen.

As a side activity and to leverage my business travels, I support a friend of mine who developed a business solution that turns any Samsung Galaxy SIII into a mobile companion for the blind and the visually impaired. By installing our software and using our silicone cover we turn a normal touchscreen smartphone, ill-adapted to the needs of a visually impaired person, into a full-blown solution that supports Bluetooth braille keyboards, has an optimal user interface and a myriad of tools - such as a walking GPS, electronic magnifier, Optical Character Recognition, a web browser, etc.

Getting in touch with associations for the blind and the visually impaired in the various countries I travel to, like in Singapore or Qatar, is a very rewarding experience as I get excellent feedback on the product. These associations feel this product can really help in a better inclusion of this part of the population, which is sometimes left behind in the technology evolution.

By Johann Adjovi
IH Alumnus 2003
Randeep Singh (IH resident 2006 – 2010) and Constance Griffiths (IH resident 2009 – 2010) wed in a traditional Sikh ceremony in Malaysia in February this year, after meeting each other at IH. Deputy Head of College, Mr Peter Cole, was in attendance to celebrate this happy event. Congratulations Randeep and Connie!

Vale Suzanne Barrah, a great educator, caring mentor, and much loved part of our community. Suzanne commenced as Deputy Head at IH in May 1992. During her 14 years with IH, she made an enormous contribution to our college and its students. These were Suzanne’s words from the 1994 Satadal “I hope our cultures never become the same, because it is the differences which make our exchanges and interactions so fascinating.” We will miss her dearly.

Dato Peter Tan and his wife Datin Mary Tan at the 25th Anniversary of the University of Melbourne Malaysian Alumni Association, which was attended by Ms Tamra Keating our Director of Marketing and Development, and many other International House Alumni.

Stephanie Blake receiving the Sir Samuel Wadham Rural Students Scholarship at the School of Land and Environment, pictured with Ben Wadham and his daughter Mary Walden.

Phillip Wong (IH resident 1960 – 1962) catching up with Professor Constantine Tsiganos (IH resident 1959 – 1962). Both wish to convey their regards to all they know.

The IH E-NEWSLETTER will soon be in circulation! To ensure we have your most up to date contact details email ih-alumi@unimelb.edu.au or call +61 3 9345 7597

Community News

Have your next conference or event at International House!

We have a number of indoor and outdoor spaces and can tailor packages to suit most budgets with full catering if required.

• Business meetings and seminars
• Social events, weddings, anniversaries and birthdays
• Formal dinners
• Cocktail parties
• BBQs
• Casual bed and breakfast accommodation out of term time

Contact our Conference Coordinator for more information:
Mark Gordon
P: +61 3 9345 7576
E: gordon.m@unimelb.edu.au
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2015 IH Events

1957 - 1965 Alumni Reunion
Thursday 28 May 2015

2005 Alumni Reunion
Thursday 17 September 2015

1995 Alumni Reunion
Thursday 10 September 2015

1975 Alumni Reunion
Thursday 21 May 2015

Café International
Saturday 9 May 2015

Centre for Learning and Living Grand Opening Ceremony
Wednesday 18 March 2015

To RSVP for one or more of these events or for more information, email ih-alumni@unimelb.edu.au.